

Medieval Europe

Lesson 4 Culture and the Church

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What is the role of religion in government?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What types of learning and art developed during the Middle Ages?*
2. *How did the Catholic Church affect the lives of medieval Europeans?*

Terms to Know

theology the study of religious faith, practice, experience

scholasticism a way of thinking that combined faith and reasoning

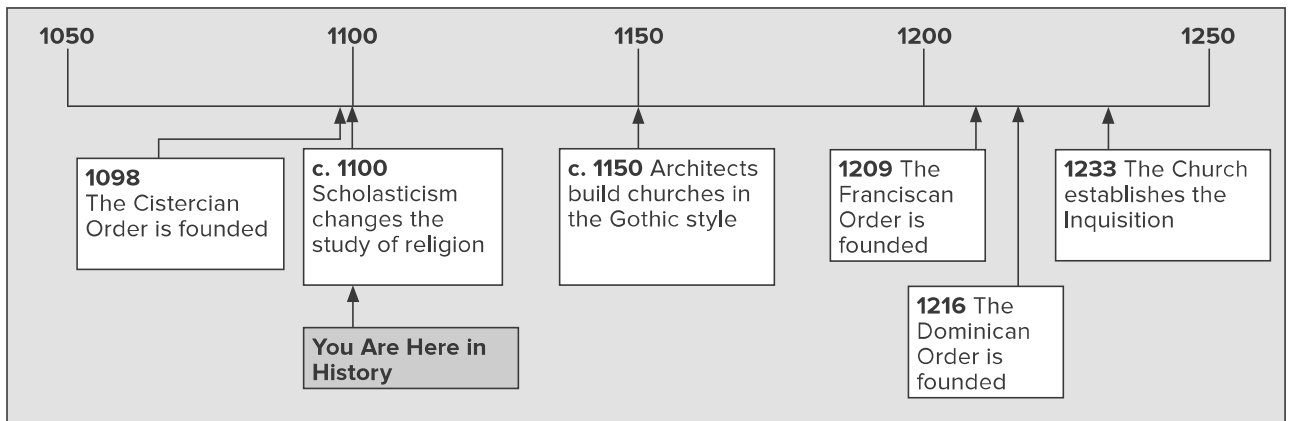
vernacular the everyday spoken language of a region

mass Catholic religious worship service

heresy ideas that go against Church teachings

anti-Semitism hatred and mistreatment of Jews

When did it happen?



What do you know?

Put a check mark (✓) next to each true statement.

- _____ 1. Romanesque churches are tall and have large stained glass windows.
- _____ 2. Universities of today trace their origins back to the Middle Ages.
- _____ 3. One popular form of vernacular literature is troubadour poetry.
- _____ 4. Friars were monks who preached and served as missionaries.
- _____ 5. In the 1100s, rulers in western Europe drove out their Jewish subjects.

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Lesson 4 Culture and the Church, *Continued*

European Culture in the Middle Ages

By the 1100s, people in medieval Europe felt safer because of stronger governments. Trade, banking, and business grew. People valued religion. Church leaders, merchants, and nobles had cathedrals, or large churches, built.

Cathedrals were built in two styles. Romanesque was a mix of Roman and Byzantine styles. These rectangular buildings had long, rounded ceilings and small windows. Gothic cathedrals, on the other hand, were tall. Large stained glass windows showed scenes from the Bible.

Universities were first created during the Middle Ages. Universities educated and trained scholars. University students studied for four to six years before taking an oral, or spoken, exam. Those who passed received a degree. A student could continue school to earn a doctor's degree. This degree could be in law, medicine, or **theology**—the study of religion and God.

Basic Degree	Doctor's Degree
Study grammar, logic, math, music, and public speaking	Study law, medicine, or theology

A new way of thinking called **scholasticism** changed the study of theology. Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher or thinker, had used reason, instead of faith, to understand the meaning of life. This bothered some Christian thinkers. They wanted to show that ideas accepted by faith did not have to oppose ideas developed by reason.

An Italian priest named Thomas Aquinas helped spread the ideas of scholasticism. Aquinas wrote *Summa Theologica*, a summary of what was known about theology. He also wrote about government and the concept of natural law, or laws that come from human nature. Aquinas claimed that natural law gave people certain rights that the government should not take away.

Latin was the language of the Church and of educated people throughout Europe. Each region of Europe also had its own language. This everyday language is called **vernacular**. Over time, vernacular languages became the languages of Spanish, French, English, Italian, and German.

During the 1100s, new literature was written using vernacular language. Educated people enjoyed vernacular writings, especially poetry told by troubadours.



