

### Chapter Overview: War, Plague, and Schism

- Barbara Tuchman, a prominent historian, describes the late Middle Ages as *The Calamitous Fourteenth Century*. Western Civilization was assaulted on several fronts including:
  - The Black Death (1348-1352)
  - The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) between France and England
  - Schism in the Catholic Church (1378-1417)
  - Invasions by the Turks
- Amidst this mayhem, scholars began to criticize medieval assumptions about the nature of God, humankind, and society.

### Section One: The Black Death

- **Section Overview:**
  - Keep in mind that the plague struck Europe at a moment of vulnerability as the continent was overpopulated and malnourished.
- **Preconditions and Causes of the Plague**
  - From 1000-1300, Europe's population doubled
    - Population growth strained the food supply
    - Population growth led to high unemployment and low wages
    - Crop failures between 1315 and 1317 exacerbated the food shortage crisis
  - Black Death followed trade routes from Asia
    - Plague moved from south to north along major trade routes
- **Popular Remedies**
  - Corruption in the atmosphere was believed to be the cause of the plague
    - some blamed poisonous fumes from earthquakes
  - Remedies
    - many wore "aromatic" amulets
    - lifestyle changes
      - some thought moderate and temperate living would save them from the plague
      - some indulged in excess (sexual promiscuity ran high in infected areas)
      - others chose to flee the plague or remain in seclusion
    - religious fanaticism
      - flagellants
      - Jews as scapegoats
        - Pogroms occurred in several cities
- **Social and Economic Consequences**
  - Farms decline
    - Supply and demand (fewer laborers, higher wages; less demand for food, lower prices for agricultural products)
    - many serfs demanded money payments and some pursued the more lucrative skilled craft industries in cities; the price of luxury and manufactured goods rose
    - Noble landholders lost power as they were forced to pay more for finished products and for farm labor, while receiving a smaller return on their agricultural produce

- Peasants Revolt
  - England
    - To recover losses, landholders instituted oppressive laws that forced peasants to stay on their farms while freezing their wages at low levels.
      - ie. English Parliament passed a Statute of Laborers which set low prices for farm laborers and limited their mobility
    - English Peasants' Revolt in 1381
  - France
    - Increase over the *taille* rate (mandatory tax on peasants) led to the *Jacquiere* (peasants' revolt)
- Cities Rebound
  - Omnipresence of death → demand for luxury items (silks, furs, jewelry, furniture) ↔ prosperous cities
    - cities expanded legal autonomy from nobles and kings they had enjoyed prior to the plague and expanded their influence to surrounding areas.
    - Skilled artisans fought to retain the right to limit the number of people in their industries
  - Impact of the plague on Church
    - Suffered as a landowner and was politically weakened
    - Some increased revenue due to volume of religious services and donations in honor of the dead
- **New Conflicts and Opportunities**
  - Guilds gained political power in local governments
    - Guild masters and journeymen came into conflict as the former wanted to restrict the number of masters while the latter wanted to become a master
    - Merchant and patrician classes could no longer bully the artisans
  - Kings expanded their power and fostered nationalism as the influence of the nobility and the church waned
    - Hundred Years' War showed the military superiority of paid professional soldiers over that of the traditional noble cavalry

## Section Two: The Hundred Years' War and the Rise of National Sentiment

- **Section Overview**
  - Throughout the fourteenth century, the monarchies of England and France demanded greater loyalty from their lords which, in turn, broke down regionalism and led to the rise of national consciousness
  - Nationalist sentiments festered, giving way to the Hundred Years' War
- **The Causes of the War**
  - Dynastic struggle
    - English king Edward III, the grandson of Philip the Fair of France, made a claim to the French throne after the French king Charles IV, the last of Philip's surviving sons, died without a male heir.
    - The French nobles named the first cousin of Charles IV, Philip VI of Valois, king and his dynasty would rule into the sixteenth century.
  - Relationship between England and France
    - King of England was technically a vassal of the king of France, as English monarchs possessed sizeable French territories dating back to the Norman conquest

