

The Family Tree of Christianity

Session 4: Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy (continued)

Review of Session 3

4th century: Trinitarian controversies

- How can Father, Son, and Spirit be one God?
- 325: 1st Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) composes Creed
- 380: Council of Constantinople completes creed (Holy Spirit)
- 381: Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity religion of Empire
- The Imperial Church (in the West): 381 – 476
 - Union of Church and Roman Empire
 - In the East this would last until 1453 as the Byzantine Empire

5th century: Christological controversies

- How is Christ both human & divine? --- Two schools of thought
 - Alexandria emphasizes Christ's divinity: *Logos-sarx* (Word-flesh)
 - Antioch emphasizes his humanity: *Logos-anthropos* (Word-man)
- Council of Ephesus (431): Mary as "Mother of God"
 - Condemnation of Nestorius and his extreme Antiochene Christology
 - First permanent schism: Assyrian Church of East ("Nestorian")
- Council of Chalcedon (451): Pope Leo's "Tome" wins the day
 - Rejection of extreme Alexandrian Christology: monophysite (one nature)
 - Second permanent schism: Oriental Orthodox (Egypt, Armenia, W. Syria)
 - Emperors try to compromise with monophysites to win them back

Late 5th century: Barbarian Invasions (Germanic tribes)

- Fall of Roman Empire in West
 - Vandals to N. Africa, Visigoths to Spain, Franks to Gaul, Lombards to Italy, Angles & Saxons to Britain
 - 476: barbarians depose last western Roman Emperor in West
 - Beginning of Middle Ages
- Empire continues on in East: Byzantine Empire (until 1453)

Continuing Christological controversies

- 553: 5th Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II)
 - Emperor Justinian sought compromise with monophysites: failed
- Monothelism: last attempt to win over monophysites
 - Christ has two natures but one will: a divine will
 - Pope Honorius supports this theological compromise
- Need to win over monophysites ends with Moslem invasions
 - Took Jerusalem & Antioch in 637, Alexandria in 642
 - Only Rome and Constantinople left as great patriarchal sees
- 680: 6th Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III)
 - Monothelism was condemned: as was Pope Honorius

Iconoclast Controversy in East (717-842)

- Eastern monks were strongly devoted to use of icons: iconodules
- 717: Constantinople was besieged by Muslims
 - Emperor Leo III believed God was angry over sin of idolatry
 - Leo orders destruction of all sacred images of Christ and saints: iconoclasm
- Papacy & West react strongly against iconoclasm
 - 780: Empress Irene reverses iconoclast policies of her predecessors
 - Opens negotiations with Pope Hadrian I (772-95) for a Council

787: 7th Ecumenical Council (Nicea II)
Affirmed icons: *latría* (worship) vs. *dulia* (veneration)
Mistranslation of decrees caused rejection of Nicea II by Charlemagne

Popes Turn to the North: Franks

Popes supported rise of the Carolingian dynasty
750: Lombards threatened conquest of Rome
Pope Stephen appeals to king of Franks: Pepin
756: Pepin defeats Lombards in central Italy
Donates whole area to the popes: Papal States
Pope Stephen anoints Pepin and sons as “patrons of Rome”
Forged “Donation of Constantine” appears at this time
Constantine purportedly conferred on Pope Sylvester (d. 335) dominion over Rome & central Italy:
thought genuine until 15th century

Charlemagne becomes King of Franks (771-814)
Ambitious monarch: ruled Church & state (like Constantine)
Christmas Day, 800: Charlemagne crowned as “Emperor”
During mass at St. Peter’s, Pope places imperial crown on him
Roots of Holy Roman Empire (Germany)
Emperor in Constantinople protested this “usurpation” of imperial title
Decisive turn of Western Church away from East to North
Filioque (“and the Son”) controversy
Church in Spain (circa 550) added this clause to Nicene Creed
Spread to Charlemagne’s realms; he promoted it
Greeks objected to this addition to ancient creed

East-West Tensions

Photian Schism (867-879)
Byzantine Emperor deposes Patriarch of Constantinople: Ignatius
Replaces him with a brilliant layman: Photius
Pope Nicholas deposes and excommunicates Photius
867: Photius presides over Eastern synod that returns the favor
Attacked *Filioque* (“and the Son”) as a Western heresy
Also differences over Eucharistic bread, marriage of clergy, confirmation

Constantinople IV (869): the 8th Ecumenical Council
Convoked by Byzantine Emperor (Basil I) and Pope (Hadrian II)
Attended by 103 bishops, most aligned with Rome: papal delegates preside
Photius is deposed, Ignatius is reinstated
Catholic Church considers this the 8th Ecumenical Council (of 21)
879: Byzantine Emperor calls another council at Constantinople
Previous council annulled, Photius reinstated
Orthodox Church considers this the true Constantinople IV
But not an ecumenical Council, since West did not participate

800-950: invasion of Europe from three sides
Charlemagne’s empire crumbled after his death in 814
Vikings from north, Magyars from east, Muslims from south: “Dark Ages”
Sacking and burning of towns and monasteries: feudalism
These “Norsemen” (Normans) settled in N. France: later took S. Italy & Sicily
Papacy fell into hands of aristocratic Roman families
Ambition, greed, murder: 850-1000 as darkest period in papal history

