Adversity and Challenge: 14th c.

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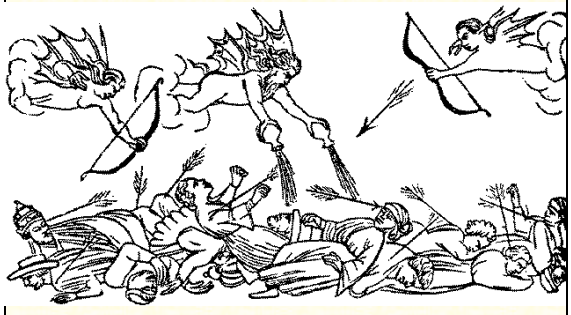
This period experienced the labor pains of the Renaissance. The three issues of the 14th century were the Black Death, the Great Schism, and the Hundred Years' War.

The Black Death

The bubonic plague struck in 1347 resulting in the deaths of 1/3 to 2/3 of many cities of Europe and claimed an estimated 25 million people due to the plague.

Boccaccio wrote *Decameron,* which described the meltdown of social order and services. Hysteria and superstition ran rampant throughout Europe. Scapegoats were Jews, gypsies, etc.

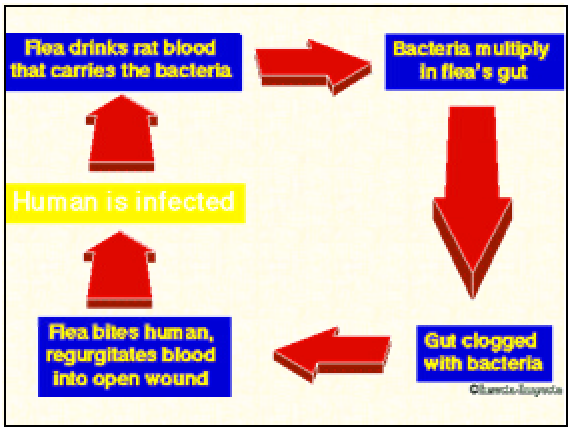
The Black Death



"Eat, drink, and be merry…."

The Dance of Death **by Holbein**

The Oriental Rat Flea was the cause of this pandemic—reducing the population of Europe by 60%.



The Black Death caused major social disruption throughout Europe.

Blackani.avi

Click on logo and follow the spread of the Black Plague throughout Europe

"Cures" for the Black Death

or

You could sing,
"Ring around the rosie,
A pocketful of posie,
Ashes, Ashes,
All fall down."

Another "cure" or way to deal with the Black Death: Flagellants

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

No man is an Island, entire of it self;
every man is a piece of the Continent,
a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
as well as if a promontory were,
as well as if a manor of thy friends
or of thine own were;
any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in Mankind;
And therefore never send to know
for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.

-John Donne

"So many bodies were brought to the churches every day that the consecrated ground did not suffice to hold them, particularly according to the ancient custom of giving each corpse its individual place." --Boccaccio

A victim of the Black Death

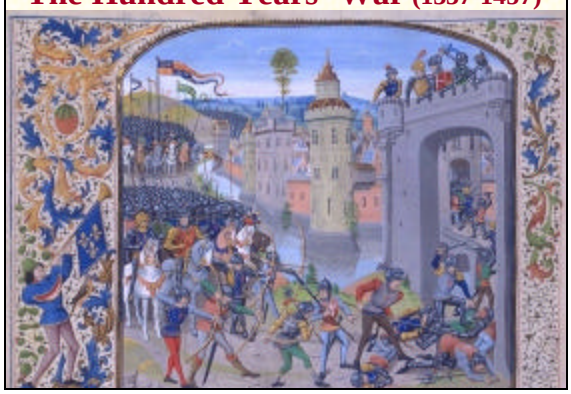
The Rise of Monarchies

Magna Carta 1215—no taxation without approval

Parliament created first representative government in Europe

Morphing process from feudalism to democracy

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1457)



The Hundred Years' War (1337-1457)

The Hundred Years' War between France and England resulting in horrible loss of life and money for both countries treasuries. It didn't accomplish much.

All battles were fought on French soil.

Low bow and gunpowder equalized the battle between the larger number French soldiers.

At the battle of Agincourt, it is estimated that the English fielded 5,000 archers. An archer could shoot 8 arrows/minute. Therefore, some 40,000 arrows could have been fired every minute.

After the battle of Agincourt, it was noted that the white feathers from all the English arrows made the ground look like snow.

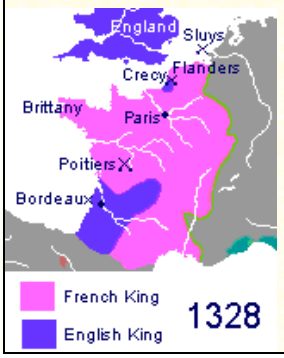
Longbows could shoot arrows 200+ yards…rapidly

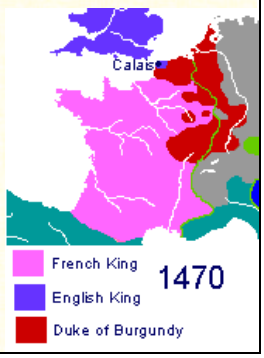
Joan of Arc pushed the English back and became a female version of Charles Martel.