- French kings and nobles found it repugnant that England's king owned land in France
    - England and France quarreled over control of Flanders
    - General animosity between England and France
  - French Weakness
    - Internal disunity as French monarchy was still undergoing centralization campaign
    - Economic troubles
    - Inferior military (English archers gave England a clear advantage)
    - Mediocre leadership from the French monarchs (England's kings were shrewd)
- **The Progress of the War**
  - Three major stages
    - Stage One: The Conflict during the reign of Edward III
      - Edward embargoed English wool to Flanders which inspired rebellions by merchants and trade guilds against the French monarchy in Flemish cities (Jacob van Artevelde, a rich merchant, organized the revolts)
        - The Flemish cities entered an alliance with the English and recognized Edward III as their king
      - English naval victory in the Bay of Sluys was first major battle of the war
      - Battle of Crecy (1340)
        - English victory in Normandy that led to the seizure of the French port of Calais
      - pause in action during the plague years
      - Battle of Poitiers (1356)
        - Stunning English victory over the French noble cavalry
        - French King John II taken hostage by the English
          - French Estates General took power in France and used the opportunity to gain rights like those achieved by England's nobles in the Magna Carta
      - French nobles increase the *taille* to repair damages from war and the peasants revolt in what is known as the *Jacquerie* (1358)
        - Revolt was quickly stamped out
      - Peace of Bretigny-Calais (1360)
        - Ended English monarchs vassalage to the French king and affirmed England's king sovereignty over Gascony, Guyenne, Poitou, and Calais.
        - France paid a ransom of 3 million gold crowns for King John II
    - Stage Two: French Defeat and the Treaty of Troyes
      - After Edward III died in 1377, England experience domestic issues during the reign of Richard II
        - English Peasants' Revolt (1381)
          - John Ball and Wat Tyler led the revolt
          - peasants and artisans joined together to demand privileges
      - England resumed the war under Henry V
        - Battle of Agincourt (1415)
          - English victory that left a large percentage of the French nobility dead
          - France powerless against England

- Treaty of Troyes (1420)
  - named Henry V the successor to the French king, Charles VI
    - when Henry V and Charles VI died within months of each other, the infant Henry VI of England was proclaimed in Paris to be the king of both France and England
  - son of Charles VII was acknowledged as king by most of the French people and this raised the sense of nationalism in France
- Stage Three: Joan of Arc and the War's Conclusion
  - Joan of Arc and the siege of Orleans
    - Peasant from Lorraine in eastern France who visited Charles VII and claimed that God had called her to expel the English from the province of Orleans
    - Although skeptical, Charles was desperate and put her in command of an army
    - Joan successfully ousted the English from Orleans and France experienced a wave of victories
  - The capture of Joan of Arc
    - The Burgundians, who were allies of the English, captured and turned Joan of Arc over to the Inquisition in England
    - She was executed as a heretic on May 30, 1431
    - Charles VII declared her innocent 25 years later
    - The Roman Catholic Church canonized her as a saint in 1920.
  - The duke of Burgundy made peace with the French king in 1435, allowing France to push the English back
  - By 1453, when the war ended, England maintained control of only Calais
- Implications of the Hundred Years' War
  - Awakened French nationalism and called for the transition to a centralized state
  - Burgundy became a major European power
  - England developed its own clothing industry and foreign markets as they could not rely on the Netherlands during the conflict due to its seeing allegiance throughout the war
  - English and French peasants faced high taxation to pay for the cost of war

### **Section Three: Ecclesiastical Breakdown and Revival—The Late Medieval Church**

- **Section Overview**
  - By the latter thirteenth-century, the Roman Catholic Church appeared to be extremely powerful.
    - Threat of Holy Roman Empire to Rome vanquished
    - The French king, Louis IX, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Church
    - Council of Lyons (1274) declared a reunion of the Eastern Church with Rome after the pope sent forces to defend the Byzantine Empire against the Turks (the reunion only lasted seven years)

- **The Thirteenth-Century Papacy**
  - Pope Innocent III (r. 1198-1216) and the height of papal power
    - Innocent enacted the doctrine of plenitude of power which enabled him to:
      - declare saints
      - dispose benefices
      - create a centralized papal monarchy with a clear political mission
    - secularization of the Church during Innocent's reign as pope ignited the criticisms that would last until the Protestant Reformation
  - Pope Urban IV (r. 1261-1264)
    - Urban IV established the *Rota Romana*, the papacy's own court of law
  - Other power grabs made by the church in the thirteenth-century
    - popes claimed the right to determine appointments to many church offices
    - expansion of the church's bureaucracy
    - made clerical taxes instituted to raise money for the Crusades permanent
  - Impact of these reforms
    - Rome's interest, not local needs, came to control church policies and the church in Rome slowly began to lost popular support
    - heretical groups like the Cathars and Waldensians advocated apostolic piety
  - **political fragmentation**
    - During the centuries that the Holy Roman Emperor intervened and threatened Italy, the city-states and the papacy stood united. When the Holy Roman Emperor became irrelevant on the Italian Peninsula, the pope and College of Cardinals became the targeted by their former allies.
      - Charles of Anjou, the French king of Naples and Sicily, used his influence to create a French-Sicilian faction within the college of cardinals
      - Rules for a conclave
      - Pope Celestine V
        - devout, but inept, hermit who was elected pope in 1294
        - forced to resign under suspicious circumstances
        - died under suspicious circumstances
        - Pope Boniface VIII, a nobleman and skilled politician (the antithesis of Celestine V), elected pope
- **Boniface VIII and Philip the Fair**
  - Historical background
    - Boniface became pope at the same time as England and France were maturing nation-states.
      - Edward I promoted unity in England by organizing formal meetings with the newly formed Parliament
      - Philip IV centralized the monarchy in France and was determined to end England's landholdings in France, control wealthy Flanders, and establish French hegemony in the Holy Roman Empire.
    - Essentially, the pope was no longer a match for the budding nation-states of western Europe
  - **Royal Challenge to Papal Authority**
    - Conflict between King Edward I and Pope Boniface VIII over the king's right to tax the clergy in England.
      - Edward I taxed clergy for a "crusade" to help finance England's mobilization effort
      - Innocent issues a papal bull *Clericos laicos*

