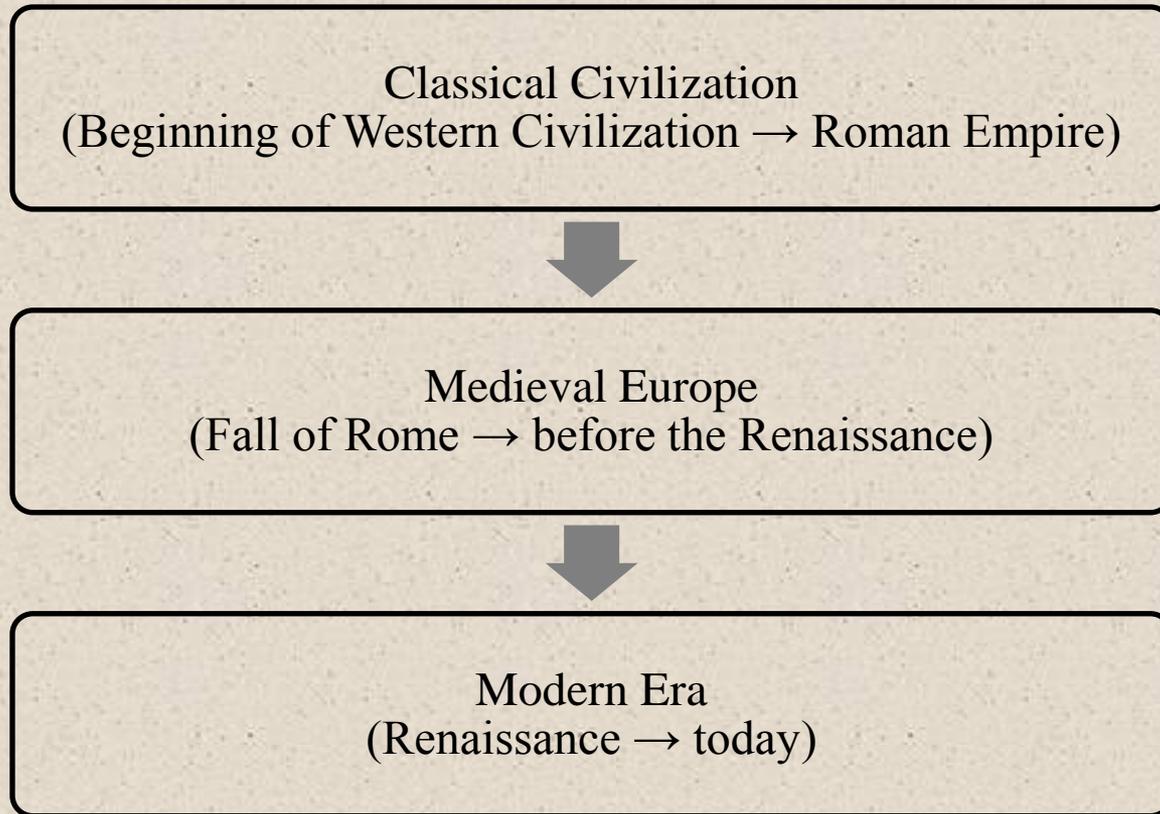


Medieval Europe



Defining the Medieval Period



The era in European history from about C.E. 500 to 1300 is known as the **Medieval Period**, **The Middle Ages**, or the **Dark Ages**.

Fall of Rome

Invasions from all sides!

- Germanic tribes settled across much of Europe and conquered the city of Rome
- Viking warriors attacked from the north and caused great destruction to parts of Europe.
- The **Muslim empire** spread across North Africa and into Spain.

The Middle Ages Begin

These invasions brought about the destruction of the Roman Empire and with it the stability of Europe

- This also led to a decline in the pursuit of the arts, philosophy, and technological advances**

Why?

People were more concerned about survival than education and art.

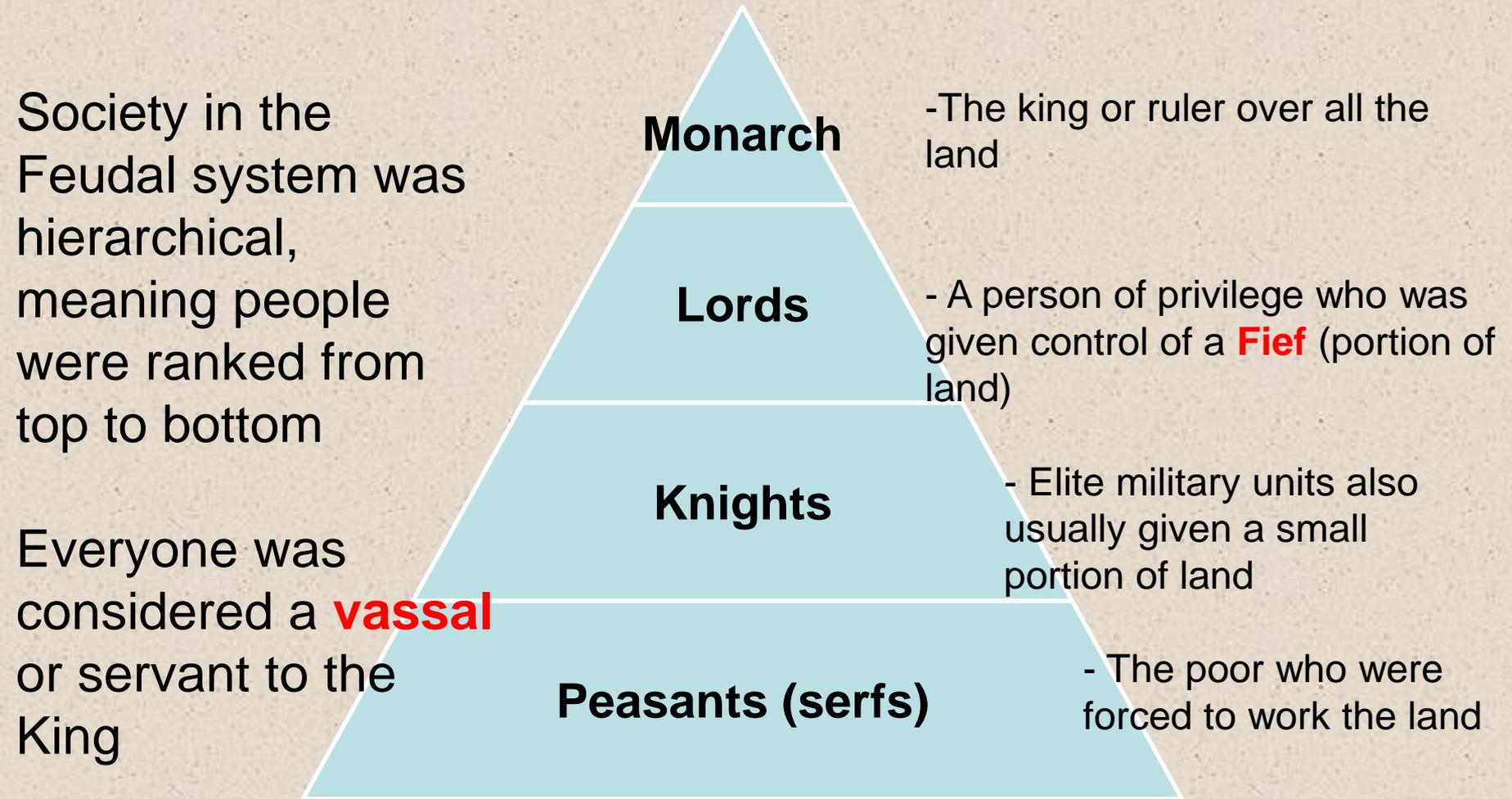
This decrease in European Culture is the reason this time period is often referred to as the **Dark Ages**

