



Middle Christianity (1054-1500)

The middle period of the development of the Christian church including the Great Schism.

1054

The Roman and Orthodox Churches split decisively. The Orthodox Church did not accept the papal authority from Rome. Christians in southern Albania were left under the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople and those in the north under the pope in Rome.

1055

(1055-1250) Expansion of Islam under the Seljuks and Christian responses.

1059

The reforming popes, following from the acts of Henry III, issue a decree on papal elections which gives the cardinals sole right of appointing new popes. This decree allows papal elections to escape the whims of political leaders.

1059

Richard of Aversa and his brother-in-law, Robert Guiscard, met with Pope Nicholas II. The Norman chiefs swore allegiance to the Pope in return for papal recognition for their conquests, whereupon Richard was invested as prince of Capua.

28 Feb 1066

Westminster Abbey opened.

1070

Possible founding date of the Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem by Amalfi merchants.

1073

Gregory VII initiates a new conception of Church and proposes that the Church is obligated to create "right order in the world," rather than withdraw from it and so seeks to create a papal monarchy with power over the secular state.

1073

Gregory VII (1073-1085), St. Hildebrand, served as Pope. He was driven from Rome and died in exile.

1075

The 3rd Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in Spain was built on the site of the tomb of St. James. There had been a Cathedral on the site since the 9th century.



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1076

Pope Gregory VII excommunicates Henry IV.

1076

Synod of Worms German King Henry IV fires Pope Gregory VII.

1077

German King Heinrich (Henry) IV petitions Pope Gregory VII for forgiveness.

1077

Pope Gregory VII pardons German emperor Heinrich (Henry) IV.

1079

Scholasticism emerges as an attempt to reconcile classical philosophy (primarily Aristotelean) with Christianity. Peter Abelard (1079-1142) contributes to this movement with his great theological work, Sic et Non.

1079

Peter Abelard (1079-1142), was born in Brittany, and later became a great medieval scholar.

1084

Anti-pope Clemens crowns German emperor Hendrik (Henry) IV.

1086

Abbott Dauferio/Desiderius becomes Pope Victor III.

13 Nov 1093

Battle of Alnwick

Nov 1093

Donald Bane becomes King of Scotland

1095

Pope Urban II preaches the first Crusade.

1096

Crusaders massacre Jews of Worm.



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c. 1096

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built in Jerusalem on the traditional site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1096

In France Saint-Eutrope's church was consecrated in the town of Saintes, the ancient capital of the Saintonge.

1096

(1096-1291) European Christians fought Arab Muslims for control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

30 Jun 1097

The Crusaders defeated the Turks at Dorylaeum.

3 Jun 1098

Christian Crusaders of the First Crusade seized Antioch, Turkey.

1098

The crusaders of the First Crusade defeat Prince Redwan of Aleppo capturing Antioch and most of Syria, killing the Turkish inhabitants.

5 Jun 1099

Knights and their families on the First Crusade witnessed an eclipse of the moon and interpreted it as a sign from God that they would recapture Jerusalem.

8 Jul 1099

In Jerusalem 15,000 starving Christian soldiers marched around barefoot while the Muslim defenders mocked them from the battlements.

12 Jul 1099

Crusade leaders visited the Mount of Olives where they met a hermit who urged them to assault Jerusalem.

13 Jul 1099

The Crusaders launched their final assault on Muslims in Jerusalem.



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15 Jul 1099

Jerusalem fell to the crusaders of the First Crusade who slaughtered the Jewish and Muslim inhabitants.

12 Aug 1099

At the Battle of Ascalon 1,000 Crusaders, led by Godfrey of Bouillon, routed an Egyptian relief column heading for Jerusalem, which had already fallen to the Crusaders.

1099

Crusaders beat Saracens in Battle of Ascalon

1099

Crusaders set fire to Mara Syria

1099

The first Crusaders begins siege of Hosn-el-Akrad Syria.

1099

After the Crusaders take Jerusalem, they divide their new territories into four principalities.

c. 1100

St. Cono was born in Teggiano in southern Italy. He became a Benedictine monk and went on to perform numerous miracles. His remains were later embedded in a statue in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore.

c. 1100

In Spain the town of Santo Domingo de la Calzada was founded by a man known as St. Dominic of the Walkway.

c. 1100

(Between 1100-1200) Shihab el-Din was an anti-Crusader cleric. He was believed to be buried in Nazareth next to the Basilica of the Annunciation.

c. 1100

(Between 1100-1200) In France the Abbot Suger was busy embellishing the abbey of St. Denis.



