

The 15th Century vs. Today

Europe in the 15th Century



Contemporary Europe



London in the 14th C.:

BBC Movie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZgHXAk0No>

The Late Middle Ages:
Crisis and Disintegration in
the Fourteenth Century

CHAPTER 14, SECTION 3

“The Calamitous Fourteenth Century”
– Barbara Tuchmann

Why would someone refer to
the 1300s as a time of major crisis?

“The Calamitous 14th Century”

Q: With regard to food production and population, what had been going on in Europe over the past couple centuries?

The 14th C.:

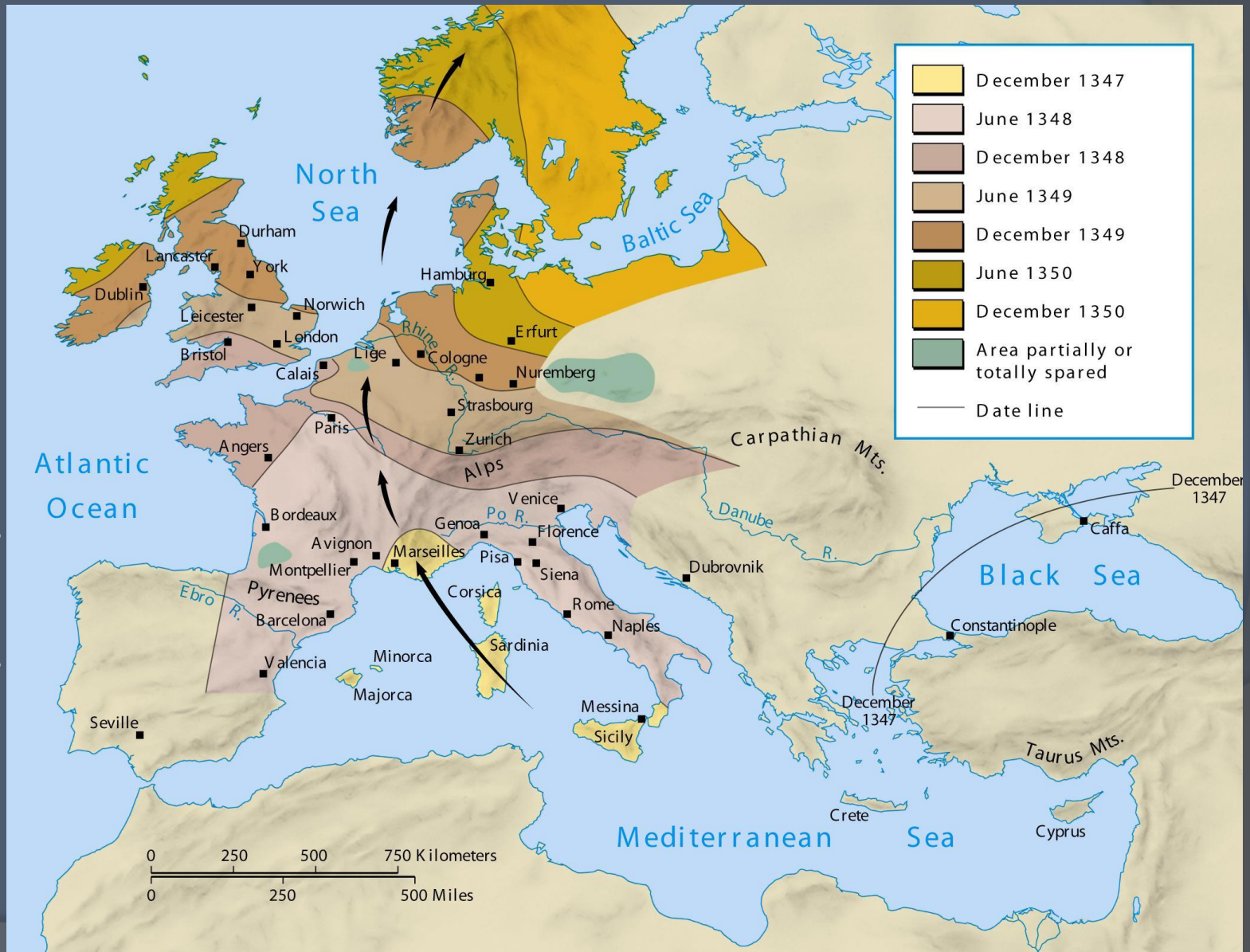
- “Little Ice Age”
 - Change in weather patterns – drop in temperatures, shortening of growing season
- The Great Famine (1315 – 1317)
 - Heavy rains/destroyed harvests
 - Extreme levels of crime, disease, mass death and even cannibalism and infanticide
 - Sought deliverance from God
 - **Malnutrition – a generation susceptible to disease**



