

# POWER STRUGGLE OF THE CHURCH

High Middle Ages

## POPE GREGORY VII 1085

*Dictatus Papae* ("Dictate of the Pope") Gregory claimed:

That the Roman pontiff alone is rightly called universal.  
That he alone has the power to depose and reinstate bishops.  
That he alone may use the imperial insignia.  
That all princes shall kiss the foot of the pope alone.  
That he has the power to depose emperors.  
That he can be judged by no one.  
That no one can be regarded as catholic who does not agree with  
the Roman church.  
That he has the power to absolve subjects from their oath of  
fealty to wicked rulers. \*2

[Footnote 2: Pope Gregory VII *Dictatus papae*, quoted in M. W. Baldwin, *Christianity Through the Thirteenth Century* (New York: Harper & Row, 1970), pp. 182-183.]

# TROUBLE IN PARADISE

- ✦ Internal religious disunity.
- ✦ Royal challenge to papal authority
- ✦ Black Death


## Challenges to the Church

- Lollards
  - Wyclif's supporters
    - Used his ideas to justify peasant revolts -1381
    - Same time as 1<sup>st</sup> Eng. Translation of the Bible
  - Women
    - Lollard's supported women preachers
- Significant impact – 15<sup>th</sup>C
  - Bohemia
    - Czech priest John Hus
      - Preached in native language – not Latin
      - Not a radical – but
        - Argued for Scripture to be accepted
        - Denounced abuses of the church
        - Communion for clergy and laity
      - Czech nobles used ideas to push independence from Habsburg (Gr overlords)
  - Council of Constance 1415 – tried and executed for heresy
    - Hussite Wars – Nobles/people rebelled against Habsburgs
    - Council called an end to the Great Schism
      - Martin V – pope
      - Councils lose power – papacy wins power

## Challenges to the Church



AP tip!

- Religion & Politics
  - Wyclif & Hus reveal the degree to which religious reform was tied to politics
- Seeds of Change 
  - Martin Luther would use their ideas a century later
  - Martin Luther was able to bring about reform they could not (Wyclif and Hus opposition too powerful – supports too weak)

## Challenges to the Church

- Lay Piety gain prominence
  - Disorder & disunity
  - disputes among various orders
    - particularly Franciscans & Dominicans
  - Disappointing performance of some priests
  - Absence of priests
    - The Black Death took many priests

## UNAM SANCTAM 1302

- ✦ Pope Boniface VIII said that secular powers had to answer to the church.
- ✦ Phillip of France: "Yay, right!" Wanted to be able to tax clergy and have them loyal to king.
- ✦ Chief minister of Phil spread to French clergy that Boni was a heretic and the French army beat him.
- ✦ Boniface was severely beaten, returned to Rome...Died shortly after.

## AVIGNON



## AVIGNON PAPACY

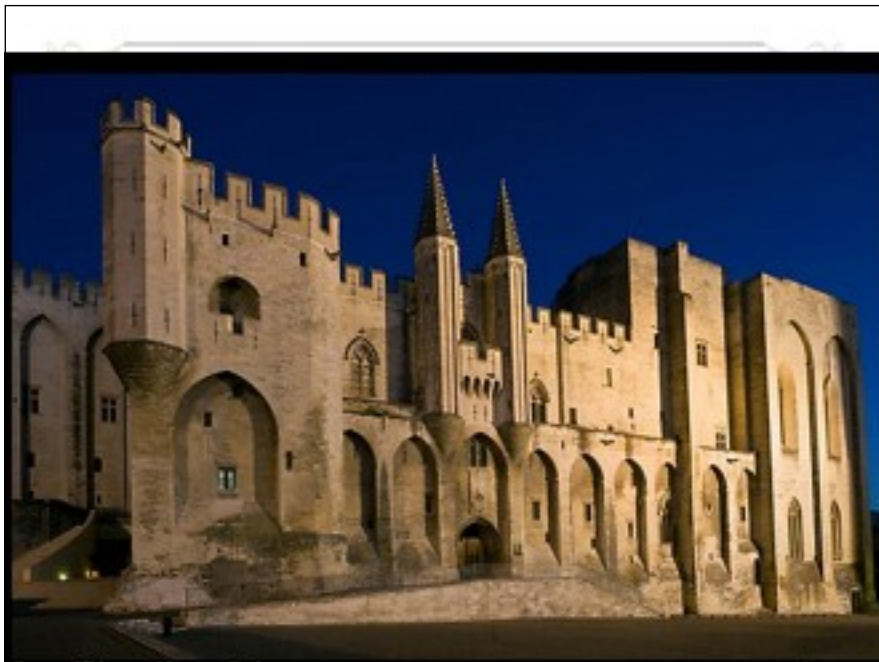
- ✦ Ruled the College of Cardinals
- ✦ Selling of Indulgences (alive and dead)
- ✦ Marsilius of Padua: Defender of Secular Government
- ✦ Defender of Peace: Pope as a subordinate member of society
- ✦ Curia: Papal Court
- ✦ John XXII: Most powerful Avignon Pope

## MORE POPE POURRI

- ✦ Clement V went to live in Avignon in Southern France
- ✦ Big Problem with the Knights of Templar
- ✦ WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?? (Assassins Creed)
- ✦ Friday the 13th!! Scary day.

## HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS

- ✦ On October 13, 1307, scores of French Templars were arrested along with the order's grand master, Jacques de Molay. Charged with a host of offenses ranging from heresy, devil worship and spitting on the cross to homosexuality, fraud and financial corruption, the men were brutally tortured; many, including de Molay, confessed under duress. King Philip then convinced Pope Clement V, who had raised concerns about the knights' secret initiation rites and practices in the past, to launch his own inquiry. In 1310, dozens of Templars were burned at the stake in Paris for recanting their earlier confessions during their trials; de Molay would suffer the same punishment in 1314. Under pressure from Philip, Pope Clement reluctantly dissolved the Knights Templar in 1312.





## THREE POPES! REALLY?

- ✦ The Anti-Popes (anti-christ)
- ✦ Will the real Pope please stand up!!
  - ✦ Pope Urban VI (Italian) 1378-1389 Clement VII (antipope)
  - ✦ Boniface IX (I) 1389-1404 Clement VII
  - ✦ Innocent VII (1404-06) Benedict XIII

## OH PLEASE

- ✦ Council of Pisa (1409-1410)
- ✦ Elected Alexander V as pope, dies John XXIII is his Pisan successor
- ✦ 2 other Popes refuse to step down
- ✦ Finally all three step down. Council of Constance
- ✦ Popes of the schismatic Avignon and Pisa have never been recognized as legit Popes.