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c. 1100

(Between 1100-1200) The German Stammheim Missal was made. It told stories from Creation to the crucifixion of Christ. In 1997 it was acquired by the J. Paul Getty Museum.

c. 1100

(Between 1100-1200) San Isidro, a Spanish farmer, later became the patron saint of Madrid.

1104

The carved wooden casket that was with the remains of St Cuthbert was opened and a manuscript copy of the Gospel of St. John written in uncial was found perfectly preserved.

1107

Enrico Dandolo (1107-1205), ruler of Venice, was born. He was blind and spearheaded the 4th Crusade. He funded an army to capture Constantinople and after the 'rape of Constantinople' pocketed some of the city's riches.

1110

Crusaders march into Beirut causing a bloodbath.

1113

Hospital of St. John recognized by papal bull as separate order.

18 Dec 1118

Afonso the Battler, the Christian King of Aragon captured Saragossa, Spain, a major blow to Muslim Spain.

1118

Hugh of Payens of Burgundy and Godfrey of Saint Adhemar, a Fleming, with seven other knights were credited with founding the Templars whose headquarters was on or near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

1118

Giovanni Caetani elected Pope Gelasius II.

1119

Guido di Borgogna elected Pope Callistus II.



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1119

The Knights Templar were founded to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land during the second Crusade.

1122

A compromise is drawn between Pope and the Emperor over the issue of investiture. Prelates accept the emperor as their temporal overlord and are invested with the symbol that recognizes their right to rule.

1123

The first Lateran Council (9th ecumenical council) opens in Rome.

1128

The Royal High School in Scotland was founded by a group of Edinburgh Friars.

Jan 1129

Council of Troyes recognized the Temple as an order.

1130

Gregorio de Papareschi elected as Pope Innocent II.

1130

Jewish Cardinal Pietro Pierleone elected as anti-pope Anacletus II

1130

The French church at the abbey at Cluny was completed and measured over 400 feet long.

1138

Anti-Pope Victor IV (Gregorio) overthrows self for Innocentius II.

20 Apr 1139

The Second Lateran Council (10th ecumenical council) opened in Rome.

1139

Papal Bull by Pope Innocent II

1140

Gratian wrote the illuminated 'Decretum,' a standard treatise on canon law in Bologna about this time. He wrote three volumes on the subject which were lavishly illustrated. The three volumes were later published by the Vatican in 1975.



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1142

(1142-1271) In Syria, the Crac des Chevaliers, a Crusader castle, was built by the Knights Hospitalers.

1144

The Romanesque abbey church of St. Denis, a burial shrine for French saints and kings, is torn down and replaced with Gothic architecture which is characterised by pointed arches, rather than Roman arches, ribbed vaulting and flying buttresses.

1144

Gherardo Caccianemici elected Pope Lucius II, succeeding Callistus II.

1144

The Saracens recaptured the crusader's castles along the Palestine coast.

1145

Bernardo elected Pope Eugene III.

1147

The beginning of the Second Crusade (1147-1149).

1148

The Second Crusade.

1153

Treaty of Konstanz between Frederik I of Germany and Pope Eugene III.

1154

Sir Thomas Becket was given the high office of Chancellor to the King, Henry II.

1155

A student of Peter Abelard, Peter Lombard, writes the Book of Sentences which answers fundamental questions of theology with passages from the Bible and various Christian thinkers.

29 Dec 1170

Thomas Becket, St. Thomas archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.



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1170

Domingo de Guzman (1170-1221), a Spanish monk, was born. He founded the Dominicans, also called mendicants, for they abjured great abbeys and cloisters in favor of a life of utmost simplicity and poverty.

1172

German monk Theodorich wrote 'Guide to the Holy Land'.

1173

Pope Alexander III canonizes Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury.

1179

3rd Lateran Council (11th ecumenical council) opens in Rome.

1182

In Constantinople Western Christians were massacred by Muslims. A cardinal was beheaded and 4,000 Western Christians were sold into slavery.

21 Jan 1189

Philip Augustus of France, Henry II of England and Frederick I of Germany assembled the troops for the Third Crusade.

1189

Emperor Frederik I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg.

