

Church History



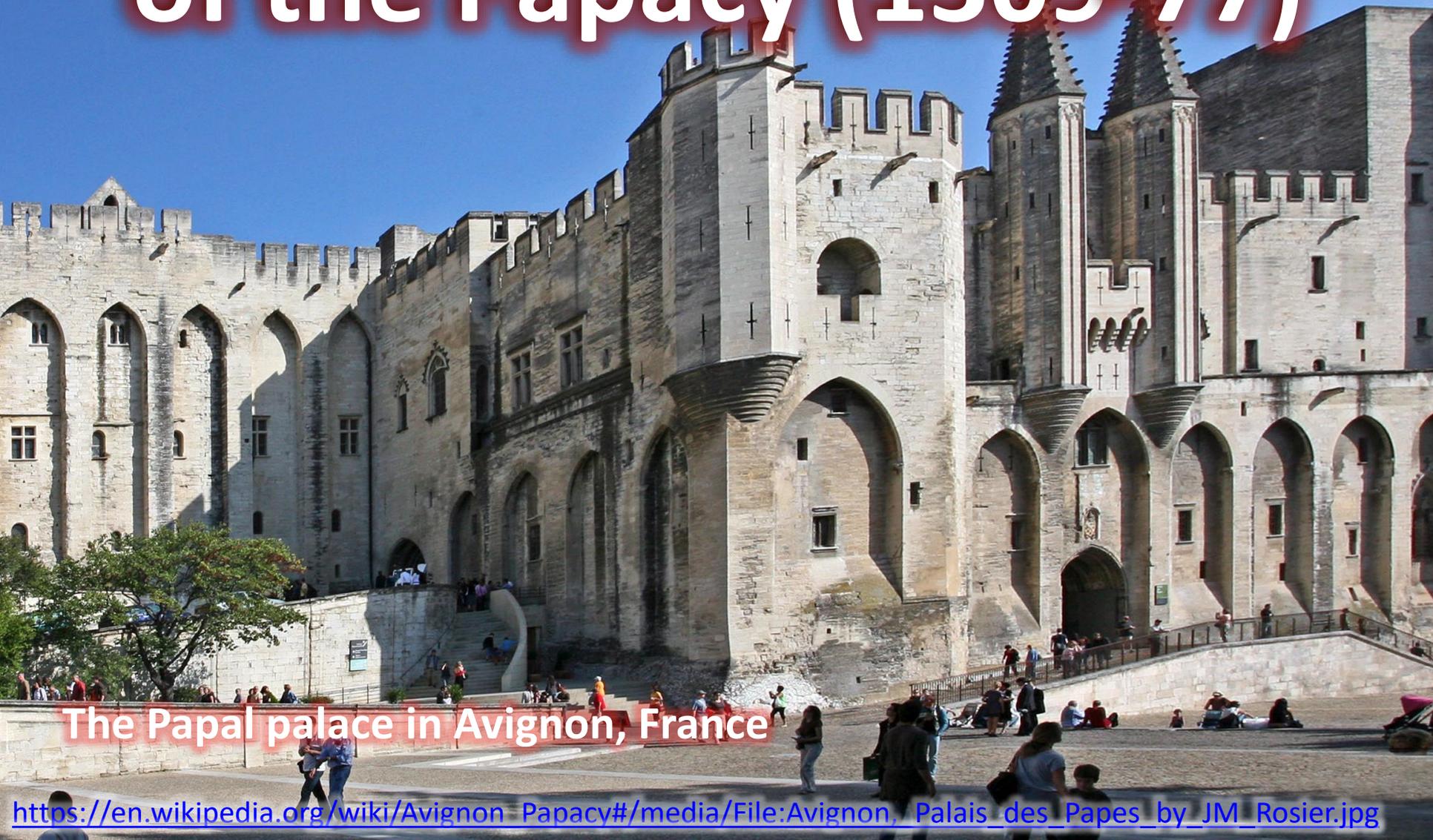
Review

- In the 13th and early 14th centuries, Franciscans and Dominicans were at the forefront of a new wave of Catholic missionary enterprise to reach what two people groups?
 - Muslims and Mongols
- **Raymond of Penafort**, a Spanish Dominican, who evangelized Muslims in Spain and North-West Africa from 1240 to 1275, persuaded _____ to write his **Summa contra Gentiles** as a handbook for teaching Christianity to Muslims.
 - Thomas Aquinas
- After emerging from Mongolia under Genghis Khan in 1205, the Mongols had created a **vast empire** which included land now occupied by what modern day countries and/or regions?
 - China, the Middle East, and southern Russia.
- The great Mongol ruler **Kublai Khan** came in touch with Western Christianity through the travels of the _____ **family**, merchants of Venice, who were in China from 1260 to 1269, and again from 1275 to 1291. The most famous of which was who?
 - **Polo**
 - **Marco Polo**

