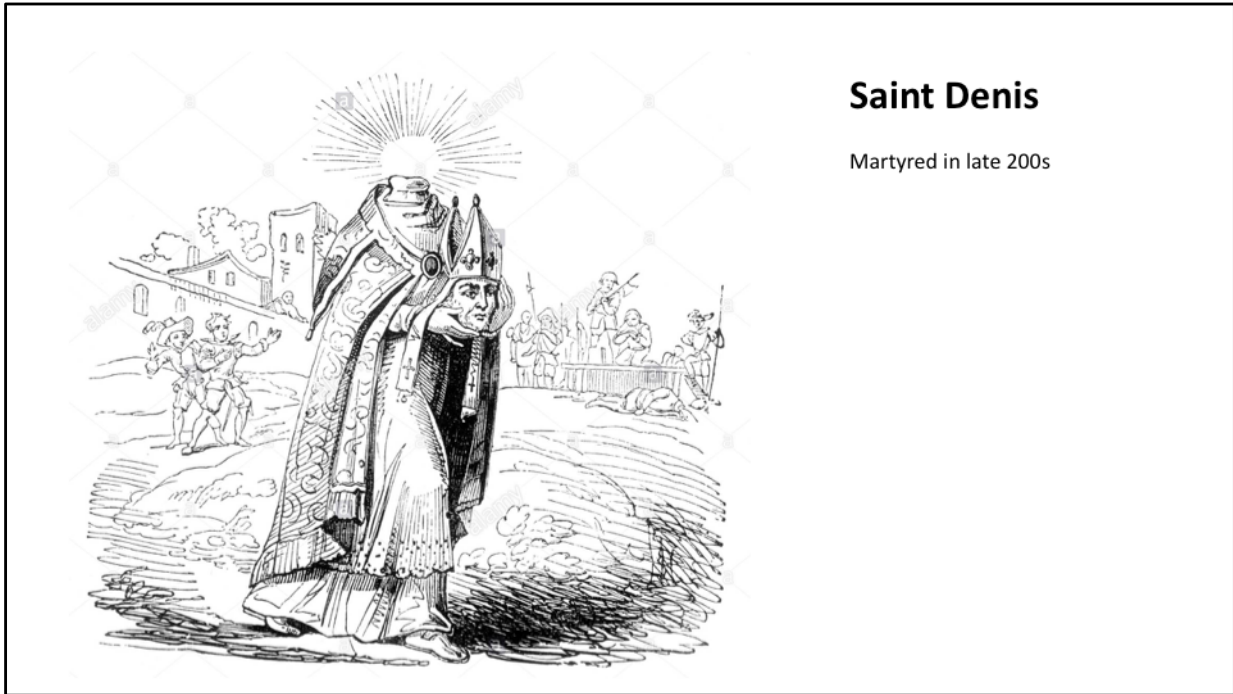


# The European Reformations

## Session 1: How the Ground was Tilled





## **Saint Denis**

Martyred in late 200s

sentenced to death by crucifixion on a hill

executioner got bored on the way, decapitated him

carried his head to the top of the hill, died, head rolled to a certain spot

## Saint Denis – 12<sup>th</sup> Century



10th century, Paris a spiritual and political center of Europe, large following of the local Martyr, Saint Denis.

Built the Basilica named after him in 1100s

first use of the gothic style

## Notre Dame



Bishop of Paris, Marice De Sully - admired the work North of the city on Basilica Saint Denis, the high ceilings and large windows and light, and sought to create his own brilliant worship space, Notre Dame, on the Island in the Seine in Paris.

This is what pre-reformation, pre-renassaince European politicoreligion looked like

- power game
- display of wealth
- held a mystical quality
- not something to be understood
- something to be done

Why did the medieval lad with promise  
cross the road?

It may have been to attend University...

## University of Paris



like this one: University of Paris, known also as La Sarbonne, founded in 1160.

Prior, Monasteries where people went to teach and to learn, where monks taught other monks

Then, predecessors to Universities were Cathedral schools, where the chancellor would give out a license to teach, which was the predecessor to a university degree

Then, the university was born, begun when groups of scholars formed a group and rented rooms, and students paid to attend lectures.