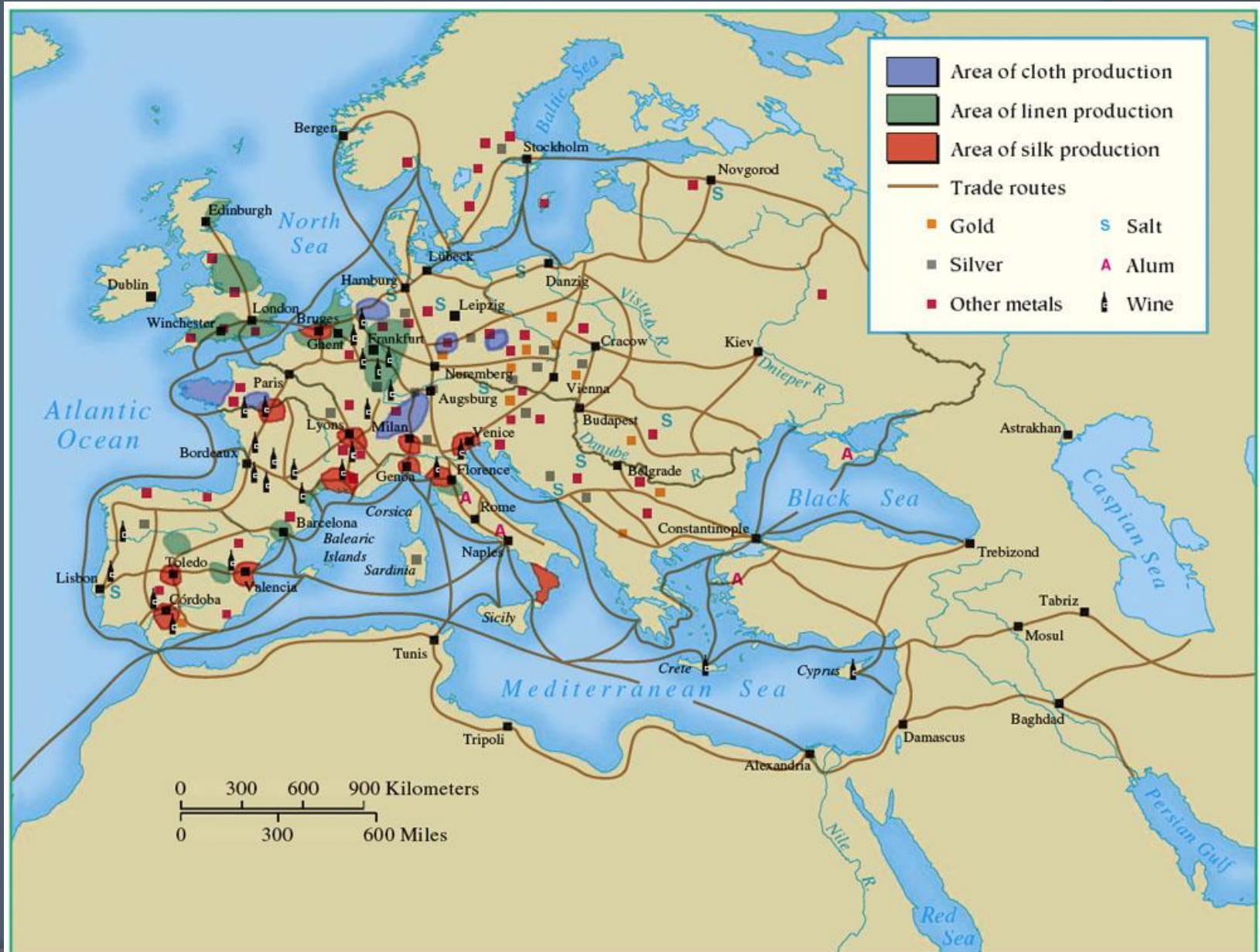
The Black Death

- Most devastating natural disaster in European History
- Bubonic Plague
 - Rats and Fleas
 - *Yersinia Pestis*
- Originated in Asia (see map)
- Arrived in Europe in 1347
- Mortality reached 50 – 60 percent in some areas
- Wiped out between 25 – 50 percent of European population (19 – 38 million dead in four years)
- Plague returns in 1361 – 1362 and 1369

Spread of the Black Death



Spread Along Existing Trade Routes



Life and Death: Reactions to the Plague

- ⦿ Plague as a punishment from an angry God
 - Apocalypse at hand?
- ⦿ Random nature of death
 - Judgment on those infected & questions about those spared

Q: If this is the case how might people look upon their infected neighbors...family members?

Q: Reactions of wealthy vs. poor

Attempts to Deal w/ the Black Death

- Bloodletting
- Forced quarantines
 - London
 - Venice – ships 40 days
- Spread via stench?
 - Use of hot onions, posies, giving up washing!
- Reactions
 - Tore apart trust/faith
 - Traumatized – God himself had abandoned
 - Turn toward sensual/worldly pleasures *****NEXT SLIDE*****
- The flagellants – public scourges (millenarian movements)
 - Condemned by Church – Pope Clement VI – Oct. 1349
- Attacks against Jews (see other slides & p. 308)
- Violence



“Others, arriving at a contrary conclusion, held that plenty of drinking and enjoyment, singing and free living and the gratification of the appetite in every possible way, letting the devil take the hindmost, was the best preventative of such a malady; and as far as they could, they suited the action to the word. Day and night they went from one tavern to another drinking and carousing unrestrainedly. At the least inkling of something that suited them, they ran wild in other people's houses, and there was no one to prevent them, for everyone had abandoned all responsibility for his belongings as well as for himself, considering his days numbered.... ”

“[S]urvivors of the plague, finding themselves neither destroyed nor improved could discover no Divine purpose in the pain they had suffered...the absolutes of a fixed order were loosed from their moorings...Once people envisioned the possibility of change in a fixed order, the end of an age of submission came in sight; the turn to the individual conscience lay ahead. To that extent the Black Death may have been the unrecognized beginning of modern man.”

- Barbara Tuchman
*A Distant Mirror: The
Calamitous 14th Century*

Economic Dislocation and Social Upheaval

Q: How was feudalism already disintegrating in the 14th C.?

- Growth of cities, erosion of feudal system

Q: Population loss meant labor shortage – what did labor shortage lead to?

- Increased wages, lower prices, lower incomes for nobility and burghers involved in the production of common goods

***Statute of Laborers (1351) : Limit Wages

- Social Mobility

- Peasant Revolts

- Jacquerie in France (1358) – contempt for peasants (p. 309)
- Jean Froissart – (310)
- English Peasants' Revolt (1381) (poll tax)

Rising Expectations

- Wat Tyler & John Ball (p. 310) & March on London
- Richard II's response

Revolts in the Cities

- Oversupply of common goods – drop in demand
- Florence's wool industry
 - Merchant/Manufacturer response – reduce competition resist demands on lower class
- Backlash where industrial interests prevented workers from organizing (Ghent 1381, Rouen 1382)
- *Ciampi* Revolt in Florence (1378)
 - Temporary right to form guilds/representation in government
 - Rise of Medici a generation later (order)

Q: Compare/contrast revolts...

Q: To what extent successful?