9th century: spread of Slavic peoples into Eastern Europe

Migrated from the Russian steppe

863: Prince Rostislav of Moravia seeks missionaries

Both Rome & Constantinople eager to win allegiance of Slavs

Cyril & Methodius from Constantinople went to Moravia and Bulgaria

Created Cyrillic alphabet and Slavonic form of the liturgy

Opposed by Western missionaries from Germany

Beginning of Gregorian Reform of papacy & Church

962: Otto the Great revives empire of Charlemagne

Crowned as Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John XII in Rome

Otto and his successors took strong role in running the Church

966: King Mieszko I of Poland baptized by western missionaries

988: Czar Vladimir I of Russia baptized by Byzantine missionaries

Holy Roman Emperor Henry III appoints Pope Leo IX (1049-54)

To end period of three rival popes in Rome

Leo gathered key reformers: Hildebrand (later Pope Gregory VII), cardinal Humbert, Peter Damian

Against simony, lay investiture, and clerical concubinage

Centralization of power in the pope

1054: the Great Eastern Schism

Patriarch of Constantinople: Michael Cerularius

He was very anti-western and anti-papal

Denounced Latin customs: *Filioque*, unleavened bread, celibacy

Pope Leo sends cardinal Humbert to Constantinople

Humbert was hot-tempered and anti-Greek

1054: he placed a bull of excommunication on altar

Greek synod countered with its own bull of excommunication

Simply the latest in long history of growing apart of East & West

Roman Catholicism in the West and Orthodoxy in the East

There would be later attempts at reconciliation

Sack of Constantinople by crusaders in 1204 ended most hopes of reunion

Towards a Papal Monarchy

1058: papal controversy in Rome

Anti-reform Roman nobility elect one of their own: Pope Benedict X

Reformers (Damian, Humbert, Hildebrand) flee from Rome to Siena

They elect one of their own, a Frenchman, as Nicholas II

With help of German Emperor he is installed in Rome as the true pope

1059: papal election decree

Pope Nicholas wanted to reduce secular rulers' role in papal elections

Roman synod of 1059 decreed papal election must be by "cardinal" bishops

Bishops from key or "hinge" (Latin *cardo*) dioceses around Rome

Pope Gregory VII (1073-85)

Most tumultuous pontificate in history

The Gregorian reform movement takes its name from him

Determined to free the church from lay control

Exalted view of papacy: leads to "papal monarchy"

Dictatus Papae: 27 propositions written by Gregory

Traditional papal claims mixed with radical new ones

"The Roman church has never erred, and will never err"

"The pope can depose emperors"

He tended to see bishops as his subjects rather than co-workers

1075: Pope Gregory formally condemns lay investiture as sinful
 Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV defies this
 Gregory rebukes him: threatens excommunication & deposition
 Henry seeks Gregory's mercy at Canossa
 Jan. 1077: Henry kneels 3 days in snow begging absolution
 Gregory eventually gives in and absolves him
 Seeming victory of papacy over emperor: but things would soon change
 1084: Henry invades Rome & installs anti-pope Clement
 Gregory was rescued by the Normans of southern Italy
 Yet they subjected Rome to worst sack ever
 Gregory died in bitter exile in Salerno
 Concordat of Worms (1122): compromise solution on investiture
 1123: Pope Callistus calls 1st Lateran Council (approved Concordat)
 1139: 2nd Lateran Council decrees against married clergy

The Crusades

Holy Land as key pilgrimage destination for Christians
 Arabs took Jerusalem and Holy Land in 638 AD
 Allowed safe passage for Christian pilgrims: for a fee
 Rise of Seljuk Turks in 10th century: from central Asia
 More belligerent, less accepting of Christian pilgrims
 Expansion: threatened Constantinople itself by 1090
 1094: Byzantine Emperor Alexius appeals to Pope Urban II
 He simply wanted help in pushing back the Seljuk Turks
 Pope wanted to recover Holy Land for Christendom

Synod of Clermont (France), November, 1095
 Pope Urban II preaches the First Crusade
Deus volt ("God wills it"): OT notion of "Holy War"
 Nobles should give up inner strife, turn against "infidels"
 Complete remission of sins for death in battle: "indulgence"
 Popular preachers spread Crusade idea all over Europe
 Sad stories of fervent Christians persecuting and killing Jews

Knights from France & Germany took lead: 3000
 Arrived in Constantinople in 1096: took Antioch and Edessa
 Siege of Jerusalem (1099): defenders & civilians were massacred
 Jews and Moslems were slaughtered, women raped
 Victors set up "Crusader kingdoms"
 1st Crusade was the only one that was a "success"

1144: Edessa was retaken by the sultan of Aleppo
 Preachers stirred Europe to respond: Bernard of Clairvaux
 2nd Crusade: led by Louis VII (France) & Conrad III (Germany)
 Repeatedly defeated by the Turks, accomplished little
 1187: Jerusalem fell to Saladin of Egypt
 3rd Crusade: led by kings of Germany, England, and France
 Accomplished little