Often, several Universities would be formed around one Cathedral. Paris was the most important University City, with both Franciscans and Dominicans adopting it as their main training center.

Among first: Bologna, Paris, Salerno, Oxford, Cambridge, Montpellier, Padua, Salamanca, and Toulouse.

People who studied or taught in Paris: William of Ockham, Anselm of Bec, Peter Abelard, Peter Lombard, Albertus Magnus, Duns Scotus, Thomas Aquinas, and Lothar of Segni (Pope Innocent III. Scholasticism: harmonize the theology of Augustine with the philosophy of classical Greek thinkers, especially Aristotle.

Humanism / Renaissance: Facere Quod in se est - do what lies within you; do your very best: Always ends with the question - have I done enough? Have I ever done enough?

## Late Medieval Urbanization



Late medieval city was known as the "foyer of modernity," a locus of change brought about by new ideas (Universities) and a new money economy.

- New urbanization brought about a class struggle in the cities between rich and poor, noble and peasant, now living in close quarters and with new rules

- Was the reformation about:

1. class struggle
2. Theological struggle
3. political struggle: support or overthrow of social norms

## Babylonian Captivity of the Church



Palace of the Popes, Avignon, France

Anticlericalism was on the rise

as more people were being educated in the universities, as more people moved to cities and there was greater unrest, the church found itself less and less automatically given the benefit of the doubt

Pope saw himself as the head of secular government - above Emperor and Kings

- Didn't crown the French King, couldn't control him

- Pope Boniface VIII, 1302, issued Unum Sanctum: "It is necessary to salvation that every human being be subject to the Roman Pontiff." Was preparing to excommunicate the King of France and all French clergy...

King of France: sent a delegation to take the pope by force. In 1303, French and Italian soldiers arrested Pope Boniface VIII in his hometown of Agnani. 68 years old, and strongly rattled, he died weeks later.

The next Pope, the conciliar Benedict XI, who held papacy from 1303-1304.

Clement V, from Gascony, in southern France, elected with strong support of French Clergy, chose to move the Papacy and its trappings to Avignon, France. Stayed there for the next 6 papacies.

Then...

## FEEDBACK



Good



Bad

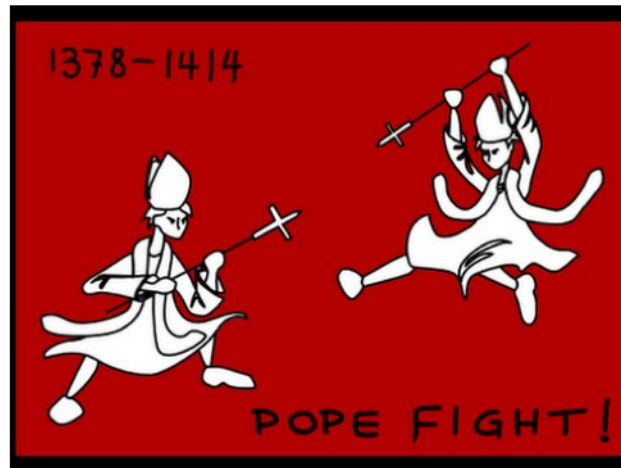
Papacy had some of its earliest criticism at this time

- French Dominican, John of Paris, wrote that popes had no authority to depose kings

- Franciscan William of Ockham concluded that Pope John XXII was a heretic because of his rejection of the Franciscan theology of poverty

- Marsiglio of Padua, onetime rector of the University of Paris, argued that the papacy was destroying world peace, and stressed the principle of popular consent for legitimacy - which sounds a lot like democracy.

## Western Schism



Gregory XI, noting ebbing Papal prestige and authority, moved papacy back to Rome in 1377. He died in 1378. Immediately, there was rioting in the streets, demanding the papacy remain in Rome AND that a Roman be elected pope.

Cardinals chose a Neapolitan, Bartolomeo Prignano, who became Urban VI. Naples neither Roman nor Italian, as Naples related more closely with France. Much evidence that his election as pope was completely kosher.