Review

- The **Black Plague**, one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, was most likely carried by _____ living on the _____ that traveled on all merchant ships, spreading throughout the Mediterranean Basin and Europe.
 - Fleas
 - Black rats
- The Black Death is estimated to have killed ___ to ___ % of Europe's population.
 - 30% to 60%
- With such a large population decline from the Plague, _____ soared in response to a labor shortage.
 - wages
- Why did Christians sometimes blame the Jews for causing the plague?
 - Because the plague seemed to make less headway in Jewish neighborhoods.

The “Babylonian Captivity” of the Papacy (1309-77)

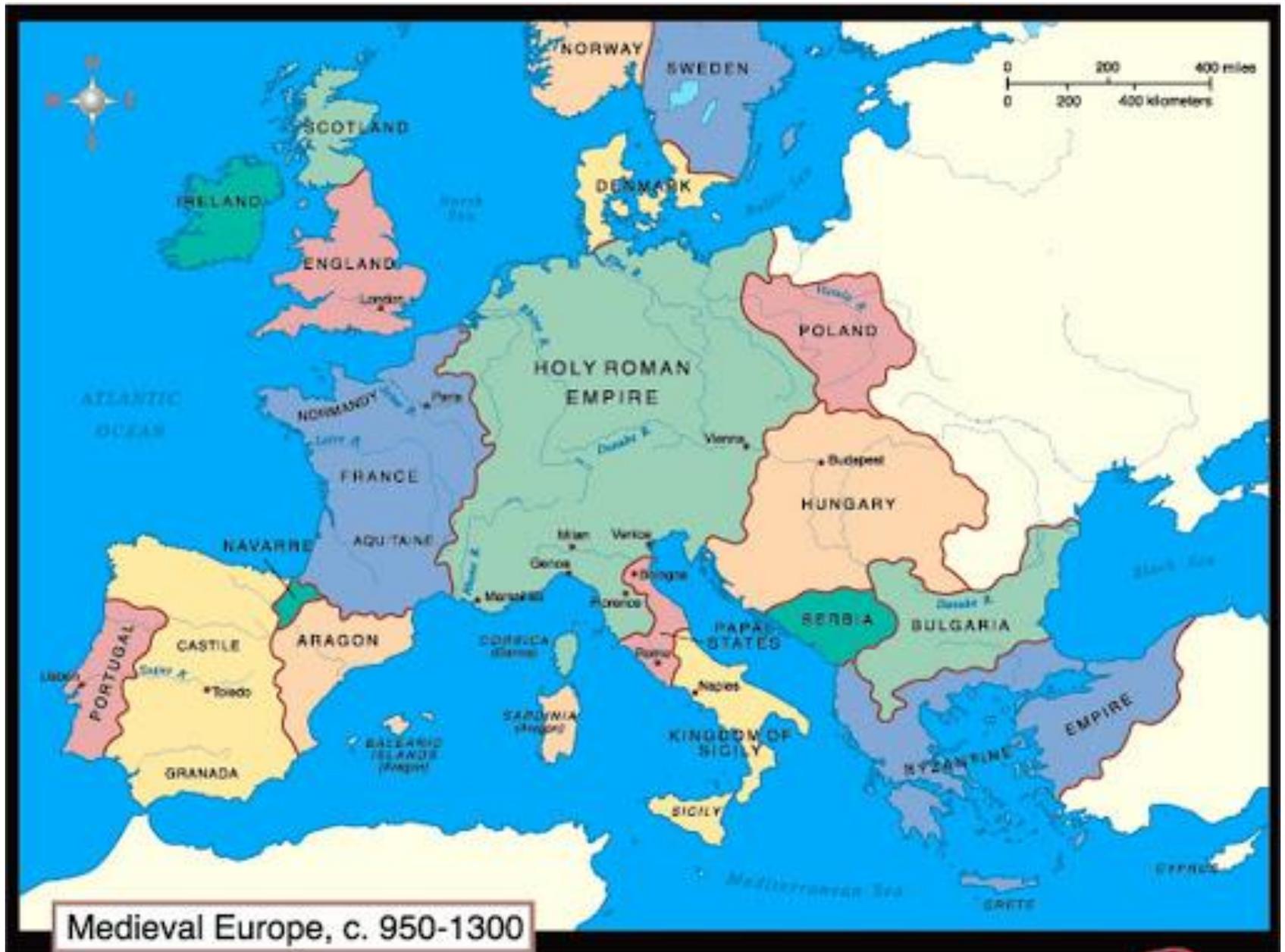


The Papal palace in Avignon, France

The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- The papacy had reached the height of its political power in Western Europe under Innocent III.
- His death in 1216 was followed by a period of disaster.
- The popes continued to struggle against the Holy Roman Emperors; their conflict with Frederick II (1210-50), whom Innocent III himself had settled on the German throne, was especially bitter.
- However, the long warfare between papacy and Empire had permanently weakened the power of the German monarchy, by undermining Germany's national unity.
- Because of this, the real power lay in the hands of the *local* German princes, not the Emperor.
- Therefore the threat to the independence of the papacy no longer came from *Germany*, but from *France*.

Medieval Europe 950-1300



The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- In contrast to the situation in Germany, the French monarchy was **growing** in strength.
- It reached dangerous levels, as far as the papacy was concerned, under **King Philip the Fair** (1285-1314).
- Philip was a ruthless tyrant who had the highest views of his own absolute authority over all French affairs.
- Conflict broke out between Philip and Pope **Boniface VIII** (1294-1303) over taxation.
- In 1295 Philip levied a tax on the French clergy to finance a war with England.
- The French clergy complained to Boniface, who decreed the excommunication of all who imposed or paid such taxes without papal permission.
- Philip responded by forbidding the export of gold and silver from France; this crippled the economy of Rome.

The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- In 1301 Pope Boniface sent a special papal legate to Philip's court to complain about Philip's, seizure of Church property.
- King Philip had the legate arrested and charged with high treason. The conflict escalated.
- Pope Boniface ordered the release of the legate and summoned Philip to Rome.