16 Mar 1190

The Crusades began the massacre of Jews in York, England. The Jewish population of York fled to Clifford's Tower overlooking the rivers Ouse and Foss during an anti-Jewish riot. A crazed friar set fire to the tower and rather than be captured, the inhabitants committed mass suicide.

4 Jul 1190

Richard I, King of England, starts his Crusade.

1190

The crusaders lay siege to Acre.



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1190

Crusaders kill 57 Jews in Bury St Edmonds England.

6 Feb 1191

Questionable bull of Pope Clement III approving the German hospitaller order at Acre.

12 Jul 1191

Siege of Acre ended in crusader victory.

1194

The cathedral at Chartres was mostly destroyed by fire. The Sancta Camisia relic survived intact and the cathedral was rebuilt in 29 years.

21 Dec 1196

Pope Celestine III took the 'Hospital of St. Mary of the Germans in Jerusalem' under his protection.

1198

Lotario di Segni elected Pope Innocent III, the founder of the Papal State and is thirty-seven when he is elected. His primary concern is the unification of all Christendom under the papal monarchy, including the right to interfere with the rule of kings.

1198

The Fourth Crusade was funded by Enrico Dandolo, doge of Venice.

19 Feb 1199

Bull of Pope Innocent III confirmed the Teutonic Knights' wearing of the Templars' white mantle and following of the Hospitallers' rule.

1200

Albertus Magnus (1200-1280), the teacher of Thomas Aquinas, was born. He wrote extensively on the form and behavior of the earth. He and Aquinas created a synthesis of Aristotelian thought and Catholic theology.

c. 1200

(Between 1200-1300) St. Gertrude, a German nun, was an important Catholic mystic.



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1202

The Fourth Crusade began.

1202

Assisi fought against Perugia in the Battle of Collestrada. St. Francis faced his first test in life as a soldier in this battle.

1203

The Fourth Crusade murdered 100,000 Orthodox Christians.

Apr 1204

The crusaders of the Fourth Crusade capture Constantinople. The sack of Constantinople causes a firm Byzantine hatred of the West.

1206

Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone (1181-1226), later Saint Francis of Assisi, at the age of 25, renounced his worldly possessions. He is the founder of the Franciscan order which seeks to imitate the life of Jesus by embracing poverty.

24 Mar 1208

King John of England opposed Innocent III on his nomination for archbishop of Canterbury.

1208

St Francis of Assisi, at the age of 26, received his vocation in Portiuncula Italy.

1209

Pope Innocent III urged a crusade against the Albigensians. They were ascetic communitarians of southern France who viewed the clergy and secular rulers as corrupt. A war resulted that effectively destroyed the Provençal civilization of southern France.

1209

The Franciscan brotherhood received papal approval.

1210

Francis founded the Franciscans, and demanded that his followers subsist entirely on what they can beg while preaching.



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1211

St. Francis reportedly landed on the Isola Maggiore, an island on Lake Trasimeno.

Jul 1212

Spain reconquers the Iberian peninsula from the Muslims in the name of Christianity.

Nov 1212

John, King of England, accepts the Pope's demands.

1212

Stephen, a shepherd boy from Cloyes-sur-le-Loir, France, had a vision of Jesus and set out to deliver a letter to the King of France.

15 May 1213

King John submitted to the Pope, offering to make England and Ireland papal fiefs. Pope Innocent III lifted the interdict of 1208.

1213

English King John names Stephen Langton Archbishop of Canterbury.

Nov 1215

At the Fourth Lateran Council in Rome the central dogmas of Christianity were discussed and defined. It recognizes the necessity of the Eucharist and penance as sacraments for salvation.

Nov 1215

Pope Innocent III called the fifth crusade (1215-1229) at the Fourth Lateran Council (12th ecumenical council) in Rome. Hermann von Salza was probably present representing the order of the Teutonic Knights.

1216

The Dominican order is founded by St. Dominic of Spain and was authorized by Innocent III. Its purpose is to convert Muslims and Jews and to put an end to heresy. The Dominicans eventually become the main administrators of inquisitorial trials.

1219

William Marshal dies



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22 Nov 1220

After promising to go to the aid of the Fifth Crusade within nine months, Frederick II was crowned emperor by Pope Honorius III.

1222

The 'Golden Bull' of Hungary, first issue.

25 Dec 1223

St. Francis of Assisi assembled one of the first Nativity scenes, in Greccio, Italy.

1223

In France Chartres cathedral in its present form was completed.

