

Major Events Prior to the Course Timeframe

The Roman Empire



Lasting Impacts:

- Roman Legal System
- Christian Church centered in Rome and Constantinople
- Latin and Greek languages continued to be important
- Roadways and bridges built continued to be vitally important

Challenges of the 14th Century

- **100 Years War** (1337-1453) -- Fought between England and France; Weakens the feudal system and creates stronger central governments
- **The Great Schism** (1378 – 1417) – confusion and conflict within the Catholic Church as 3 different people claim to be the Pope
- **The Black Plague** (1347+) – disease ravages Europe killing 30 – 50+% of the population, weakens/eliminates serfdom in places

Chapter 12 Review

Chapter 12 Questions

In your notebook, briefly outline responses to the following questions. Take about 1-2 minutes per question.

1. How did politics and economics shape the Renaissance?
2. What new ideas were associated with the Renaissance?
3. How did art reflect new Renaissance ideals?
4. What were the key social hierarchies in Renaissance Europe?
5. How did nation-states develop in this period?

Big Picture Trends 1350 to 1550

1. Era of Increasing Trade
2. Italian Renaissance (1330-1530)
 - *Flowering of the arts, new styles and ideas, HUMANISM and Christian Humanism, Printing press*
3. Social Hierarchies
4. Creating the foundations for Modern States
 - *Centralized government, increasing government specialization and bureaucracy*

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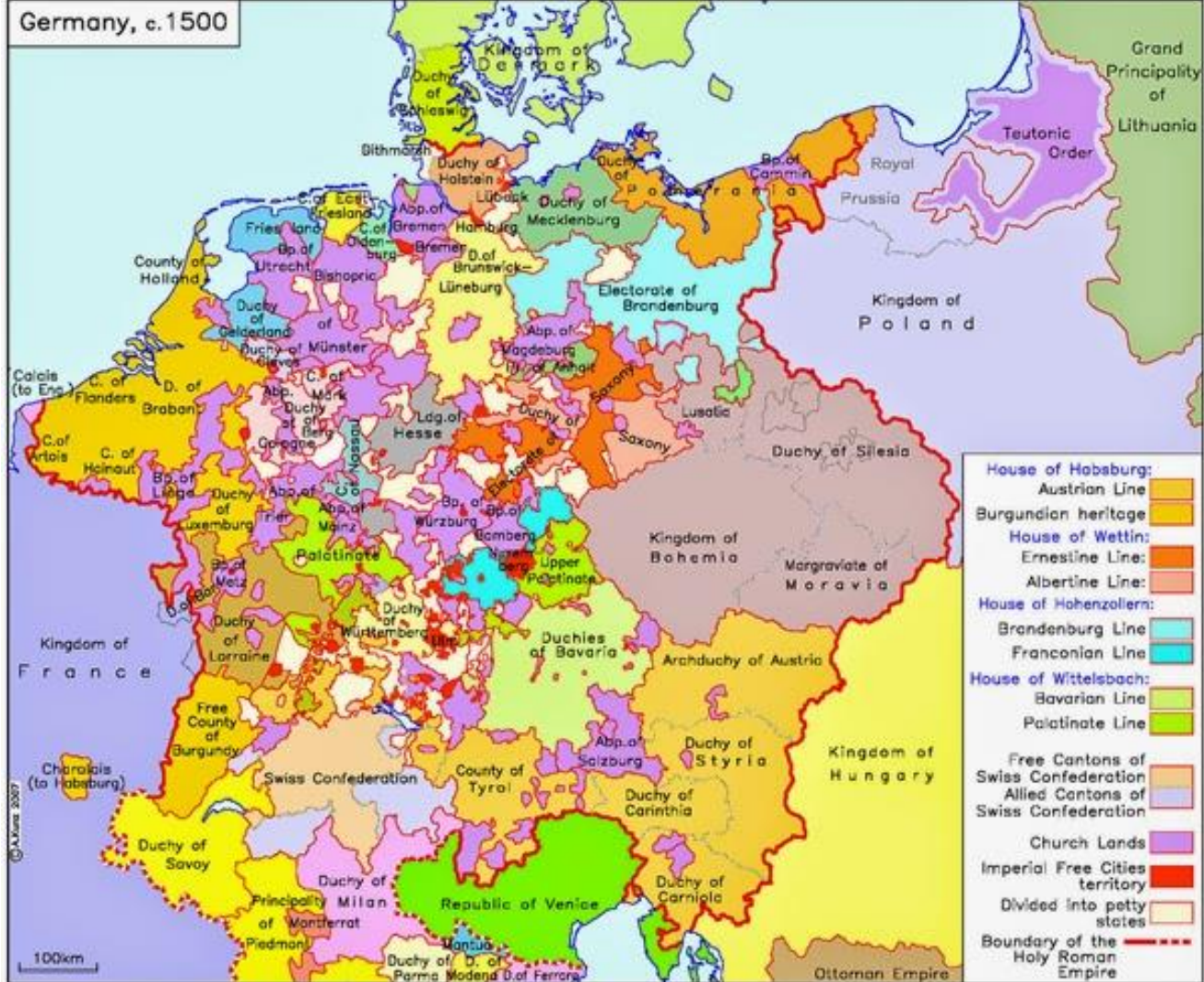
EUROPE ABOUT 1500