But, after much unrest and because Urban VI proved too much to be a dictator, one by one they slipped out of Rome, set up a meeting at Gnagni, where they declared that Urban VI's election was not kosher, and they elected Cardinal Robert of Geneva, who took the title Clement VII. Cardinals requested that Urban VI abdicate, which he didn't do. Instead he excommunicated Clement VII, who excommunicated Urban VI. Went on for 40 years. Two sets of curio. Two sets of cardinals. Many parishes had two priests. Urban remained in Rome; Clement VII set up in Avignon. Europe split its allegiance. Clement VII and Avignon: France, Scotland, Aragon, Castile, Navarre; Urban VI: Italy, Germany, Hungary, England, Poland, and Scandinavia.

## And then there were 3



Cardinals, bishops, theologians, and representatives of every western country came together at Pisa. Popes invited - refused to attend. Council of Pisa, 1409.

Argued that they had supreme ecclesiastical power, over the popes. Deposed both popes as notorious schismatics. Elected new pope: Alexander V, archbishop of Milan. But the deposed popes refused to recognize the validity of the pisan council. so there were now 3 popes, at the same time.

Alexander V died in 1410. Now Pisa council elected John XXIII, who called the council of Constance in 1414 to end the schism. John wanted the council to depose the other 2 popes and make him the grand pubah. Cardinal Odo Colonna elected pope in 1417, took the title Martin V. The great western schism was over.

Council also required the pope to convene councils in 5, then 7, then every 10 years. Martin and later popes chose to ignore this.

# The Plague



By around 1320 most of Northern Europe was suffering from a severe famine because of population growth and crop failures due to unusually bad weather

1347 the Plague reached Sicily, 1348 reached England

Estimated that 30% of Europe's population died as a result of the plague

Quote: Lindberg, 27

Shortness of life was never far from people's minds.

Even reached children's songs and Games

Ring around the Rosie  
Pocket full of posies  
Ashes, Ashes  
We all fall down.

## Self Flagellation



*facere quod in se est*

Plague was perceived as humanity's punishment for human sin.

Religious people of the middle ages, desperate for a solution, formed processions from town to town, where they would throw themselves down in the shape of a cross, followed by singing hymns and self-flagellation.

Irony is, mass gatherings of people actually made the plague spread worse.

If not from God, some thought it was a Jewish plot, and many Jewish leaders were burned at the stake, though Jews, too, suffered many deaths because of the plague.

“Catholicism at the end of the Middle Ages was in large part a cult of the living in the service of the dead.”



Beginning of a system of mathematics of salvation  
when what was formerly qualitative was now quantified, measured,  
counted, systematized

Doctrines of purgatory and indulgences were representative of human anguish, fear, and desperation. "In the face of such death, what can I do? If my sweet child is suffering in purgatory, how can I help her?"

Churches built with one high, main altar, but also side altars, altars in the rear, and altars throughout the undercroft, or basement, where a full complement of priests may have been "saying mass" for tens of dead souls at any given time.



Increasingly self-serving and corrupt papacy

Here - Pope Alexander VI, Pope from 1492-1503, who was elected Pope as a result of bribery, as was common.

Had many mistresses and bore at least 8 children to them.

Known for poisoning and helping bring to execution his foes, unless he could persuade them to join his side by offering them cardinal's office.

Following, Pope Julius II (1503-1513), who got excited about war and the rebuilding of St. Peter's, which led to the indulgence...

Following him, Pope Leo X (1513-1521), son of the famous Florence political and banking family, the Medici. Opening phrase of papacy: "Now that God has given us the papacy, let us enjoy it."

## Where's Waldo?



Peter Waldo

The Waldensians

Peter Waldo, Pierre Valdes, 1140-1218

wealthy clothing merchant who:

- on hearing a sermon on St. Alexius
- experiencing a friend die at the dinner table
- rejection of transubstantiation

formed or started to lead the Waldensians

- voluntary poverty
- strict adherence to scripture
- lay preaching

Excommunicated by the fourth lateran council in 1215, when they moved to the mountainous region of Northern Italy

Not before the movement had spread throughout Europe, and would go on to influence history...