Feudalism

- **Political system where powerful nobles, or Kings divided their landholdings among lesser lords and knights.**
- **Serfs (or peasants), worked the land, and gave the lord a portion of the harvest in exchange for shelter and protection.**

Roles in Feudal Society

- **Everyone had a defined role in Feudal Society**



Knights

- Elite military soldiers
- Usually from the noble classes

Age	Stage of Training
7	Page - Personal servant to a knight. Receive basic lessons on horsemanship and fighting
14	Squire - Successful Pages would be trained with swords and other weapons and even assist knights on the battle field
21	Knighthood - could be granted upon completion of training or for a particular act of bravery



Statue of a medieval knight

Chivalry

- Knights were expected to follow a strict code of conduct called **Chivalry**
- This required them to be loyal to their lords, fight with honor, treat all with justice, and act politely towards women.



Manorialism

- **Manorial System**

- The economic portion of feudal society where the people's lives were centered around their lord's **Manor** (land)

- In the manorial system **peasants** (also called **serfs**) were dependent on the land and their lords for their survival

- In turn however, Lords were also dependent on the labor and support of their populace

Rise of the Germanic Peoples



Invasion of the Goths into the Roman Empire,
a 19th-century painting

- Ostrogoths:
Italian peninsula
- Visigoths:
modern-day Spain
- Angles and
Saxons: modern-
day Britain
- Franks:
central Europe

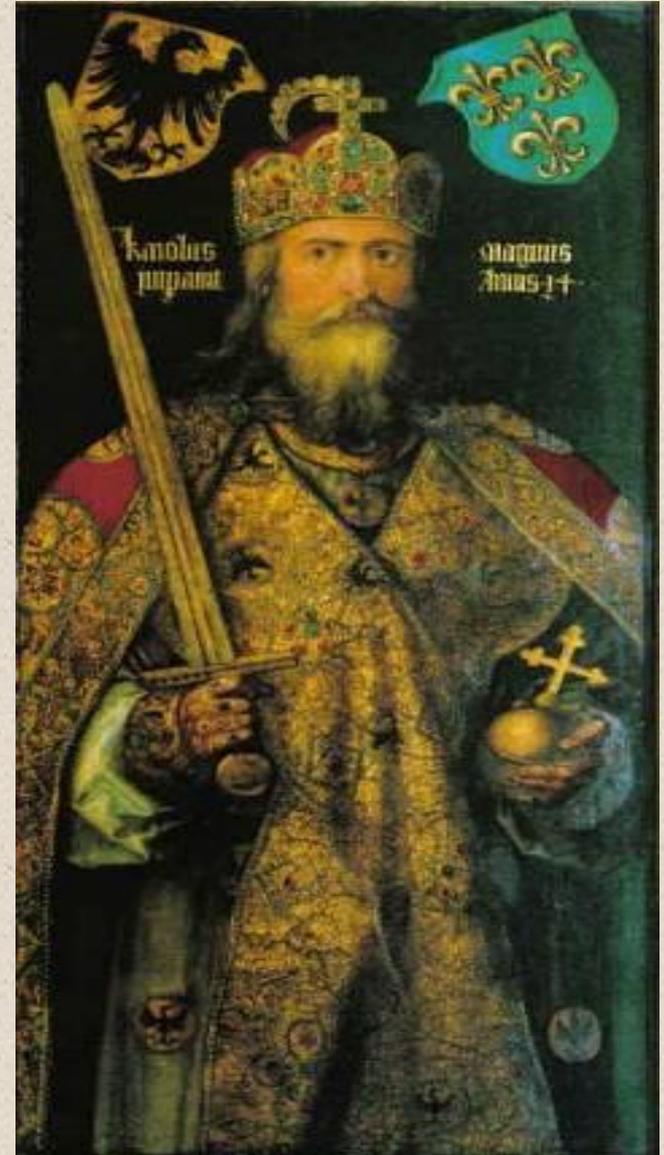
**Frankish
Kingdom
768**



Charlemagne (742–814)

(Charles the Great)

- Powerful leader, strong Christian
- Founded the **Carolingian Empire**
- Crowned by Pope Leo III as the first **Holy Roman Emperor**
- This united the Roman, Christian, and Germanic Traditions into one European Civilization