Statue of Michele di Lando, Florence

HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

What is the difference between:

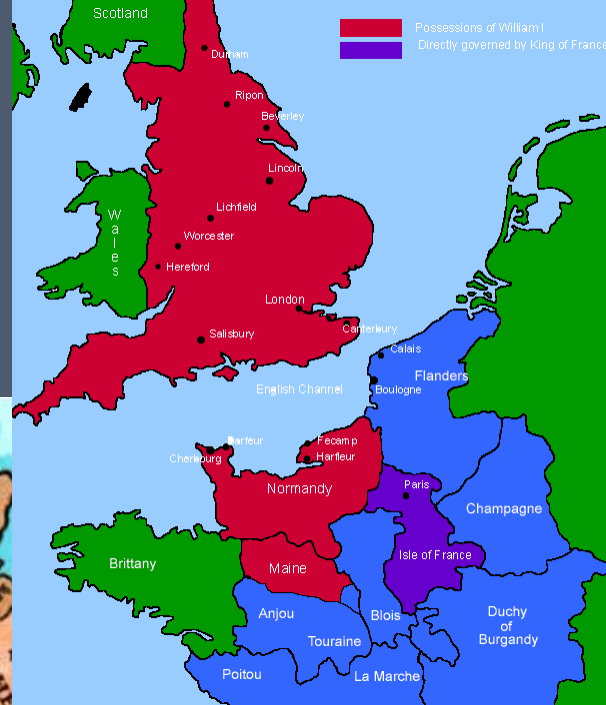
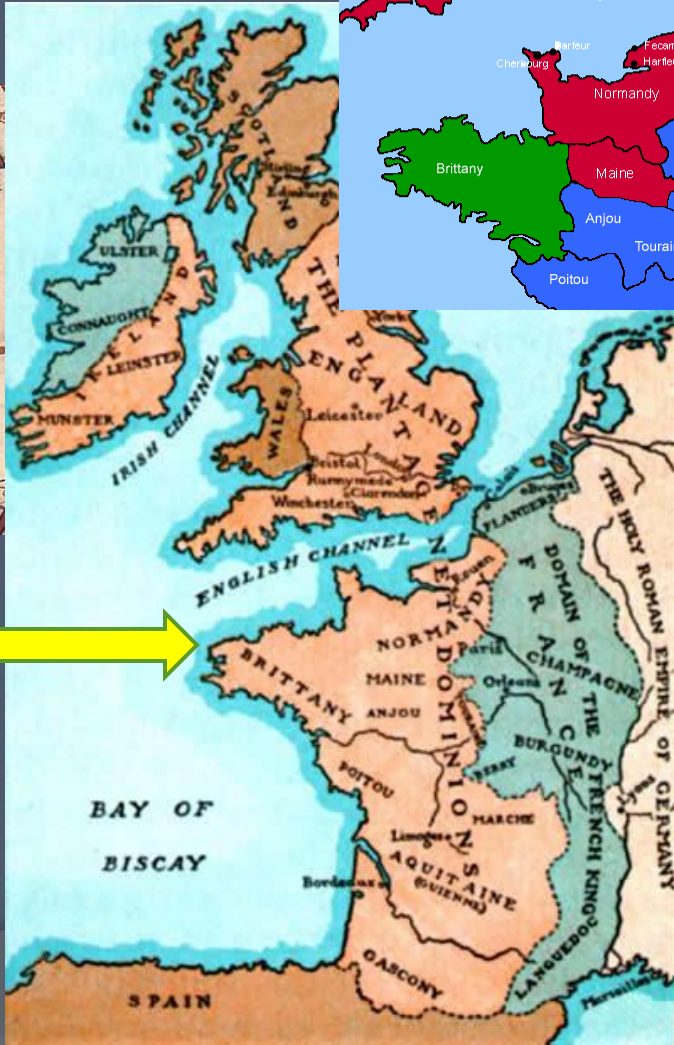
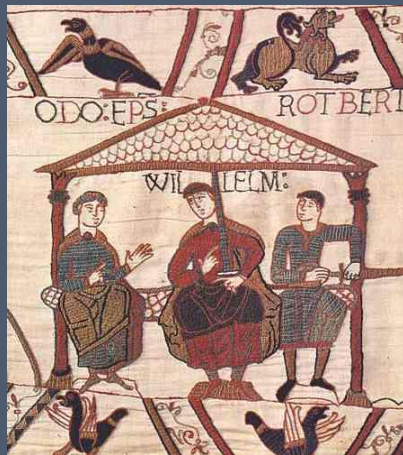
- “Beef” and “cow”
- “Pork” and “pig”

William the Conqueror
Battle of Hastings (1066)
-Retains Normandy

Henry II/Eleanor of Aquitaine (12th C.) – **Angevin Empire**

John I (territory lost to Philip – Fr.)

BIG IDEA: English interested in France, France interested in evicting English (Lord-Vassal Relationship)



More than you ever wanted to know about the Anglo-French connections

- ◉ French kings were weak feudal lords holding little authority outside of Île de France (Paris and the surrounding countryside)
- ◉ French aristocracy often married their daughters off to the sons of the kings of England, further complicating dynastic alliances
 - Eleanor of Aquitaine: m. Louis IX of France, then Henry II of England (large French province became English land) (**LAST SLIDE**)
 - Isabella of Angoulême: m. John I, mother to Henry III
 - Eleanor of Provence: m. Henry III, mother to Edward I (Longshanks)

BRAVEHEART CLIP...



Braveheart Clip

- Longshanks (Edward I)



- Edward II marriage to Isabella (French Princess)



- Awesome Story!!!

- Isabella of France: m Edward II, mother to Edward III, overthrew husband with aid of her lover, Roger Mortimer, imprisoned by her son



Execution of Hugh Despenser the Younger



Berkley Castle – Edward II - imprisonment

An account of Edward II's murder...

On the night of 11 October while lying on a bed [the king] was suddenly seized and, while a great mattress... weighed him down and suffocated him, a plumber's iron, heated intensely hot, was introduced through a tube into his anus so that it burned the inner portions beyond the intestines. — [Thomas de la Moore](#).

BACKGROUND:

- 1259 English King Henry III relinquished claims to all French territories but **keep** the duchy of **Gascony**
- English king pledged loyalty as a vassal to the French king
- French Capetian monarchs began to increase their power over their vassals
- The English kings were irritated with the French monarchs interference in **Gascony** (SW France)



