

Modern World History

Unit 1 Materials



*The Middle
Ages*



Terms List

Modern World History

Unit 1: The Middle Ages

Medieval Europe	The Crisis of the Late Middle Ages
<p><u>Periods of History</u></p> <p>1. _____ (_____ - _____)</p> <p>2. _____ (_____ - _____)</p> <p>3. _____ (_____ - _____)</p> <p>Roman Empire Barbarian Tribes (ID – Non-Specific) Fall of Rome (Year: _____) Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire Islamic Caliphate</p> <p><u>The Franks</u></p> <p>Franks / Frankish Kingdom Clovis I</p> <p><u>Carolingians</u> (Frankish Dynasty)</p> <p>Charles “ the _____ ” Martel Battle of Tours (8th c.) Pepin the Short Usurper Charles the Great (Charlemagne / Karolus Magnus) <i>Napoleon Crossing the Alps</i> (Relevance) Treaty of Verdun Holy Roman Empire</p>	<p>The Black Death (Bubonic Plague) “Beak Doctors” Spread of the Plague (Map) Usury Excommunication Jews in Medieval Europe “Poisoning the Well” Torture</p> <p><u>The Hundred Years’ War</u></p> <p>Geography of the British Isles <i>(England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland)</i></p> <p>New Weapons (Pike, Crossbow, Longbow) <i>Impact of Infantry vs. Cavalry in Late Middle Ages</i></p> <p>Battle of Crecy “End of Chivalry” Mercenaries</p> <p>Siege of Limoges / Siege Warfare Prince of Wales Edward, the Black Prince Battle of Agincourt Henry V</p>
<p><u>Feudalism & Chivalry</u></p>	<p>Joan of Arc (Turning Point of War)</p>
<p>The Three Orders</p> <p>Feudalism</p> <p>Fief</p> <p>Lord</p> <p>Vassal</p> <p>Manor</p> <p>Serf</p> <p>Three Field Crop Rotation</p> <p>Chivalry</p> <p>Cheval</p> <p>Sir Bors’ Dilemma</p> <p><i>What were the terms of a lord/vassal contract?</i></p> <p><i>Know the feudal hierarchy.</i></p>	<p>Increase in <i>Nationalism</i> (as a result of extended warfare)</p> <p>English Peasants’ Revolt Wat Tyler</p>

PowerPoints, Class Notes, and Review Videos are available on my website!



The Black Death and the Jews

(1348-1349)

Document
1.1

Jewish History Sourcebook:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/1348-jewsblackdeath.html>

In 1348 there appeared in Europe a devastating plague which is reported to have killed off ultimately twenty-five million people. By the fall of that year the rumor was current that these deaths were due to an international conspiracy of Jewry to poison Christendom...

By authority of Amadeus VI, Count of Savoy, a number of the Jews who lived on the shores of Lake Geneva, having been arrested and put to the torture, naturally confessed anything their inquisitors suggested. These Jews, under torture, incriminated others. Records of their confessions were sent from one town to another in Switzerland and down the Rhine River into Germany, and as a result, thousands of Jews, in at least two hundred towns and hamlets, were butchered and burnt...

The first account that follows is a translation from the Latin of a confession made under torture by Agimet, a Jew, who was arrested at Chatel, on Lake Geneva. It is typical of the confessions extorted and forwarded to other towns.

I. The Confession of Agimet of Geneva, Châtel, October 20, 1348

The year of our Lord 1348.

On Friday, the 10th of the month of October, at Châtel, in the castle thereof, there occurred the judicial inquiry which was made by order of the court of the illustrious Prince, our lord, Amadeus, Count of Savoy, and his subjects against the Jews of both sexes who were there imprisoned... This was done after public rumor had become current and a strong clamor had arisen because of the poison put by them into the wells, springs, and other things which the Christians use... Hence this their confession made in the presence of a great many trustworthy persons.