- Boundary of the Holy Roman Empire
- Possessions of the House of Hapsburg
- Possessions of the House of Bourbon

English Miles
 0 100 200 300 400 500



HRE in 1500



HRE in 1789



Renaissance Italy c. 1500



State Centralization and Enduring Social Orders

- England and France as the two most centralized states in Europe (other regions remained largely feudal and highly decentralized in set up)
- Society divided into 3 basic orders:
 - **Clergy** (Bishops, Priests, Monks/Nuns) [1st Estate]
 - **Nobility** (Nobility of the Sword, Nobility of the Robe) [2nd Estate]
 - **Everyone else** (mostly peasants, made up 85% of total population) [3rd Estate]

Challenges to Centralization

- **Society highly fragmented**
 - Various ethnic/cultural groups had moved in Post-Roman times
 - More than 1,500 states existed in Europe in 1500
- **Different Legal Systems added confusion**
 - Cannon Law (church law)
 - Civil Law (largely from Roman times)
 - Customary or Common Law (non-Roman regions)
- **Linguistic Division**
- **Slow Travel Times**
 - Between 22 to 80 days to travel from Madrid to Venice (Today it's a 17 hour drive or a 2 hour flight)

Languages of Modern Europe



Renaissance Ideas and Thinkers

- HUMANISM
 - A new educational focus on the “liberal arts” and on the abilities and talents of Humanity; humanity lacked limits and could accomplish anything
 - A rediscovery of Classical ideas about the greatness of humanity (“Man as the Measure of All Things”)
 - Celebrating life on earth rather than waiting for an afterlife – though Christianity was still important (**Christian Humanism**)
- **Key Thinkers and Writers:**
 - Pico and “Oration on the Dignity of Man”
 - Machiavelli and “The Prince”
 - Baldassare Castiglione and “The Courtier” (defined the what it meant to be educated)

Renaissance Italy

- **Reasons the Renaissance Occurred in Italy**
 - Great wealth through trade and families like the Medici
 - Competition among the various city states; but none grew so powerful they could dominate the others due to the “Balance of Power”
 - Significant number of Greek scholars fled Constantinople after 1453 to Northern Italy
 - The Church itself also helped by patronizing the arts and supporting Humanist study (The Renaissance Popes)

Renaissance Art and Architecture

- **Changes in the Art World**
 - New wealthy Patrons (Popes, Medici) began to support growing numbers of talented artists and art schools
 - New artistic styles and tastes (traits of Renaissance art)
- **New Architectural Styles**
 - Smaller scale buildings compared to Gothic Cathedrals to make buildings more “human” scale
 - BUT there were still great cathedrals built like St. Peters and the “Duomo” in Florence (Santa Maria del Fiore)

Santa Maria del
Fiore, The “Duomo”



**Interior of
San
Lorenzo
In Florence**



San Pietro, "Tempietto"



Palazzo
Rucellai,
Florence
15th C.