1204: Pope Innocent III calls the 4th Crusade
 Goal to attack Saladin's headquarters in Egypt
 Venetian fleet redirected crusaders to Constantinople
 To settle disputed imperial throne (for money)
 Pope Innocent III was furious over this change of plans
 Crusaders attacked Constantinople, pillaged city and churches

Set up Latin kingdom there and Latin patriarchate
For the East this whole scenario only deepened their animosity
1261: Byzantines retook control of Constantinople

By 1270 the Crusading impulse had run its course

Focus turned to reconquest of Spain from Moors
And stamping out heresy in southern France: Albigensians
1232: Pope Gregory IX establishes Papal Inquisition
Negative effects and consequences of Crusades
Created crusading mindset toward “infidels”
Cost countless innocent lives: all “in the name of God”
Caused hopeless rift between Eastern and Western Church
“Positive” effects and consequences
Sign of Western Europe’s recovery from the “Dark Ages”
Enhanced papal prestige: able to rally Europe to common cause
Expanded narrow medieval horizons of Europeans
Moslem scholars preserved ancient Greek philosophy, science, math
Works of Aristotle would influence Scholastic theology (Aquinas)

Revival in the West: High Middle Ages

Economic & cultural revival (1100-1300)

Growth of cities: result of increased commerce
Kings of France and England emerge stronger
Hereditary monarchies: divine right of kings (theocratic)
Spain and Low Countries (Belgium, Holland) strengthen
Great Gothic cathedrals become urban centers
Rise of mendicant (“begging”) orders: urban monasticism
Preaching and living the gospel in the world of the city
Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians
Beginnings of modern vernacular languages (French, Italian, etc.)

Education

Monastic centers of learning give way to urban centers
Cathedral schools
Universities: Paris, Oxford, Bologna
Revival of Greek learning: Aristotle on natural science
Scholastic integration of Greek learning & Christian theology
Anselm of Canterbury, Thomas Aquinas
Pope Alexander III (1159-1181): first great lawyer pope
Called 3rd Lateran Council in 1179: 2/3’s majority for papal elections
St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226): founder of Franciscans
St. Dominic (1170-1221): founder of Dominicans
Helped battle Albigensian heresy in southern France

Pope Innocent III (1198-1216)

The greatest of the Medieval Popes
1198: unanimously elected Pope at age 37 (Innocent III)
He was a man born to rule: excellent intellect, character, insight
Reorganized the Papal States
Streamlined the papal curia: administrative detail, canon lawyers
Very aware of the prestige of his office: exalted view
First pope to use title “Vicar of Christ” in an official way
Declared Magna Carta void: extorted from the king by barons
His biggest mistake was the 4th Crusade (1204)

Called 4th Lateran Council in 1215: greatest Medieval council
400 bishops, 800 abbots, lay leaders from all over Europe
Definition of eucharist in terms of “transubstantiation”
Condemnation of various heresies: secular power to enforce
Required all adult Christians to confess sins to priest once a year

Highpoint of Medieval theology: Scholasticism

“Scholastic” = from the schools (universities)

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109): monk, bishop of Canterbury
Cur Deus Homo? Satisfaction theory of Christ’s atonement
Theology as “faith seeking understanding”

Peter Lombard (1100-1160): Italian theologian taught in Paris
Sentences: 4-volume overview of Christian doctrine
Clearly defined the number of sacraments as seven

Thomas Aquinas, OP (1225-1274): the Angelic Doctor
Summa Contra Gentiles and *Summa Theologiae*
His integration of Aristotelian thought made him suspect

1272: 2nd Council of Lyons (14th Ecumenical)

Reunion with East: but rejected by people in East

13th century: France emerges as new protector of papacy

Growing sense in Europe of papacy as worldly and corrupt
Just like other political entities

1292: papal conclave was deadlocked for two years

Finally cardinals elected a holy hermit as pope: Celestine V (1294)
But he was illiterate, old, and inept: 6 months after election resigned
After consulting a canon lawyer cardinal: Benedetto Caetani

1294: Caetani was elected as Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303)

One of the most famous and tumultuous pontificates in history
He was a hard-headed lawyer, ambitious, autocratic, unscrupulous
A cloud hung over his pontificate

Did he advise Pope Celestine to resign so that he could be pope?
Boniface’s critics began a propaganda campaign against him

Boniface’s conflict with King Philip IV (“Fair”) of France

England and France were on verge of war: 100 Years War (1337-1453)
Philip taxed the French clergy to help pay his armies

1297: Philip imprisoned a French bishop, demanded deposition
Boniface was outraged at this meddling in church affairs

French court joins propaganda campaign against Boniface

1302: Boniface releases bull *Unam Sanctum*

No names were mentioned, but “everyone subject to Roman pontiff”
Veiled threat of excommunication and deposition of Philip

Philip draws up long list of trumped-up charges against Boniface
Insinuated Boniface imprisoned and killed Celestine V

Armed men broke into papal palace, struck pope

The Romans came to Boniface’s rescue, drove out the intruders
Moment of humiliation for papacy which began 13th century with Innocent