

Avignon Papacy

- The Avignon Papacy resulted from conflict between the French and Pope Boniface VIII. Following the death of the Pope and his successor, a French Pope, Clement V, was elected. In 1309, he he moved the Papal Court to Avignon, and until 1376/1377, all Popes--who were all themselves French--resided there. The French Crown held sway over these Popes and thus held great power.

Joan of Arc

- Joan of Arc was a woman who allegedly received religious visions urging her support of the Charles VII's faction in the Hundred Years' War. She helped bring French victory in many battles, including the important Siege of Orleans. Charles VII was crowned at Reims thanks to the city's capture. She was captured in 1430 and burned at the stake on the orders of the English in 1431. Later on, the Papacy declared her a martyr who had been innocent of her crimes, and she is now a prominent religious figure.

100 Years War

- From 1337 to 1453, England warred with France over the issue of succession to the French throne. France won control over former English mainland territories after the war's end. The war saw a shift from the feudal style of warfare to a more modern conception of organized, trained armies. Artillery was used in the war, as well. The war saw changes in the populations and politics of England and France.

Lay Investiture Controversy

- This conflict between the Holy Roman Empire and the Church was the result of a trend of European leaders seeking greater influence over Church affairs. Pope

Gregory VII forbid lay investiture (appointing of religious officials by secular leaders) on threat of excommunication. Henry IV was humiliated by the Pope at Canossa by being forced to beg forgiveness, giving the Pope greater power. Henry V forced Pope Callixtus II into a deal in 1122, leading to the Concordat of Worms, ending the conflict and placing bishops under the authority of both Kings and the Church, although the Pope still held greater authority.

Black Death

- In the middle of the 14th century, the Black Death spread through Europe and killed almost a third of the European population. It spread from the near-east and was the result of the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria. The destruction it caused paved the way for many social, economic, and religious changes in Europe, such as how labor increased in demand.