Palazzo Pubblico, Siena

The Emergence of Early Modern Europe

- **The Economy was Expanding**
 - Banking was a critical element (loans, safer trade, safe keeping of cash, etc.)
 - Massive increase in manufacturing (mining and textiles as key industries)
 - Guild System and “cottage industries” as key elements of the economy
- **Growth of Towns**
 - Still only 15% of the population in “urban” nations
 - Largest cities in 1500: Constantinople, Naples, Milan, Venice, and Paris

Largest Cities in Europe in 1500



Life for the Majority of People

- **Peasant Life**

- 75% of earnings went to taxes, tithes and food
- 20%+ lived on the edge of starvation
- Had little, if any, legal status (varied by region)
- By 1500 farming techniques had improved somewhat
- Mid-1400's onward saw an increasing population (pre-plague level achieved by 1550)
- Life expectancy of 40 years (20% lived past 40)

The Emergence of Early Modern Europe

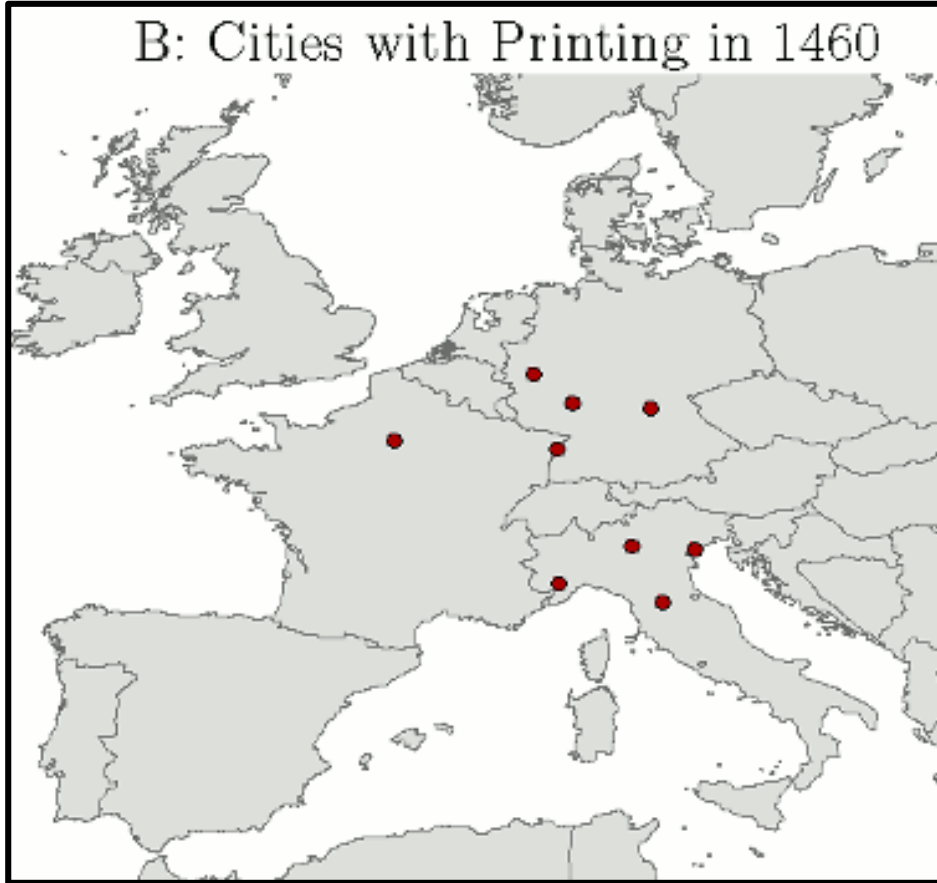
- **Towns were nearly always free from Feudal obligation**
 - In areas with weak central governments towns had the most freedom (e.g. Northern and central Italy)
 - In the East towns were often simply folded into local monarchs rule which limited their growth and vitality
- **By 1500 states began to look like “modern” nation states**
 - Strong central authority controlling the legal system, taxation, the economy, currency and state run militaries
 - Increasing specialization of government workers
 - Increasing diplomacy and use of ambassadors/embassies
 - In some regions there were checks on central authority and the raising of tax revenue (rep. bodies, distance, corruption etc.)

