



# The beginning...Early Middle Ages

- Decline of Roman Empire
- Rise of Northern Europe
- New forms of government
- Heavy "Romanization" (religion, language, laws, architecture, government)
- Latin- "medium aevum" means "middle age" and is source of English word "medieval"





Periodization

Early Middle Ages: 500 - 1000

High Middle Ages: 1000 - 1250

Late Middle Ages: 1250 - 1500

# **Early Middle** Ages



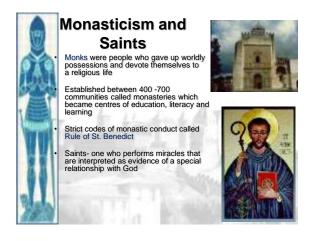
Dark Ages (500 CE- 1000 CE)- scholars named this as a time when the forces of darkness (barbarians) overwhelmed the forces of light (Romans)

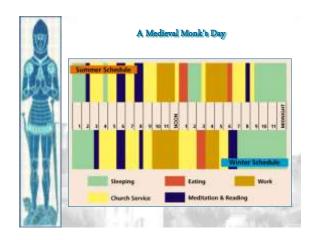
Rise of influence of barbarians as Roman Emperors had granted barbarian mercenaries land with the Roman Empire in return for military service and it was these barbarians who eventually became the new rulers

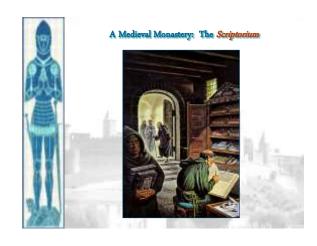


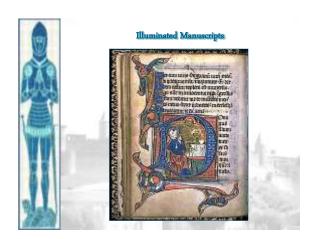
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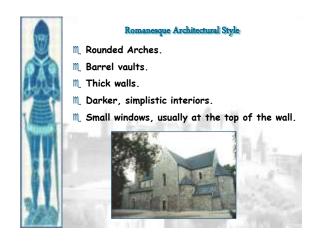










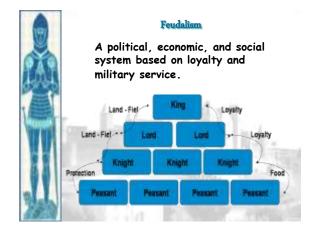




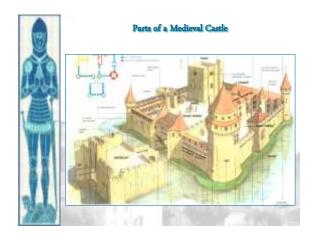


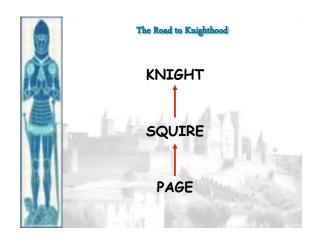
# Structure of government: Feudalism

- Like a pyramid: King at top, lords, nobles, vassals and finally serfs.
- King had final word, lords and nobles enforce
- There was no standing army, only militia
- · No civil service or merchant class
- On a Democratic aspect, Charlemagne held meetings of higher classes to debate the state of the Empire.

