Learning Objectives:

• Be able to explain the causes of the Black Death and the short term and long term effects it had on European religion and society
• Be able to explain the political and economic causes of the Hundred Years’ War, describe its turning points, and account for its outcome
• Be able to identify factors which contributed to the changes which took place in the governments of England, France, and the German lands in the late Middle Ages
• Be able to explain the social, political, and economic reasons for the decline in the power of the Church in the fourteenth century and describe various responses to this challenge
• Be able to show the effects that social upheaval and ecclesiastical decline had on cultural attitudes and perspectives, particularly popular religion and literature, in the fourteenth century

Power Terms

• Black Death
• Yersinia pestis
• Giovanni Boccaccio
• Peasants Revolt
• Conciliarism
• Condottieri
• Great Schism
• Modern Devotion

• Mysticism
• Pogroms
• Jacquerie
• Scutage
• Third Estate
• Hundred Years War—Causes
• Hundred Years War—Course

• Hundred Years War—Effects
• Boniface VIII
• Unam Sanctam
• Nominalism
• Petrarch
• Chaucer
• Dante
• Christine De Pizan

Critical Analysis Questions

1. Discuss the causes of the Black Death and its social, political, economic, and religious effects on the culture of the High Middle Ages. Which of the effects was the most important in terms of the movement out of the Middle Ages and into the Modern Era?
2. What were the social, political and economic causes of the peasants revolts in the fourteenth century? What factors can account for the differences in the various forms they took? What specific things did they achieve?
3. What were the political and economic causes of the Hundred Years’ War? What were the stakes for the French and the English?
4. What factors caused movements toward democracy in France to fail while such efforts in England made some progress?
5. Discuss how the Golden Bull of 1356 C.E. established the independence of the Holy Roman Empire without developing the organs of the modern state.
6. What were the central causes of the Great Schism? What positive and negative effects did it have on late medieval religious life? How did the turmoil and confusion of the Great Schism alter the religious devotion of everyday Christians during this time?
7. Define mysticism. Give examples of how it entered late medieval religious life and of what effects it had on the Church and on society.
8. What did late medieval writers begin to use vernacular languages? What did Western civilization lose and what did it gain by their doing so?
Primary Source Analysis Questions

1. Examine the documents presented in Opposing Viewpoints (p. 309-310). Based on the explanations given for the plague in these passages, group the documents together into two pairs according to similarity and explain the rationale behind the grouping.

2. Using Jacob von Konigshofen’s account of “The Cremation of Strasburg Jews,” (p. 312) identify at least one specific social, economic, and religious motive which contributed to the attack upon Jews in 1349. How would you classify the chronicler’s attitude about what was done to the Jews and the motives for it?

3. Examine the excerpt from Jean Froissart’s Chronicles (p. 314). Describe Froissart’s view of the peasants, their motives, and their actions? What is his view of the nobility? Using the introduction to this passage, is there any information given which might account for Froissart’s bias or point of view? Explain.

4. Using the account of town of Limoges (p. 317), describe the treatment of civilians during the Hundred Years’ War. Identify the attitudes towards the English soldiers and French townspeople in this account. What sources of bias may account for the tone of this passage?

5. In The Poem of Joan of Arc (p. 322) What kind of language does Catherine de Pizan use to portray Joan of Arc both as a heroic soldier and the essence of womanhood? How does the 1429 date of composition account for the overall tone of the poem?

6. Summarize the claims Pope Boniface VIII made for papal authority in Unam Sanctam (p. 327). What factors might account for the extreme claims made by the Pope?

7. How does the passage you have read from Dante’s “Inferno” (p. 327) reflect the social and religious beliefs of the High Middle Ages? What elements of Dante’s masterpiece represent a break from medieval thought? In what ways might the political, cultural, and economic environment of Florence have contributed to innovations which Dante brought to literature?

8. Review the medieval legal opinions regarding women (p. 335). What seems to be primary concern regarding the rights of women? What was medieval society most keen to prevent women from obtaining?

9. Using the many paintings and illustrations throughout this chapter, group these works into five sets of three or more examples which illustrate the social, political, economic, and religious attitudes and perspectives of the High Middle Ages. Prove an explanation of the rationale for each group.