Transforming Discoveries

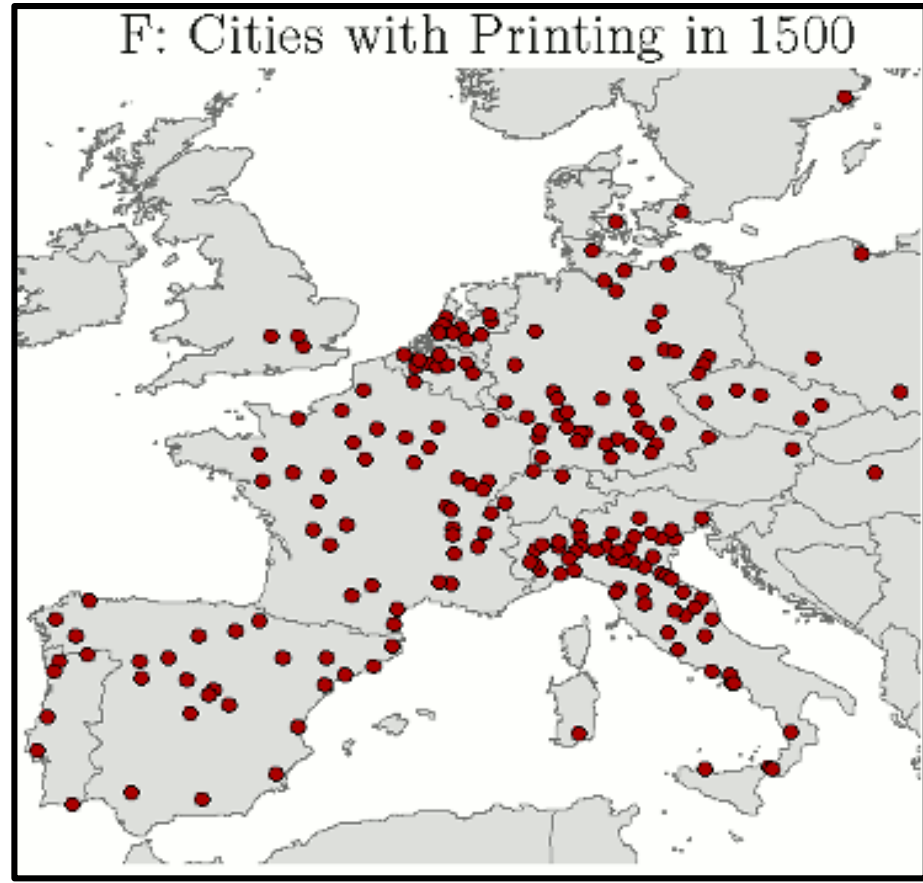
- **PRINTING!**
 - Gutenberg in mid-1450's and his innovations
 - Increased access to knowledge (more copies, cheaper)
 - 1500 = 35,000 books/year; 1600 = 150,000 books/year
 - Censorship became much more difficult
- **Gun Powder**
 - Gave a new power to Europeans as they began to explore the globe (and fight with each other)