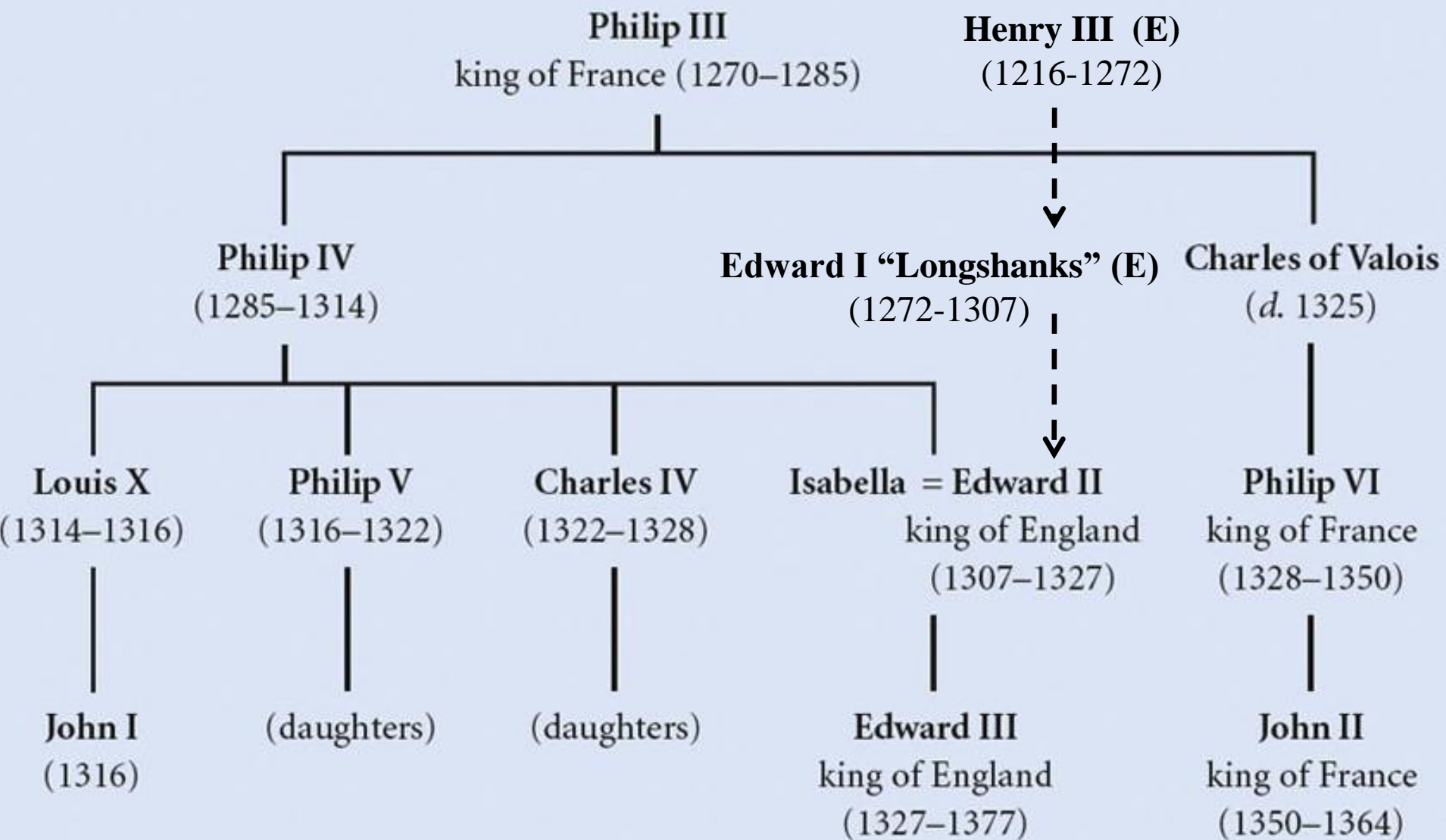
-
- Edward III was heir to properties in France which made him a threat to French royal power, in addition to his claim to the throne



- 1328 – last son of King Philip IV (Fr.) died
- Closest male relative was English King Edward III
- French nobles said crown only through male line and chose a cousin of Capetians, Philip VI
 - *Salic Law*



CHART 11.1 Background to the Hundred Years' War: Kings of France and England



- King Edward III of England was the duke of Gascony, he refused to pay homage as a vassal to Philip VI
- French Attack on English Gascony (1337)



Hundred Years War

- Conflict between England and France for over a century 1337-1453
- Became a War over throne
- 3 – major campaigns



French Army

- French army relied on armored knights on horseback
 - Foot soldiers and crossbowman viewed as social inferiors

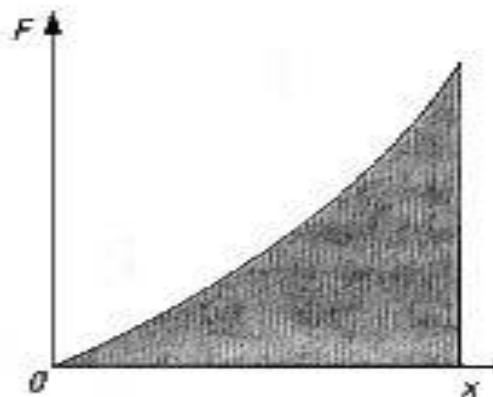


English Army

- Also had heavily armed cavalry
- Paid foot soldiers armed with pikes and longbow in larger numbers
- Longbow (advantage)
 - military innovation
 - Longer range/faster discharge



The 8 foot longbow was about the same as a 4 foot bow but it was only pulled half way back. That gave it more overall power (the darkened area) and it had a more even draw.



- **Battle of Crécy (1346)**
 - Distant Mirror (p. 87)
 - English capture Calais
- Continued skirmishes
- Black Prince and mercenary Army ravage French countryside (p. 313)
- **Poitiers (1356) – Capture of John II (France)**





Battle of Crécy.

This fifteenth-century manuscript illustration depicts the Battle of Crécy, the first of several military disasters suffered by the French in the Hundred Years' War, and shows why the English preferred the longbow to the crossbow. At the left, the French crossbowmen stop shooting and prime their weapons by cranking the handle, while English archers continue to shoot their longbows (a skilled archer could launch ten arrows a minute).

© Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris, France/The Bridgeman Art Library

1st phase war ended with King John II of France captured at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356.

1359 Peace of Bretigny

- Returned the king (ransom)
- Enlarged English lands (Gascony)
- John II renounces claims to English lands in France, but
- The English renounced the right to the French throne.