1224

After being a pupil of the Benedictines, after nine years, Thomas Aquinas (circa ?-1274) went to Naples to study and joined the Dominicans because Emperor Frederic II temporarily disbanded the monks at Cassino.

1225

Thomas Aquinas, the most influential Scholastic theologian, is teaching at the University of Paris. Aquinas believes in the contemplation of God through the natural order, though ultimate truths are revealed only by studying the revelations of the Bible.

8 Nov 1226

Louis IX (St. Louis), succeeded Louis VIII as King of France and becomes one of the most loved monarchs of French history. He is canonized by the Church for his piety and reigns over a period of internal peace in France. [Until 1270]

1227

Count Ugolino of Segna elected Pope Gregory IX.

1227

In Spain construction of the Gothic Cathedral in Toledo was begun.

1228

The Basilica di San Francesco was constructed in Assisi, Italy.



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1228

St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan order, was canonized.

1230

Kulm recognized by Pope Gregory IX as belonging to the Teutonic Knights.

1233

The Inquisition began and lasted into the 19th century.

1235

Raimon Llull (1235-1316), a Mallorcan Catholic Franciscan poet, was born. He proposed an artificial language that used 4 figures and 9 letters called his Ars magna. It was proposed as the perfect tool for Christian missionaries.

29 Jun 1236

Ferdinand III of Castile and Leon took Cordoba in Spain. Cordoba, Spain, fell to Christian forces. The last Islamic kingdom left in Spain is that of the Berbers in Granada.

23 Dec 1236

Pope Gregory IX taxed the Peloponnesus to support crusading ventures and the preceptor of the Teutonic Knights was identified as one of three collectors of this tithing effort.

1237

The Bishop of Riga sent a request to Rome that the Pope unite the German Knights of the Sword (the swordbrothers) and Knights of the Cross (the Teutonic Knights) into one order. The Pope agreed and the two orders agreed to fight under one magistrate.

1237

The Knights of the Sword ended their activities in Livonia.

1238

The Knights of the Sword merged with the German Knights of the Cross.

1242

St. Bonaventura enters the Franciscan order. He becomes the seventh general of that order within fifteen years. He is a professor of theology at the University of Paris, Bishop of Albano, made cardinal by Gregory X and is canonized by Sixtus IV.



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1243

(Spring) Simon de Montfort gets custody of Kenilworth castle

1243

A Charter granted permission for a fair at the monastery of St. Michael at Glastonbury Tor.

23 Aug 1244

Muslim Turkish forces expelled the crusaders under Frederick II from Jerusalem and it not recaptured again until 1917.

17 Oct 1244

The Sixth Crusade ended when an Egyptian-Khwarismian force almost annihilated the Frankish army at Gaza.

1244

The Cathars, a group of Catholic heretics, settled at Montsegur, France, in the Ariege region. They were besieged for more than a year and chose to burn at the stake rather than submit. Occitania was the ancient name for this region.

1245

The first Council of Lyons (13th ecumenical council) opens.

1245

Thomas Aquinas was sent to Paris where he enrolled as a student of Albertus Magnus to study theology, philosophy, and history.

1245

John of Plano Carpini was a Franciscan monk who set out on the instructions of Pope Innocent IV to gather intelligence.

31 Oct 1246

Pope Innocent IV transferred the Hospital of St. James to the Templars.

1248

Archbishop Konrad von Hochstaden lays cornerstone for Köln cathedral.



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1248

Construction of Cologne Cathedral begun.

1248

Bath Lady Chapel

1248

Sainte Chapelle in Paris was completed and commissioned by Louis IX to contain what was believed to be Christ's crown of thorns.

1250

The successors of Pope Innocent III are involved in a political struggle with Frederick II, who attempts to take control in central Italy. They order a crusade against him, which results in the death of Frederick.

1251

In Lithuania Mindaugas accepted Christianity with his wife, 2 sons, about 600 of his nobility and many of his people. An envoy was then sent to Rome to request the Pope's formal approval for coronation which was granted.

1252

The papacy approves the use of torture for religious disobedience, following Innocent III's brutal 'inquisition' against heresy (namely the Waldensian and Albigensian heretics).

1255

Abundant Harvest

1256

Thomas Aquinas received his license to teach.

3 Sep 1260

Mamelukes under Sultan Qutuz defeated Mongols and Crusaders at Ain Jalut.

4 Sep 1260

At the Battle of Montaperto in Italy, the Tuscan Ghibellines, who supported the emperor, defeated the Florentine Guelfs, who supported papal power.



