

Chapter 10

# A New Civilization Emerges in Western Europe

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## The Manorial System: Obligations and Allegiances

- ◆ Manorialism
  - ◆ Economic and political system between landlords and serfs
  - ◆ Strengthened by decline of trade and lack of larger political structures
- ◆ Serfs
  - ◆ Agricultural workers who received protection in return for paying tribute to the landlord
  - ◆ Life was difficult but serfs were not slaves

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## The Manorial System: Obligations and Allegiances

- ◆ Moldboard
  - ◆ Introduced in 9<sup>th</sup> century
  - ◆ Plow made of curved iron plate that allowed deeper turning of soil
- ◆ Three-field system
  - ◆ Most peasants left half of land uncultivated each year to restore nutrients
  - ◆ By 9<sup>th</sup> century improved productivity- only 1/3 of land was left unplanted to restore nutrients

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### The Church: Political and Spiritual Power

- ◆ Catholic church was only solid organization
- ◆ Church copied government of Roman Empire
  - ◆ Pope was top authority
    - ◆ Sent directives and receive information
    - ◆ Regulated doctrine
    - ◆ Sponsored missions
  - ◆ Regional churches headed by bishops who appointed local priests

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### The Church: Political and Spiritual Power

- ◆ Interest of Germanic kings in Christianity was sign of power of the church
- ◆ Church developed monasteries
  - ◆ Some provided education and promoted literacy
  - ◆ Benedict of Nursia
- ◆ Clovis
  - ◆ Warrior chieftain who converted to Christianity to gain power over local rivals

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### Charlemagne and His Successors

- ◆ Carolingians
  - ◆ First known as the Arnulfinger family
  - ◆ Took over monarchy based in France, Belgium and Germany
- ◆ Charles Martel ("Charles the Hammer")
  - ◆ Defeated the Muslims in the Battle of Tours in 732
  - ◆ Under his rule everything was sacrificed to military necessity



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## Charlemagne and His Successors

- ◆ Charlemagne ("Charles the Great")
  - ◆ Established empire in France and Germany in 800
  - ◆ Used the title of emperor
    - ◆ His imperial title had no secular significance
  - ◆ Helped restore church based education
  - ◆ Economic life throughout empire was based on land estates



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## Charlemagne and His Successors

- ◆ After Charlemagne's death in 814, empire split into 3 portions for grandsons
  - ◆ No single language or government united empire
- ◆ Holy Roman emperors
  - ◆ Rulers who ruled reigned over Germany and northern Italy were strongest
  - ◆ Relied too much on imperial claims and did not build solid monarchy

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## New Economic and Urban Vigor

- ◆ New agricultural techniques were introduced from contacts with eastern Europe
- ◆ European nobility defined by land ownership and military power
- ◆ During 10<sup>th</sup> century Viking raids began to slow because of regional government strength
- ◆ Greater regional power and improved agricultural techniques = population growth

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### New Economic and Urban Vigor

- ◆ Serfdom still existed but most serfs gained greater independence
- ◆ Literacy rates, professional entertainers, merchant activity and craft production expanded
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> centuries- schools appear
- ◆ Medieval art and architecture reached high point

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### Feudal Monarchies and Political Advances

- ◆ Prosperity promoted political change
- ◆ Feudalism
  - ◆ system where greater lords provided protection to vassals in return for goods
  - ◆ After Rome's fall was very local but could be extended to cover large regions
  - ◆ Charlemagne's empire had most stable form
  - ◆ Allowed for development of strong central states, and gradually reduced local warfare
  - ◆ Kings formed feudal links to gain power, territory and alliances
  - ◆ Growth of feudal monarchy in France took several centuries, whereas England was introduced quickly

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### Stages of Post-Classical Development

- (550-900 CE) Europe experienced many problems
- Rome was the center of the growing Catholic church
- Church was the most powerful institution in the west
- Italy was politically divided
- Spain ruled by the Muslims for most of the middle ages
- France was the center of post-classical West

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Stages of Post-Classical Development