Conquests of Charlemagne 768 - 805

Frankish
Kingdom



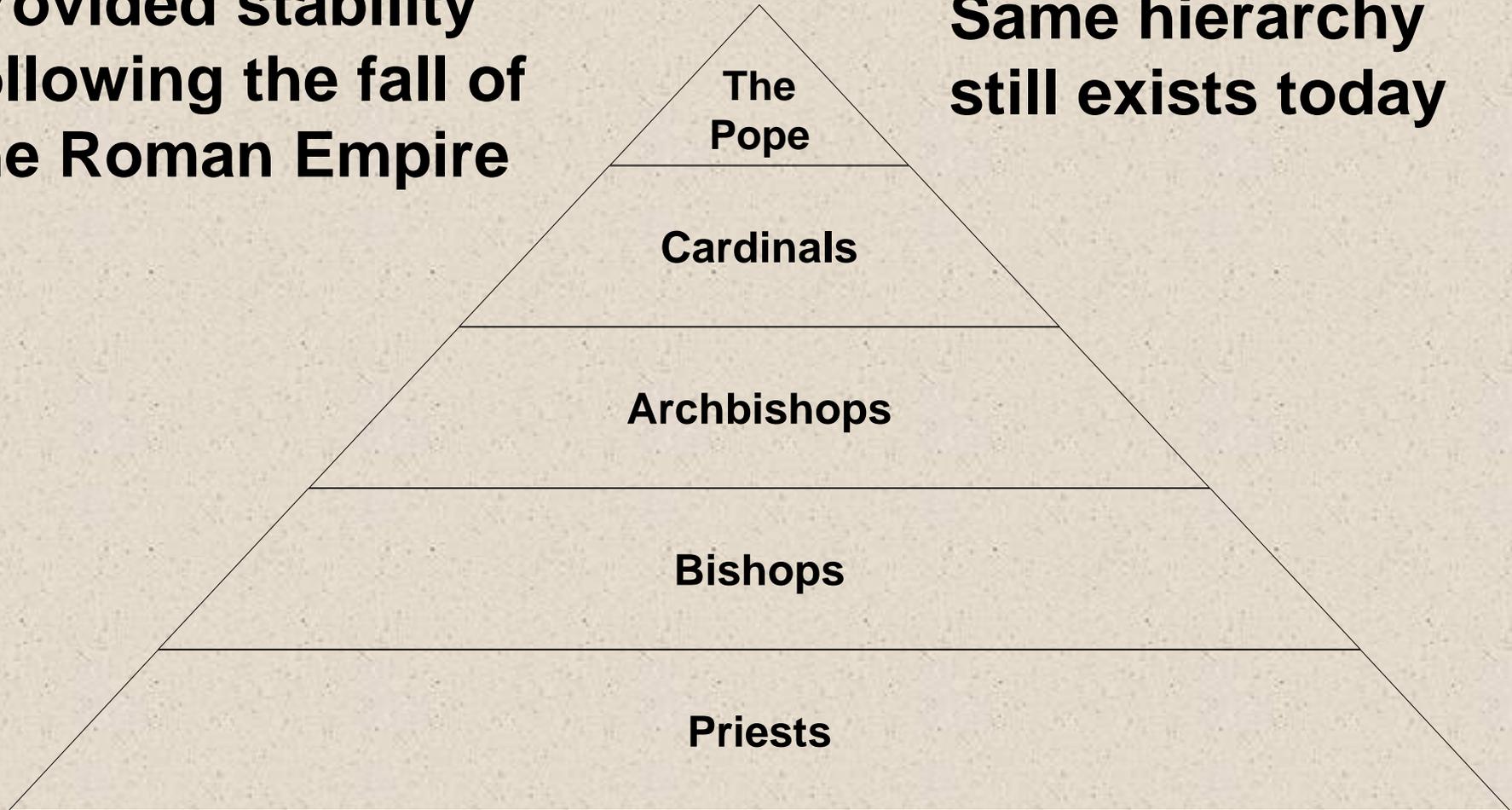
Medieval Religion

- The **Roman Catholic Church** governed the spiritual and daily lives of medieval Christians.
- The **Pope (head of the Roman Catholic Church)** had authority over rulers and sometimes even appointed them.
- The **clergy, or church leaders** were often the only educated people in medieval Europe.

Catholic Church Hierarchy

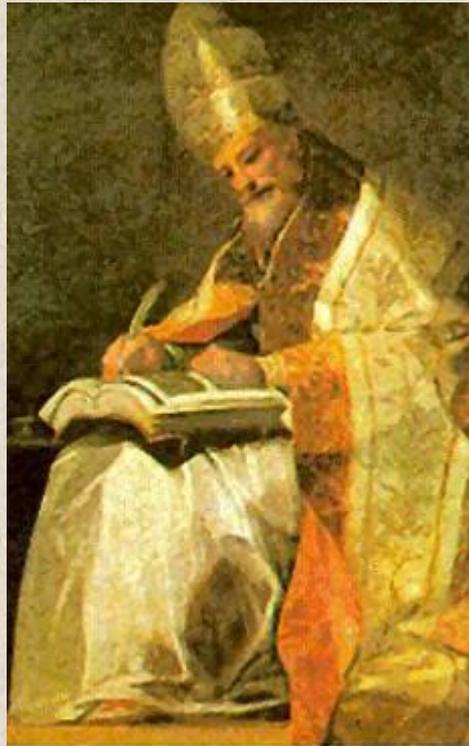
**Provided stability
following the fall of
the Roman Empire**

**Same hierarchy
still exists today**



The Catholic Church Expands Its Power

- The Church became a more political entity
- Struggles with monarchs
 - Investiture Controversy
 - Pope Gregory VII vs. Henry IV
- Expanded land ownership

