

# High Middle Ages: Rise of Trade and Kings

Remember previous European civilizations... What happened to them?

Roman Empire – Civil war and German invasion  
Franks and Charlemagne – Viking invasions

What calamitous things have happened in Europe as of late? No barbarian invasions. Mongols almost came but didn't. Thanks to Ogodei's alcohol issue.

Births outnumber deaths! Population is rising. Better farming methods. Introduction of the steel-tipped plow. More food for increasing population

Excess food, specialization and trade

## Revival of Trade

**Venice:** Italian merchant city. Brought luxury items back from the Arab world and from Cathay (China). Spices, dyes and silks. Fought wars against other merchant cities on the Mediterranean to maintain trade monopoly.

**Monopoly:** one company has exclusive control over a product. No competition.

Increased sea trade soon means increased trade over land. Merchants travel in armed caravans for protection through lord's lands on their ways to the few cities.

**Caravans:** company of travelers banding together for protection.

Lords wanted to attract merchants and goods. Held annual

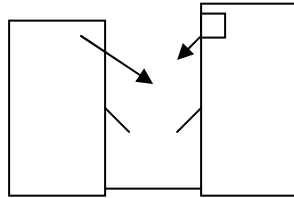
**Fairs:** special gatherings for trade sponsored by feudal lords. Merchants stay for a few weeks then move on.

- Use money again
- Entertainment and music
- Lord's tax every purchase

Some merchants eventually tire of taxes and moving constantly so set up permanent fairs at busy crossroads or rivers.

**Towns**: inhabitants engage in trade and manufacturing. Walled for protection and the people are free.

Serfs would escape to towns. If they were in the town for a year and a day they became free men. Towns incredibly overcrowded because they couldn't keep extending the city walls as the population grew. Built up instead of out. Sewage didn't exist so it was often thrown out the window, thus the man always walked towards the street.



## **In towns we have the rebirth of industry**

Baker, shoemakers, glassblowers, metalworker, weaver.

**Craft guilds**: eliminate competition and assure equal treatment and profits for all. Monopoly!

**Uniform prices and quality**

**Discourage improvements**

**Illness or death the guild would help support family**

Craft guild controlled who and how many people entered the industry.

**Apprentice**: trainee. Live and work under a master for ten years.

**Journeyman**: paid under a master. Here until you produce a masterpiece.

**Master**: make and sell your own goods in your own shop.

## Dilemma of Towns

### Lords Hated Towns

Don't fit into feudalism where land is power!

Towns resisted lords taxing their wealth.

Merchants becoming as rich as lords.  
WEALTH IS POWER!

Serfs escaped to them.

Walled and often had their own forces.

Towns and lords fought wars until sometimes they were granted a **charter**: documents that allow towns freedom from feudal duties to a lord.

### Catholic Church Hated Towns

Focus on profits leading people away from God.

Loans were common in towns for business. Interest was charged on loans.

**Interest**: charging a fee for borrowing money. Medieval Church considered this a sin called **usury**. SIN and HERESY.

Jews became bankers. Not Catholic so its ok. Many become rich and powerful, and resented. Another reason to suspect the Jews and to persecute them.

## Who can towns look to for protection? **KINGS!**

### Revival of Learning

As kings gained more and more power they needed more and more workers. Churchmen and monks had been their advisors but they needed more workers and more specialists as they gained more power.

**Cathedral schools**: schools in churches led by a bishop. Sons of nobles and lords paid a fee to attend. Grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music. Students complained there wasn't enough and they wanted more.

**Universities**: groups of teachers and students devoted to learning headed by a church official called a chancellor. Rich sponsors eventually build buildings for students to live. Sprout up all over Europe.

**Headed and taught by Franciscans and Dominican monks**

# Rise of Kings in England and France

## England

**William the Conqueror**- Norman (Viking descendant) from northern France invades and conquers England in 1066 A.D. Crushes English lords who oppose him.

On overhead show English lands...

**King John** – Brother Richard bankrupts the country for crusade and wars. Loses all French lands. Must continually raise taxes to fight wars and his lords rebel. Promises to stop but continues to raise them. Angry nobles force him to sign...

**Magna Carta**: 1215 A.D. “Great Charter” Document signed by King John agreeing that he would not violate the law. Tax only with the consent of a council of lords – Parliament. John ignored this but it’s seen as an important step for democracy.



- No one not even kings are above the law!
- No taxation without the consent of the governed.
- Freemen tried and judged by their peers – jury system
- Never again has a King of England been named John.

English lost their French lands but they never gave up claim to them. Plus English kings often married French princesses so the children of these marriages could often claim that they should inherit French lands also. In fact English kings probably had a better claim to the French throne than the French Kings.

**Hundred Years War 1337-1453 A.D.** – Wars fought on French soil between England and France for the French crown.

**Battles of Crecy and Agincourt** – (1346 & 1415) heavily outnumbered armies of English bowmen versus French nobles and knights.

English introduce a new weapon, the **Welsh longbow**: a six foot bow that, like the Mongol bow, made plate armor useless. (80 to 120 lb. draw weights, shoot 300 yards.)



At Crecy and Agincourt and Poitiers, French lords are slaughtered in the arrow storms of the English. This is the end of the plate armored knight. Armor is still worn for hundreds of more years but mostly for decoration only! No longer is it effective in war.

France is in utter chaos. War is different! For gain not glory. Lords are being slaughtered. English soldiers are told...

**“Captured defenders should be maimed, unable to fight or work, and sent back to tax enemy resources.”**

This war is not about chivalry! Wandering bands of English roam the countryside like Vikings raiding, pillaging and burning!