- Frequent invasion in the West weakened government and economics
- Vikings - seagoing Scandinavians raided W. Europe (700-1000 CE)
- Intellectual activity declined due to weak rulers
- Few literate people in the hierarchy and monasteries of church
- Western Europe shaped by elements of Rome

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Stages of Post-Classical Development

- Limited Government
- West politically divided
- Germany and Italy controlled by Holy Roman Empire
- Split into regional states run by feudal lords
- Low country divided into regional units

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Stages of Post-Classical Development

- Power of church limited political claims
- Aristocrats had powerful independent voice and militaries
- King limited by aristocracy
- Magna Carta

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### Magna Carta

- Magna Carta set 1st major limit medieval monarchy
- Developed during rule of King John by the aristocracy
- King John tried to raise taxes drastically
- Lost most of England's possessions in France
- Aristocrats forced King John to change the rights and protections of the king (as recorded in Magna Carta)



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### Magna Carta

- King John escaped from Barons and voided the Magna Carta
- Caused 1st Baron's War
- During the war, John died of an intestine infection (1216 CE)
- His son, King Henry III, revised and reissued the Magna Carta
- Kings in England would not have absolute power

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### Stages of Post-Classical Development

- Parliaments formed
- First English Parliament met in 1265 CE
- Gained power over many issues
- Tradition most popular in England
- Represented higher class

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Stages of Post-Classical Development

- ◆ Feudal system limited government
- ◆ Nobles gave their estates to children
- ◆ No general rules for membership or democracy
- ◆ Began new political traditions by recreating Western institutions
- ◆ Monarchs developed more capacity for central administration

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Stages of Post-Classical Development

- ◆ European rulers saw war as a goal
- ◆ Local conflicts evolved into large wars
- ◆ Hundred Years War
- ◆ Began in 14th century - national monarchy conflicts over territory - France v. England
- ◆ England had territories in France

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The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Population growth boosted expansion
- ◆ Most expansion in East-Central Europe
- ◆ Germanic Knights and agricultural settlers poured into E. Germany and Poland
- ◆ Disrupted pop. balance + cleared large areas of forest

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### The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Expansion surge in Spain
- ◆ Small Christian states stay in N. Spain
- ◆ Started attacking Muslim government gradually
- ◆ "Reconquest escalated by 11th century
- ◆ Christians reconquered Toledo in central Spain

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### The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Muslims not expelled until after Middle Ages
- ◆ Christianity dominated anyway
- ◆ 15th century - Spanish monarchs come together - marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella
- ◆ Vikings move to Iceland
- ◆ by 11th century there had already been voyages across the Atlantic

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### The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Spanish + Italian explore Mediterranean - not much success in settlements
- ◆ The most dramatic expansion was the great Crusade
- ◆ Urban II called for 1st crusade in 1095
- ◆ Crusaders promised absolution if they were killed in battle



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### The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Idea of attacking Islam was very appealing
- ◆ Idea of plundering also appealing
- ◆ Internal wars in Europe decreased
- ◆ 3 armies of crusaders gathered in Constantinople in 1097
- ◆ Crusaders took Jerusalem from Turkish

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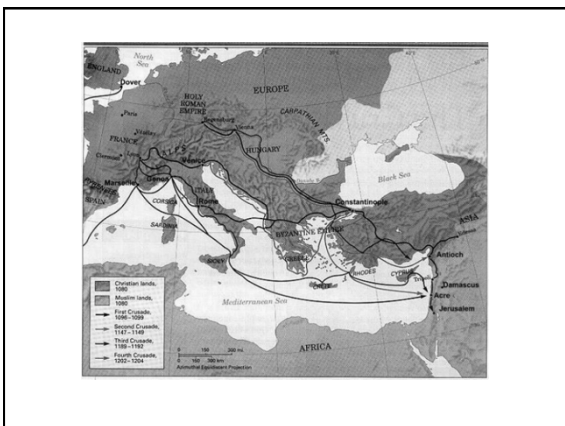
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### The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Western crusaders ruled for almost a century
- ◆ Saladin reconquers in 12th century
- ◆ 3rd crusade - end of 12th century
- ◆ Led to death of German emperor and imprisonment of the English king

