Part II: The Medieval World

B. Medieval Civilization (Latin: Middle Ages—Era of transition between ancient and modern times; from about A.D. 500 to 1500; broken into Early Middle Ages [A.D. 500 to 1000], High Middle Ages [A.D. 1000 to 1300], and Late Middle Ages [A.D. 1300 to 1500])

1. THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE
   a. Centered in Constantinople
      i. Built in A.D. 330 by Roman emperor, Constantine
      ii. The wealthiest part of the Roman Empire
      iii. Handling rich cargoes from Asia, Europe, and Africa
      iv. Became the New Rome after Rome fell
      v. Heir to Roman and Greek traditions
      vi. Crossroads of trade between Europe and Asia
   b. Justinian’s Rule
      i. Military Campaigns (conquered Italy, Northern Africa, and Spain)
      ii. Code of Laws (codified the empire’s Roman laws)
      iii. Church and State
   c. Fall of Constantinople (A.D. 1453)
   d. The Ottoman Turks
   e. Contributions to Civilization
      i. Religious art glorified Christianity (mosaics)
      ii. Preserved classical learning and Roman law

2. THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
   a. Muhammad (born: A.D. 570)
   b. Islam (“Submission”)
   c. The Quaran (Koran)
      i. The Pillars of Islam
         1. Faith (“There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet”)
         2. Prayer (Muslims pray 5 times a day)
         3. Alms (to provide for the poor)
         4. Fasting (during the month of Ramadan)
         5. Pilgrimage (to Mecca, the religious center of Islam)
d. Centered in Cairo and Baghdad

e. After Muhammad died, prominent Muslims met and chose a new leader, caliph (“successor”)

f. Early Conquests
   i. Jihad (holy struggle to bring Islam to other lands)
   ii. Byzantine and Persian empires conquered
   iii. India and China
   iv. North Africa and Spain
   v. The Battle of Tours (A.D. 732—Charles Martel stopped Islam from spreading into Western Europe)

g. Divisions within Islam
   i. The Sunni
   ii. The Shiite

h. Islamic Achievements
   i. The House of Wisdom (research center in Baghdad, A.D. 830)
   ii. Mathematics
   iii. Astronomy and geography
   iv. Chemistry and Medicine
   v. Art and architecture

3. CHINA

a. The Sui, T’ang, and Sung Dynasty
   i. Building of the Great Canal
   ii. Gunpowder perfected
   iii. Printing
   iv. Building of large cities
   v. Meritocracy—a system in which people are chosen and promoted for their talents and performance
   vi. Empress Wu ruled empire (the T’ang dynasty)
   vii. Cosmopolitan
   viii. Expansionistic
   ix. Creative
b. Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire
   i. Mongols conquered China
   ii. Established Yuan dynasty
   iii. Increased contract and trade with Europeans (Marco Polo, A.D. 1271)
   iv. Strong central government

4. EUROPE
   a. The Dark Ages
      i. Urban life of the Roman Empire destroyed
      ii. Trade declined
      iii. Cities, roads, and bridges in disrepair
      iv. Law and order vanished
      v. Education almost disappeared
      vi. Lack of central government
      vii. Money no longer used
      viii. Life did not exist beyond the tiny villages
   b. The Franks (settled in France and western German)
      i. Clovis (became king of the Franks in A.D. 481)
      ii. Charles Martel (stopped Muslim forces in Tours, France, A.D. 732)
      iii. Pepin the Short (son of Charles Martel)
      iv. Charlemagne
         1. Pepin’s son
         2. Became Charles the Great, A.D. 768
         3. Enlarged the Frankish Empire to include Germany, France, northern Spain, and most of Italy
         4. Revived learning by building a palace school at Aachen
   v. Feudalism
      1. Fiefs (estates with peasants granted for loyalty and military aid)
      2. Lord (a nobleman who had the fief—had total authority)
      3. Vassals (a noble who served a lord of the next higher rank)
      4. Castles (for defense because of frequent warfare)
      5. Knights (mounted warriors—lowest rank of the nobility)
      6. Chivalry (knight’s code of conduct)
7. Manorialism (an economic system of agricultural production that provided lords and peasants with food, shelter, and protection)

vi. The Order of Life
   1. Nobles
   2. Clergy
   3. Peasants
   4. Townspeople

vii. The Medieval Church
   1. The dominant spiritual influence in Western Europe
   2. Assumed many political and social tasks
   3. Church hierarchy (The Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, and Priests)
   4. Monastic life
   5. Church reform
   6. The Inquisition (a church court set up in A.D. 1232 to seek out and punish people suspected of heresy)

viii. The Crusades
   1. Pope Urban II—A volunteer army to take Jerusalem (A.D. 1095)
   2. The First Crusade (A.D. 1095)
   3. The Second Crusade (A.D. 1147)
   4. The Third Crusade (A.D. 1189)
   5. The Fourth Crusade (A.D. 1204; attacked Constantinople)
   6. Effects of the Crusades
      a. Break down feudalism
      b. Increased the authority of kings
      c. Contact and trade with the Middle East
      d. Broaden European views of the world
ix. Revival of trade and growth of towns
1. Agricultural expansion (new and heavier plows, horses, used to pull plows, three-field system of planting)
2. Growth of towns
3. Expansion of trade (sea-lanes and roads)
4. Banking (from barter to money)
5. Rise of the Middle Class (merchants, bankers, artisans no longer relied on land to make a living)
6. Universities (Bologna-law and medicine; Paris-liberal arts and theology)