## Then in the middle of the Hundred Years War something even more horrific hits

**Black Death** – bubonic plague hits in 1347. Kills 25 million people in Europe in 5 years. 1 out of every 3 people in Europe die. (Make them stand up!)

Not a new disease. Ravaged the Byzantine Empire in the 500s under Justinian and Theodora but now its back worse than ever.

Rumors of a terrifying disease in China killing millions. Reports then from the Arab world. Reports the in the Mongol Empire. European traders probably bring it to Europe.

What is the disease and how do you get it? Story of bacteria, fleas and rats.

**RATS**: fall from 50 feet unhurt, scale brick walls, jump 4 feet across, squeeze through a hole the size of a quarter, they'll eat the

flesh of helpless infants and adults, can live on manure and urine. Reproduce rapidly! Home to hundreds of fleas.

**Fleas:** feed off blood. Can jump 150x their length. Stomachs are home to millions of bacteria – bubonic plague bacteria.

## How does it affect you?

### Most commonly...

#### *If bitten by a flea...*

Flea bites and infects you. Red splotches that eventually turn black on neck, groin and armpits. Lymph nodes swell. Some cases they get as large as a baseball. High fever, exhaustion, chills, two weeks later –death. 50% mortality rate.

People suffer for weeks and die. Others go to bed healthy and are dead by morning.

#### *If bacteria gets into your lungs by a sneeze or a cough*

Attacks the lungs. Bloody, hacking cough. 100% mortality. Most often transferred by cats.

#### *If fluid contact and bacteria gets directly in bloodstream...*

Death in hours 100%.

## Where did it come from?

**God angry** and has infected the air for sins – people tied roses under their noses.

Jews have infected the wells- persecuted and killed.

**Order of the Flagellates** – people walk the countryside whipping themselves to show God they're sorry.

## How can you stop it?

Doctors come to treat it and die before their patients  
Towns not allow anyone in or out  
Bathing in urine  
One town neverending festival

Kill animals – dogs, cats, gravediggers, gypsies, Jews, beggars...

## Where did it go?

1347, 1349, 1361, 1369, 1379, 1389, 1400 hits again and again and then fades away and we don't know why? Still in rat populations in the desert southwest of the U.S.

Penicillin kills it. Moldy bread and cheese.

Ring around the Rosy, Pocket Full of Posy, Ashes, Ashes, We all fall down!

The reaper who harvests souls.

Effects of the plague

Rise in wages. Demand for workers. Peasant rebellions throughout Europe. Wages increase in Europe.

Church is to protect us from evil. They failed!

## End of the Hundred Years War

English rampaging through the countryside. New fearsome weapon the longbow killed off the French lords. French armies run at the sight of the English. All seems lost. France desperately needs hope! They need a hero. They need a little peasant girl?

**Joan of Arc**: little girl grows up in France. She's like all girls but very religious. At 13 she begins to hear voices of angels and saints. Specifically St. Michael, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret. She even claims to see them and other saints. They tell her...

**“Be good, be worthy, and you shall save France.”**

Joan became a very serious and grave little girl. She kept her voices to herself and at age 17 the voices told her it was time for action. They tell her to go and find the French dauphin.

**Dauphin:** Title of the crown prince of France. Must be crowned at Rheims. Rheims is controlled by the English.

Joan leaves her village on her own to find the prince. The countryside is very dangerous so she disguised herself as a man to help ward off trouble.

She finds and meets with some of the lords loyal to the Dauphin. She begs them to see the prince. They tell her to go home and if they like they'll bash her ears in so she'll stop hearing the voices. Despite this she keeps pestering them. Finally they become so impressed by her sincerity and passion they arrange a meeting with the prince.

Dauphin hears that a girl is coming to see him and she speaks with the angels. He decides to test her right away. Meeting her in a hall of 300 other lords and ladies, he takes off his crown and hides among the crowd to see if Joan can pick him out. Joan enters and marches right up to him and kneels telling him she's here to save France. The Dauphin is impressed but he wants more proof. Joan then whispers the prayer he said to God the night before. She gives him his exact words that he said silently to God. The Dauphin is convinced and probably a little freaked out.

The prince has a suit of armor made for Joan and he gives her command of an army. A 17 year old peasant girl is now a general. She rides out to meet her army but she sends orders on ahead to prepare them...

### **The orders are her rules for her army of God**

- 1) no cursing
- 2) no women /prostitutes
- 3) no gambling
- 4) daily confession and frequent mass

The army reacts poorly to these orders and are not about to be commanded by a peasant girl. Joan arrives and miraculously they believe in her. They believe as all others seem to that she is indeed a living saint who converses with angels. They adopt her rules and have HOPE.

With Joan commanding the army wins battle after battle. Joan herself doesn't take out her sword and fight. Instead she carries her banner so she will not hurt anyone.

Her armies capture Orleans, then Rheims and the dauphin is crowned King Charles VII. Joan weeps. But there's still more to be done. She fights on. She's wounded with a crossbow bolt in the thigh but she keeps fighting and her armies have continued success against the English.

Joan is captured. Traitorous French nobles capture Joan and sell her to the English. While she is a saint to the French, she is a witch to the English. The Inquisition tries Joan and after 5 months she is convicted of heresy and burned at the stake. Her crime for which she burned – wearing male clothing. Seven years later the French completely drive out the English and end the Hundred Years War. The Catholic Church reinvestigates Joan's trial and declares her innocent of all charges. In 1920 she is declared a saint of the Church for her obvious miracles.

That's, to put it very, very briefly, how a little girl saved France.