Chapter 8 the early Middle Ages notes

Unit 4 chap 8 section 1 notes

early middle ages

Europe is different from Italy and Greece

from 500 to 1000

dense forests, fertile lands, mineral resources like coal, iron. wide rivers like the Danube, the Rhine, the Rhone were superhighways

Germanic kingdoms – farmers and herders

no system of writing, no cities, no written laws, governed by customs

elected kings lead them in war, warriors pledged loyalty to their king in exchange for weapons and a share of loot

The Franks

between 400 -700 Germanic tribes carved up W. Europe into many many small kingdoms—

the strongest of these the Franks, led by Clovis – they conquered the old Roman territory of Gaul. Clovis converts to Christianity after marrying a Christian noblewoman from the area – was it faith or to gain support of the largely Christian Franks? – it gives him an ally in the Christian Church of Rome

Muslims in N Africa – beginning in 632 the Muslim faith begins spreading through military means in the near east and northern Africa – into Spain, and in France until they were turned back by Charles Martel in 732 at the Battle of Tours – the Muslims stay in Spain for a long time, but do not attempt to expand into Europe any further. Europe remains Christian, except for Spain…. But Christians are very dicey about Muslims after this, which is too bad – a lot of the info they’ve lost is still preserved in the regions where the Muslims rule.

Charles Martel’s grandson Charles, known as Charles the Great or Charlemagne comes to power and rules for 46 years. He’s tall, strong and quite the warrior. He fights with the Muslims, the Saxon in the North, the Slavs in the east and the Lombards in Italy –everyone, and reconquers a lot of the old Roman territories in Europe

Pope Leo III appreciates his help in maintaining peace in Italy, and on Christmas Day 800 crowns him Emperor of the Romans – they form an alliance. Killing ok, as long as its for the spread of the church. This move angers the emperor of the Eastern Empire, and drives a rift in the church that lasts for centuries.

Charlemagne passes power along to regional nobles to rule in his name. Missi dominici travel the kingdom to keep an eye on these subrulers (Satraps), administer justice and to see to it that the roads were well maintained.

C wanted to revive Latin learning – in his day even the so-called educated clergy were not very well educated. He wanted accurate recordkeeping and reports, so reading and writing were key. The school at Aachen (his capital) was run by an Irish monk named Alcuin of York – he created the first curriculum – or formal course of learning – based on Latin and including astronomy, grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music. Alcuin also hired scholars to copy ancient manuscripts – the Bible and ancient works of history like Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch – Alcuin’s model becomes the basis for most medieval schools.

Charlemagne’s three sons were each given a piece of his empire when he decided to retire in 806 ….Charles, Pepin and Louis were not long in their new jobs. Charles and Pepin died and Louis (the Pious) was crowned by his dad as sole emperor in 813. When Charlemagne died in 814 his three grandsons fought over it for the next 30 years then split the realm in three parts in 843 in the Treaty of Verdun.

Muslims are back, and then Magyars, and Vikings plague the old kingdom. The Vikings end up establishing trade routes around Europe to the Mediterranean, and settled in Northern Europe, England, Ireland, France and parts of Russia and Greenland. There were also settlements in North America under the rule of Leif Erikson around the year 1000

Charlemagne’s combination of Germanic, Roman and Christian culture and traditions was the basis for much of the European world in the Middle Ages. Many future monarchs looked back to his “Empire” for guidance to rule their own realms.

CHAPTER 8 section 2

Feudalism and Manor Economy

IN the midst of all the chaos of this time people needed to do what they could to protect themselves – there was no real overarching authority to keep order

The feudal system was the result.

Powerful lords divided their lands among lesser lords who pledged fealty to them. (vassals)

The feudal contract

fief or estate – included peasants to work the land, any towns or buildings

in exchange the lord promised protection

Vassal pledges 40 days of military service each year, $$ payments, and advice and counsel

Monarchs

dukes and counts

vassals who had vassals.

some vassals held fiefs from more than one lord – could make things complicated if his lords quarreled

feudal lords fought a lot –

mounted warriors – knights

age seven – to lord’s castle for training ride and fight

maintain armor and weapons

strict discipline

once training is finished “dubbed” and directed to be valiant

joins the other knights

Tournaments were held to keep skills sharp –

real at first, later more spectacle and ritual

Castles

fortified strongholds with moats

wooden at first, with a keep and a tower

later stone with high walls, drawbridges over moats

castle dwellers stocked up on food and water for sieges

castles in strategic locations were the most vulnerable to attack because of their value as control