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1260

Carbon dating techniques in 1988 determined that the cloth of the Shroud of Turin dated between 1260-1390. The testing was later held in question.

1263

In a Spanish court Rabbi Moses ben Nachman defended the legitimacy of Judaism against Pablo Christiani, a converted Jew, who argued for Christianity. The trial was set up by King James I of Aragon to please the pope.

1264

Comet said to predict the death of Pope Urban IV is last seen.

c. 1264

Vincent of Beauvais and the *Speculum Maius* describing the compiling and adapting techniques of a thirteenth-century Dominican.

1265

Duns Scotus (1265-1308), the Franciscan 'subtle doctor', was born. He stated that God is absolutely free, and absolute freedom means being free of reason's necessity, as well as of all else.

1266

St. Thomas Aquinas penned his 'Summa Theologica,' in which he attempted to reconcile theology with economic conditions. He argued that reason could operate within faith.

1267

Vienna's Synod of Breslau orders Jews of Silesia to wear special caps.

30 Oct 1270

The seventh crusade was ended by the treaty of Barbary.

1270

The Eighth Crusade called by King Louis of France was soon decimated by the Plague.

1271

Nicolo and Marco Polo obtained letters from the papal legate in Palestine, who was soon elected as Gregory X. The Khan's request for 100 intelligent men could not be filled and the Polos departed Acre with two friars who soon turned back. The Polos continued on their own.



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1271

The Polos were called back to Acre where the new Pope assigned two friars, Fra Nicolo da Vicenza and Fra Guielmo da Tripoli, to accompany them to visit the grand khan. They reached Armenia and heard that the soldan of Babylonia, named Bundokdari, had invaded Armenian territory. The friars feared for their lives and returned home.

7 May 1274

The Second Council of Lyons opened in France to regulate the election of the pope.

1274

2nd Council of Lyons (14th ecumenical council) opens.

1274

Thomas Aquinas was summoned before a council at Lyons to answer for his opinions. He was publicly chastised but not condemned.

1274

The Knights of the Cross overcame the Prussian towns of Nadruva and Skalva between 1274-1277.

1276

Pierre de Tarantaise elected Pope Innocent V.

1278

Nestorian Christians under the governor, Mar-sachis, appointed by the grand-khan for three years, built three Nestorian Churches in the city of Chan-ghian-fu, in the province of Manji.

1281

Simon de Brion elected Pope Martinus IV.

1288

Girolamo Masci is elected Pope Nicolas IV.

1290

The Teutonic Knights complete a 30 year effort to control Prussians.



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18 May 1291

The Sultan of Egypt and his son take the last Christian stronghold of Acre. The Hospitaller and Templar headquarters are moved from Acre to Cyprus and the Teutonic Knights headquarters moved from Acre to Venice

1291

The Catholic Franciscan order arrived in Bosnia.

1294

Pope Boniface VIII is in dispute with the kings of England and France over the taxation of the clergy for support of war.

1294

Pope Celestine V resigned voluntarily.

1296

Pope Boniface VIII degree of Clericis laicos.

1297

The people of Riga rose against the Teutonic Knights. The local Bishop asked Vytenis to help and the Knights were pushed back. This opened a northern trade route for Vytenis for weapons and supplies.

1300

Pope Boniface VIII delegates degree.

1300

(1300-1307) The Gladzor Gospels, Armenian illuminated manuscripts whose images are the work of five artists, T'oros Taronets being the only one whose name is known. These gospels are a defining document of the medieval Armenian church's doctrinal independence.

1300

William of Ockham (1300-1349), a Franciscan, was born. He proclaimed that the only real things are singular entities like an apple or man, and that universals have no existence whatever; they are mere names.

1303

Pope Boniface VIII is captured in Anagni by local citizens and is abused beyond his capabilities to sustain the mistreatment. He dies in his seventies a month after his release. After his death, the Church witnesses many institutional crises.



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1303

In Italy the Padova Chapel was completed and Giotto painted a fresco cycle with scenes from the Old and New Testaments.

1305

The papacy is moved from Rome to Avignon, beginning the Church's 'Babylonian Captivity' (1305-1378). For most of the fourteenth century, the papacy is subordinate to French authority with the majority of cardinals and popes being French.

13 Oct 1307

Members of the Knights of Templar were arrested throughout France, imprisoned and tortured by the order of the King Philip the Fair of France.

