Lecture 11: Europe in the 14th Century: Social and Political Upheavals of the Late Middle Ages…

Famine and Population
• Weather & History
• Europe could not support its population
  – The Famine of 1315-1317
  – France registered 23 years of famine
  – Famines in 1330’s and 1340’s
• Large migrations from rural farms to urban centers

The Black Death
• In 1347 The Bubonic Plague landed in Sicily
• European population declined by 25 to 50% between 1347-1351
• The plague would reappear every 5 to 10 years
• European population would not start to recover till 1500

Social Consequences of the Plague
• Attempts to explain the Black Death
  – The alignment of the planets
  – The earthquake of 1348
  – God is Punishing Us!
  – Millenarian movement
  – Anti-Semitism
• Morbid preoccupation with death

Economic and Social Upheavals
• Dramatic rise in cost of Labor
• Dramatic drop in agricultural produce
• Peasants
• Economic and social upheavals

The Hundred Years War
• Henry III
  – Relinquishes claims to France
  – Retains Gascony as vassal to French King
• 1328 Charles IV of France dies
• King Edward III of England claims throne

Major Battles 100 Years War
• Warfare changes during the war
• 1340 sea Battle of Sluys
• 1346 Battle of Crécy
• 1359 Battle of Pointers
• 1412 Battle of Orleans
• 1415 Battle of Agincourt
• 1450 Battle of Formigny
• 1453 Battle of Castillon

The Great Schism 1378 - 1417
Church vs. Monarchy
• France became a strong monarchy
• Philip IV vs. Boniface VIII
• Pope Clement V (1305-1314)

The Great Schism 1378 - 1417
• 1378 Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome and dies
• College of Cardinals elect Roman Pope Urban VI (1378-1389)
• Dissenting French cardinals elect Clement VII
• This divides European loyalties
• Two popes to support taxation gets out of hand
• Both popes denounce each other as the antichrist

The Great Schism cont...
• Conciliarism
• Council of Pisa meets in 1409 and elect Pope Alexander V
• Council of Constance, 1414-1418, finally elect Pope Martin V (1417-1431)
• The Great Schism ends!

Mysticism and Lay Piety
• The Church not only declines in authority in the late middle ages but also in respectability among the common man
• Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)
• Gerard Groote (1340-1384) forms Brothers of the Common Life
• William of Occam (1285-1329) truths in religion were not demonstrable by reason but only by faith