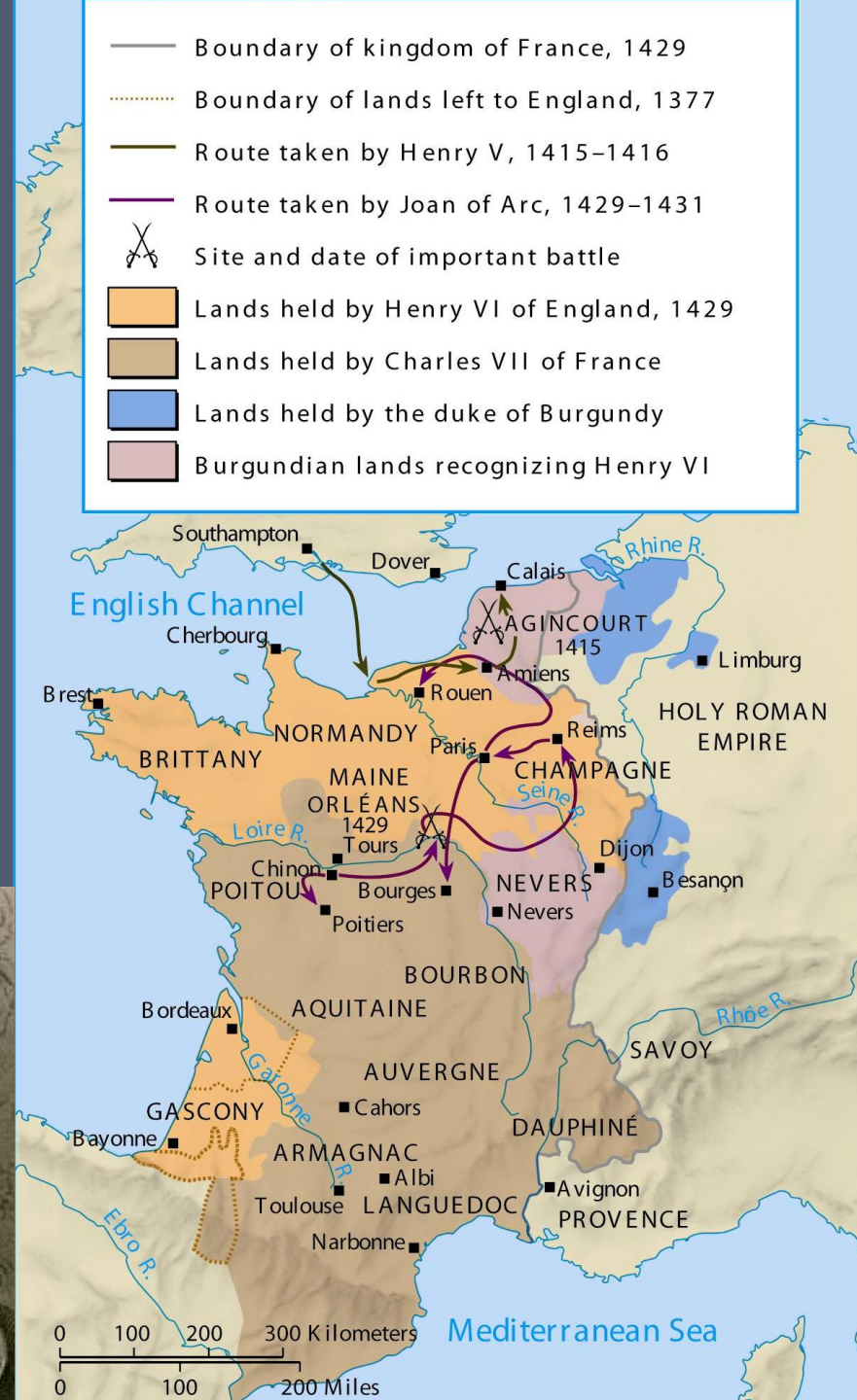


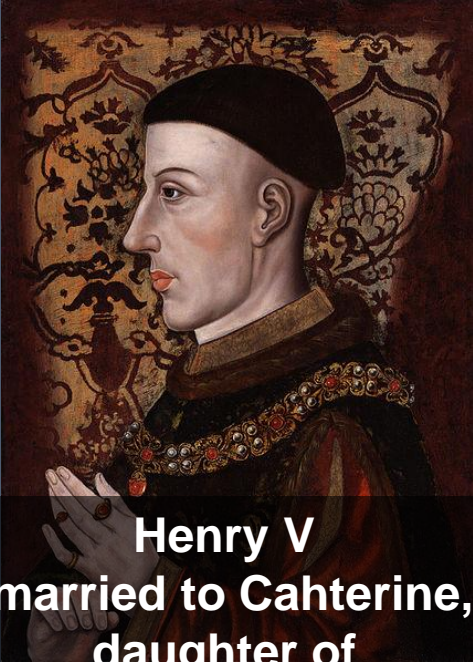
2nd phase of the war

- John's son Charles V (1364-1380) recovered the land that was lost by capturing English fortresses
- French countryside -- plundered by the English and mercenaries
- 1396 – 20-year truce signed



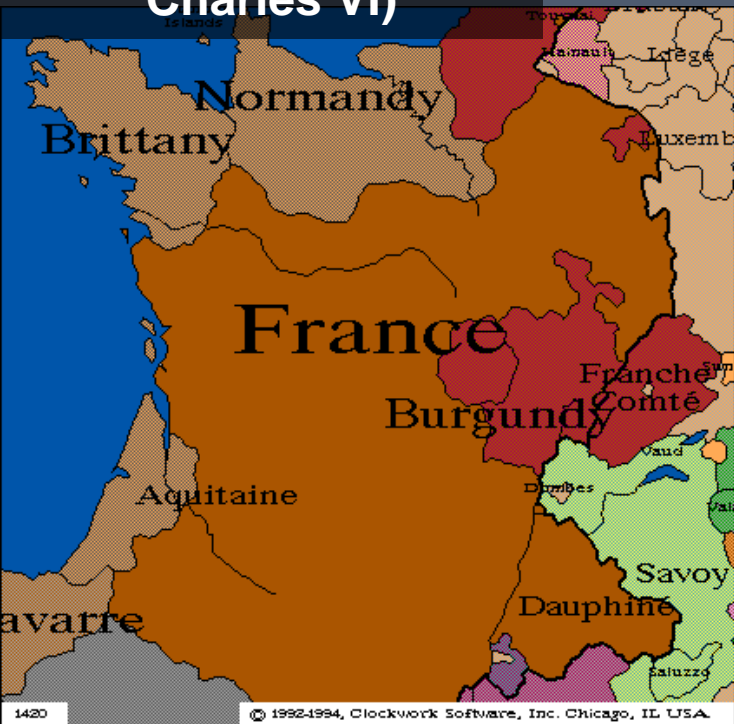
- French civil war
 - Weak (crazy) Charles VI vs.
 - Dukes of Burgundy
- Henry V (1413-1422) (England) exploits
 - Allies w/ Dukes of Orleans and Burgundy
 - Renews war w/ French
- Battle of *Agincourt* (1415)
 - French defeat





Henry V
(married to Catherine,
daughter of
Charles VI)

- Henry V conquers Normandy
- Charles VI signed the Treaty of Troyes in 1420. English King Henry V (England) was married to Catherine, daughter of Charles VI (French) and recognized as heir to throne.
- Charles the Dauphin (VII) was disinherited to the French throne, but still considers himself the rightful heir



Charles VI
schizophrenic?