- Philip called a national assembly of French nobles, clergy and commoners, which supported him in his defiance of the papacy.
- Boniface reacted by issuing a "papal bull" in 1302, entitled *Unam sanctam*, which claimed that *all* political authorities are subject to the *pope*, and that submission to the pope is *necessary* for salvation.

The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- King Philip's response was to declare that Pope Boniface was unfit to occupy the papal throne, and he summoned the pope to appear before an ecumenical Council of the whole Church.
- The French parliament, clergy and Paris University all joined in this declaration.
- Boniface prepared to excommunicate Philip, but before he could do so, the French king had Boniface kidnapped and imprisoned.
- Philip's agents demanded that he resign from the papacy; Boniface refused.
- Allies rescued Boniface from imprisonment, but he died a month later, an old and broken man, while the struggle was still raging.

The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- The papacy was now in serious trouble.
- Philip had appealed to French national opinion against the claims of Rome, and had succeeded.
- When Pope Boniface's successor, ***Pope Benedict XI*** (1303-4), died after a reign of only eight months, the French faction of cardinals succeeded in electing a ***French*** pope, ***Clement V*** (1305-14).
- Pope Clement was a weak man who simply became the tool of King Philip.
- Pope Clement never set foot in Rome, and after four years of wandering around southern France, in 1309 he established the papal court in Avignon, a city near southern France.

The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy

- The papacy remained in Avignon for nearly 70 years (1309-77), a captive of the French monarchy and its policies.
- Those hostile to France referred to this period as the "Babylonian captivity" of the papacy; modern historians call it the "Avignonese captivity".
- There were *seven* popes in this period, all Frenchmen.
- According to Roman Catholic theology, the apostle Peter, the "first pope", had been the bishop of *Rome* and therefore it was paramount that the pope continue to reside in Rome.
- With the popes now in Avignon, torn loose from their ancient historic seat in Rome, it seemed to many that the papacy had lost its true identity and become nothing more than a mere political pawn in the hands of the French kings.

The Western Schism



The Western Schism

- The papacy finally returned to Rome in 1377 under Pope **Gregory XI** (1370- 78); the great Italian mystic, Catherine of Siena, inspired him to make the move.