x. The Plague
1. Also called “The Black Death”
2. Began in China and spread across Asia
3. Trading ships carried it to the Mediterranean and Europe
4. Between A.D. 1348 and 1350 nearly 25 million Europeans died
5. Took Western Europe at least a century to recover

c. Rise of European Monarchy
i. England
1. The Anglo-Saxons (after Rome abandoned Britain, Germanic Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded)
2. William the Conqueror (the Battle of Hastings, A.D. 1066)
3. Royal Power (established by William’s successors)
4. The Magna Carta (A.D. 1215)
   a. Intended to protect noblemen’s feudal rights but later guaranteed the rights of all English people
   b. Placed limits on royal power
   c. Prevented the kind from collecting taxes without consent of the Great Council
   d. Assured freemen the right of trial by jury
5. Rise of Parliament
   a. The Great Council advised the king
   b. Middle class (growing power) added to Great Council
   c. Great Council became known as Parliament

ii. France
1. Strengthening the monarchy
2. Rise of absolutism (unlike England’s growing representative government)
iii. Spain
1. Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile (joined kingdoms)
2. Took Granada (defeated the Moors, 1492)

iv. The Holy Roman Empire
1. German, Italian, and Slav Lands
2. Weak central government

v. Russia
1. The Slavs lived in Eastern Europe
   a. Major trade was with the Byzantine Empire
   b. Trade helped build Kiev into a major city
   c. Borrowed much of its culture from the Byzantines
   d. When Constantinople fell in A.D. 1453, Eastern Orthodoxy passed from the Byzantines to the Slavs
   e. Borrowed from both Western Europe and Asia
2. Kiev
   a. Becomes a major city and power in the region
   b. Decline after Mongol invasion in A.D. 1240
   c. For two centuries Mongol rule isolated Slavs from western Europe
3. Moscow
   a. Moscow started as a small and prosperous town located near vital land and water routes
   b. Moscow able to expand its power in the region
   c. Rulers in Moscow eventually defeated the Mongols
4. Ivan III
   a. In 1472, Ivan II married Sophia, niece of the last Byzantine emperor
   b. Ivan III took the title tsar (czar) or “Caesar,” the title used by the Roman and Byzantine emperors
   c. The Russian Orthodox Church, now located in Moscow, proclaimed Moscow as the Third Rome

vi. The Hundreds Year’s War
1. Between A.D. 1337 and A.D. 1453
2. England and France fought a series of wars
3. England fought to keep French lands inherited from the Normans
4. France fought to unite these lands
5. Joan of Arc led French army to victory at Orleans
6. France drove England from French soil
7. Victory gave French a new sense of unity
8. Great bitterness developed between the French and English
9. Use of the longbow and firearms outdated feudal warfare using castles and mounted knights
10. Monarchs replaced feudal soldiers with national armies made up of hired soldiers
11. Townspeople and lower nobles paid taxes in return for security

5. THE AMERICAS

a. North Americans
   i. Tribes migrated from Asia to North America
   ii. First peoples lived near the seacoast and river valleys
   iii. Hunters-gatherers
   iv. Each to environments and developed distinct ways of life
      1. Nomadic
      2. Settled (developed complex civilizations)
   v. The Arctic and Northwest
   vi. California
   vii. The Southwest
      1. The Pueblo
      2. The Apache
      3. The Navajo
   viii. The Great Plains
   ix. Eastern Woodland

b. Mesoamerica (meso “middle” land between North and South America)
   i. The Olmec
      1. Earliest Mesoamerican civilization (500 B.C. and 400 B.C.)
      2. Farmers practiced slash-and-burn farming (cut trees, dry them, then burn them)
      3. Planted maize among ashes
   ii. The Maya
      1. From as early as 900 B.C. to A.D. 900
      2. Developed a system of mathematics using the base 20
      3. Used the number zero
      4. Developed accurate calendars
5. Developed a writing system
6. Economy based on agriculture and trade
7. Build large temples and vast cities

iii. The Toltec
1. Powerful mining and trading empire
2. In A.D. 1170 the Toltec Empire collapsed

iv. The Aztec
1. Hunters and warriors who moved from north into central Mexico in A.D. 1200s
2. By A.D. 1500 the empire covered central Mexico to Guatemala and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean
3. Organized as a hierarchy with four social classes
   a. Nobles
   b. Commoners (merchants, artisans, farmers)
   c. Serfs (farm workers tied to noble lands)
   d. Slaves (criminals, debtors, female and children prisoners)
4. Male prisoners sacrificed to Aztec sun god
5. Developed a 365-day solar calendar

v. The Inca
1. At its height about A.D. 1400
2. Empire stretched more than 2500 miles in Peru and Chile
3. Developed complex system of tribute collections, courts, military posts, and trade inspections
4. Built roads and suspension bridges to link regions
5. Declined after Spanish conquerors