1309

The period of 'Babylonian Captivity' began (1309-1377) during which the popes left Rome and took up residence at Avignon under the wing of the king of France.

12 May 1310

Fifty-four Knights Templar were burned at the stake as heretics in France. They had been established during the Crusades to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land, but came into increasing conflict with Rome.

1311

Council of Vienne (15th ecumenical council) opens.

1312

Pope Clement V closes Council of Vienna.

1312

The Knights Templar were suppressed by Pope Clement at the Council of Vienna.

1315

The Church of the Holy Virgin was built in Musutiste, Kosovo.

1327

German Dominican Master Eckhart (1260-?) defines the individual soul as a 'spark' of the divine at its most basic element through which one may reach God. Most of his teachings are condemned by the papacy.



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26 May 1328

William of Ockham was forced to flee from Avignon by Pope John XXII.

1328

Louis IV de Beier selects P Rainalducci as anti-Pope Nicolaas V.

1328

John Wycliffe (1328-1384), English theologian and biblical translator, was born. He was posthumously declared a heretic and his body was exhumed for burning in 1428.

1330

Oxford theologian John Wyclif is born. He later becomes the leader of a heretical movement. Finding the Church extravagant, he condemns most Church officials and begins a reform movement.

1331

Na Prous Boneta was burned at the stake as a female heretic one hundred years before Joan of Arc.

1342

The reign of Avignonese Pope Clement VI exemplifies the French takeover of the Church. The French Church based in Avignon rises in power, centralizes the Church government and establishes a system of papal finance.

1345

Attempted calendar reform of Pope Clement VI.

1350

Orvieto city says it will behead & burn Jewish-Christian couples.

1350

Sargis Pitsak, Armenian artist, produced illuminated manuscripts of the bible.

1352

The gothic Cathedral of Our Lady was begun in Antwerp, Belgium. It was completed in the 16th century.



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1367

Urban V is successful in returning the pope to Rome.

1368

Pope Gregory XI dies, but because the papacy is now in Rome, an Italian pope, Urban VI, is elected and begins quarreling with the French cardinals who then cancel the previous election and elect a French pope, Clement VII.

1373

Boccaccio began a course of public readings of the divine Comedy in the church of Santo Stefano in Florence.

20 Sep 1378

The election of Robert of Geneva as anti-pope by discontented cardinals created a great schism in the Catholic church.

1378

The last bishop on Greenland died. No replacement was sent.

1378

The Great Western Schism began which split the Roman Catholic Church and involved 2 anti-popes at its height. It ended in 1417.

14 Aug 1385

Jogaila and his brothers signed a treaty with Poland at Krievos Castle. Here he agreed to convert to Christianity and to seek the conversion of all of Lithuania and that then Lithuania and Poland would unite.

1386

The Duomo Cathedral was begun in Milan. The Milanese boast that it took 500 years to build.

1389

Cosimo de Medici (1389-1464), Florentine merchant banker, was born. The Medici family served as the world-wide tithe and tax collector for the Catholic Church.

1389

A French bishop advised the Pope that the Shroud of Turin, that had materialized in the village of Lirey a generation earlier, was a fraud.



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25 Sep 1396

The last great Christian crusade, led jointly by John the Fearless of Nevers and King Sigismund of Hungary, ended in disaster at the hands of Sultan Bajazet I's Ottoman army at Nicopolis.

1399

In England, the death penalty becomes the punishment for heresy, and many Lollards (Wyclif's lay followers) convert.

1400

Czech students of John Wyclif bring Wyclifism to the Bohemian capital of Prague.

1400

(1400-1500) The 15th Century Urbino Bible was produced.

1409

The Council of Pisa opens. A council of prelates from both sides of the Great Schism meet at Pisa and decide to rename a new pope in place of the two. However, both popes enjoy great political power and refuse the deposition, causing three rivals to the papacy instead of two.

1414

Council of Constance (16th ecumenical council) opens [untill 1418].

6 Jul 1415

Jan Hus, Bohemian religious reformer, a Czech who spoke out against Church corruption, was burned at the stake as a heretic.

14 Jul 1415

Angelo Correr became Pope Gregory XII.

1415

John Hus travels to the Council of Constance to propose his reforms for the Church. Upon his arrival at the Council, Hus is tried for heresy and burned. His death encourages futher revolt by his followers.

30 May 1416

Jerome of Prague was burned as a heretic by the Church.



