

Crises of High Middle Ages

- 1) 1st Crisis = Mongols
 - Origins
 - Transformation = rise of Temujin
 - Genghis Khan unified tribes; unleashed Mongols on world
 - Success from organization
 - Armies = mobile
 - Mongols also used terror as weapon
 - Empire divided upon Genghis' death
 - Mongols impact Western Civilization in several ways
 - 1) Direct threat
 - 1223 – Jochi launches raids in Kievan Rus
 - 1235 – Ogodei orders invasion of Rus
 - 1240 – Batu launches first probe into Poland
 - 1241 – 3 invade from different directions
 - Defeats Polish, Hungarians, Czechs

- Blocked by Bohemians

- Raid Austria, Croatia & Bulgaria

- Numerous raids 1260-1340

- Threat subsides

- 2) Cultural contact

- Open up trade beyond Empire

- Merchants, missionaries, diplomats

- Marco Polo - *A Description of the World* (1298)

- Religious contacts

- 2) 2nd Crisis = Plague

- 1315-22 – “Seven Lean Years”

- Trigger = 1315 & 1316 growing seasons

- Compounding issue = Medieval Warm Period

- Result = population boom

- Then, Little Ice Age hits

- Impact = reduced caloric intake

- 1317 – numerous pandemics
 - 1318 –disease hit herds
 - Result = death & decreased output
 - Economies collapsed
- 1340s – Europe struck again
- Rats => fleas => Black Death
 - Bubonic plague
 - NOTE: pneumonic also
 - Penetrates everywhere
- Forever alters socio-economic system
- NOTE: sumptuary laws
- Sparks slave trade
- Inspires persecutions
- *Danse Macabre* appears

- 3) Third Crisis of High Middle Ages = Hundred Years War (1337-1453).
 - Origins = Intermingling of feudal claims
 - English control French territory
 -
 - Philip II Augustus triggers war

 - Ends with French victory
 - NOTE: Consequence = King John known as “Lackland”
 - Key Clauses of Magna Carta
 - Clause 1 - Freedom of Religion
 - Clause 12 – “No scutage or aid may be levied” w/out consent
 - Clause 13 – Rights of all cities/towns = same
 - Clause 39 – All people, even king, subject to law
 - Clause 40 – “To no one deny or delay right or justice.”
 - Clause 61 – Barons *check & balance* king
 - John violates Magna Carta
 - Triggers 1st Barons War (1215-17)
 - Barons invite Prince Louis to invade
 - Feudal arrangements impact Eng-Fr relations
 - Henry III attempts to regain land

 - Opportunity = Louis VIII dies; succeeded by 12 yr Louis IX

- Henry lands army in Brittany
- Both distracted
- Efforts to end issue = Treaty of Paris (1259)

- Death of Charles IV renews tensions
 - Ends of 500yr Capetian dynasty

- Upon death, Queen Isabella puts forward claim
 - Queen Isabella = Philip IV's daughter
 - Marries Edward II
 - Claim for son - Edward III
 - Philip VI (r.1328-1350) selected
 - Isabella accepts decision

- Edward III takes control

- Issue = complicated; begins w/ Scotland

- Hundred Years War begins

- Political Significance
 - English monarchs empowers Parliament
 - Money tied to royal redresses of grievances

- France = economic and political instability
 - War fought in Fr
 - 1356 rebellion erupts
 - Consequence = Renewed support of royalism
- 100 Years War = 3 mini-wars, with 2 periods of peace
 - It = typical of ancient wars
 - English enjoyed majority of victories
 - French wins war with “patriotism”
 - 1st Mini-war = 1337-1360
 - It = most destructive
 - 1st battle = Battle of Sluys
 - 1st major battle = Battle of Crecy
 - Most famous battle = 2nd; Battle of Poitiers
 - 1st peace 1360-69 between Edward III & John II,
 - 2nd Mini-war = 1369-1389
 - Smaller in scale (no major battles) & chaotic
 - Mostly small campaigns against Eng towns in Brittany
 - Edward III dies in 1377
 - Charles V reclaims almost all of France

- 2nd peace 1389-1415 between Richard II & Charles VI
 - Neither sides enjoys the “peace”
 - Henry V breaks peace
- Final mini-war = 1415-1453
 - It = two of most famous battles of Middles Ages
 - 1st = Battle of Agincourt
 - Henry V near victorious
 - Forces Charles VI to sign Treaty of Troyes (1420)
 - Henry dies; treaty ignored
 - 2nd = Siege of Orleans
 - Joan of Arc appears
 - War shifts to France
 - Last Battle = Battle of Castillon
- Peace not until 1475
 - Treaty of Picquigny
- Eng & France = enemies thru 20th Cen

- 4) 4th Crisis = Babylonian Captivity
 - Triggered by battle of Boniface VIII vs. Philip IV
 - Issue = taxing of Church
 - French debt
 - Philip imposes 50% tax on Church
 - Boniface responds w/ *Clericis Laicos* (1296)
 - Philip bans export of bullion
 - Boniface bends
 - Tensions continue
 - Philip convenes Estates General
 - Boniface retaliates w/ *Unam Sanctam* (1302)
 - Philip proves Boniface wrong
 - Benedict XI avoids direct conflict
 - Excommunicates those responsible
 - Result = poison
 - Clement V submits to Philip
 - Moves papacy to Avignon

- For next 70 yrs = Babylonian Captivity
 - Focus = revenues
 - 1) Sale of indulgences
 - 2) Sale of benefices & “Pluralism”

- Papal prestige badly damaged
 - Triggers calls for reform

- 5) 5th Crisis = Western Schism
 - Many demand return to Rome
 - Gregory XI agrees
 - Papal conclave “elects” Urban VI
 - Urban quickly pushes for reform

 - Cardinals revolt
 - Elect Clement VII; return to Avignon
 - Result = Two popes

 - Western Schism divides Europe

 - Schism provokes cries for reform

- 6th Crisis = Conciliarist Movement
 - Conciliarists = call for reform
 - Fueled by *Defensor Pacis* (1324)
 - *Defensor* written by Marsiglio of Padua
 - Even more radical = John Wycliff
 - *De civili dominio* (1377)
 - *De officio regis* (1380)
 - Most controversial = “Wycliff Bible” (1380)
 - Wycliff gained followers = Lollards
 - Circulate Wycliff’s works
 - Focus = piety
 - Called for “Church of the Saved”
 - Taught = predestination
 - Sought taxation of Church properties
 - Denied transubstantiation; believed in consubstantiation
 - Church realizes it needs to settle Schism
 - Council at Pisa in 1409
 - Deposes both popes
 - Elects Alexander V; then John III

- Created three-fold schism
- Emperor Sigismund calls for another council
 - Council of Constance
 - 1st = moves to end Schism
 - John & Benedict = deposed
 - Gregory abdicates
 - Elected Martin V
 - 2nd = reforms
 - Martin dissolves council
 - 3rd = Council moves against heresy
 - Focus = ideas of Wycliff
 - Jan Hus = targeted
- Reaction = fierce
 - Hussites take up arms
 - Martin calls Crusades against Hussites
 - Council of Basel offers deal
 - Hussite core values
- Irony: Nichols V celebrates triumph over Conciliar Movement