The Return of Pope Gregory XI to Rome



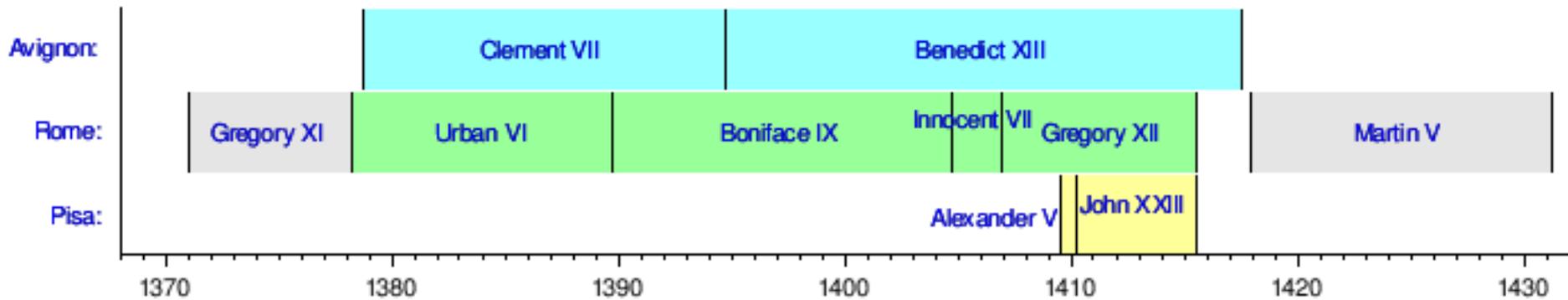
The Western Schism

- The papacy finally returned to Rome in 1377 under Pope **Gregory XI** (1370- 78); the great Italian mystic, Catherine of Siena, inspired him to make the move.
- Gregory died the following year.
- The French cardinals would gladly have gone back to Avignon, but the Roman population was **determined** to keep the papacy in **Rome** and demanded an **Italian** pope.
- Under pressure from the Roman population, the cardinals elected **Pope Urban VI** (1378-89), an **Italian** who wanted to liberate the papacy from French control.
- However, a few months after Urban's election, 12 of the 16 cardinals declared that the election was null and void, because it had been carried out under threat of popular violence.

The Western Schism

- So the cardinals chose another ***Frenchman*** as pope – Clement VII (1378-94).
- Clement and his cardinals returned to Avignon and set up court there. Urban VI stayed in Rome.
- There were now ***two*** rival popes.
- This had happened before, when an ***Emperor*** had set up a rival pope for ***political reasons***.
- However, this time the two popes had both been elected by the Church itself – by the ***same body of cardinals***.
- The two rival popes, Urban VI and Clement VII, excommunicated each other.

The Western Schism



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Schism

The Western Schism

- Since there was no higher authority in the Church above a pope who had been elected by the cardinals, there was no power that could choose between them.
- This rending asunder of the Catholic Church is known as the “Western Schism”.
- Catholic Europe was split down the middle.
- The Roman pope, Urban VI, won the support of northern and central Italy, England, the Scandinavian countries, and most of Germany.
- The Avignonese pope, Clement VII, had the backing of France, Spain, southern Italy, Scotland, and some parts of Germany.

The Western Schism

- Urban VI died in 1389, and the Roman line of popes carried on with **Boniface XI** (1389-1404), **Innocent VII** (1404-1406) and **Gregory XII** (1406-15).
- In Avignon, Clement VII was succeeded by **Benedict XIII** (1394-1417).
- If the Avignonese captivity had damaged the reputation of the papacy, the Western Schism caused it to sink even **lower**.
- The visible unity of the Catholic Church was broken. And the situation dragged on for nearly 40 years.
- The minds of many loyal and sincere Churchmen began to feel that the answer to the scandal of the Great Schism must be found in an **ecumenical Council** of the **whole Catholic Church** – and in making the papacy subject to the Council.

The Western Schism

- The first attempt to end the Great Schism by an ecumenical Council took place in 1409 at the **Council of Pisa** (north-western Italy).
- The Council was summoned by the cardinals acting on their own authority.
- The Council **deposed** both rival popes, Gregory XII (Rome) and Benedict XIII (Avignon), and asserted that ecumenical councils were **superior** to the papacy. But the disposed popes **refused** to step down.
- So when the Council then elected a **new** pope, **Alexander V** (1409-10), there were now **three** rival popes!
- England and France acknowledged the new Pisan pope, Alexander V, but Italy and much of Germany continued to support Gregory XII of Rome, while Spain and Scotland stayed loyal to Benedict XIII of Avignon!