Joan of Arc's presence in the American war effort

Joan of Arc and video games

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1457)





The Great Schism

Philip, the Fair of France, brought Boniface to his knees a handful of years later and died as a result. 1309 the French forced the Vatican to move north to Avignon resulting in the Babylonian Captivity, which lasted approximately 70 years and had 7 popes during that time.

The Great Schism (1378-1417)—was a foretaste of the coming Reformation. The 1300s began with a year of jubilee in Rome called by Boniface VIII. To resolve the split, a council at Pisa deposed both and elected their own pope…now, the church had three popes.

Corruption of the church and government caused numerous peasant revolts (Robin Hood lived during this period). The church had two popes and when a compromise was brokered, it resulted in having three popes at one time.

The Aftermath of the Great Schism

- **Council of Constance elected Martin V**
- **John Wycliffe and Jan Hus both pushed for reforms:**
  1. **Suspending of pilgrimages**
  2. **Stopping of venerating relics**
  3. **Translated the Bible into the vernacular**
- **Rise of mysticism replacing the institutional church**

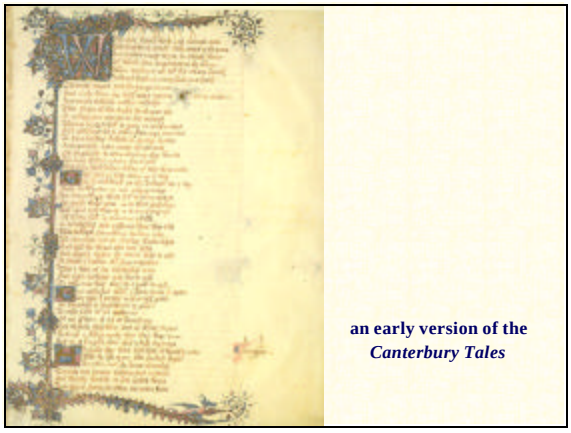
Feminism and Christine de Pisan

Christine de Pisan wrote *City of Ladies*, which was an attack against male sexism.

Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales*. It was written in the vernacular and followed in the style of Boccaccio's *Decameron.*

On the pilgrimage from London to Canterbury

Canterbury Cathedral



an early version of the
Canterbury Tales

Painting during the Age of Transition

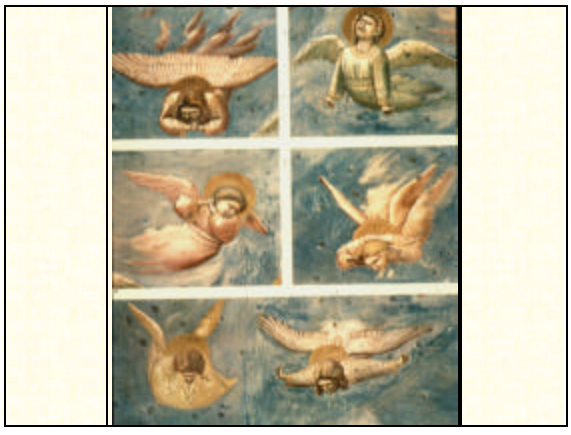
Giotto Transitioning to the Renaissance

- Chiaroscuro=light and shadows
- Bodies have volume
- Moved away from icon-esque to realism

Cimbue's Madonna 1290

Giotto's Madonna 1310

Lamentation
1305-6



Arena Chapel
Giotto's Sistine Chapel

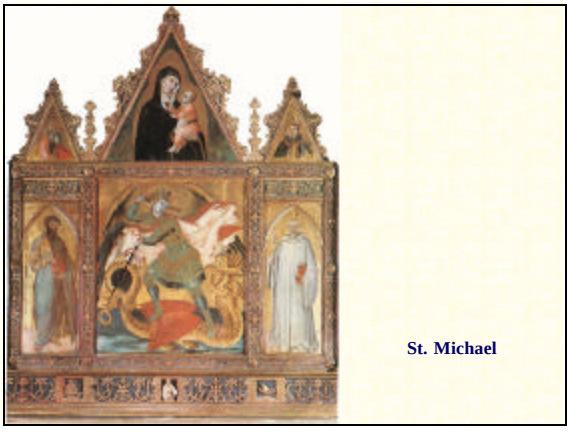
Ascension

Sluter *Well of Moses*
1395-1406

Limbourg, *Book of Hours*—February

September

Lorenzetti *Nursing Madonna*
1340



St. Michael

Adversity and Challenge—interesting sites:

http://www.byu.edu/ipt/projects/middleages/LifeTimes/Plague.html

http://perso.wanadoo.fr/musee.jeannedarc/times.htm

http://www.insecta-inspecta.com/fleas/bdeath/Europe.html
shows progression of the plague