Agimet the Jew, who lived at Geneva... was there put to the torture a little and then he was released from it. And after a long time, having been subjected again to torture a little, he confessed in the presence of a great many trustworthy persons, who are later mentioned. To begin with it is clear that at the Lent just passed Pultus Clesis de Ranz had sent this very Jew to Venice to buy silks and other things for him. When this came to the notice of Rabbi Peyret, a Jew of Chambry who was a teacher of their law, he sent for this Agimet, for whom he had searched, and when he had come before him he said:

"We have been informed that you are going to Venice to buy silk and other wares. Here I am giving you a little package of half a span in size which contains some prepared poison and venom in a thin, sewed leather-bag. Distribute it among the wells, cisterns, and springs about Venice and the other places to which you go, in order to poison the people who use the water of the aforesaid wells that will have been poisoned by you, namely, the wells in which the poison will have been placed."

Agimet took this package full of poison and carried it with him to Venice, and when he came there he threw and scattered a portion of it into the well or cistern of fresh water which was there near the German House, in order to poison the people who use the water of that cistern... Of his own accord Agimet confessed further that after this had been done he left at once in order that he should not be captured by the citizens or others, and that he went personally to Calabria and Apulia and threw the above mentioned poison into many wells...

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Do you believe Agimet's testimony? What makes it believable or unbelievable?
2. What appears to be the author's opinion concerning Agimet's guilt? On what evidence do you base your conclusion?

Jean Froissart: On the Hundred Years' War

Medieval Sourcebook: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/froissart-full.asp>

Document

1.2

The "Hundred Years' War" between France and England (1337-1453) was an episodic struggle lasting well over a hundred years, for much of the time without any conflict. The battles were both violent, but also occasions when ideals of "chivalry" were displayed. Here are extracts describing various battles from the Chronicle of Jean Froissart [A contemporary French historian].

The Battle of Crecy (1346)

The Englishmen, who were... lying on the ground to rest... as soon as they saw the Frenchmen approach, they rose upon their feet fair and easily without any haste and arranged their battles...

The lords and knights of France came not to the assembly together in good order... When the French king saw the Englishmen, his blood changed, and [he] said to his marshals: "Make the Genoese [mercenary troops from the city-state of Genoa, Italy] go on before and begin the battle in the name of God and Saint Denis." There were of the Genoese crossbows about a fifteen thousand, but they were so weary of going afoot that day a six leagues armed with their crossbows, that they said to their constables: "We be not well ordered to fight this day, for we be not in the case to do any great deed of arms: we have more need of rest." These words came to the earl of Alencon, who said: "A man is well at ease to be charged with such a sort of rascals, to be faint and fail now at most need."

Also the same season there fell a great rain... with a terrible thunder, and before the rain there came flying over both battles a great number of crows for fear of the tempest coming. Then anon the air began to wax clear, and the sun to shine fair and bright... right in the Frenchmen's eyes and on the Englishmen's backs. When the Genoese were assembled together and began to approach, they made a great [shout] and cry to abash the Englishmen, but [the English long bowmen] stood still and stirred not for all that: then the Genoese again the second time made another leap and a fell cry, and stepped forward a little, and the Englishmen removed not one foot: thirdly, again they leapt and cried, and went forth till they came within shot; then they shot fiercely with their crossbows. Then the English archers stepped forth one pace and let fly their arrows so wholly [together] and so thick, that it seemed snow.

When the Genoese felt the arrows piercing through heads arms and breasts, many of them cast down their crossbows and did cut their strings and returned discomfited. When the French king saw them fly away, he said: "Slay these rascals, for they shall let and trouble us without reason." Then ye should have seen the men at arms dash in among them and killed a great number of them: and ever still the Englishmen shot whereas they saw thickest press; the sharp arrows ran into the men of arms and into their horses, an many fell, horse and men, among the Genoese, and when they were down, they could not relieve again, the press was so thick that on overthrew another.