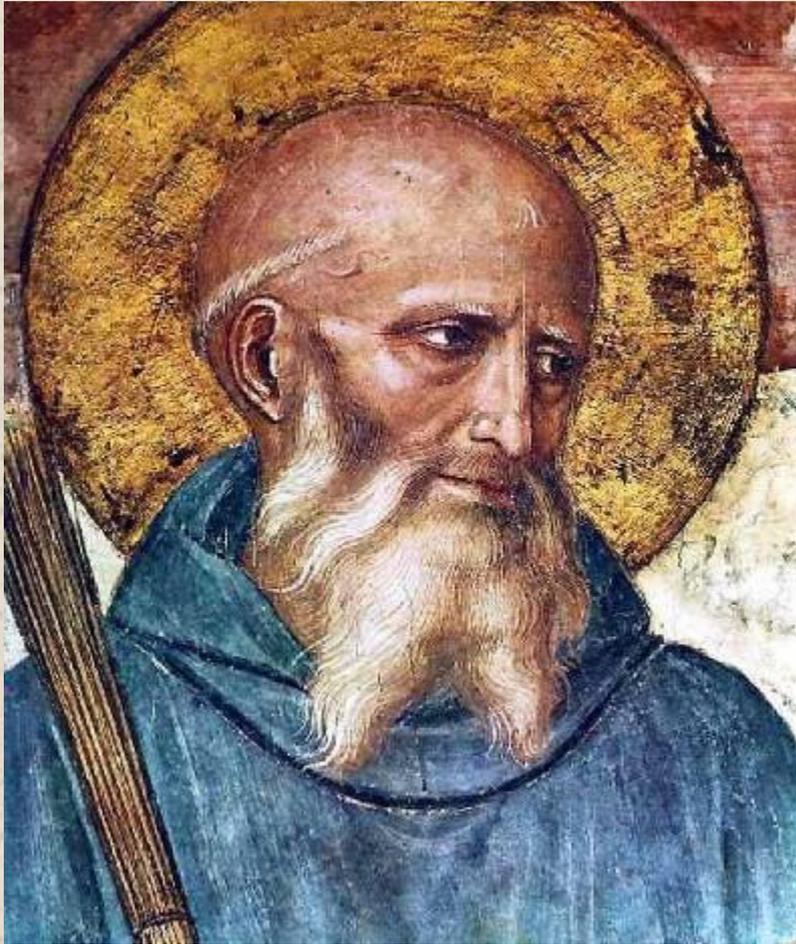


Pope Gregory VII



Henry IV of
Germany

The Monastic Movement

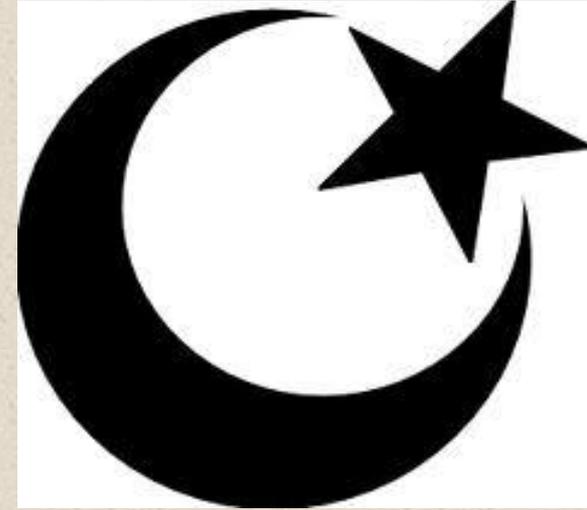


St. Benedict

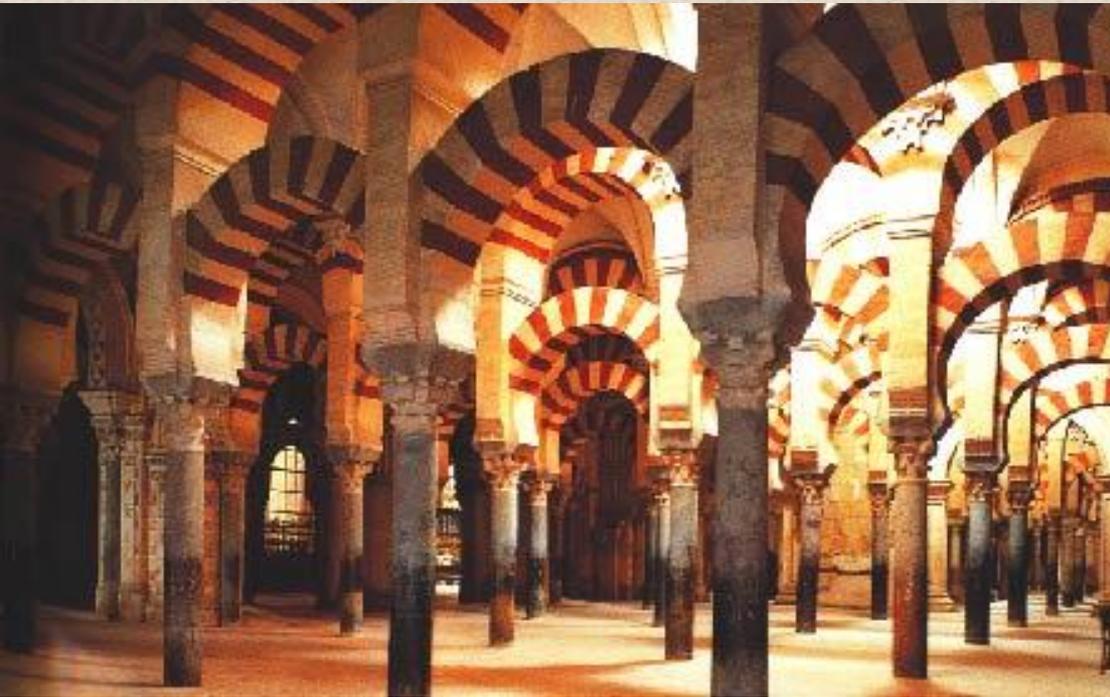
- Became popular in the fifth century
- A reaction against the increasing “worldliness” of the Church
- **Monasteries**: secluded religious communities
- **Benedictine monasticism**: vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience