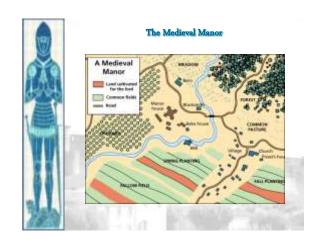




























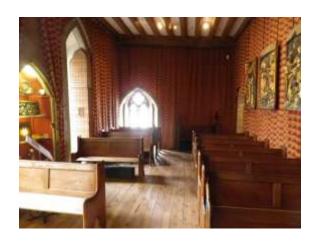




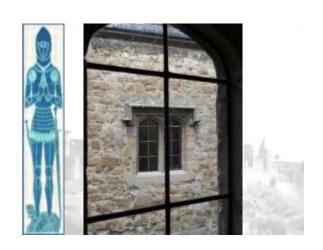


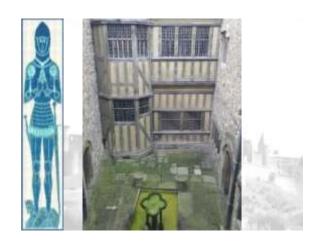




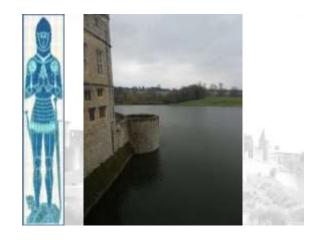














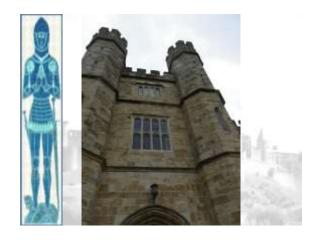










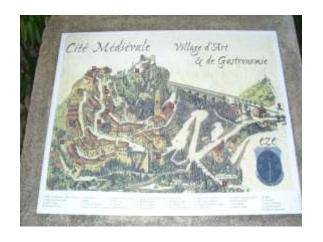




















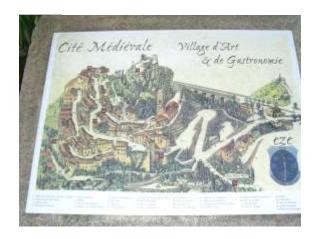






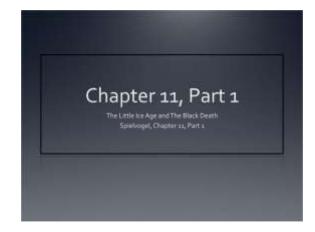






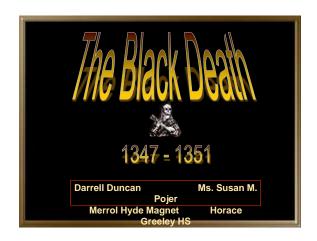




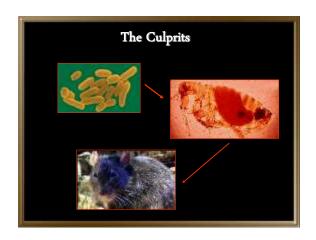


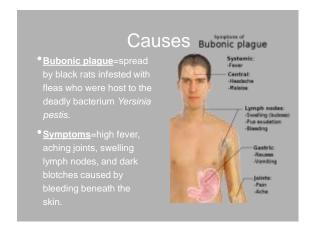




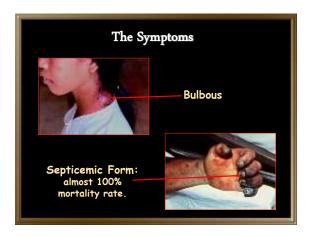




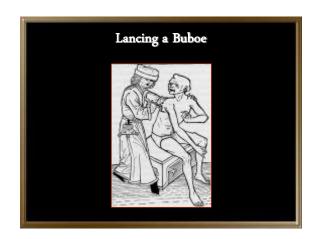


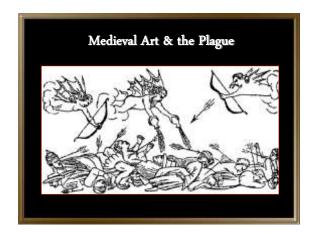




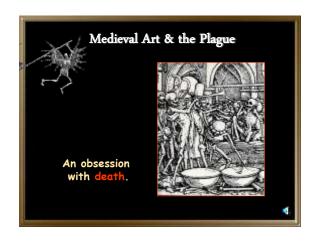












Boccaccio in The Decameron

The victims ate lunch with

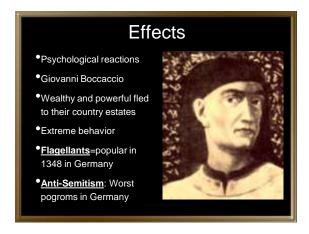
their friends and dinner with

their ancestors.





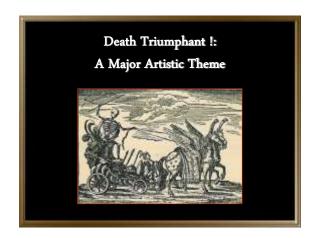










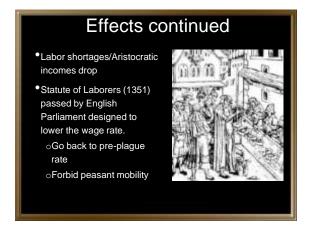


The Mortality Rate

35% - 70%

25,000,000 dead !!!

What were the political, economic, and social effects of the Black Death??







# Causes of the 100 Years' War



### 1. Controversy Over Succession

- The French nobility selected Philip of Valois, a cousin of the last king through the male
  - Y He founded a new French dynasty that ruled through the 16c.
  - Y He was chosen in preference to King Edward III of England, whose mother was the daughter of the late king, Philip IV.
- 🕯 In 1340, Edward claimed the title "King of France."