And also among the Englishmen there were certain rascals that went afoot with great knives, and they went in among the men of arms, and slew and murdered many as they lay on the ground, both earls, barons, knights, and squires, whereof the king of England was after displeased, for he had rather they had been taken prisoners.

The Battle of Poitiers (1356)

Oftentimes the adventure of amours and of war are more fortunate and marvelous than any man can think or wish. Truly this battle, which was near to Poitiers in the fields of Beauvoir and Maupertuis, was right great and perilous, and many deeds of arms there were done the which all came not to knowledge. The fighters on both sides endured much pain: king John [II, of France] with his own hands did that day marvels in arms: he had an axe in his hands wherewith he defended himself and fought in the breaking of the press... [The English gained the initiative and captured a number of powerful French lords.] The

chase endured to the gates of Poitiers: there were many slain and beaten down, horse and man, for they of Poitiers closed their gates and would suffer none to enter; wherefore in the street before the gate was horrible murder, men hurt and beaten down....

[The King of France was taken prisoner. The following passage describes how Edward, the Black Prince, treated the captive French king.]

The same day of the battle at night the [Black Prince] made a supper in his lodging to the French king and to the most part of the great lords that were prisoners. The prince made the king and his son, the lord James of Bourbon, the lord John d'Artois, the earl of Tancarville the earl of Estampes, the earl of Dammartin, the earl of Joinville the lord of Partenay to sit all at one board, and other lords, knights and squires at other tables; and always the prince served before the king as humbly as he could, and would not sit at the king's board for any desire that the king could make, but he said he was not sufficient to sit at the table with so great a prince as the king was....

The Siege of Limoges [1370]

[Edward, the Black Prince, was informed that Limoges, a French city that had previously been captured by the English but had, once again, opened its gates to the French.]

When tidings [had] come to the prince that the city of Limoges was turned French, and how that the bishop, who was his gossip and in whom he had before great trust and confidence, was chief aider to yield up the city and to become French... the prince was sore displeased and esteemed less the men of the Church, in whom before he had great trust. Then he swore by his father's soul, whereby he has never forsworn, that he would get it again and would make the traitors [pay] dearly...

[Edward and his army arrived at Limoges. Edward and his captains concluded that they could not take the city by assault.]

Then the prince thought to assay another way. He had always in his company a great number of miners, and so he set them a-work to undermine...

About the space of a month or more was the Prince of Wales before the city of Limoges, and there was neither assault nor skirmish, but daily they mined... Then the miners set fire into their mine, and so the next morning... there fell down a great pane of the wall and filled the dikes, whereof the Englishmen were glad and were ready armed in the field to enter into the town... there was no defence against them: it was done so suddenly that they of the town were not ware thereof.

Then the [Black Prince], the Duke of Lancaster, the Earl of Cambridge, the Earl of Pembroke, Sir Guichard d'Angle and all the other with their companies entered into the city, and all other foot-men, ready appareled to do evil, and to pillage and rob the city, and to slay men, women and children, for so it was commanded them to do. It was great pity to see the men, women and children that kneeled down on their knees before the prince for mercy; but he was so inflamed with ire, that he took no heed to them, so that none was heard, but all put to death... There was not so hard a heart within the city of Limoges, and if he had any remembrance of God, but that wept piteously... for more than three thousand men, women and children were slain and beheaded that day, God have mercy on their souls, for I [believe] they were martyrs.

And thus entering into the city a certain company of Englishmen... found the bishop: and so they brought him to the prince's presence, who beheld him right fiercely and felly, and the best word that he could have of him was, how he would have his head stricken off, and so he was [taken] out of his sight.

From G. C. Macaulay, ed., *The Chronicles of Froissart*, Lord Berners, trans. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1904), pp. 104-105, - Battle of Crecy, pp. 128-131. - the Battle of Poitiers, p. 200-201 - Limoges