Islam

- Christianity wasn't the only religion in Europe during the Middle Ages
- Another Religion Called **Islam** began spreading around 600 C.E.
- **Muslims** (followers of Islamic faith) believe a Prophet named **Muhammad** established the true religion of god (**Allah**) and wrote these ideas in a book of scripture called the **Qur'an**



Islam in Europe

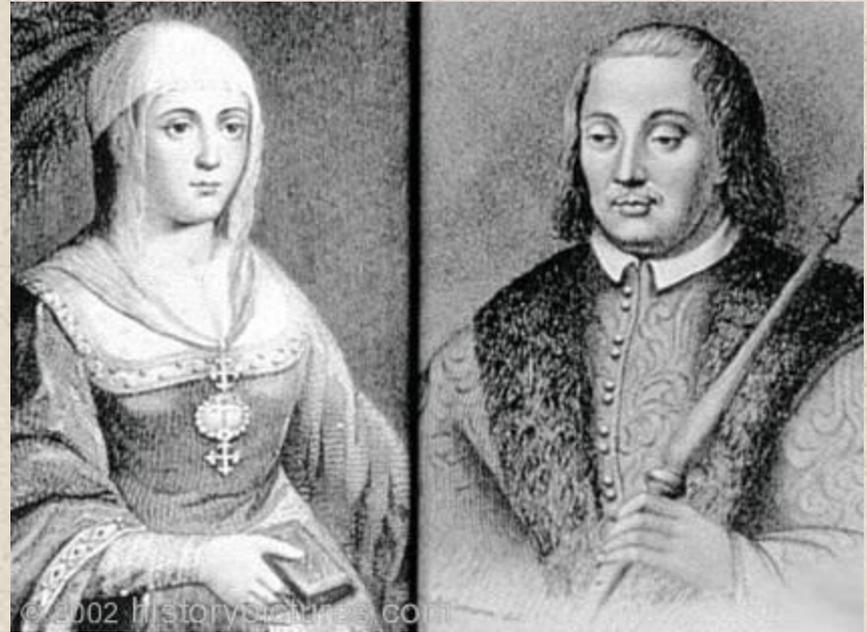


Inside the Great Mosque of Córdoba

- Muslim forces took control of Spain in the early eighth century
- Brought with them Innovations in agriculture, architecture, math, and science

The *Reconquista* of Spain

- Muslims ruled the Iberian Peninsula for nearly 800 years (Al-Andalus)
- ***Reconquista***: Struggle between Christians and Muslims to control Spain 718–1492



Isabella and Ferdinand

King Ferdinand of Aragon and **Isabella** of Castile re-conquered the area establishing modern day Spain

The Crusades

(1095–1291 C.E.)

- Military Campaign led by the Roman Catholic Church to take back the Holy Land (Jerusalem) from the Muslims



Goals of the Crusades

- Regain control of the Holy Land
- Convert non-believers
- Eliminate **heretics** (those practicing false beliefs)

Pope Urban II

- Gave speech in 1095
 - Promised spiritual rewards for liberating the Holy Land from Muslims
 - Offered **indulgences** or forgiveness of sins for those who went
 - Thousands responded to the call for religious warriors



Pope Urban II calling for the Crusades

Key to Crusades

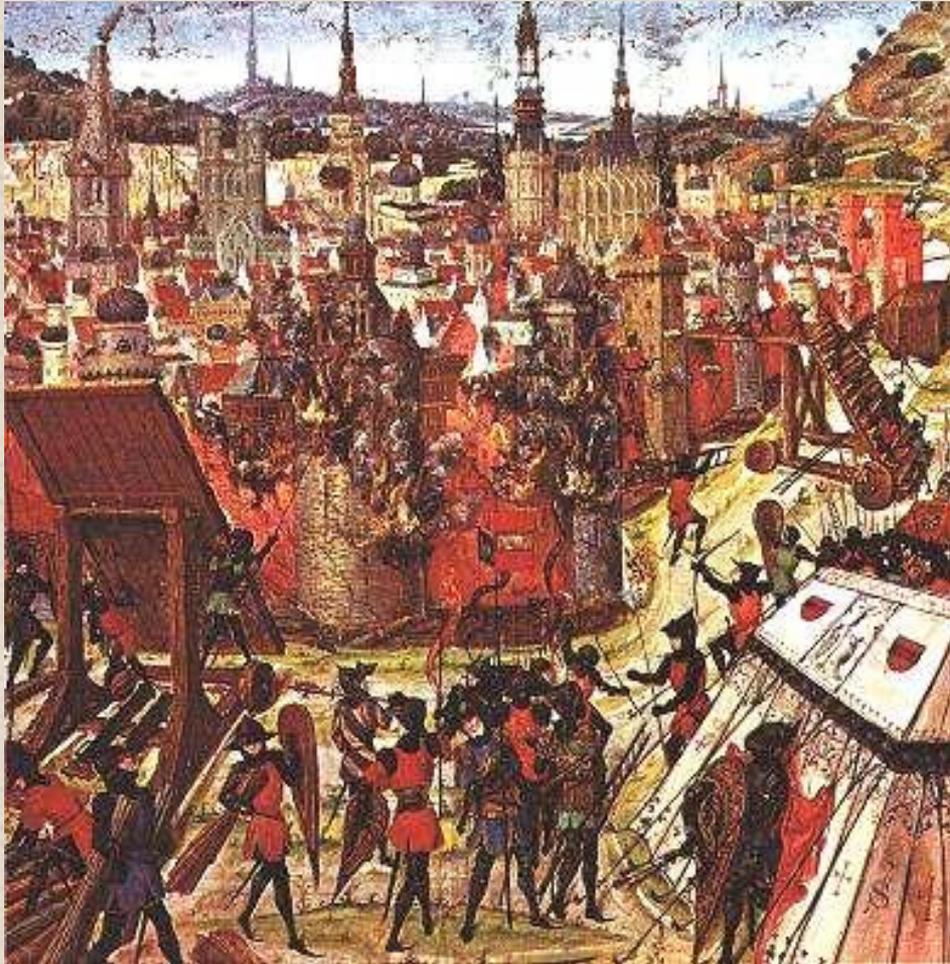
- First 1095-1099
- Second 1147-1149
- Third 1189-1192
- - - Fourth 1202-1204



the CRUSADES

1095-1289

Failure of the Crusades



A depiction of the capture of Jerusalem by crusaders

- Europeans Captured Jerusalem in 1099
- Jerusalem was re-taken by Muslim forces under Saladin in 1187
- The Christians would never regain control of Jerusalem