Castle movie – 58 minutes

Noble women

had active roles in the warrior society

supervised vassals and peasants while the lord of the manor was away fighting

had a certain amount of medical knowledge and agricultural knowledge (managing planting and crops, etc.)

in the event of armed threats may have to lead a defensive war to protect the estate

Limited rights of inheritance in feudal society

dowry usually included a parcel of valuable land

unmarried heiresses or wealthy widows were fiercely sought after

if hubby dies first the widow regains control of her lands

Training included – spinning and weaving, managing servants

some learned to read and write, main function – bear many children and

be dutiful and helpful to her husband

Eleanor of Aquitaine –

inherited lands in SW France

married 1. King of France

2. King of England

rode with the crusaders in the Second Crusade in armor on horseback

French marriage doesn’t last – weds Henry II of England and has eight kids

tries to overthrow her husband, lands in jail for 15 years

son Richard frees her and goes off to the Holy Lands – she rules in his stead, eventually her son John takes the throne – is such a

bad ruler that his nobles force him to sign the Magna Carta

Chivalry – the code of conduct adopted by knights in the Middle Ages

be brave, loyal, true to their word

fight fair, treat captured opponents well, release on the promise of

ransom

only applies to nobles, not extended to commoners

in theory placed women on a pedestal to be worshipped and protected

troubadours sang about the beauty, perfection, wit, piety and chastity of women

basis for tradition of romantic love in the west

Peasants –

stuck on the land they were born on

bound to serve their master – the lord

majority of the population – not much chance of social advancement

can’t be bought and sold like slaves, but can’t leave without the lord’s permission

if a new lord is on the scene the peasants are transferred with the manor

Mutual Obligations of Peasants and their Lords

Peasants –

work a given number of days a week farming

repair roads, bridges, fences

paid a fee to the lord if they married or inherited use of land or used the mill for grinding grain

Payments were also made at easter and Christmas – usually grain, honey eggs chickens or pigs

in return for this labor

they had the right to farm several acres for themselves,

right of protection from their lords from Vikings or general warfare

can’t be forced from the manor lands - so guranteed food, shelter and work

The Manor is largely self-sufficient

makes what it needs to get by, food, clothing, furniture.

church holds it all together

lands divided into strips so in theory bad and good land are equally divided

Peasant life is harsh – long hours, hard physical labor – everyone works

simple diet of black bread, vegetables very little meat unless they could fish or poach game from the local lord’s forest

any animals – chickens, pigs, cows, sheep – would be housed with the family in their shelter at night

work by the season – planting in spring, repairs and projects in summer, harvest in fall – later winter often a time of little food and much hunger

disease was a huge threat – most peasants did not live past 35

lots of festival days, marriages and births were an occasion to celebrate – slaughter an animal, dancing, contests of strength, games – wrestling, “rugby”

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How does the church shape medieval life?

How does the power of the church grow?

How do reformers change the church?

How does the church interact with Jewish communities?

The Church and Medieval Life

The aim after the fall of Rome is to Christianize Europe

Pope Gregory I sends the monk Augustine to convert the Anglo-Saxons in

England

Marriages of Christian women to Pagan kings converted many

Clothilde to Clovis of the Franks

Elizabeth to Matthew of Hungary

The footsoldiers of the church – parish priests

cares for the souls of his people with sacrements -- at birth, confirmation, marriage, death

priests were the teachers of the peasantry and instructed the peasants about the

Gospels, values, morality. They ministered to the sick and poor and made sure that everyone was cared and accounted for.

Christian faith and rituals shaped everyday life – Priests were the thread that tied noble and peasant together – baptizing babies, conducting marriages, burying the dead with full rite and ritual.

THE CHURCH –

was the social center of the manor – a place of worship and gathering for festivals, celebrations – after services their would be social events – dancing, feasting, gossiping

later the churches began parish schools to educate the youth

Churches in some places became showplaces and towns would compete for the most beautiful and exciting buildings. Some held relics and became pilgrimage destinations.