- forbade lay taxation of the clergy without papal approval
    - Edward I retaliated by denying the clergy the right to be heard in royal courts, thus denying them the king's protection in legal matters
  - Conflict between Philip IV of France and Pope Boniface VIII
    - Philip prohibited the export of money from France to Rome, which bankrupted the Church
    - Boniface responded by giving the king of France the right to tax the clergy in France "during an emergency"
  - Conflict between Boniface and the Colonnas (noble family)
    - Colonnas were radical followers of St. Francis and accused Boniface of heresy, the murder of Celestine V, and simony.
  - Another conflict between Boniface and Edward I
    - Boniface encouraged and supported Scottish resistance to English rule
  - Another conflict between Boniface and Philip IV
    - Philip arrested Boniface's Parisian legate (a diplomat), Bernard Saisset (who was also a powerful secular lord and potential rival to the king's power)
    - Boniface issues *Ausculta fili*, "Listen, My Son" which states, "God has set popes over kings and kingdoms"
- **Unam Sanctum**
  - Boniface VIII's declaration that the temporal authority was subject to the spiritual power of the Church
  - Philip reacted aggressively to *Unam Sanctum*
    - Pope Boniface VIII was declared a heretic in France
    - Philip's army captured and beat up the pope before a crown rescued Boniface and returned him to Rome; the pope died shortly thereafter
  - Pope Clement V (r. 1305-1314) succeeds Boniface and is subservient to the French king
    - Clement declared that *Unam Sanctum* does not diminish the power of the French monarchy
    - Clement moved the papal court to Avignon, a city on the southeastern border of France, where it remained from 1311-1377.
- **The Avignon Papacy**
  - Papacy under strong French influence while in Avignon
  - Clement V in need of revenue
    - Started the practice of collect *annates*, the first year's income of a new *benefice*
    - Started the practice of selling indulgences, pardons for unrepented sins.
      - Not surprisingly, the church marketed the idea of purgatory during this same period
  - Avignon papacy gained a reputation for materialism and corruption
  - **Pope John XXII (1316-1334)**
    - Pope John XXII tried to restore papal independence and return to Italy and created several enemies in the process
      - the Visconti, the ruling family in Milan, did not want to see the papacy return to Rome
      - Pope John XXII instigated a feud with Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV when he refused to accept his candidacy for the imperial title
        - Louis IV, in retaliation, declared an antipope

- Louis also recruited two scholars, Marsilius of Padua and William of Ockham, to support his cause
  - Marsilius of Padua, *Defender of Peace* (1324)
    - stressed the independence of secular rulers
    - piety expected of clergy and duties confined to spiritual activities, not ruling
    - pope depicted as a subordinate member of society over which the emperor ruled supreme
  - **National Opposition to the Avignon Papacy**
    - England opposed the Avignon Papacy as they saw it intimately attached to France, England's enemy in the Hundred Years' War
    - *Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges* (1438)
      - agreement that recognized the right of the French Church to elect its own clergy without papal interference
      - prohibited the payment of *annates* to Rome
      - limited the right of appeals from French courts to the Curia in Rome
- **Wycliffe and Hus**
  - Wycliffe and the Lollards
    - Wycliffe and his issues
      - Oxford theologian and a philosopher of high standing
      - he became a major spokesperson against the secularism of the papacy
      - advocated apostolic piety
      - anticipated Protestant criticisms of the medieval church by challenging papal infallibility, the sale of indulgences, and the dogma of transubstantiation
    - The Lollards (Wycliffe's followers)
      - preached in vernacular, distributed translations of the Bible, and advocated clerical piety
      - Lollards were popular with the nobility and gentry who could potentially gain from a weakening Catholic Church
    - After the English Peasants' Revolt in 1381, an uprising filled with egalitarian principles that could find support in Wycliffe's teaching, Lollardy became a capital offense in England by 1401.
  - John Hus
    - Czech reformer and professor at the University of Prague
    - supported vernacular translations of the Bible and criticized several aspects of the sacrament of Eucharist
    - he was excommunicated in 1410 and Prague was placed under the interdict
    - Council of Constance
      - Hus declared a heretic and executed in 1415
    - Hussites revolted following Hus's execution and gained significant religious reforms and control over the Bohemian church