Results of the Crusades

- Increased Religious Tension which still effects relations between east and west today
- Increased European contact with other civilizations
- Opened trade routes between Europe, Africa, the Middle East and China

The Growth of Cities

- While the Crusades were widely considered a failure in Europe it did allow for the growth of some European cities as centers of trade
- This growth had three major effects:
 1. It created a new middle class, a social class between the rich nobility and poor serfs
 2. It ended **barter** and revived a money economy
 3. It contributed to the eventual breakdown of the feudal system

The Late Middle Ages

The Rise of Monarchs

- Europe's growing wealth also increased the power of monarchs.
- Monarchs, Supreme rulers over a state or territory,
- They sometimes clashed with each other and with their nobles.
- In 1215, England's King John was forced by his nobles to sign a document, the Magna Carta, granting Church, Lords, and even Peasants legal rights.
- **The Magna Carta would become the foundation for American ideas of liberty and justice.**

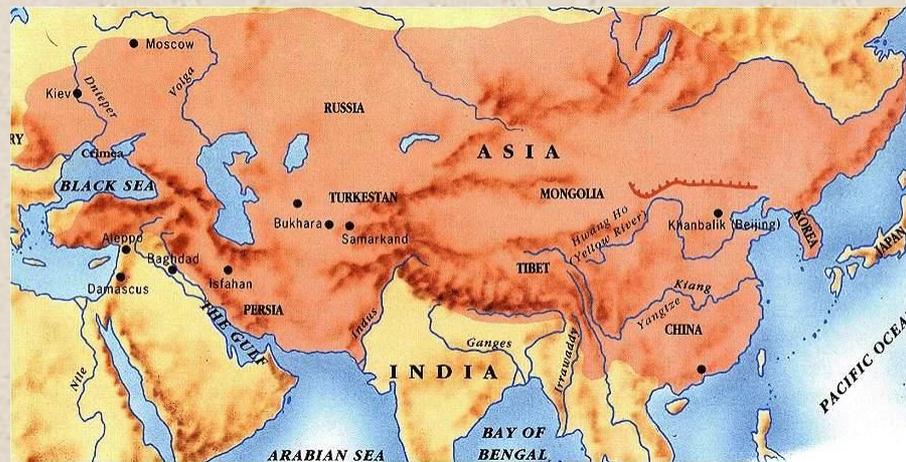
Rise of the Mongols

- A **nomadic** people from the steppes of eastern central Asia
- They united under the leadership of **Temujin** later known as **Chinggis Khan** which means “Universal Ruler”



Mongols

The Mongols made no technological breakthroughs, founded no new religions, wrote few books or dramas



Then why are they historically significant?

The Mongols established the largest empire of continuous land the world has ever known

The Mongols and Eurasian Empire

- Their control stretched from Poland to China encompassing 13.8 million square miles and 100 million people
- The Mongol Empire would have far reaching effects on the world



Chinggis/Genghis Khan

Impact of the Mongols

- **The Mongols created a single economic and cultural world system**
 - **Mongols encouraged trade and travel from Venice to Beijing and beyond**
 - **They pioneered new methods of warfare**
 - **Caused different cultures to spread and change as they brought their own to the newly conquered lands**
 - **Altered the political histories of Russia, China, Europe**



- The new found spread of people, trade, and culture also brought with it a spread of disease
- By 1300 C.E. a **plague** which started on the steppes of central Asia found its way to Europe.



The Black Death

- In the 1300s, the bubonic plague, carried by fleas and rats, destroyed one third of Europe's population.
- From the devastation came a loss of religious faith and doubts about the Church.
- However it also brought with it a revival of science and philosophy as Europeans struggled to cope with the plague



End of the Middle Ages

Ironically the Black Death helps to bring about the end of the Dark Ages

- Europeans began looking to science and technology to help explain the plague
- This, combined with increasing wealth of the middle classes caused a renewed interest in classic Greco-Roman art and literature
- **The era of rapid change in art, culture, and technology which follows is known as the Renaissance**





The Renaissance

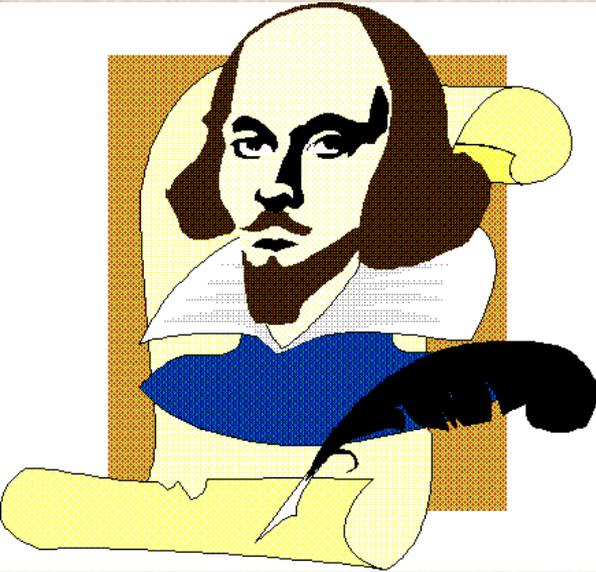
The Renaissance

The Renaissance- an era of enormous creativity and rapid change in art, culture, and technology

It began in Italy in the 1300s and reached its height in the 1500s.