Joan of Arc (1412-1431)



- French girl
- Moved by God to rescue France
- She has visions of saints
- Told that Charles VII was true king



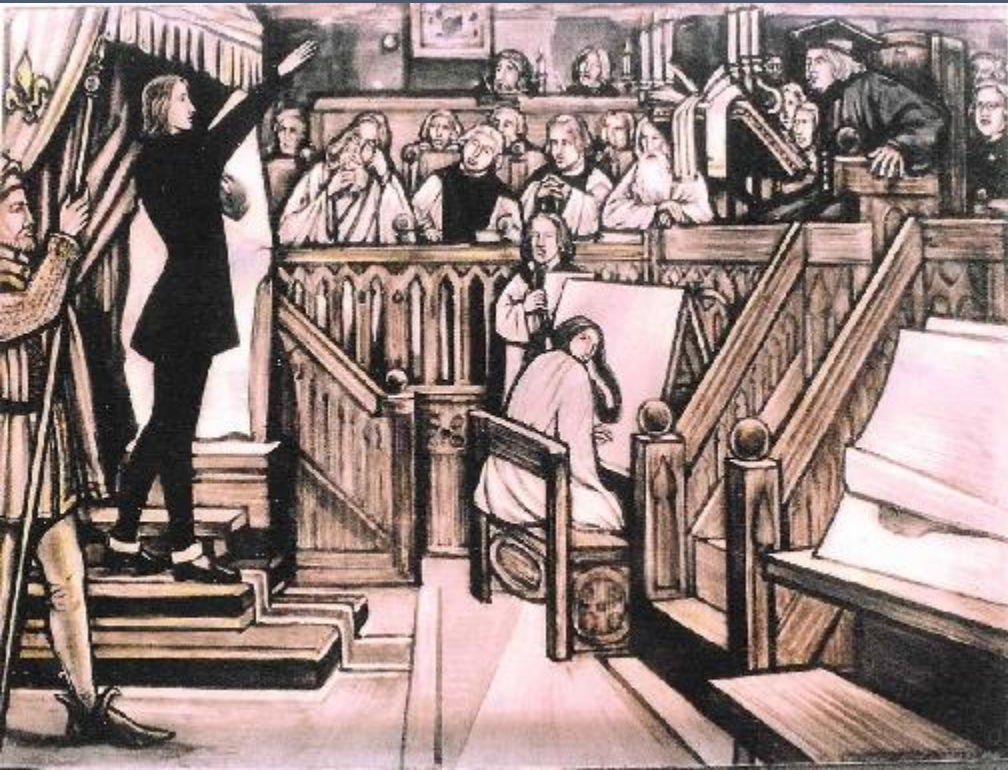
Joan of Arc

- ▶ Led French army to victory at Orleans
 - Use of cannon
- ▶ Charles VII crowned 1429



Joan of Arc

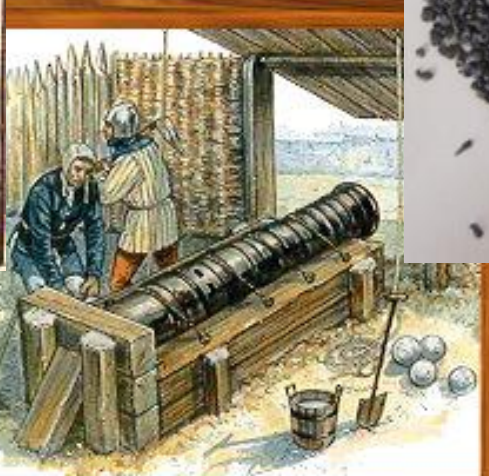
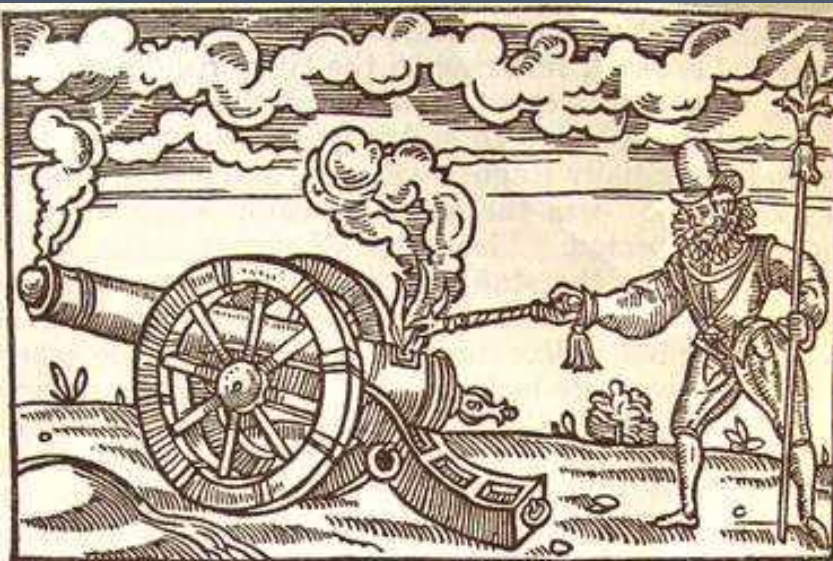
- Joan captured by Burgundians
- Tried as a witch and burned at the stake in 1431 *cross dressing*



● Canonized in 1920 by the Catholic Church



- French Victories in Normandy & Aquitaine
- Death of England's best commanders, lack gov't stability in England, and new French cannons with gunpowder led to French victory in 1453.