- **The Great Schism (1378-1417) and the Conciliar Movement to 1449**
  - Section overview
    - Pope Gregory XI (1370-1378) reestablished the papacy in Rome in January 1377, ending what had become known as the “Babylonian Captivity” of the Church in Avignon.
    - The return to Rome proved to be short lived.
  - **Urban VI and Clement VII**
    - When Gregory XI died, the cardinals elected an Italian archbishop as Pope Urban VI
      - Urban VI wanted to reform the Curia
      - French cardinals called for the return of the papacy to Avignon
      - French King, Charles V, supported what came to be known as the Great Schism
    - French cardinals formed a conclave and elected Pope Clement VII, a cousin of the French king
      - The French cardinals claimed they had only voted for Urban VI out of fear
    - Allegiances to the two popes
      - Urban VI (Italian pope in Rome)
        - supported by England and its allies including the Holy Roman Empire, Hungary, Bohemia, and Poland)
      - Clement VII
        - supported by France and its allies including Naples, Scotland, Castile, and Aragon
  - **Conciliar Theory of Church Government**
    - conciliar theory
      - technically, since a pope is infallible, a council could not depose him
      - church scholars debated for thirty years whether or not a council of church leaders could regulate the actions of a pope
      - ‘conciliarists’ defined the church as a body, of which the pope was one member
      - Eventually, it was determined that cardinals representing both popes would convene at a council
  - **Council of Pisa (1409-1410)**
    - Cardinals convened and deposed both popes and elected a new pope, Alexander V
    - Although most of western Europe accepted Alexander V as the legitimate pope, neither Urban VI nor Clement VII agreed to step down
  - **The Council of Constance (1414-1417)**
    - Three competing popes
      - John XXIII succeeded Alexander V as the consensus pope
      - Gregory XII succeeded Urban VI as the Italian pope
      - Clement VII was still the French pope
    - Emperor Sigismund demanded that John XXIII call a council in Constance which made a declaration entitled *Sacrosancta* which:
      - elected a new pope, Martin V (the three other popes were forced to resign)
      - asserted the supremacy of church councils over individual pope
      - demanded that regular meetings of church councils

- **The Council of Basel (1431-1449)**
  - Church council negotiated directly with the Hussites, a group formerly identified as heretics
  - *Four Articles of Prague* presented to council by Hussites
    - give laity the Eucharist with the cup as well as bread
    - free, itinerant preaching
    - exclusion of clergy from holding secular offices and owning property
    - just punishment of clergy who commit mortal sins
  - Council of Basel showed dominance over the papacy but Pope Pius II (r. 1458-1464) issued a papal bull *Execrabilis* which condemned appeals to councils and made them completely void.
- **Consequences**
  - Without effective papal authority and leadership, secular control of national or territorial churches increased
    - Kings asserted their power over the church in England and France
    - German, Swiss, and Italian magistrates and city councils reformed and regulated religious life

#### Section Four: Medieval Russia

- **Section Overview**
  - Prince Vladimir (r. 980-1015) of Kiev (Russia's dominant city at the time) chose to make Greek Orthodox the religion in Russia and thereby established close ties with the Byzantines.
- **Politics and Society**
  - Yaroslav the Wise succeeded Vladimir and developed Kiev into a magnificent cultural and political center
  - Following Yaroslav's death, princes divided Russia into three cultural groups: the Great Russians, the White Russians, and the Little Russians (Ukrainians)
  - Government
    - Prince, council of nobles, popular assembly of all free adult males
  - Social division
    - freemen (clergy, army officers, boyars, townspeople, and peasants)
    - slaves (prisoners of war)
- **Mongol Rule**
  - In the thirteenth century steppe peoples known as Mongols swept through China, the Islamic world, and Russia.
  - Ghengis Khan
    - notorious Mongol leader who invaded Russia in 1223
    - established a Mongol Empire known as the *Golden Horde*
  - Russia was forced to pay tribute to their Mongol overlords and to fight in the Mongol army
  - Russian culture fused with that of the Mongols, who had adopted Islam as their faith
  - In 1380, Grand Duke Dimitri of Moscow defeated the Mongols at Kulikov Meadow, and Mongol influence in Russia slowly withered away.
  - Ivan III (d. 1505) would eventually bring all of northern Russia under Moscow's control and officially ended Mongol occupation.
    - Moscow replaced Kiev as political and religious center of Russia