The Pursuit of Learning:



- The Renaissance period produced many great figures of Western civilization: Michelangelo, Da Vinci, and Shakespeare.
- European thinkers began using reason and experimentation to understand the world rather than relying on religion.

Key Events of The Renaissance

- By the late 1500s, the Renaissance had spread to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, England, and Germany.

The Printing Press

- German Johann Gutenberg produced a Bible made on a **printing press** in 1455.
- This invention meant books could be mass produced, rather than copied by hand; increase the rate at which information spread.

The Reformation

- The **Reformation**, a revolt led by Martin Luther, declared that the Bible, not the Church, was the true authority from God.
- Luther's followers called themselves Protestants, because they protested Church authority.

The Renaissance—Sea Travel

- Instruments developed by Renaissance scientists made long-range sea travel possible.
 - Compass: used to determine direction
 - Astrolabe and quadrant: used to determine approximate location



- **Prince Henry of Portugal**, later called **Prince Henry the Navigator**, established a mariners' school in Portugal.



- His seamen developed the **caravel**, a ship that could sail against the wind as well as with it.
- Portuguese mariner Vasco da Gama sailed from Portugal to India, opening the first sea route from Europe to Asia.
- Spain became determined to surpass Portugal in the race to explore new sea routes and to bring Christianity to new lands.

West Africans and Europeans Meet

- Europeans had been trading with **North Africans** since ancient times.
- The **North Africans** traded gold which came from their West African trading partners.
- Europeans decided to bypass the **North Africans** and go straight to the West Africans for gold.
- In West Africa, the Europeans found a new source of wealth, Slaves.

Slavery in Africa

- Europeans placed a high value on land because it was so **scarce** (in short supply) in Europe.
- Because land was plentiful in Africa, Africans valued labor more than land.
- The power of African leaders was judged by how many people they ruled, rather than how much land they controlled.

- Slaves provided the labor needed to work the land, and also became valuable as items of trade.



- Slaves in Africa tended to be people who had been captured in war, orphans, criminals, and other rejects of society.

Marco Polo

- **Born and raised in Venice Italy**
 - **Son of wealthy merchants**
 - **In 1271 when he was 17 he accompanied his father on a trading journey to the East Asian land of Cathay, or present day China**
 - **Traveled on Camels**
 - **Took 3 ½ years to cross 7,000 miles of Central Asian mountains and deserts**
 - **Finally reached Cathay's ruler, called the Khan**

Marco Polo

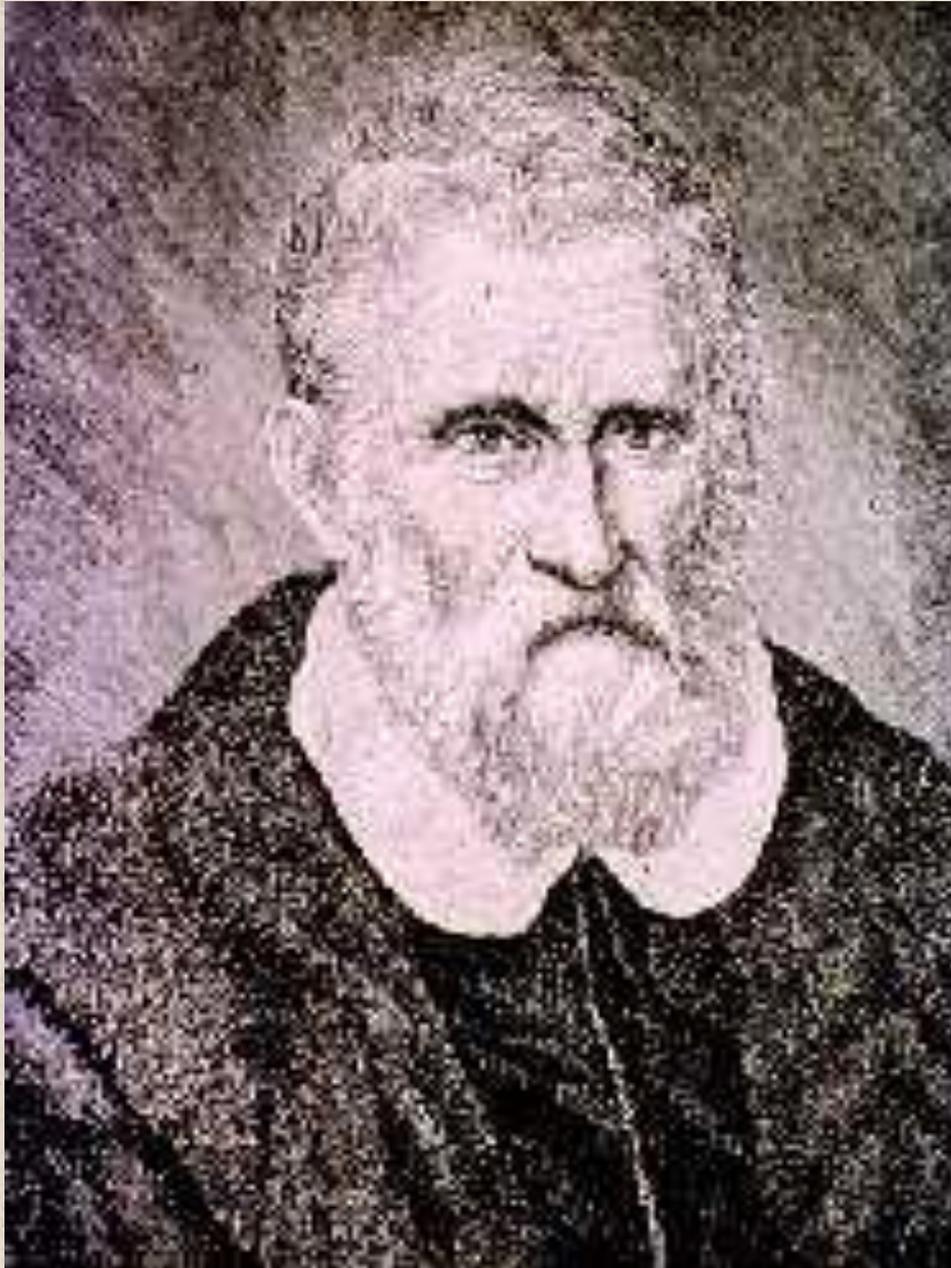
- **Marco Polo spent 17 years in service to the Khan**
 - **He saw and learned many things about the East Asian culture**
 - **The Cathy had a very advanced culture**
 - **They read printed books**
 - **Used paper money**
 - **Had city fire departments**
 - **They had large, well organized cities with canals, orderly road systems and hot water**

