RS Notes: The Late Middle Ages

Reform of the Papacy

* The popes controlled the Papal States, so were involved in European politics (especially feudal politics)
	+ Bishops and abbots came to hold their offices as grants from nobles, and so were vassals.
		- So, they are indebted to political leaders, not the Pope
	+ Pope Gregory VII decided to get rid of the practice of **lay investiture**
		- If secular rulers did not accept this, the pope would remove them
	+ Henry IV (German) didn’t like this
		- He used the clergy to fight the power of the nobles
* The struggle between Gregory VII and Henry IV became known as the **Investiture Controversy**
	+ **Concordat of Worms-** a new bishop paid homage to the king as his lord, and the king invested him with the symbols of earthly office
	+ A representative of the pope then invested the bishop with symbols of his spiritual office

The Black Death

* The most devastating natural disaster in European history
* **Bubonic Plague-** caused by black rats w/fleas
	+ Italian merchants brought it from Caffa by the Black Sea
		- Followed trade routes
		- (1347-51)- 75 million people died
* Believed it was a punishment from God
	+ Led to anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews)
		- Worst in Germany (fled to Poland)
* Because of the plague, trade declined, shortage of workers and less demand for food
	+ Land lords paid more for labor
		- Some peasants began paying rent… ending serfdom!!!

Decline of Church Power

* 13th century- Popes reached the height of their power
	+ Kings wouldn’t accept their political authority
	+ Pope Boniface VIII v. King Philip IV of France
		- Philip wanted to tax the clergy
			* Boniface said he needed papal permission
		- Philip sent troops to bring Boniface to France
			* He escaped, but died of shock
		- Philip made Clement V pope
			* He established himself at Avignon
			* Popes stayed their from 1305-1377
		- Gregory XI moved to Rome, but soon died
* Citizens of Rome told the cardinals to elect an Italian pope.
	+ Urban VI (Italian) became pope
	+ A group of French cardinals declared the election invalid
		- They elected a Frenchman
		- He lived in Avignon
* Began the **Great Schism** (1378-1417)
	+ Each pope denounced the other as the Anti-Christ
		- Each lost power
* 1417- a pope was elected everyone agreed to
	+ Great Schism led to protests wanting to end church corruption
		- The Church lost much of its power

Hundred Years War

* Political instability also plagued the Middle Ages
	+ England controlled a small area in France (Gascony)
	+ Philip VI tried to take it back
		- 1337- Edward III declared war (lasted until 1453)
	+ Turning point in warfare
		- Peasant foot soldiers won chief battles
		- English foot soldiers armed w/ pikes and longbows
	+ 1st major battle- Crecy in 1346
		- English archers slaughtered French cavalry
		- King Henry V was eager to conquer France
			* Not enough resources
	+ Battle of Agincourt- 1,500 French nobles died
		- England controlled N. France
* **Joan of Arc-** stepped in to help France and timid ruler, Charles
	+ Born 1412- deeply religious
	+ Believed saints came to her and told her to free France
		- Charles let her go to Orleans
			* She inspired the army and captured the city (17 yrs. old)
	+ 1430- The Inquisition tried her for witchcraft and executed her
		- French won the war in 1453
			* They were inspired by her
				+ (used gunpowder for cannons for the 1st time)
* The Hundred Years War left France exhausted, but w/ a sense of nationalism
	+ King Louis XI (ruled 1461-83)
		- Used the **taille** (direct tax on property)
			* Income allowed him to build a strong government
* The war drained England’s economy
	+ War of the Roses- nobles tried to control monarchy
		- 1485- **Henry Tudor** (Henry VII) became king
		- He abolished nobles’ armies and won support by not overtaxing