Tithing was common – 1/10th of income to the church to support its activities

Christian calendar of holy days honored various saints – Christmas, Easter

Women –

viewed as “daughters of Eve” the source of sin and temptation – needed the guidance of men to be kept to the pious life.

The Mary syndrome – “Blessed Virgin Mother of God” and “Queen of Heaven” – women prayed to for intervention on their behalf – easy childbirth, health of their children – help in general

Church – two views – minimum age for marriage, and protections for a marrying girl (Caanan practice)

Punishment – harsh for men who seriously harmed women

generally women more harshly treated than men for violations of law in the church courts for similar offenses

MONKS AND NUNS and the Church

People sometimes withdrew from the world to concentrate on their faith living in communal situations in monasteries and convents

Benedict around 530 organized a monastery in Southern Italy – men lived together and marked their days according to his Benedictine Rule of service and observance -- it became the basis for religious all across Europe.

three vows –

obedience

poverty

chastity

three parts to the day –

worship

work

study

Benedict believed in the value of physical labor to focus the spirit so most nuns and monks spent part of each day laboring in their fields or conducting other physical tasks.

The result of this was experimentation and expanded knowledge about agricultural methods – Gregory Mendel, the guy who invented champagne -- Dom Pérignon were both monks

These sanctuaries often took on the work of hospitals, schools, orphanages, acted as hotels for travelers. some nuns and monks became missionaries to spread their faith to other places – Alcuin – Charlemagne’s monk was an Irish missionary

**Saint Gerard Sagredo** ([Italian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_language): *San Gerardo Sagredo*; [Hungarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language): *Szent Sagredo Gellért*) (23 April 980 – 24 September 1046), also called **Gerhard** or **Gellert**, was an [Italian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_people) bishop from [Venice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venice) (some claim [Basque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basque_people) origins[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Sagredo#cite_note-0)) who operated in the [Kingdom of Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary) (specifically in [Budapest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest)), and educated [Saint Emeric of Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emeric_of_Hungary_%28saint%29), the son of [Saint Stephen of Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_I_of_Hungary)). He played a major role in converting Hungary to [Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity). He was the [bishop of Csanád](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocese_of_Csan%C3%A1d).

Gellért's [martyrdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyr) took place on 24 September 1046 (his co-martyrs were [Bystrik](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bystrik) and [Buldus](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Buldus&action=edit&redlink=1)) on [a hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gell%C3%A9rt_Hill) in [Budapest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest) which is now named after him. Allegedly he was placed on a 2-wheel cart, hauled to the hilltop and rolled down the now named [Gellert Hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gellert_Hill), then as still being alive at the bottom, beaten to death. Other unverified tales report him as being put in a spiked barrel for rolling down.

Canonized in 1083, along with St. Stephen and St. Emeric, Gellért is currently one of the [patron saints](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patron_saint) of [Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary).

Monasteries and convents provided a place for preservation of writings of the ancient world – scribes worked to copy ancient works as their labor for their faith. Librairies full of these scrolls and later codexes were reference points for scholars –sometimes years or centuries later.

Educated monks and nuns studied histories, philosophies and religious texts. Venerable Bede wrote the first history of England and invented the BC and AD designators for dating historical events. (Grrrrrrrr, thanks a lot, pal)

Convents were interesting – Women could not become priests but they could be influential in the larger church. As time went on the restrictions on nuns prevented a lot of activity outside their convents, kept them from preaching – more control from outside the church – not too much learning for them women!!!!

Power of the church grows –

Popes at first were just the Bishop of Rome – over time they begin to acquire more power and eventually assert themselves as the representative of Christ on earth (tough duty!) –papal supremacy over ALL secular rulers.

Pope’s army of church men supervised each other and held sway over less educated secular rulers who in many cases gave churchmen powerful government positions.

The Pope even had his own nation – the Papal States in Italy, which he ruled as would any other feudal lord.

To get out of hell you had to obey the church teachings – whether you were a peasant or a king. Nobody wanted to be out of the graces of the Pope so most obeyed and followed his authority.

The medieval church developed its own system of laws – canon laws and its own courts.

If you disobeyed a church teaching you could be tried and punished – even excommunicated.

if your lord was the offender his whole realm could be placed under interdict which meant nobody would get sacraments until he made things right with the church.