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The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ 4th crusade - manipulated by merchants in Venice
- ◆ Turned into attack on commerce in Constantinople
- ◆ Crusades showed brief success
- ◆ No major permanent changes

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The West Expansionist Impulse

- ◆ Crusades shows the West's aggression
- ◆ Exposed West to Middle Eastern influences
- ◆ Major growth in international trade
- ◆ Constantinople becomes channel for international trade

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Religious Reform and Evolution

- ◆ Society develops - Catholic church suffers periods of decline and renewal
- ◆ Church officials become focused on politics and land
- ◆ Order of St. Claire

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Story of St. Godric
- People were focused on religion and material
- Fall of the Roman Empire
- Middle ages until 15th century - recovery from fall of Rome
- Civilization in West Europe
- Many Christian conversions

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- New tools from Asia spur agriculture - 10th century and on
- New crops from Africa - increased food production
- Paper from Arabs - start paper factories
- Byzantine Arabs - Math, Science, Philosophy
- Borrowed from many civilizations
- Other civilizations didn't take much from medieval Europe

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Europeans seen as brutish and dumb by Muslim writers
- Reflects Europe as relatively uncivilized
- Some Europeans were educated
- Thomas Aquinas
- Women not typically educated
- Mostly served as housewives

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Western Civilization hard to define
- Borrowed from other civilizations
- Mainly religious
- Not as coherent as China
- Regionalism was strong

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Christian culture dominated philosophy and art
- Generated Change and conflict
- In centuries before 1000 C.E., clergymen tried to preserve and interpret writings of church fathers (Augustine) and non-Christian latin philosophers (Aristotle).
- During the 9th century, during the rule of Charlemagne, scholars' main interests were in principals of rhetoric, logic and wisdom.

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- After 1000 C.E., clerics stressed God's word as only truth
- Human reason could allow further understanding of the natural order, morality, and the nature of God
- Many tried to disprove the writings and statements of the church
- Peter Abelard's Yes and No
- Explains logical contradictions in doctrine

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Logical rationalists not unopposed
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux challenged Abelard
- Stressed that mystical union with God could be obtained in short glimpses and in prayer
- Debate similar to that of Islam vs. Scientific tradition
- Debate flourished in universities of the 12th century
- Opened areas of thinking not available to other people

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- 13th century - Western thinkers create synthesis of medieval learning
- St. Thomas Aquinas of Paris
- Writes Summas: Writing of "irrefutable logic" restating the thoughts of the 11th century clerics
- This scholasticism deteriorated after Aquinas

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Science!
- Not encouraged by the philosophy of the time
- Many rebel nerds made advancements in many fields during the 14th and 15th centuries
- Roger Bacon made advancements in optics
- Others advanced chemistry, and astronomy

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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Popular Religion and Beliefs
- Not much known about popular culture
- Christianity ran deep
- Many diligently followed Christianity but did not fully understand the doctrines (Raoul de Cambrai)
- The saints and Virgin Mary demonstrate the need for mediators between God and man
- Pagan practices blend into Christianity

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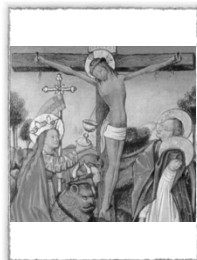
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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Religious Themes in Art and Architecture
- Christianity played large role in the styles of art
- Many paintings were of religious scenes or symbols
- Became more secular with time
- Stiff and stylized to realistic in 14th and 15th centuries



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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Architecture heavily influenced by Rome
- Domes and rectangular buildings were very common
- Gothic appears in 11th century
- Spires and arched windows appear as a result
- Required great technical skill



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### Western Culture in the Postclassical Era

- Higher literature was mostly in Latin: Philosophy, Law, Politics
- Vernaculars appeared to appeal to the common man
- Beowulf, Song of Roland, The Romance of the Rose, Canterbury Tales
- Troubadours

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### Changing Economic and Social Forms in Post-Classical Era

