Middle Ages pt 1, My Notes

Middle Ages 590-1517

Part 1) 590-1077 (Gregory the Great – Gregory VII vs. Henry IV)

Part 2) 1077-1517 (Gregory and Henry – Martin Luther’s 95 Theses)

Our perception of it:

* Complete moral and Religious breakdown
* Death and Destruction everywhere
* The church killing people willy-nilly

A More Accurate Picture:

* Rejection of sacred/secular split
* Belief in impermanency of life and a future world
* Gradual growth of Papal authority
* A general acceptance of trading freedom for safety

Gregory the Great: (540-604)

* Justinian is Emperor in Constantinople
* Brought stability in an unstable time
  + Organized food and sanitation in the city
  + Rebuilt aqueducts and city defenses
  + Negotiated peace with Lombards
* Humanitarian and Missionary
  + Converted Visigoth king to Nicene Christianity
  + Instigated missions to the barbarians
* Inventor of Gregorian Chants

Mohammed and Islam: (570-632)

* Founder of Islam
* Claims to have received revelation from angel Gabriel in a cave (approx. AD 610)
* Gathered army of 10,000 converts to take Mecca (630)
* Fell ill and died 632
* The question of successors led to factions but Moslem doctrine necessitated conversion and conquest
* Muslim conquest for 100 years

Merovingians and Carolingians: (France)

* Frankish kingdoms that came out of Clovis’s dynasty
* Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer) (680-741)
  + Defended western Europe against Arab conquest
* Pepin the Short (714-761)
* Charlemagne (Charles the Great) (741-814)

Charlemagne:

* named Emperor of “Holy Roman Empire” by Leo III on Christmas Day, AD 800.
  + “Charles most pious, crowned Augustus by God.”
* Went on military conquest of Europe
* Became the Church’s muscle
  + Executed the Pope’s rule
  + Established moral and political order
* Invented *escole* … schools!
* After his death, feudal system takes over western Europe

The Great Schism: (1054)

* The East/West Church division has finally come to a head
* Eastern Orthodox
  + Iconography
  + Spiritual Mysticism
  + Pope of Constantinople
  + Greek language
* Western Catholic Church
  + Doctrine
  + Papal authority
  + Pope of Rome
  + Latin language

Walk to Canossa: (1077)

* Gregory VII (Hildebrand)
  + Took Papal infallibility for himself
  + Declared simony (selling church offices to the highest bidder) illegal
  + Attempted to exert church authority over Western Empire
* Henry IV
  + Western Emperor
  + Butted heads with Gregory VII
* Gregory VII accused Henry IV of Simony
* Henry IV excommunicated Gregory
* Gregory declared an Interdiction on All of Europe under Henry IV’s rule
  + Interdiction: withhold communion and in so doing withhold grace/salvation.
* Walked to Canossa and waited outside the Pope’s gates for 3 days doing penance
* Gregory forgave Henry
* The church now had its ace in the hole