The church could stop wars with its “Peace of God” truce power – demanding that fighting stop between Friday and Sunday and on religious holidays – may have helped the decline of feudal warfare in the 1100s.

Reform the Church? Sure

Abuses of position and power –some clergy lived in luxury. Many ignored their vows, esp chastity, some passed church property as inheritance.

Bishop Berno of Cluny – back to the Benedictine rule

no nobles in monastery and church affairs

religious pursuits in monasteries

Pope Gregory VII in 1073 –

no marriage for priests

no simony – selling church offices

Church picks church officials, not secular rulers

St. Francis of Assisi and Dominic –

new approach to the clergy

friars – travel around and practice their faiths instead of isolated in monasteries

preach to the poor

poverty, humility and love of God – Dominicans fight heresy

Women join too – sell embroidery and weaving to support hospitals and shelters for the poor.

JEWS –

Communities all over Europe.

Flourished in Spain with the Muslims – Sephardim

tolerant of Jews and Christians – becomes a center for scholarship

later migrations to the rest of Europe – Ashkenazim

lived in peace

had positions with government respected by kings -- tho heavily taxed

Late 1000’s – Persecution begins – “you killed Jesus”

can’t own land

can’t practice most occupations –banking ok tho usury

Jews respond by moving to Eastern Europe where for the time being they are welcomed.

Section 4

Economic Expansion and Change

By 1000 Europe economic recovery was well underway –

new farming technologies made fields more productive

agricultural revolution transforms Europe

New Technologies –

800 iron plows finally invented can bust up heavy European soils

windmills

water mills – grinding grain

Expanding Production –

clearing forests, draining swamps, reclaim wasteland for farming and grazing

crop rotation, grain, legumes (peas and beans), one fallow

population doubles between 1000 and 1300

New Trade –

peasants need iron for tools

wealthy nobles – furs, spices

Traders formed merchant companies that traveled in armed caravans

regular trade routes, trade occurs all along the way

ends in Middle East and further into Asia

Constantinople -- Chinese silks, Byzantine gold jewelry, and Asian spices

shipped to Venice on the Adriatic Sea – traders pack mule trains and cross the Alps, up the Rhine to Flanders, and across the channel to England.

Northern Europeans paid for goods with honey, fures, cloth, tin and lead

Trade Fairs –

Yearly festivals at trade routes, navigable rivers

Draw people from surrounding areas trade farm goods, animals,

food drink entertainments – jugglers, acrobat

luxury items from traveling traders, for the nobles, feudal rulers, churchmen

New towns – fairs close in autumn when the weather changes

Trade centers become towns, then cities where tradespeople gather. First cities since Roman times – 10,000 some 100,000 – mostly in Italy and Flanders – two ends of the profitable north –south trade route

Merchants got a charter from the local authority or the king for their towns – describes the rights and privileges of the town – pay a yearly tribute for this.

choose their own leaders

control their own affairs

runaway serfs that live in a town for a year and a day

Reappearance of trade – money comes back

moneylenders

Feudal lords need money to buy fine things, the serf system becomes less attractive

move toward tenant farmers who rent land or hired farm

In towns there are more and more “middle class” – between nobility and peasants

Nobles and clergy hate the middle class – they are beyond the control of either

Forbid usury for Christians

Jews fill the void. – causes animosity between the faiths

Guilds –

Merchants and artisans form associations for mutual support, quality control,

Merchants are first – decide where to spend money improving towns

Artisans respond with their own guild system

Protect their interests

limit competition

quality considerations

set prices – hours of labor

social and health support for the ill and aged members of the guild, widows and orphans

apprentice (7 to 8 years)

journeyman – salaried workers

Masters – top of the profession

Women dominated some trades, had their own guilds – 1/3 of the guilds in Frankfurt were women’s guilds

Medieval towns

surrounded by walls, most overflowed to the surrounding areas

some built new walls

largest cities had cathedrals

street hawkers during the day

streets deserted at night

trash and waste in the streets – smelly, filthy, noisy crowded.

By 1300 Western Europe was a different place from what it had been in the early Middle Ages –

Global sphere – economic revival of HI middle ages based on the new merchant class takes Europeans into contact with civilizations much more advanced than their own, and this brought the spark that transformation in thought and lifestyle for Europeans.