Identifying

1. What type of degree could a student in a medieval university earn for studying music?



Marking the Text

2. Underline the two styles of cathedrals built in medieval Europe.



Explaining

3. What is vernacular? Give three examples of vernacular languages.



Reading Check

4. Why was it important that literature was written in everyday language?

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Explaining

5. Why were many new religious orders founded beginning in the 1000s?



Defining

6. Explain what a *mass* is.



Marking the Text

7. Underline the definition of *heresy*.



Identifying

8. What happened to people who were found guilty of heresy?

Troubadours were poets who sang love stories, especially about the love of a knight for a lady. Another type of vernacular writing was the heroic epic. In epics, brave knights fight for kings and lords. *The Song of Roland* is an example of a heroic epic.

Religion Affected Society

Beginning in the 1000s, a wave of religious feeling swept through Europe. As a result, new groups of priests, monks, and nuns were formed. These were called religious orders.

New Religious Orders		
Cistercians	Franciscan Friars	Dominicans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded in 1098 • farmed land, worshiped, and prayed • invented new ways of farming that helped grow more crops • helped the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded in 1209 • went out into the world to preach • lived by begging • could not own anything • loved nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded in 1216 • went out into the world to preach • lived by begging • defended Church teachings • studied for years

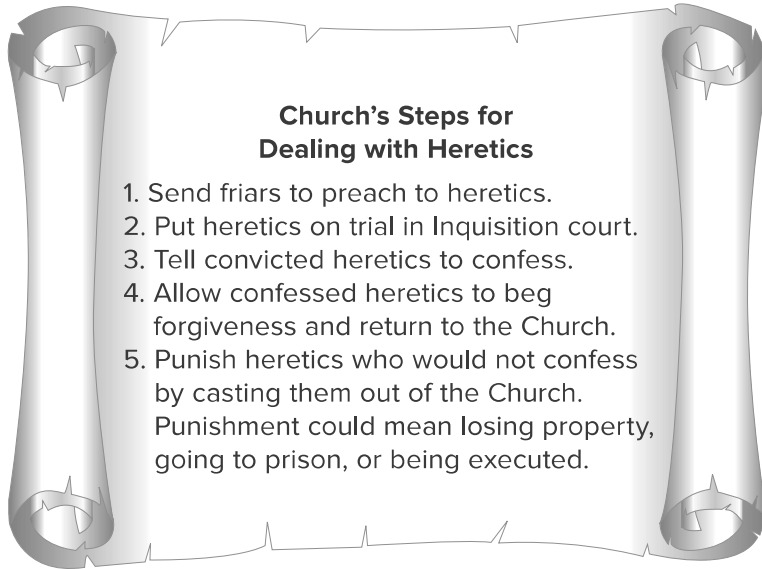
The Cistercian order was based in rural monasteries. Its members invented new ways of farming that helped grow more crops. They also helped the poor. Francis of Assisi started a new order called Franciscans. They preached Christianity in the towns. They also were known for their cheerfulness and love of nature. A Spanish monk named Dominic de Guzmán started the Dominicans. Its main goal was to defend Church teachings.

The Catholic Church affected almost every part of people's lives. On Sundays and holy days, people went to **mass**, which is the Catholic worship service. People prayed to the saints to ask for help from God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the most honored saint.

The Catholic Church used its power to try to stop **heresy**, or religious beliefs that did not agree with Church teachings. In 1233 the pope created a special court to deal with heretics. It was called the Inquisition. Its job was to question heretics, or people who were accused of heresy. People who were found guilty could confess and ask for forgiveness. Those who refused to confess were punished.

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Many church leaders and church members also practiced **anti-Semitism**, or the hatred of Jews. Many European Christians unfairly blamed Jews for problems in society, such as famine or economic decline. Christian mobs attacked and killed thousands of Jews. Many Jews had to wear special badges or clothing. In some places, they had to live in separate neighborhoods known as ghettos. Jews also could not own land or work at certain jobs.

In the 1100s, Western European rulers began driving out their Jewish subjects. Many of these Jews went to countries in eastern Europe. There they formed thriving communities that were based on their religious traditions.

Check for Understanding

Name two reasons large cathedrals and churches were built during this time.

1. _____
2. _____

List two ways the Catholic Church influenced the lives of medieval Europeans.

3. _____
4. _____



Listing

9. List three examples of how European Christians mistreated Jews.



Reading Check

10. Why did Church officials set up the Inquisition?



11. Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Title the anchor tab *Catholic Church*. Label the three tabs *Daily Life*, *Saints*, and *Power*.

Use words and short phrases to record what you remember about the effects of the Catholic Church on each.