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1416

Monk Nicolaas Serrurier arrested because of heresy at Tournay.

1417

The Great Schism ends. The Council of Constance, the largest Church meeting in medieval history, ends the Great Schism by gaining secular support and electing Martin V as pope. It replaces papal monarchy which recognizes a council of prelates as the pope's authority.

1420

Pope Martinus I calls for crusade against the Hussieten (Hussites).

1427

Thomas a Kempis writes 'The Imitation of Christ', a manual directing the individual through Orthodox mysticism. Originally in Latin, it is translated into European languages for the lay audience.

1428

King Alfonso V, orders Sicily's Jews to attend conversion sermons.

1428

Pope Martinus V declares Jacoba van Beierens marriage invalid.

Jan 1431

Joan of Arc handed over to the Pierre Cauchon, the bishop of Beauvais and and Jean Lemaitre, vicar of the inquisitor of France. This began the first phase of her trial (an ecclesiastical investigation for heresy) which lasted until March.

Apr 1431

Britain begins the second phase of her trial against Joan of Arc (for witchcraft and fraud) which lasts until May. She was finally condemned on a technicality, for persisting in wearing male clothing.

1431

Bishop Gabriele Condulmer elected as Pope Eugene IV.

1431

Rodrigo Borgia Lanzol (1431-1503), member of the Borgia family, was born. He was elected Pope Alexander VI in 1492 and amassed a fortune by pocketing church funds. His reign helped inspire the Protestant reformation. He fathered numerous children including Lucrezia Borgia.



Middle Christianity (1054-1500)

The middle period of the development of the Christian church including the Great Schism.

1438

Pope Eugenius IV deallocated council of Basel to Ferrara.

1447

Tommaso Parentucelli succeeds Pope Eugene IV as Nicolas V.

1450

First book printed with movable metal type. Johannes Gutenberg printed a 42-line bible with movable type in Mainz. He perfected interchangeable type that could be cast in large quantities and invented a new type of press.

1452

Pope Nicolaas I crowns Frederik III of Hapsburg Roman Catholic-German emperor.

1456

Pope Calixtus III appointed his nephew Rodrigo Borgia Lanzol, later Pope Alexander VI, a cardinal.

1456

A comet in the sky caused the Pope to issue a catchall edict to his followers to pray for deliverance from 'The Devil, the Turk, and the Comet'.

1461

The Pope's godson discovered a source of alum, used in dyes. This led to a booming business for the Catholic Church.

1471

Pontificate of Sixtus IV [until 1484].

1473

Thomas a Kempis wrote his popular 'Imitation of Christ'. It went through 99 editions by the end of the century.

1478

The Spanish Inquisition persecutes Jews, Muslims and heretics.

1482

First great Renaissance villa is built for Pope Leo X.



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9 Aug 1483

Pope Sixtus IV celebrated the first mass in the Sistine Chapel, which was named in his honor.

10 Nov 1483

Martin Luther (1483-1546), leader of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Eisleben, Germany. He was a monk in the Catholic Church until 1517, when he founded the Lutheran Church.

1483

Rabbi Issac Abarbanel starts his exegesis on the Bible.

5 Dec 1484

Pope Innocent VIII issued a bull deploring the spread of witchcraft and heresy in Germany. He ordered that all cats belonging to witches scheduled to be burned, be also burned. Kraemer and Sprenger, two Dominican friars, had induced Pope Innocent VIII to issue a bull authorizing them to extirpate witchcraft in Germany.

1486

Pico Mirandola challenged the scholars of all of Europe that he would defend a list of nine hundred thesis drawn from various Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Arabic authors. His list came to the attention of the Vatican, which found thirteen of the theses heretical. Pico was stunned and issued an immediate recantation but was imprisoned for a short time anyway.

4 May 1493

Pope Alexander VI divided the non-Christian world between Spain and Portugal.

1493

Spanish Pope Alexander VI divides non-Christian world between Spain and Portugal.

6 Jan 1494

The first Roman Catholic Mass in the New World marked the official establishment of La Isabela.

1495

Pope gives his son Cesare Borgia as a hostage to Charles VIII of France.



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1496

Moorish fortress Alhambra, near Grenada, surrenders to the Christians.

1497

Pope Alexander VI excommunicates Girolamo Savonarola.

1497

Portuguese Jews were forced to convert to Christianity and were known as 'New Christians', though many continued to practice their original faith in secret.