

Revival, Recovery, Reform, and Expansion



I. Political Revival

A. France

1. In 911 Charles the Simple, King of the West Frankish kingdom, recognized the Viking ruler of Normandy, Rollo, and received his allegiance. Rollo and his men converted to Christianity.
2. Rollo's descendant, William, turned Normandy into a model feudal principality by 1066, insisting on the homage of his vassals.
3. In the year 987 a new king, Hugh Capet, was crowned king of the West Franks. This marked the beginning of the Capetian dynasty.
4. In Aquitaine (South France) Duke William V (995–1030) held onto his knights' loyalty.

B. England

1. Under Viking pressure Alfred, King of Wessex, united the Anglo-Saxons under his rule. Royal law replaced diverse local customs.
2. After the Viking conquest of England, Canute ruled as king (1016–1035) and pursued a policy of reconciliation between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

C. Germany and Italy

1. After his defeat of the Magyars in 955 King Otto I, ruler of the Middle Frankish kingdom, laid the groundwork for the Holy Roman Empire.
2. In Italy the revival of Mediterranean trade made Venice, Genoa, and Pisa rich commercial cities.

D. The Peace of God

1. Bishops in central France in the tenth and eleventh centuries organized peace associations of men who paid for armed protection against thuggish lords.

2. In the movement called “The Truce of God” churchmen tried to get nobles to agree not to fight on set holy days. Most nobles ignored the Truce.
- II. Population, Climate, and Mechanization
- A. Reasons for Population Growth
 1. Warfare was more limited in scope.
 2. Europe was not hit by any major plague.
 3. From 1080 through 1180 the climate was exceptionally warm. This contributed to agricultural success.
 - B. Mechanization
 1. Water mills were used to grind grain.
 2. Water mills were used to “full” or cleanse and thicken cloth.
 3. Windmills also came into use.
- III. Revival and Reform in the Christian Church
- A. Monastic Revival
 1. Corruption was rife after the ninth century in monasteries. Lords appointed their relatives or friends as abbots, and some monks fought in battle.
 2. In 909 William the Pious, Duke of Aquitaine, chartered a monastery near Cluny, in Burgundy, to be subordinate directly to the Pope.
 3. Cluny came to be seen as a center of piety, probity, and opposition to corruption in the church, such as simony. Many monasteries were set up under or transferred to Cluny’s authority.
 4. As the wealth of the Cluniacs increased, more calls for reform were heard. The Cistercian order, founded in 1098, embraced simple lives, simple religious forms, and separation from earthly power. Cistercians set up monasteries in sparsely populated wastelands.
 - B. Reform of the Papacy
 1. Under Cluniac influence, Pope Leo IX (1049–1054) began reforming the church, attacking such problems as married priests, simony, and violence. The Lateran Synod of 1059 established election of the Pope by the College of Cardinals in an attempt to reduce the influence of Roman aristocratic factions on the choice.
- IV. The Gregorian Revolution
- A. Pope Gregory VII and Lay Investiture
 1. Gregory sought to end lay investiture^{3/4}the selection and appointment of church officials by secular authorities.
 2. In February 1075 Pope Gregory held a council at Rome that condemned priestly marriage, simony, and lay investiture.
 3. Lay investiture angered kings because they relied on the literate monks and priests, paid by the church, to be their administrators. Lay investiture threatened this easy and (for the kings) inexpensive procedure.
 4. As a result, Gregory ended up in a confrontation with German emperor Henry IV. Conflict between emperors and Popes continued until 1122 when it was agreed that the church would invest bishops, but the emperor could exercise a veto over appointments.