### **Immediate Cause**

10000

- Quarrel over Gascony
- •1337: Edward III (king of England and duchy of Gascony) refused to do homage to Philip VI for Gascony.
- •French king Philip VI seizes Gascony
- Edward III declares war on Philip the "so called king of France"



### 2. Fr. Land Belonging to Br. Kings

- A longer standing issue was the status of lands within France that belonged to English kings.
- Edward was actually a vassal of Philip's, holding sizable French territories as fiefs from the king of France [it went back to the Norman conquest].





## The 'dagger' pointing at the 'heart' of England! Wool industry. Flanders wants its independence from French control. Asks England for

help.

### A Struggle for National Identity

France was NOT a united country before the war began.

The French king only controlled about half of the country.



# The War Itself



### **Military Characteristics**

The War was a series of short raids and expeditions punctuated by a few major battles, marked off by truces or ineffective treaties.



### French Advantages

- Population of about 16,000,000.
- Far richer and more populous than England.
- At one point, the French fielded an army of over 50,000 → at most, Britain mustered only 32,000.



### **British Advantages**

- Weapons Technologies.
- In almost every engagement, the English were outnumbered.
  - Y Britain's most successful strategies:
    - / Avoid pitched battles.
    - / Engage in quick, profitable raids
      - Steal what you can.
      - Destroy everything else.
      - Capture enemy knights to hold for ransom



### The Longbow as a Weapon



- The use of the English defensive position was the use of the longbow
- Its arrows had more penetrating power than a bolt from a crossbow.
  - Y Could pierce an inch of wood or the armor of a knight at 200 yards!
- A longbow could be fired more rapidly.
  - Y 6 arrows per minute.



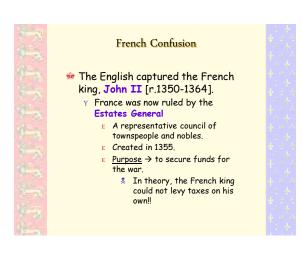
### The British Longbow: The Battle of Poitiers, 1356







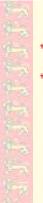
The Effective Use of the Cannon at Poitiers, 1356







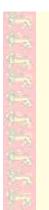
- Peasant Revolt in 1381 was put down by King Richard II [r. 1377-1399].
- After charges of tyranny, Richard II was forced to abdicate in 1300.
- Parliament elected Henry IV [r. 1399-1413], the first ruler from the House of Lancaster.
  - Henry avoided war taxes. He was careful not to
  - alienate the nobility.
- Therefore, a truce was signed ending French and British hostilities [for the time being, at least].



### King Henry V (r. 1412-1422)

- Renewed his family's claim to the French throne.
- At Agincourt in 1415, the English, led by Henry himself, goaded a larger French army into attacking a fortified English position.
  - With the aid of the dukes of Burgundy, Henry gained control over Normandy, Paris, and much of northern France!





### A Burgundian Presence



# 1111111111

### Treaty of Troyes (1420)



- Charles VI's son [the future Charles VII], was declared illegitimate and disinherited.
- Henry V married Catherine, the daughter of Charles VI.
  - Y Henry was declared the legitimate heir to the French throne!
- A final English victory seemed assured, but both Charles VI and Henry V died in 1422.
- This left Henry's infant son, Henry VI [r. 1422-1461], to inherit BOTH thrones.



### The French "Reconquest"



- The two kings' deaths ushered in the final stage of the 100 Years' War [1422-1453].
  Y Even though in 1428 the
  - Y Even though in 1428 the military and political power seemed firmly in British hands, the French reversed the situation.
- In 1429, with the aid of the mysterious Joan of Arc, the French king, Charles VII, was able to raise the English siege of Orleans.
  - Y This began the reconquest of the north of France.



### Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

- The daughter of prosperous peasants from an area of Burgundy that had suffered under the English.
- Like many medieval mystics, she reported regular visions of divine revelation.
  - Y Her "voices" told her to go to the king and assist him in driving out the English.
- She dressed like a man and was Charles' most charismatic and feared military leader!



### Cannons Used at Orleons





Joan Announces the Capture of Orleans to the King





### Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

- She brought inspiration and a sense of national identity and self-confidence.
- With her aid, the king was crowned at Reims [ending the "disinheritance"].
- She was captured during an attack on Paris and fell into English hands.
  - Because of her "unnatural dress" and claim to divine guidance, she was condemned and burned as a heretic in 1432.



 She instantly became a symbol of French resistance.