2007

Hundred Years' War

War over the throne of France



- 1337-1453
- British win most of the battles but
- France ultimately pushes out British
 - End of serious English ambition for the throne of France
- Port of Calais (English hands until 1558)
- More frequent and regular central gov't taxation
- Large permanent standing armies
- More reliance on paid mercenaries/standing royal armies
- Advantage: Kings over nobility

Encompassed much of Europe

- English Allies: Holy Roman Empire, Scandinavian Monarchies, Northern Italy
- French Allies: Spain, Scotland, Southern Italy
- Major disruption to trade
- Afterward – Civil Wars in England
- French “Nationalism”



CHRONOLOGY The Hundred Years' War

Outbreak of hostilities	1337
Battle of Crécy	1346
Battle of Poitiers	1356
Peace of Brétigny	1359
Death of Edward III	1377
Twenty-year truce declared	1396
Henry V (1413–1422) renews the war	1415
Battle of Agincourt	1415
Treaty of Troyes	1420
French recovery under Joan of Arc	1429–1431
End of the war	1453

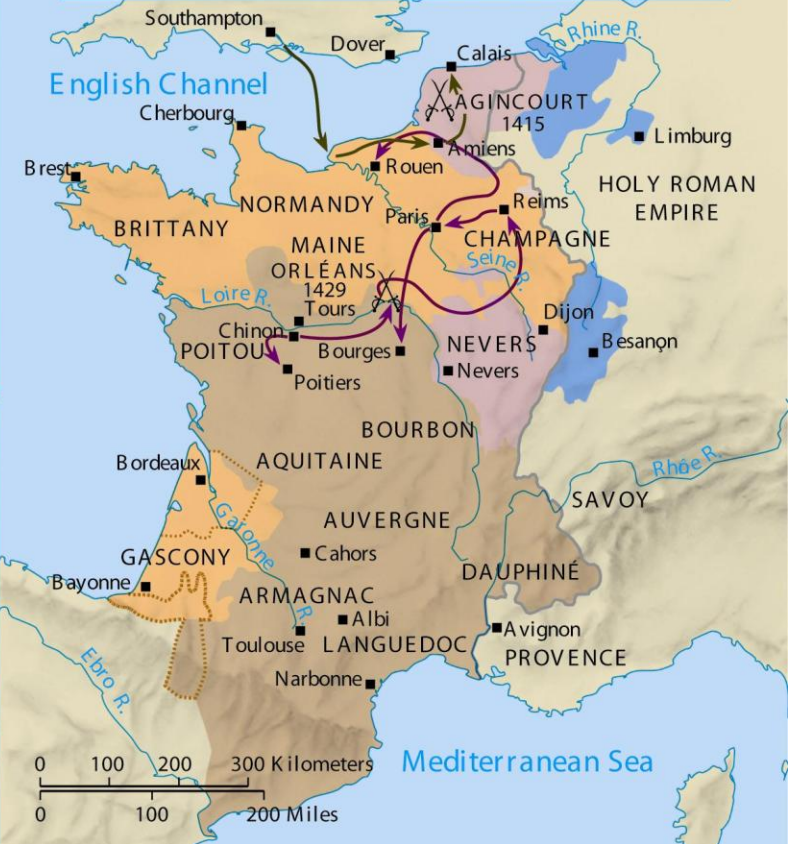


Europe in 1500

- Boundary of kingdom of France, 1360
- ⋯ Lands held by Edward III of England on accession, 1327
- Route taken by Edward III, 1346–1347
- Route taken by Edward, Black Prince, 1355–1357
- ✂ Site and date of important battle
- Lands ceded to Edward III of England
- Domain of king of France, 1360
- Lands held by relatives of the king of France
- Other territories held by the king of France



- Boundary of kingdom of France, 1429
- ⋯ Boundary of lands left to England, 1377
- Route taken by Henry V, 1415–1416
- Route taken by Joan of Arc, 1429–1431
- ✂ Site and date of important battle
- Lands held by Henry VI of England, 1429
- Lands held by Charles VII of France
- Lands held by the duke of Burgundy
- Burgundian lands recognizing Henry VI



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14th Century Crisis in the Church:

Babylonian Captivity & The Great Schism

Ecclesiastical Affairs...

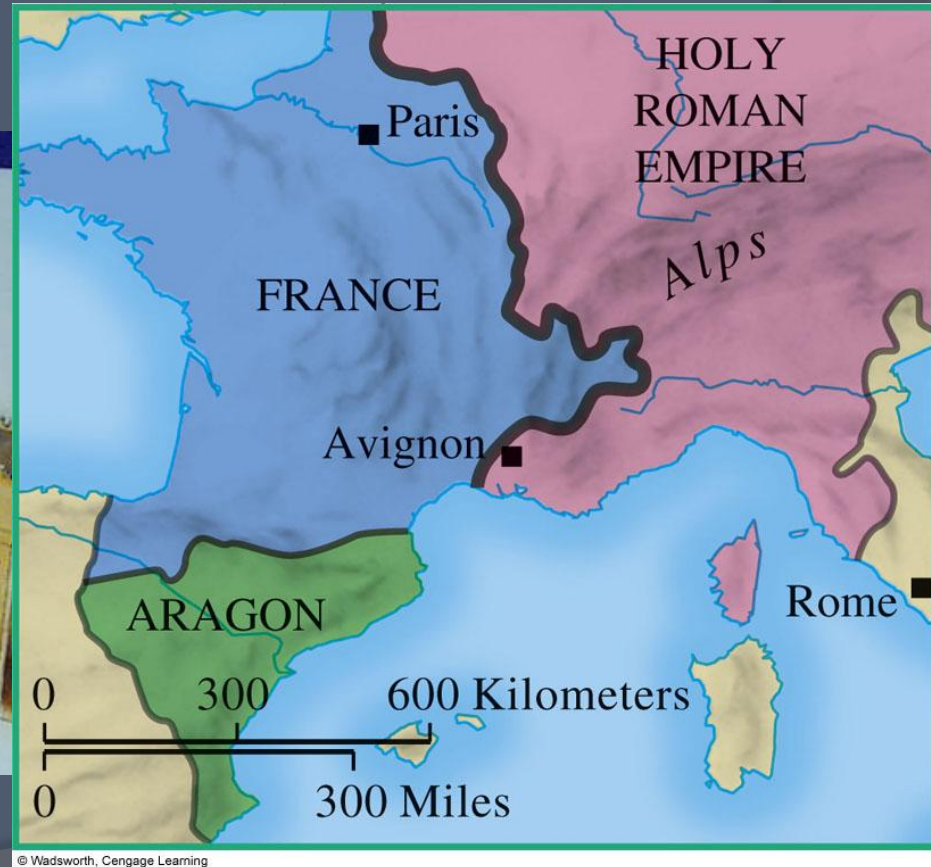
- Background – previous issue of monarchical taxation of bishops...
 - War between France/England – 1294
- Intense disputes between Philip IV of France and Boniface VIII over 2 questions:
 - Could the King of France tax the clergy?
 - Could he pull members of the clergy into royal courts accused of crimes against the monarchy?
- Philip – taxation, embargo, arrest of Bishop in S. France (problem with S. France)
- 1302 Pope Boniface VIII tried to enforce authority on kings (*Unam Sanctam* p. 322) “two sword” explanation and eventual excommunication of Philip IV
 - **
- Papal vs. temporal authority?
- Philip IV attempts to take Boniface prisoner
 - Rescued by Italian nobles but...
 - Boniface dies of “shock”