Marco Polo

- **In 1295, Polo returned to Italy and told others about the riches of Cathay**
 - **He reported that there were more than 7,000 islands in the Sea of China that he called the “Indies”**
 - **He talked of incredible “black stones” – or coal – that fueled fires**
 - **Claimed they had Rubies the size of a man’s arm**

Marco Polo

- **Marco Polo received much criticism for his tails**
 - **However many people read his book, *“Description of the World”***
- **It sparked a curiosity in Europeans about the world beyond their city walls**
- **This lead to a renewed interest in learning and knowledge called the Renaissance**



Marco Polo

Marco Polo's Geography

- **150 years after Marco Polo's death, Christopher Columbus read Polo's *Description of the World*.**
- **Many scholars still didn't take Polo seriously**
- **Columbus believed every word he read**

Christopher Columbus

- Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451.
- His father was a merchant.
- His mother was the daughter of a wool weaver.



Christopher
Columbus

- **Columbus was especially interested in the islands of Cipango**
- **Cipango is actually present day Japan**
 - **Polo claimed that Cipango lay some 1,500 miles off the eastern shore of Asia**
 - **The islands of Japan are actually less than 500 miles from the coast of Asia**

- After spending some time as a mapmaker and a trader, he traveled to Portugal for **navigator** training.
- A **navigator** is someone who uses maps and the stars to judge location and direction
- He honed his navigational skills on journeys to Iceland, Ireland, and West Africa.

- Columbus was ambitious and stubborn.
- He was also highly religious and believed that God had given him a heroic mission:
to seek a westward sea route to the
“Indies,” meaning China, India, and other
Asian lands.

A Daring Expedition

- ⊕ In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain granted Columbus the title of noble and agreed to sponsor his journey.



Queen
Isabella
and
King
Ferdinand

⊕ Spanish nobles and clergy wanted his mission to succeed for several reasons:

1. The people of any new non-Christian lands would be ripe for conversion to Catholicism.
2. Wealthy merchants and royalty wanted a direct trade route that bypassed the existing Muslim-controlled routes.
3. An easier western route to Asia would give Spanish traders an advantage over Portuguese traders.

- In 1492, Columbus set off with three ships, the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa María*.
- He had underestimated the distance of his journey.
- Two months after setting sail, he and his crew landed in the Bahamas, instead of Asia.
- Columbus had a crew of 90 men & boys.



The Voyage Across the Atlantic

- **The route that Columbus had discovered had very favorable winds that pushed the three ships westward**
 - **After about a month the men grew impatient**
 - **They had never been away from home this long**
 - **They demanded that Columbus turn back or they would mutiny**
 - **To **mutiny** is to rebel against the established authority and assume that position yourself**

Tierra! Tierra!

- **Columbus promised to sail home if they did not sight land in three days**
 - **Two days later they began to see drifting branches in the water – a sign that land was near**
 - **Columbus promised a reward to the first crew member that sighted land**



Tierra! Tierra!

- At 2 o' clock the next morning, the look out sailor on the Pinta suddenly shouted, "Tierra! Tierra!" – Land!
Land!
 - On October 12, 1492, after 70 days and 2,400 miles Columbus had found land

- Columbus named the island San Salvador “Holy Savior” and claimed it for Spain**
 - This island is today part of the Bahamas**
- Columbus believed that he had landed on one of the many islands in the Indies off the coast of mainland China as was described by Marco Polo**

Meeting With Native Americans



- **Columbus soon encountered the Taino**
 - He named these people Indians, because he thought he had reached the Indies
 - The gold jewelry that adorned the Taino intrigued Columbus
 - One of his missions on this trip was to bring back proof of the riches that could be found

A Daring Expedition

- The Native Americans welcomed Columbus and gave him gifts: parrots, cotton thread, and spears tipped with fish teeth.
- Columbus traveled to other islands and collected more gifts—often by force—including Native Americans, to present to the rulers of Spain.
- Columbus returned to Spain and was awarded the governorship of the present-day island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean.

- Columbus made four more trips to the Americas.
- When Spanish settlers complained about his governing of Hispaniola, Columbus lost his position.
- He died in 1506, never accepting that he had discovered a new continent.



Columbus's Impact

The Columbian Exchange

- Columbus's journeys launched a new era of transatlantic trade.
- The **Columbian Exchange** allowed the trade of goods, weapons, and culture between the Americas and Europe
- Unfortunately, Native Americans became exposed to Europe's most deadly diseases; they had no resistance to these germs, and many perished.

Treaty of Tordesillas

- European Catholics believed that the Pope had the authority to divide up any newly conquered non-Christian lands.
- In 1494, Portugal and Spain signed the **Treaty of Tordesillas**, under which the two countries divided all lands on Earth not already claimed by other Christians.

Africans Enslaved

- Portugal and Spain established **plantations** or large farming operations that produced **cash Crops** or crops grown primarily for sale.
- These plantations supplied the American foods, such as sugar and pineapple, that Europeans demanded.

- At first, Native Americans were kidnapped and forced to work the plantations.
- But their lack of resistance to many European diseases made them an unreliable work force.
- As a result, Europeans began bringing enslaved Africans to the Americas.



Africans Enslaved

- Europeans regarded slaves as property, and as such, many slaves were mistreated.
- Estimates of the total number of West Africans abducted and taken to North and South America range from about 9 million to more than 11 million.

