AMSCO Chapter 12

Western Europe after Rome, 400-1450 CE

1. Political and Social Structures of the Early Middle Ages (AKA Dark Ages, up to 100CE)
2. Franks (who were Germanic) established a capital at Paris under King Clovis (481-511), who united the Frankish tribes and served as first Roman Catholic leader
3. Carolingian Dynasty
4. Charles Martel led the Frankish forces to defeat the Muslims in 732 at the Battle of Tours, except for Muslim control of Spain and Portugal as the al-Andalus Caliphate
5. Martel founded Carolingian dynasty and ruled from 737 to 741, followed by his sun Pepin until 768.
6. Pepin’s son, Charlemagne, ruled until 814, and was named Emperor of all Romans and conquered and converted the Saxons to the east
7. Comparing Carolingians and Tang China
8. Both used religion to legitimize rule, valued education, and tried to control nobles with regional administrators; both repelled invaders
9. Carolingian split resulted in feudalism and local power, while Tang Dynasty resulted in strong centralized government with a civil service system and stronger trade via the Silk Road
10. In Europe Catholicism was the major religion and leaders aligned themselves with the pope; in China Buddhism and Confucianism were both active
11. String of Invasions
12. Muslims invaded from the South and were repelled
13. Vikings invaded from the North using long ships that travelled by ocean and rivers
14. Vikings from Norway, Denmark and Sweden attacked England, Ireland, France, and Belgium, and even arrived as far as Greenland, Russia, and North America.
15. Magyars invaded from the east, from Central Asia
16. First attacked Byzantines, then moved to Germany, Italy and France, eventually settling mostly in Hungary and converting to Christianity
17. This political instability in Europe in the Early Middle Ages is similar to the fall of the Gupta Dynasty in South Asia at hands of White Huns, but Christianity united Europe while Hinduism and Islam divided South Asia
18. Feudalism: Political and Social Systems
19. Kings paid nobles with land (fiefs) and these nobles (lords) promised to fight for the king; lords served as king’s vassals (providers of a service) and could have their own vassals (knights) to fight for them – feudalism
20. Feudalism was beneficial for all levels, and based on loyalty; reduced dangers from robbers, bandits, and invaders
21. Code of Chivalry provided rules of behavior for knights
22. Manorial system
23. A large fief, or manor, was self-sufficient, with churches, mills, blacksmith, peasants, soldiers, etc…
24. Peasants, or serfs, were tied to the land, protected by the lord, and required to work the manor’s fields
25. Three field system improved food supply with one field growing a grain, a second growing a vegetable and the third field unplanted
26. Windmills, plows, stirrups, and horse collars for yokes also increased food supply;
27. Manor produced everything, so no real need for trade with outsiders
28. Latin and German languages evolved into local dialects or vernacular languages such as French, Italian and Spanish
29. Comparing Social Classes in Europe and Asia
30. European feudalism still allowed for social mobility, while South Asia’s caste system did not
31. In China the central government was strong and nobles were not that powerful; scholar gentry developed in China, where merchants were not looked down upon, as in Europe
32. Women had some opportunities in convents in both Western Europe and South Asia, and were even better off in Tang China
33. Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages
34. In 1054, the Great Schism split the Roman Catholic Church in Western Europe from the Orthodox Church based in Constantinople
35. In the Early Middle Ages the Catholic Church was the only authority that covered all of Western Europe, because most people were illiterate and Church officials served as scribes and interpreters of the Bible for the common people
36. All scholars and artists worked for the Church and the Church sponsored all universities
37. Church had power in the feudal system over lords who displeased the Church
38. The Pope selected regional bishops who in turn selected local priests; missionaries traveled throughout Europe
39. Donation of Constantine – document that gave “evidence” the pope should have both religious AND political power; later found to be a forged document
40. After the Great Schism, a French pope was appointed to refused to move to Rome, and established a new Papacy in France from 1309-1377, called Babylonian Captivity; two more popes claimed position at the same time
41. Monasticism – monasteries in Europe served as manors, completely self-sufficient; accumulation of wealth led to corruption, Cluniac Reforms attempted to reform the Church from within
42. Political Trends in the Later Middle Ages
43. Increase in bureaucracy and organized armies under the king both reduced power of feudal lords
44. Capetian France
45. Carolingian Dynasty splits in three in 987, with Western Frankish nobles choosing Hugh Capet as King of what is now France, but he had little power
46. Philip IV (1285-1314) called first Estates General of three estates (clergy, nobles and commoners) to meet and advise the King; clergy and nobles did not pay taxes, so had little motivation to protect the government