- Philip IV pressured the cardinals (mostly French) to elect a French pope
- Pope Clement V – French – (1305-1314)



- Philip IV of France forced the pope to move to Avignon in 1305. Philip IV did this so that he could better control the pope.
 - Intent - temporary
 - Clement V – conciliatory – revokes Unam Sanctam





“Babylonian Captivity” *(Catherine of Siena, Petrarch)*

- Papacy at Avignon 1305-1378
 - NOTE THE DATE (previous wars between France/England, expulsion of the Jews/Albigensians, Templars and the fall of the last Crusader state (1291) vs. Philip IV, Hundred Years War – 1337)
 - Popes – honest brokers of peace
 - BUT – English thought popes favored the French
 - Seen as captives of the French Monarchy
 - Reality -- 113/134 new cardinals were French
 - New taxes on clergy to pay costs
 - Complaints about luxury
 - Decline papal prestige
 - Europe divided ---
 - Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome in 1378 (Catherine of Siena)

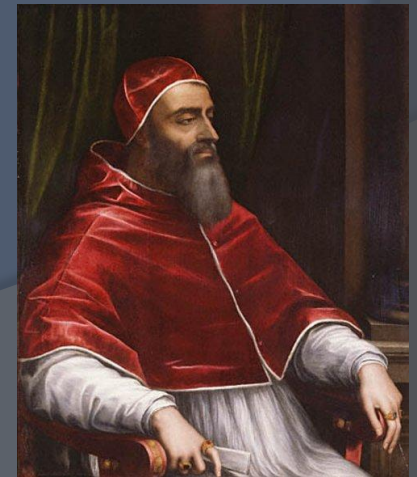


The Great Schism of 1378-1417

- ◉ Gregory XI dies in 1378
- ◉ Conclave
- ◉ Roman mob breaks into conclave voting chamber & demands election of Italian pope (threaten to kill a French pope...)
- ◉ Italian Pope Urban VI** (1378-1389) elected
 - The Roman Pope charade & plans to eliminate French cardinal majority...
- ◉ French cardinals leave the city, renounce Urban VI, elect French Pope Clement VII

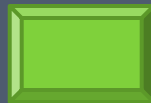


Two Popes!!!



The Great Schism of 1378-1417

- Urban VI and Clement VII claimed legitimacy and viewed the other as the antichrist
 - Mutual excommunication
- Europe's loyalties divided; politically from the 100 Years War
 - England, Holy Roman Empire, Scandinavian Monarchies, Northern Italy
 - France, Spain, Scotland, Southern Italy



Effects of the Great Schism?

- ◉ Divided Papacy – ½ tax base
- ◉ Prestige/power of the papacy declines
 - Areas of Germany/Switzerland w/ 2 bishops with varying loyalties
 - Consumes the minds of all of Christendom
- Only solution – one pope has to die ...
- Urban VI (Italian) obliges, but loyalties don't shift to Clement VII
- A new Italian pope is elected
- When Clement VII dies, French loyalties don't shift and another pope is elected by the French cardinals (Benedict XIII)
- Benedict XIII – falls out of favor with Philip IV – siege of Avignon – 6 months
- Still 2 popes into the 15th C.

Q: Who or what should be at the head of the Church and where should it be?

Conciliar Movement

- Council of Pisa in 1409 deposed the two popes and elected Alexander V
- Neither pope steps down – 3 popes
- Alexander V – dies in 1410
- John XXIII elected...
...still 3 Popes!!!!



- In 1414-1418 the Council of Constance ended the division by electing a 4th pope: Martin V
- Deposed or convinced other three popes to step down



Conciliarism – authority of the church resides in the councils and not in the popes
Calls for regular meetings (at least every decade), established that the Pope could not disband

...only a temporary victory for conciliarism – over the 15th C. – Popes would exert authority over Church

Effect on Religion in the 14th/15th C.?

- Anticlerical, not anti-religious
- Emphasis on “mechanical path to salvation”
- Mysticism
- Modern Devotion – Brethren of the Common Life, Sisters of the Common Life
 - “Back-to-basics”
 - Imitation of Christ – Thomas a Kempis
- Heretical Movements
- Lay piety – use of rosary (14th-15th C.)
- Heretical Movements – eventual Protestant Reformation...
 - Lollards in England (John Wyclif)
 - Hussites in Bohemia (Jan Hus)

Other Stuff: Regulation of urban activities (prostitution), views of children, medicine, use of the mechanical clock, gunpowder

CHRONOLOGY The Decline of the Church

Pope Boniface VIII	1294–1303
<i>Unam Sanctam</i>	1302
Papacy at Avignon	1305–1377
Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome	1377
Great Schism begins	1378
Pope Urban VI	1378–1389
Failure of Council of Pisa to end schism; election of Alexander V	1409
Council of Constance	1414–1418
End of schism; election of Martin V	1417

1300

1325

1350

1375

1400

1425

1450



(truce 1396–1415)

Hundred Years' War

■ Golden Bull in Germany

■ Battle of Agincourt

Popes at Avignon

The Great Schism



■ Black Death in Europe



■ Joan of Arc inspires the French



Work of Giotto



■ Peasant revolts in France

■ Peasant revolt in England

■ Dante, *Divine Comedy*

■ Giovanni di Dondi's clock

■ Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*