The Growth of Printing 1460 to 1500

B: Cities with Printing in 1460

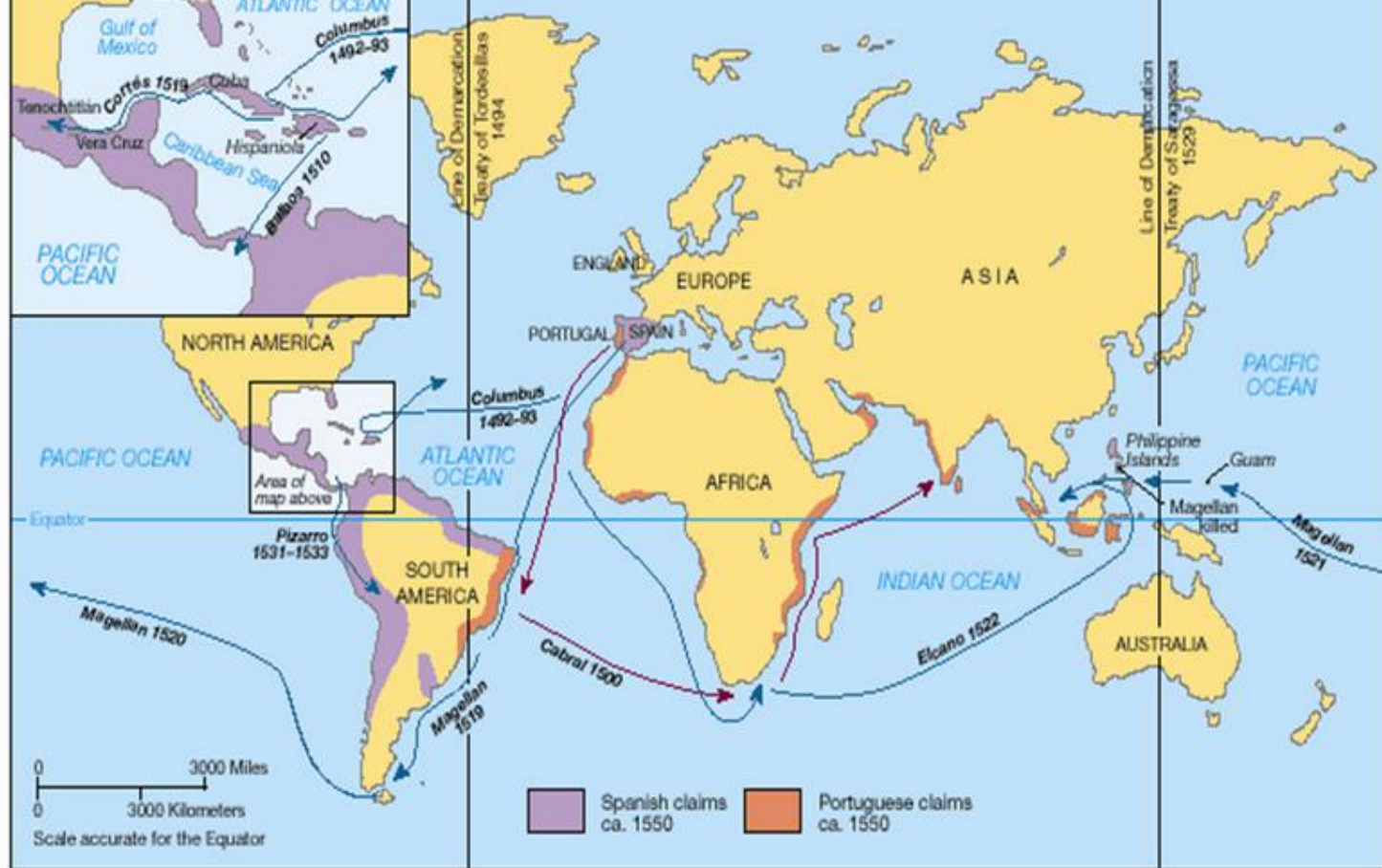



F: Cities with Printing in 1500



Transforming Discoveries

- **Exploration and Navigation Technology**
 - Exploration of African coast and routes to India from 1450 onward
 - Columbus in 1492 followed quickly by many other voyages West
 - Created a global trade network that expanded from 1500 onwards
 - Brought many new crops and trade goods to Europe
 - 1522 the Globe is circumnavigated



 Voyages of discovery and the claims of Spain and Portugal to overseas empires. Pope Alexander VI divided the New World between the two Iberian powers.

Conclusions

Three Major Forces at Work:

- **Renaissance on the Italian Peninsula (Chapter 12)**
 - Spreads outward, helped along by the printing press and increasing contact between regions of Europe
- **Exploration and Colonization (Chapter 14)**
 - Shifted the power in Europe from the Mediterranean region to the North and West of Europe
- **The Reformation (Chapter 13)**
 - Starting in earnest in the 1520's ended Roman Catholic unity of Europe

Can You Answer These?

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