

## Christianity and the Medieval Mind



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## Christianity and Europe

- From the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance, Christianity “ran” Europe (ca. 500-1500)
- Salvation controlled by the Catholic Church
- Seven sacraments of the church set by Fourth Lateran Council in 1215
- Purgatory added to the church’s theology
- Mysticism—Hildegard of Bingen
- Innocent III—Jonathan Edwards like preacher/pope
- Morality Plays—Christian education for the illiterate

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Dante (1265-1321)  
wrote his *Comedy* ...a journey from hell to heaven

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## Dante's Divine Comedy



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## Dante's Divine Comedy

Allegorical and literal journey carrying message of warning

Reward or punishment tied to the sin or virtue

Hammurabi-esque system of divine justice

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## Medieval Church

- 1022 College of Cardinals founded—key in electing a pope
- Excommunication—exclusion from communion...therefore from heaven also
- Interdict—excommunication of a city or country
- Heresy—that which is theologically considered in error
- Crusades—multifaceted endeavor
- Inquisition—established in 1233 to keep church pure

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## Monastic Life

St. Francis adds the Franciscans to the Benedictines

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St. Francis' *Renunciation*  
and  
*Sermon to the Birds*



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## Conflict Between Church and State

Growing tension between church and state. The church became increasingly upset with the rise of the national states of Europe

Example: Philip IV and Pope Boniface

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**Power Struggle  
over taxes  
between  
Philip IV and  
Boniface VIII**  
  
**This was a  
harbinger of  
things to come  
in the  
Renaissance**

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## **Medieval University**

**University were the natural consequence of the old parish schools set up by Charlemagne centuries before**

**University of Bologna had a unique idea: students would hire their professors**

**Notre Dame developed out of a guild for teaching theology**

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**“Now class, we are adding threads to your butterfly net....”**

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## Medieval Scholasticism

Scholasticism was the attempt to reconcile the two realms:  
faith and reason

Peter Abelard in his *Sic et Non* attempts that balance

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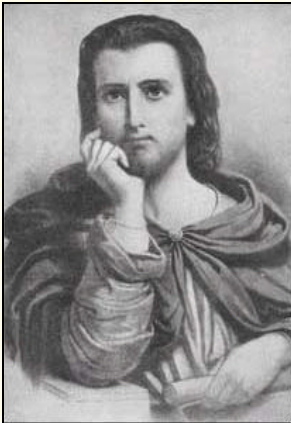
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Peter Abelard  
*Sic et Non*

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Thomas Aquinas  
*Summa Theologica*

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## Christianity and the Medieval Mind

Interesting sites:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/07/eu/hm07eu.htm>

[http://www.hyperhistory.com/online\\_n2/History\\_n2/a.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html)

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