## John Wyclif and the Lollards

Late 1300s



anti-clerical views

leading philosopher at University of Oxford, offended the church by supporting the government's right to seize the property of corrupt clergymen

attacked transubstantiation

initiated English translation of Bible: The Wyclif Bible (1420)

followers became known as Lollards, quite organized and spread throughout England by 1395

## Jan Hus and the Hussites



turns out, marriage isn't always a good idea.

When Richard II of England married Anne, Sister of King Wenceslaus IV of Bohemia in 1382, more than love traveled afar. The ideas of John Wyclif traveled as well.

John Hus, a Bohemian reformer and rector at the University of Prague, translated some of Wyclif's writings into Czech. Hus was a fiery preacher against the immorality of the papacy. Supported serving both bread and wine to the laity, among many others.

Was summoned to the 1414 council of Constance, and promised a safe conduct. Nevertheless, he was found guilty of Heresy and burned at the stake in 1415. His followers rose up in anger. The pope sent 5 failed crusades to try to crush the Hussites, but they managed to spread to Austria, Slovakia, Silesia, Bavaria, and even the Baltic.

Independent Hussite church emerged, partially recognized by Rome. Used Czech language in worship and received both bread and wine at Eucharist. Because there was no church hierarchy, the church leadership was in the hands of the aristocracy,

which would figure to be a characteristic of later reformations across Europe.



## Devotio Moderna and the Brethren of the Common Life

There were good and healthy movements within the Roman Catholic church, one being the Devotio Moderna, the modern way of serving God.

Geert Groote, after a religious experience in 1374 gathered a house of poor women to live common life of pious and humble service together, without taking official vows.

Later became a movement of men and women, semi-monastic, Brethren of the Common Life.

3-fold rule of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

busied themselves and supported themselves by producing books: writing, copying manuscripts, binding, and marketing, and with the advent of printing, operating their own press.

Gabriel Biel, known as the last German scholastic, and Thomas a Kempis, author of the Imitation of Christ, were both members of the Brethren of the Common Life, and would go on to have great influence of the later reformation.

Printing Press, Urbanization, Universities and more educated populace, in 1440  
Gutenberg, printing press: wide variety of ideas that could be spread.

## Printing Press: 1445

Johannes Gutenberg



Movable type printing press  
before this: scribes, copy paper

until 1462 trad secret in Mainz, Germany  
but then the city was plundered

20 years later, printing presses were set up in Rome (1467), Paris (1470), Cracow (1474), and Westminster (1476).

By the time Luther was born (1483), printing was well-established in Europe.



## Erasmus of Rotterdam, the Humanists, and the Renaissance

Renaissance, which started in Italy and spread to Northern Europe, emphasized a return to the Greek and Latin classics, along with politics and art.

The ones responsible for the spread of the reformation were those who returned to the system of classical learning, called humanists.

Their clarion call was: Ad fontes. "To the sources!"

Erasmus of Rotterdam was the foremost of the humanist scholars: Quote Lindberg, 55.

## The Dawn of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century



As the 16th century dawned in Wittenberg, Germany, and across the Holy Roman Empire:

- the population had become more urban than ever, more educated than ever, and more mobile than ever
- scholars and the general population had discovered reading the original sources, including the Bible, and were uncovering greater truths
- the Roman Catholic church was more corrupt than ever before, had developed an economy based on masses for the dead and indulgence sales to finance wars and build wealth and buildings, and priests and the church hierarchy were facing greater scrutiny than ever
- There were fledgling efforts to reform the church that were spreading across Europe and people longing for change
- and there was a guy named Johannes Tetzel, chief indulgence officer for the Wittenberg area of Germany, who would ride into town, have a list of how much money people had in general and know how much he could charge, and would sell people indulgences to release their loved ones from purgatory so that their souls could float up to heaven. People responded by paying whatever money they had, even going without food. They were making the salespeople and the church rich. It

seemed like a great idea at the time. What could possibly go wrong?