5. As part of the controversy, the popes supported German nobles against the emperors. As a result the nobles emerged stronger vis-à-vis their sovereign than elsewhere in western Europe.
- B. The Papacy in the High Middle Ages
1. Popes after Gregory continued to strengthen and reorganize their administrative bureaucracy and court¼the curia. The curia became the final court of appeal for Catholic Europe.
 2. The curia functioned at first as an effective instrument of reform. The frequency of clerical marriage, simony, and violence all declined, and the Pope's power reached its apogee.
 3. The seeds for future problems were sown, however, as the papal bureaucracy increased in size as well as in expense. Popes also began using military force to maintain their leadership.
- V. The Crusades
- A. Holy War
1. Crusades were holy wars sponsored by the papacy and fought by European nobles to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims.
 2. The Church took a new, more positive stance toward the military class.
 3. The papacy had supported the holy war against Muslim rule in Spain.
- B. Background
1. The first crusade to the Holy Land was motivated by the following:
 - a. The Pope's desire to increase his strength vis-à-vis the German emperor.
 - b. The hope that a Latin presence in the East would heal the recent schism with the Orthodox Church.
 - c. The Byzantine Emperor's call for aid following Byzantine defeat by Seljuk Turks at the Battle of Manzikert (1071).
 2. In 1095 Pope Urban II called for a Christian holy war against the Muslims.
- C. Motives and Course of the Crusades
1. Religious conviction inspired many Crusaders.
 2. Some were motivated by the chance for travel and adventure.
 3. Kings were given an opportunity to get rid of troublesome knights and younger sons hoped to gain fiefs in the Middle East.
 4. Most crusaders were French, but participants came from all over Europe.
 5. The First Crusade exacerbated Christian hatred of Jews in western Europe and led to attacks against them.
 6. In 1099 the crusaders captured Jerusalem and set up feudal kingdoms in the area.
 7. There were eight papally approved expeditions to the East between 1096 and 1270.
 8. During the Fourth Crusade (1202–1204) crusaders sacked Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire never recovered.
 9. Crusades were also mounted against groups within Europe, such as the Albigensian heretical sect, and the German Emperor Frederick II.
 10. New religious orders were created to participate in the Crusades, such as the Knights Templars.

11. Women from all walks of life participated in the Crusades.
- D. Cultural Consequences
1. The Crusades did not stimulate trade with the East, which was already extensive before they began.
 2. They created bitterness and intolerance among Christians, Muslims, and Jews.
 3. The crusades were the first great colonizing movement out of Europe and they shaped later colonizing movements, such as those of Christopher Columbus.
 4. Crusaders knew very little about Islam or Muslims. They dehumanized the enemy, describing Muslims as “filth.” Muslims saw Europeans as “infidels” and “barbarians.” They interpreted the crusades as imperialistic.
 5. The Crusades inaugurated a history of Christian hatred of and violence against Jews.
- VI. The Expansion of Latin Christendom
- A. Northern Europe
1. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries Anglo-Norman knights conquered Scotland and parts of Ireland, bringing with them feudalism and the Roman diocesan organization.
 2. In the Scandinavian and Baltic areas Latin Christian influence came with diocesan organization the bishops represented Latin culture.
- B. Eastern Europe
1. Albert the Bear of Saxony led a German crusade against the West Slavs in 1157. Slavic revolts were crushed and the area was converted to Christianity by force.
 2. Church organization and German settlers followed the knights.
- C. al-Andalus or Moorish Spain
1. The name al-Andalus probably derives from the Arabic for “Land of the Vandals.”
 2. Europeans acknowledged the wealth and sophistication of Spanish culture.
 3. Islamic Spain played a crucial role in the transmission of classical knowledge to Western Europe.
 4. The Muslim use of paper aided transmission of ancient texts.
 5. The experience of the reconquista provided Spain and Portugal with lessons they would apply in the New World.
 6. From the tenth to the thirteenth centuries Christian rulers defeated the fragmented Muslim kingdoms in Spain until only Granada was left.
 7. Cistercian monasteries and diocesan organization followed the conquest.
- D. Toward a Christian Society
1. Europe possessed a broad cultural unity by 1300, caused by growing papal power and papal pressure for uniform worship.
 2. Gregory VII sought to increase the power of the papacy.