47. Holy Roman Empire – German King Otto I crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 962; lay investiture controversy about whether kings, not pope, could appoint bishops; resolved at Concordat of Worms, 1122, where Church declared autonomous from Kings
48. Norman England
49. Normans were Viking descendants who lived in Normandy; William the Conqueror invaded England and controlled both Normandy and England through feudalism and standardized law code
50. King John 1215 signs the Magna Carta which states the King must observe certain rights of his subjects
51. First English Parliament formed in 1265, increased power of nobility
52. House of Commons, House of Lords
53. Hundred Years’ War (1337-1453) England tried to conquer France, not successful; both England and France developed strong unity; arrival of gunpowder from China and horses in battle from Mongols
54. Reconquista by 1492, Christians reclaimed Spain from the Muslims
55. High Middle Ages – by 1000 Europe was trading more, Crusades had increased interaction, advances began in commerce, class relations and gender roles, as well as art and science; tournaments and jousts replaced as social events replaced actual battles
56. Christian Crusades
57. After Seljuk Turks took over the Holy Land in 1071, Europeans no longer had access to cities such as Jerusalem
58. Pope called upon knights of Europe to reclaim the Holy Land, and younger sons who would not inherit estates went to fight for the Church (primogeniture)
59. Traders wanted more access through the Middle East; the Church offered knights heaven and the Orthodox Church appealed to Pope Urban II to come retake Holy Land from Islam
60. First Crusade – July 1099, Christians take Jerusalem, but only hold it until 1187.
61. Fourth Crusade (1202-1204) Venice had contract to transport Crusaders, but did not get paid by Church, so convinced Crusaders to attack Zara and Constantinople
62. Effects of Crusades – exposure to Byzantine and Islamic cultures, new products for trade, diseases like the Black Death or Plague, new ideas that lead to Renaissance
63. Economic and Social Change
64. Commerce – trade along Silk Road and Indian Ocean increased variety of goods available for trade; Venetian Marco Polo traveled to China and wrote a book about his travels
65. Social Change – growth of bourgeoisie, or middle class based on trade rather than landowners
66. Changes in Agriculture – improved farming practices result in food surplus and local markets; temporary setback during the 1300s with the Little Ice Age, as colder temperatures resulted in less food for a time
67. Hanseatic League – organization of northern cities working together to drive out pirates and create monopolies for increased profits
68. Guilds – associations of craftspeople in certain crafts, such as carpenters, blacksmith, etc… to control prices, apprenticeships
69. Urban Life
70. Medieval towns were filthy, sewage was a problem, along with fleas, fires, overcrowding
71. Bigger towns had a cathedral in Gothic style with arches, stained glass, gargoyles, flying buttresses
72. Gender Roles – women’s roles deteriorated in move from rural to urban, as women did not have access to education except in nunneries; a few women became artisans; Muslim women had better status
73. Learning – totally controlled by Church, so limited by religious ideas; Aristotle and St. Jerome’s translation of the Bible into Latin were main texts
74. Scholasticism – Thomas Aquinas efforts to reconcile Aristotle’s ideas with Christianity; logic did NOT endanger religion
75. Religious Orders – Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Teutonic Knights and Knights Templar all had own regulations along with clerical, missionary and secular roles
76. Universities – liberal arts or theology in University of Paris; Cambridge and Oxford founded, along with Salerno Medical School
77. Comparing European and Abbasid Universities
78. Both recorded and preserved classical works from Greece and Rome; Abbasids combined it with Indian and Islamic learning in Arabic and Persian, while Europe used Latin
79. Medical studies advanced in Abbasid dynasty, considered sacrilegious in Europe
80. Avicenna was father of modern medicine in Persia, wrote Canon of Medicine
81. Europe began to use Asian technology such as paper and farming technology
82. Renaissance
83. Expansion of trade and increased food surplus enabled people to focus more on the arts and learning.
84. Growing middle class had enough wealth to support artists and artisans
85. Revival of interest in classical Greek and Roman texts, i.e. humanism
86. Focus on individuals rather than God, texts in vernacular rather than Latin
87. Southern Renaissance
88. Italy and Spain still focused on Church, such as Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, in addition to secular topics; Dante criticized Church officials and used Italian vernacular, not Latin
89. Church officials commissioned paintings and sculptures
90. Northern Renaissance
91. Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* focused on middle class families in England, and was social satire, written in English
92. Development of centralized monarchies in England and France accompanied the northern Renaissance; Copernicus the astronomer and Erasmus the humanist part of northern Renaissance