

Seminar on Topics of World History for Selected Junior Secondary History (2): Life in Medieval Europe and its impact on today's world

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- **Main Reference:**
- **Hollister, C. Warren.**
Medieval Europe.

- **“Medieval Western History” =**
- **The Middle Ages in Europe**
- **= between the Age of Antiquity (Greco-Roman)**
- **& the Modern Age**
- **= The Age of Faith (Christianity)**
- **in contrast to the later Age of Reason**

- **BUT, definitely NOT the “Dark Ages”!**
- ***Hollister, *Medieval Europe***
- ***Strayer, Joseph. *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State***
- ***Magna Carta* in England, 1215 --- Parliament --- constitutional monarchy**
- **The rise of University: Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, etc.**
- **[Baldwin, John W. *The Scholastic Culture of the Middle Ages, 1000-1300*]**

- **From the Fall of the Western Roman Empire (476, politically [Edward Gibbon])**
- **to the Renaissance (14th century)**
- **or the Discovery of the New World (1492/1500)**

- **Feudalism**
- **Ganshof, F. L. *Feudalism***
- **Stephenson, Carl. *Medieval Feudalism***
- **Coulborn, Rushton. *Feudalism in History***
- ***(anything but systematic, unlike Chinese)**
- **Bloch, Marc. *Feudal Society* (:a “stratified pyramid”)**
- **Cause of consequence of “decentralization/anarchy”?**
- **Hollister: a “constructive response”**

- **Empire versus papacy**
- **1046, Holy Roman Emperor Henry III deposed 3 popes until**
- **Pope Leo IX (1049-54)**
- **1056, Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV (6 years old), r. 1056-1106**
- **Meanwhile, reforms in the papacy**
- **1059 Papal Election Decree**
- **since then, popes have been elected by Cardinals (freed of secular interference)**
- **Pope Gregory VII (1073-85)**

- ***1075, *Dictatus Papae* (Papal Supremacy)**
- **banning “lay investiture” (lay control of ecclesiastical appointments)**
- lay = secular
- ecclesiastical = church
- **traditionally, a newly chosen bishop was invested by a lay lord with a ring and pastoral staff, symbolic of his marriage to the Church and his duty to be a good shepherd to his Christian flock**
- **Since then, bishops (all over the world [except inside mainland China]) are appointed by the Pope**
- **1076, “Archbishop of Milan”**
- **Pope Gregory VII excommunicated & deposed Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV**

- **Pope Urban II (1088-99)**
- **First Crusade (1094/95-99)**
- **Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)**
- **Most “powerful” medieval pope**
- **“Two Swords Theory”**
- **climax**
- **Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303)**
- **1302, *Unam Sanctam* (“One Sword Theory”)**
- **anti-climax**

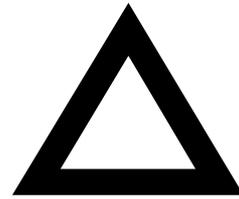
- **The Crusades (Expansion of External and “Internal” Frontiers)**
- **Works of Aristotle were translated back from the Arabian world to Europe**
- **“science”**
- **“reason”**
- **Albertus Magnus (Albert the Great), Dominican**
- **Thomas Aquinas (faith and “reason”)**
- **The “mendicant” priests:**
- **St. Dominic and the Dominicans**
- **St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscans**
- **Lawrence, C.H.**
- ***The Friars: The Impact of the Early Mendicant Movement on Western Society***

- + buttons, stirrups
- + red rose = romantic love (*The Art of Courtly Love*)
- [St. Valentine's Day, February 14]

- All in all, *Magna Carta*, Common Law, parliament -- western legal system;
- The birth of universities: Paris, Cambridge, Oxford, Bologna in the Twelfth Century

- The struggle between the medieval empire and Church
- (the equilibrium of power)

皇 HRE



紳barons 教pope

- Pope (教皇) → converts/believers & citizens (教【民】國) ← Emperor/king (皇帝)
- Conflict was “inevitable”
- **Nowadays, similarly, in political power, ...**
- **As well as in family, ...**

- **1066 Conquest of England by Duke William of Normandy**

“King William I, the Conqueror, r. 1066 -- 1087”

Difficulties: facing resistance from local people/power, such as the Anglo-Saxon, Jutes, and Celts

****how can a new boss legitimize himself, pacify the conquered people and establish himself as the new ruler***

****The personnel management of King William I, using sheriffs and then justiciars – his own Norman aristocrats from the “dust”, replacing the old aristocracy.***

- (Melody from “Top of the World” by the Carpenters; Lyrics by Fred Cheung)

There were sheriffs and then justiciars

Under William I of England and Normandy

They were tools of William to improve the treasury

Of the royal household and the monarchy

They’re on the top of the hierarchy

Most of them were *curiales* and the wealthy barons of the time

It’s their work in the reign of King William I

That pushed England to the top of the world

****curiales (Latin): courtiers (plural) [curialis (singular)]***

curia: court

- Please also see Frederick Hok-ming Cheung, “Conquest, Consolidation, and Legitimation of Norman England,” in *The Legitimation of New Orders: Case Studies in World History*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2007, pp. 179-195; and
- “The Role of the Christian Church in the Court Politics of Norman England,” in *Politics and Religion in Ancient and Medieval Europe and China*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1999, pp.147-162.
- **William I (the Conqueror), r. 1066-1087**
- William II (Rufus), r. 1087-1100
- **Henry I (Lion of Justice), r. 1100-1135**
- Stephen, r. 1135-1154
- ***Henry II (Father of the English Common Law*), r. 1154-1189**
- Richard I (the Lion-Hearted), r. 1189-1199 (The 3rd Crusade)
- **John (the Lackland), r. 1199-1216**
- ***Magna Carta, 1215***

“The Impossible Dream” (Man of La Mancha)

- **Don Quixote, a medieval Spanish warrior’s Quest**
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfHnzYEHAAow>
- **(40th anniversary of CUHK: “Quest for Excellence”)**
- **To dream ... the impossible dream ...**
- **To fight ... the unbeatable foe ...**
- **To bear ... with unbearable sorrow ...**
- **To run ... where the brave dare not go ...**
- **To right ... the unrightable wrong ...**
- **To love ... pure and chaste from afar ...**
- **To try ... when your arms are too weary ...**
- **To reach ... the unreachable star ...**

During Senator Robert Kennedy’s campaign for the presidency in 1968, George McGovern introduced him before a South Dakota speech by quoting from *The Impossible Dream*. In fact, the song was Robert Kennedy’s favorite song. It was also a favorite of Ted Kennedy and the song was performed by Brian Stokes Mitchell at his memorial service in 2009.

Cf. “Some men see things as they are and say why

I dream things that never were and say why not.”