

Medieval Civilization

Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire)

Justinian the Great

Appointed scholars collect and organize laws of the Roman Empire. In time the law code is known as the Justinian Code

Begins the construction of the Hagia Sophia, oldest Christian Church edifice.

Islamic Civilization

Mohammed (570-632 AD): According to adherents of Islam, the last and greatest of the prophets

The Flight from Mecca and Medina, in 622, marks year one of the Muslim Calendar

The Koran: The Holy Book of Islam, provided by Mohammed

The Five Pillars of Islam: Pilgrimage, Fast, Prayer, Alms to the poor and professing there is but one God Allah, his prophet is Mohammed.

There is no paid clergy.

Shiites: Religious authority is derived from the bloodline of the prophet.

Sunnis:

Umayyads, 661-750 : Governing from Damascus, conquest by the sword (to spread the faith) creates an empire larger than Roman Empire, from Persia, across the Fertile Crescent to Spain. Merchants take Islam to Indonesia.

Abbasids 750 - 1258: Govern from Baghdad

(There are two competing political capitals in Arab civilization: Damascus and Baghdad.)

The Mongols end Abbasid rule.

Europe in the Middle Ages

Europe entered a "Dark Age." The level of learning declined sharply. The Church held civilization together with a unifying system of beliefs. It provided most effective government. Since only the clergy could read, the Latin language spread with the Church.

Germanic customs held civilization back. Loyalty was tied to tribal chieftains. Trial by Ordeal would decide a person's guilt or innocence. The Church, in time, attempted to intercede as an objective independent party.

In 732, The Franks, led by Charles Martel, stopped the Muslim advance into Europe in the Battle of Tours. His grandson, Charles, King of the Franks, unified Western Europe under his crown. He collected manuscripts of antiquity and them recopied in Carolingian script. A new civilization was born that blended Germanic, Christian, and Greco-Roman elements. Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas day, the year 800.

The Holy Roman Empire was a close ally with the Roman Catholic Church. After the break up of Charlemagne's empire, feudalism became the main political system.

Later, a struggle ensued between Church and State (c. 1050) over the authority of king making of church appointments. The Investiture Controversy's most recalled event concerned the reform minded Pope Gregory VII and Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV. When Henry refused to recognize the Pope's authority, Gregory excommunicated Henry. Henry had to do penance to recover what was taken from him.

Flowering of the Middle Ages

Architecture

Romanesque, 11th and 12th centuries, utilized the rounded arch with massive walls. It was adapted from Roman architecture.

Gothic: An innovative leap in the late 12th century, pointed arches replaced the rounded arch. Lighter, higher and more spacious than Romanesque. External arches (flying buttresses) were created to support the weight of the roof. Most notable examples of this are architecture Chartres and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Romance

Trouvares / Troubadors sang the praise of noblewomen
Courtly Love, introduced by Eleanor of Aquitaine, celebrated pure and ideal love.
Chivalry became the code of behavior for a knight.

Learning

Universities were at first organized like guilds. They set standards for courses and regulated students and teachers. A few of the earliest universities were at Bologna, Salerno, Paris and Oxford were dedicated to study the Bible and important clergy.

Scholastics challenged the curriculum and argued reason should also be taught (integration of Aristotilian thought and faith). The greatest of the scholastics was **Thomas Aquinas** who taught reason and faith come from God. His book *Summa Theologica* used Aristotle's method of logic to explain certain points of Church teachings.

An English monk and philosopher **Roger Bacon** studied Muslim writings on light rays and did experiments in optics discovered that light traveled faster than sound. He gave an accurate description of the eye and discussed cause of tides and the appearance of rainbows.

Muslim scholars **Averroes** and **Avicenna** also studied Aristotle. Muslims established universities for similar reasons. In the famed African city Timbuktu, where there was a palace and a mosque, a university was established.

Literature

Beowulf: an Anglo Saxon Pre-Christian Epic

Song of Roland: an epic poem of Charlemagne's court and oldest surviving major work of French literature.

Romance of the Rose: French medieval courtly literature

Mallory's *The Death of Arthur* : compilation of French and English Arthurian legend

Dante's *Divine Comedy* and poetry to Beatrice: Dante is the greatest poet of the Middle Ages

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*: a middle english poem that portrays a critical view of English society in the end of the 14th century

The Crusades

They were Europe's response to the Muslim conquest and provide safety for pilgrims leads to nine violent conflicts; *jihad* and *crusade* are equivalent terms.

The most notable encounter may be Richard the Lion Hart and the Saladin where nobility and brutality are seen.

Before they concluded, Europeans had developed an interest in goods from the Near-East and the Orient (increased trade), providing motivation for men like Columbus.

The Black Death

A pestilence that wiped out a third of the population of Europe.

It led to a decline in the influence of the Church.

Survivors had to focus on this life as society needed to be rebuilt.

The questioning found in the Renaissance likely derived from this event.

England in the Middle Ages

Anglo Saxons

Alfred of Wessex, "The Great"

Normans

William I, "The Conqueror," 1066 - 1089:

Conquered England

Feudalism

Domesday Book: a census

Henry I, 1099 - 1125
Charter of Liberties

Plantagenet, Angevin Dynasty

Henry II, 1160 - 1189

John, 1199 - 1216
forced by Barons Magna Carta, 1215
The Magna Carta recognized mutual rights and obligations
between king and vassals

Edward I, 1272-1307
Established the first parliament

Edward III, 1327-1377
Hundred Years War; The English claim the French throne
English Long Bow triumphs over crossbow
English, led by Edward the Black Prince, have victories at
Crecy 1346 and Poitiers 1356
English are led by Henry V at Agincourt, 1415
War of the Roses 1455-1485
A dynastic struggle ensues upon the English with military
reversals in the reign of Henry VI

YORK	LANCASTER
White Rose	Red Rose
Edward IV	Henry VI
Richard III	Henry VII

Renaissance

Humanism: links to personal achievement and individualism
people begin to live life to the fullest
Writers and thinkers looked to the Greeks and Romans for inspiration.
Movable type Gutenberg type
reduced the cost of books
scholars access to current scholarship
books translated in the vernacular
increased literacy
Notable Scholars

Francisco Petrarch:
Niccolo Machiavelli: *The Prince*
Sir Thomas More: *Utopia*
Desiderous Erasmus: *In Praise of Folly*

Patrons of the Arts

de Medici Family

Artists: return to classic design of balance and proportion

Leonardo DaVinci: Mona Lisa, The Last Supper

Raphael: School of Athens

Micaelangelo: David, The Pieta, Sistine Chapel, The Last Judgement

Exploration

The Fall of Constantinople, 1453 and the *Travels of Marco Polo*

Portugal's School of Navigation sought a means to reach the Far East by traveling around Africa

Dias

Da Gama

Spain sought a westward approach to the Far East.

Columbus, 1492

The Columbian Exchange

The Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494

Magellan, 1519-1521

Conquistadors

Cortes

deSoto

Pizarro

Coronado

Reformation

A movement that established Protestant churches.

Martin Luther

Wittenberg Church, 1517

Diet of Worms, 1519

Protection of German Princes

Theology

John Calvin

Theology

Henry VIII and the English Church,

Catherine of Aragon

Mary

Act of Supremacy

Anne Boelyn

Elizabeth,

Jane Seymour

Edward