The Western Schism

- In 1414-18 the Council of Constance (in north-eastern Switzerland) made another attempt to end the Schism.
- This time it was the Holy Roman Emperor **Sigismund** (1410-37) who summoned the Council.
- Sigismund acted in **alliance** with **Pope John XXIII** (1410-15), the successor to Alexander V who had been elected by the Council of Pisa.
- However, once the Council of Constance met, it **deposed** Pope John XXIII for scandalous misconduct, and persuaded Pope Gregory XII of Rome to **resign**.
- The Council then officially deposed Benedict in 1417.
- Then the cardinals, together with representatives of the nations present, elected the Italian cardinal, Colonna, as the new pope; he assumed the name **Martin V** (1417-31).

The Western Schism

- The Council of Constance was revolutionary. It had ended the Great Schism, but only by subjecting the papacy to the authority of an ecumenical Council.
- It seemed that the conciliarists had demolished the absolute papal monarchy of Hildebrand and Innocent III, and replaced it by a more limited, constitutional, democratic form of Church government.
- However, the new pope, Martin V, after ascending the papal throne, abandoned whatever conciliarist convictions he may have had, and there was much friction between him and the next two ecumenical Councils at Pavia-Siena (1423-24) and Basel (1431-49).
- Martin V died only months after the Council of Basel (north-western Switzerland) opened; ***Eugenius IV*** (1431-47) succeeded him.

The Western Schism

- Eugenius tried to adjourn the Council, but it refused to disband and declared its own superiority over him as pope. The Council then began a great program of administrative and moral reforms.
- It appeared that Pope Eugenius was captive to the Council.
- However, Eugenius turned the tables completely in 1437 by moving the Council to the north-eastern Italian city of Ferrara, where he received the **Byzantine Emperor John VIII**, the patriarch of Constantinople, **Joseph II**, and other delegates of Eastern Orthodoxy.
- The Byzantines wanted to negotiate a union with the Catholic Church in return for Western military support against the Ottoman Turks.

The Western Schism

- The Council at Basel was split; a minority followed the pope to Ferrara.
- In 1439 Eugenius moved the Council again, to Florence (south of Ferrara).
- He successfully concluded a union with the Orthodox, the “Union of Florence”, which sent his personal prestige soaring.
- The Council at Basel reacted rather foolishly by **deposing** Eugenius and electing a new pope, **Felix V** (1439-49).
- But this act dealt a **mortal blow** to the influence of the conciliarists, because they were seen as plunging the Church into **schism** again.
- Eventually, more and more members of the Council defected to Eugenius and what was left of the Council dissolved itself in 1449.

The Western Schism

- This marked the end of the conciliar movement. The papacy had triumphed.
- Eventually, the Orthodox Churches of the East scorned the agreement its delegates had made with Pope Eugenius, but it had served Eugenius's purposes well.
- He had re-established the papacy as the true leader of Western Catholicism.
- The conciliar theory lived on in the Church, but the incredible incompetence of the conciliarists at Basel had ruined any hope of making the Catholic Church into a more democratic institution.

The Medieval Mystics



The Mystic Marriage of Saint Catherine of Siena - Giovanni Di Paolo (1403–1482)

<https://catholicexchange.com/spiritual-guidance-st-catherine-siena>

VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE BROWNIES!

B BEST OF THE BEST
R REALLY GENEROUS
O OUTSTANDING
W WONDERFUL
N NATURALLY NICE
I INVALUABLE TO HOPE
E EXCELLENT
S SWEET



Class Discussion Time



*Class Discussion Time

- While modern “Protestant” churches would never think of trying to appoint a “pope” to rule over the church, there is a longstanding tendency in churches to reject the Biblical teaching that local churches are to be ruled of a plurality of elders and to choose instead to set things up where **one man** is leading the church. What is it about the leadership of a single individual that churches find so attractive?
- Likewise, the scriptures teach that church leadership should be limited to the **local** church. In light of what happened with the hierarchical approach to church leadership that occurred within the Roman Catholic Church, do you see the value of **subsidiarity** when it comes to church leadership?
- Do **you** have a topic or question that **you** would like to see us to discuss?