- Western powers were innovative
- Served as central trade zones
- Traded exotic products and other goods
- Regions produced their own food
- Strains on rural life
- Improvement of agriculture to free farmers

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Literature showed new way of life
- Citizens were taxed more to afford the new way of life
- Peasant - landlord battles over taxes
- Western agriculture not advanced as Asia
- Growth in trade and banking
- Greater trade from urban growth
- Banking introduced by the Italians

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Christians criticized profit-makers
- Thought prices should be just
- The wealthy class like luxury goods
- Traded spices - spices preserved meats and had medicinal value
- Crusaders plundered goods from other civilizations

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Hanseatic League (mid-12th century) formed by Northern Germany and Southern Scandinavia
- Bankers lent money to monarchs and the church
- Trade dangerous but profitable
- Groups of merchants invested in international trade
- Jacques Coeur



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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- Commercial leagues controlled growing cities
- Royalty didn't interfere with trade except for taxes
- Commercial law established by the merchants
- Guilds formed to stress security of members and divide money
- Guilds limited memberships
- Guilds, though traditional, helped to improve manufacturing and commercial methods

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### Post-Classical Era: Era of Great Faith

- ◆ Women vital in family work
- ◆ Christian ideals gave women more rights
- ◆ More free than women in the Islamic faith
- ◆ Voice in family still overruled
- ◆ Literature stressed that women should serve men

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### Shift of Medieval Characteristics

- Key characteristics of Western Europe began to shift after 1300---faced problems of over population and disease
- Causes of the shift of Western Europe:
  - ◆ Hundred Years War, in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century ,between France and England
  - - War started in years 1337-1340 CE when King Edward III invade France
  - - French victory
  - - As war continue, kings rely more on paid armies of their own
- ◆ After 1300, Medieval agriculture could no longer keep up with population growth because new lands were used up
- ◆ Famine and decline in population made people more perceptive to the Black Death

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### The Black Death

- ◆ Came from East and reach Italy in Spring of 1348
- ◆ Victims= 25-50% of the population
- ◆ Caused a temporary lull in the Hundred Years War
- ◆ Three forms of bubonic plague
  - -Bubonic- swellings appear on victims body
  - -Pneumonic- attacks respiratory system
  - - Septicemic- attacks blood system

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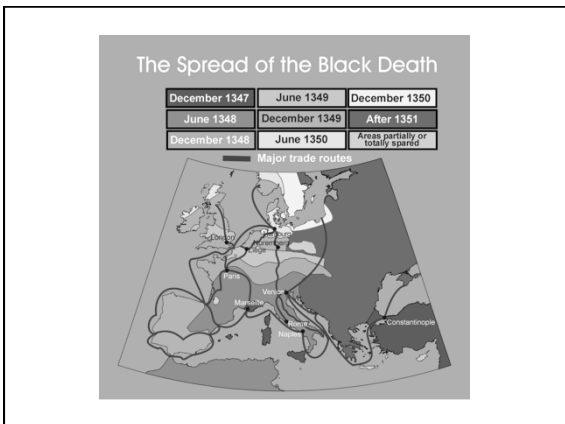
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### Signs of Strain in Medieval Society

- . Decline of medieval society involved increasing challenges to several medieval institutions
- . 1. Decline in traditional fighting methods with growth of professional armies and new weapons
  - Nobles participate in Chivalry were military expertise becomes competitive game
- . 2. Balance between church and state shifts. Church loses grip on Western religious life
  - Church leaders preoccupied with political involvement, they neglects the spiritual side
  - Religious devotion becomes separated from the church
  - Mystics (mostly women) claim direct emotional contact with God
- . 3. Medievalism faded in the breakdown of intellectual and artistic synthesis
  - Church officials less tolerant of intellectual daring( thinks turning away from religion)
  - Art became more realistic and less religiously stylistic
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### Global Connections

- ◆ Europe had love-hate relationship with outside world
- ◆ Saw Islam as threat to Christianity
- ◆ Borrowed heavily from other civilizations
- ◆ Contact with world around it
- ◆ Benefited from relations with other civilizations

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