**World History #18**

**Middle Age Cities**

**Social Class Structure**

Church/Nobles – upper class by birth - Church unified Europe

Peasants – free persons

Serfs - were part of the land

Slave - could be sold independently of land

Towns – Held power by financing the Crown

**Wealth** = land Debt was a way of life for nobles work was below their station in the social order

Books were sign of wealth as well as cloths

**Tithe** = sum of money paid by people to the lord of the manor or Church

**Influence** = nobles and church leaders (often the same)

**Towns:**

Were able to negotiate with Kings (always in need of money) and bought rights and were

given written charters – a serf who could live in a town for 1 year plus 1 day was free.

**Burghers** (leader townsmen) - Gates locked at night

Middle class developed trade year around and set rules – monopoly

**Guilds** (merchants and crafts) control work

Apprentice 2-7 years to become journeyman

Journeyman = day labor

Master = journeyman had to make a masterpiece

**Italian City-States** saw commercial revolution

1. They had a favorable geographic position
2. They had no feudal controls (republics)
3. Middle class had a major role

**Venice** held early led. They could build a ship in 90 days and began the Double entry system

First international diplomacy – Ferdinand of Arago

**Florence**

Medici Family held power with popular support?

Cosimo de Medici - held power for 30 years and only held office for 6 months

Piero de Medici - Lorenzo de Medici – Savonarola

Pazzi Conspiracy had the blessing of the Pope

Machiavelli – Virtu/Fortuna = Power used for prosperity, greatness, and honor

Florence – Center of Banking

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Gates closed at night Jewish Ghetto in Venice

Jews were to wear Green “Dunce Hats” (Cone shape) identification

**Banking Families** – Jakob Fugger

Double Entry System and credit

Bills of Exchange – promises of purchaser to pay seller at a certain time and place

Draft – Bill of Exchange between 3 or more individuals

Acceptance – paid directly

Letter de Foire – promissory note

Templers and international banking

**Trade Fairs** – Feria = Latin for Festival/ fighting stopped and safe conduct to merchants

At major sites – business was risky

Money changers – Jews until about 1100 century / Christians not allowed to charge interest

Money and trade were irregular

Money allowed:

1. laying in reserves
2. ability to wait
3. anticipation of future value

**Christendom** held Europe together not the nation states

Merchants wanted the cathedrals to bring people to the city.

Cult of relics started around 300 A.D. Relics were part of the draw to the cathedral.

**Serf house**

Dirt floor

Straw roof

Oiled paper over windows

No chimney – hole in roof little furniture

No barn – livestock in house

Land compost and manure to enrich soil

1st used 2 field system, changed to 3 field system

2 field system – one fallow 6-8 bushels per acre

1/3 autumn with winter wheat / 1/3 spring oat-vegetables today 30-40 bushels / acre

**Marriage** not encouraged – later seen as a way of controlled ritual and society

At first wedding ceremony was simple kiss and exchange of rings with verbal promise

before witnesses – not until the 16th century did it play an important role and was often

done by proxy – painting of *Arnolfini Marriage*

**Betrothal Ritual** – formal and binding in nature and size of Dowry as well as living

facilities clothes promise to provide.

**Dowry** – a statement of Honor and proclaiming social rank of individual and family

Rural girls married between 13-16 years old and men married between 20-28 years old

Urban Men between 30-35

One was a child or an adult and not related to one’s age

**Education –** priesthood or law – students paid after instruction

Questions – How many Angels can stand on a pin head?

**Cathedrals** were the focus of city life and the symbol of the city power

Construction: The peasants built and paid for them and town benefited.

**Work:**

**Summer**

14-15-hour days

½ hour breakfast

1 hour lunch

½ hour snack

**Winter**

9-hour day

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43 trades

Stonemason – rough work

Freemason - figures

Cathedrals had heavy buttress while the one at Bourges had long delicate buttress that were 1/3 those at Chartres. The buttress were for the wind and replaced the Romanesque style

Gothic Cathedrals (Latin for Throne of Bishop)

1. Relics became draw to cathedral

2. Merchants wanted for trade

3. Bishops held power – birth records, baptismal, marriage

Cathedral Completed

Chartres 1221

Remis 1209-1290

Amiens 1219-1269

Bourges 1195-1255

Notre Dame de Paris 1152-1240

Laon 1153-1223

Glass (light the present of God) and statues provided a three dimensional story to teach the people. Priests were often under educated for their task at the time.

King’s became stronger with the introduction of gun powder and the Papacy Decline:

Pope Gregory – Gregorian Reforms – Babylonian Captivity 1309-1417

At one time there were three separate claims for Pope’s

**Black Death:**

Wiped out one fourth European population – caused new hygiene and increased wealth and opportunity for those that survived.

Wealthy moved out of cities and had poor live in house to check for safety

Power was used for prosperity, greatness, and honor

**Changes:**

The public bath was replaced by the private wooden tub during the Black Death

Window glass in cool countries – wooden shutters in the southern

Enclosed oven first used in Germany

Fork was used first in Italy 1611

Table manners change became how to eat instead of where to toss the bones

Bread was the staple of peasants

England poor for grapes and good for wool – Merchants sold wool to Antwerp

Flanders good weavers of wool – Antwerp

French – wine

Spain – swords and armor

**Mystics –** self-surrender to obtain unity and spiritual truth.

Johann Tauler 1300-1361

Heinrich Suso 1300-1366

Inward religious experience way to greater knowledge of God – distrust rituals

Jan van Ruysbroeck 1293-1381

Living ascetic and meditative life with evangelical devotion to reform

Catherine of Siena 1347-1380

Meditation and prayer – scourging self with iron chain

Humans in fallen state Adam and Eve

**Terms:**

**Outlaw** -to place one outside the protection of the Law could be killed without penalty

**Bastard** was bornout of wedlock **–** no family for protection

**Excommunicated** was outside the protection of the Church

Connections were important for survival Church, law or family