

EPIC Wk 12 Weak Leaders and Schism- Part II

Review: Papacy in 14th/15th century in conflict with world leaders on two issues, 1) Church taxes, 2) who had authority to appoint/anoint local Church leaders- Pope or local ruler?; papacy moved to Avignon, France and effect on the Church; confusion of authority – three popes; Great Western Schism

HERESY: Jan Hus: Czech religious reformer: Influenced by writings of Englishman **John Wycliff**

Jan Huss: **BELIEFS**

Rejected all Sacraments	Denied rights of the Church	NEED: Abolish rights of Church
Sacred Scripture is ultimate and <i>only</i> authoritative source of God's Divine Revelation	Denied Divinely ordained hierarchical structure of the Church	
Denied sacramental right of priesthood	Denied Transubstantiation	NEED: State should have control over the Church
Opposed <i>veneration</i> of saints	Condemned grating of indulgences and prayers	
Church built on Peter's personal faith	Validity of a Sacrament depended upon the worthiness of the minister	Translated Scriptures into English from Latin Vulgate ¹ ; sola scriptura ²

1377, condemned by Gregory XI; lost job at Oxford, died 1378; declared heretic by Council of Constance, teachings condemned; turned over to secular authorities for punishment; was promised safe passage to Council meeting by Emperor Sigmund but was burned at stake. 1389, Pope John Paul II expressed sadness for how Council allowed secular authority to break promise; Bohemian people in revolt for over 15 yrs.

St Joan of Arc: 1415: *God choses another peasant girl to humble the great* (she was poor, illiterate daughter of a simple forward that takes charge of the French army at 17 yrs. old to defeat English and end 100 yrs. war. Called *Eldest Daughter of the Church*. Betrayed by her Burgundian countrymen, she is captured, sold, condemned and burned at stake. She was canonized by Pope Paul VI. Mark Twain wrote she was by far *the most extraordinary person the human race has ever produced*.

Council of Florence (1431 – 1445): Resolved Great Schism from 1054. Byzantines have Ottoman Turks on border and need Western help; In 1453, Church is reunited and comes to aid but Constantinople falls to Turks; **EASTERN** Roman Empire falls. Pope Nicolas calls for crusade; no one answers.

Queen Isabel of Spain: 770 yrs *Spanish Conquista* ends and Islam defeated in WEST Queen Isabel makes Spain leading power in Europe for next 150 yrs; commissions Christopher Columbus to find new trade route to India; creates **Spanish Conquistadors**³

Spanish Inquisition: Established by Queen Isabel of Spain and King Fernando to ensure Spain's freedom from bloody religious wars of 15th and 16th century

Mehmed II: Sultan of Ottoman Turks at 20 yrs. old; mother was slave girl in his father's harem; fostered total victory over Byzantines in 1451; planned attack on Constantinople Took 6 wks to take impenetrable Constantinople, over 4,000 Christians killed; *after 2000 yrs of Roman imperial history, Muslims enter the city*. Christian world in shock and feared the spread of Islam into Europe

Papacy: next 3 popes called for crusades but had lost respect of Western leaders, no one responded.

Pope Pius II: called meeting with leaders but no one came-leaders no longer listening to the Pope; wrote leaders to Turks, no response; decided to personally lead crusade. While waiting at port, disease broke out and Pope died

Renaissance Popes: 1st was Nicholas V to Leo X *embodied whole notion of weak leadership; more concerned with being secular princes than being the universal shepherd of the Church*; many participated in ecclesiastical abuses (**Simony:** buying/selling ecclesiastical offices; **Nepotism:** appointing family members to high important positions of the Church: **Pluralism:** holding more than necessary land that generates great revenue). (WF: sounds like some of Jewish high priests)

Rodrigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI; 1492-1503). Guilty of Pluralism: held five wealthy dioceses at one time; had children by two different women; one child, Caesar Borgia terrorized Italy. Important to remember: these men are NOT living up to the office of the Holy Father, those who are called to even

the highest offices in the Church are human beings, fallen yet redeemed creatures; does not mean something inherently wrong with the papacy or something wrong with the Catholic Church

15th Century: Major Events in Spain: Queen Isabella and King Fernando unite and create Kingdom of Spain; have goal-rid Iberian Peninsula of Muslims; achieved in 1492. **Spanish Inquisition:** Some Jews and Muslims convert to Catholicism to keep jobs/gain positions in society but continue to practice their old faith. Problem because Spain had been trying to oust Muslim for over 770 yrs; considered them a **threat to national security**; created

Spanish Inquisition (13th Century): Created by Spanish King Fernando/Queen Isabel for national security and to promote spiritual/social unity in Spain; no control over practicing Jews and Muslims, only converts who were *secretly* practicing Judaism or Islam; later expelled all *practicing Jews* from Spain (feared they were supporting converts who were practicing in secret) - **was NOT a decision of the Church**. Expectation was the practicing ~ 80,000 Jews would convert.

Spanish Inquisition Procedures: Drawn up by *Inquisitor General Tomas* (1484); similar to procedures from medieval inquisitors: **1. Period of Grace** (allotted time to turn yourself in and be punished; several weeks to several months), **2. Accusations./Evidence collected:** Suspects jailed, had a hearing, if guilty, jailed, property confiscated by government. Allowed to have a *defense lawyer*. Torture authorized but rarely used as last resort; torture records meticulously kept. If guilty, public event held to make announcement; used to enforce social/spiritual unity; if repentant but continues heresy, could be executed (WF-Martyrdom for another faith belief?). Approximately 3000 people executed between 1550 and 1800. Did provide religious peace to Spain unlike the religious wars in rest of Europe.

Girolamo Savonarola: Dominican: Lived in Florence, scrupulous and gifted orator; consumed with apocalyptic writings; believed end times were near; wrote ***The Bonfire of the Vanities***⁴; burned items thought to be sinful; blamed leaders for political corruption and Pope Alexander VI for religious corruption; became violent in 1496; did not respect Papal cease-and-desist orders; challenged by a Franciscan to walk on hot coals, *if not burned or die, then God was with him*. Savonarola declined; became unpopular; was later tortured, tried and condemned as heretic and schismatic; burned at stake in 1498.

¹ **Latin Vulgate:** The Latin translation of the Bible written by St. Jerome, who was asked by Pope Damascus in 382 A.D. to bring order out of the proliferation of Old Latin versions which were in circulation. His translation became the standard Latin version of the Bible for the Western Latin-speaking Church. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. Jerome's Latin version was called the Biblia Vulgata, the 'Bible in the common tongue'. By rendering it into Latin he made it accessible to Western Europe. This was the Bible used throughout the Middle Ages. The **New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition** (NRSV-CE) is a Bible translation approved for use by the Catholic Church, receiving the imprimatur of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1991.

² **Sola Scriptura:** Meaning by scripture alone, is a Christian theological doctrine held by most Protestant Christian denominations, in particular the Lutheran and Reformed traditions of Protestantism, that posits the Bible as the *sole infallible source of authority* for Christian faith and practice.

³ **Spanish Conquistadors:** Essentially were sanctioned pirates; goal was to claim land and resources for their investors and conquer natives of other lands for treasure and glory; also vital in the spread and enforcement of religion.

⁴ **Bonfire of Vanities:** Burning of objects condemned by religious authorities as occasions of sin. The phrase itself usually refers to the bonfire of 7 February 1497, when supporters of the Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola collected and burned thousands of objects such as cosmetics, art, and books in the public square of Florence, Italy; focus of destruction was on objects that might tempt one to sin, including vanity items such as mirrors, cosmetics, fine dresses, playing cards, musical instruments, immoral manuscripts of secular songs, and artworks, including paintings and sculpture.