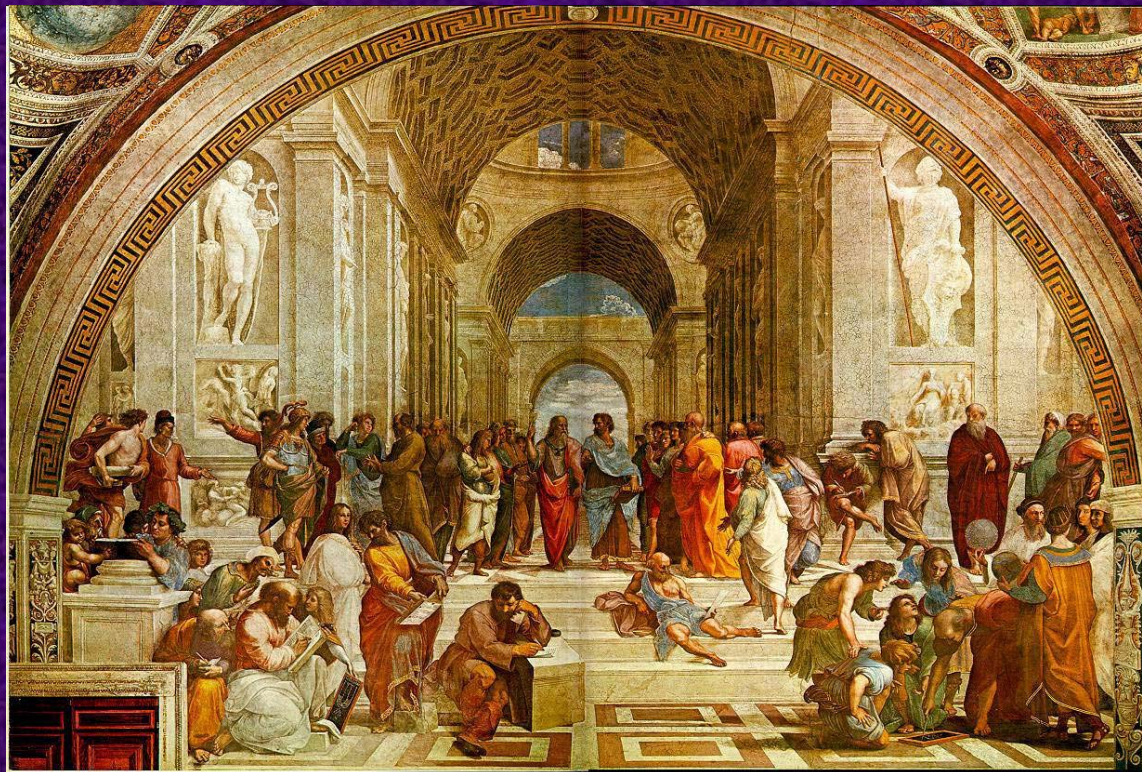


The Renaissance Begins

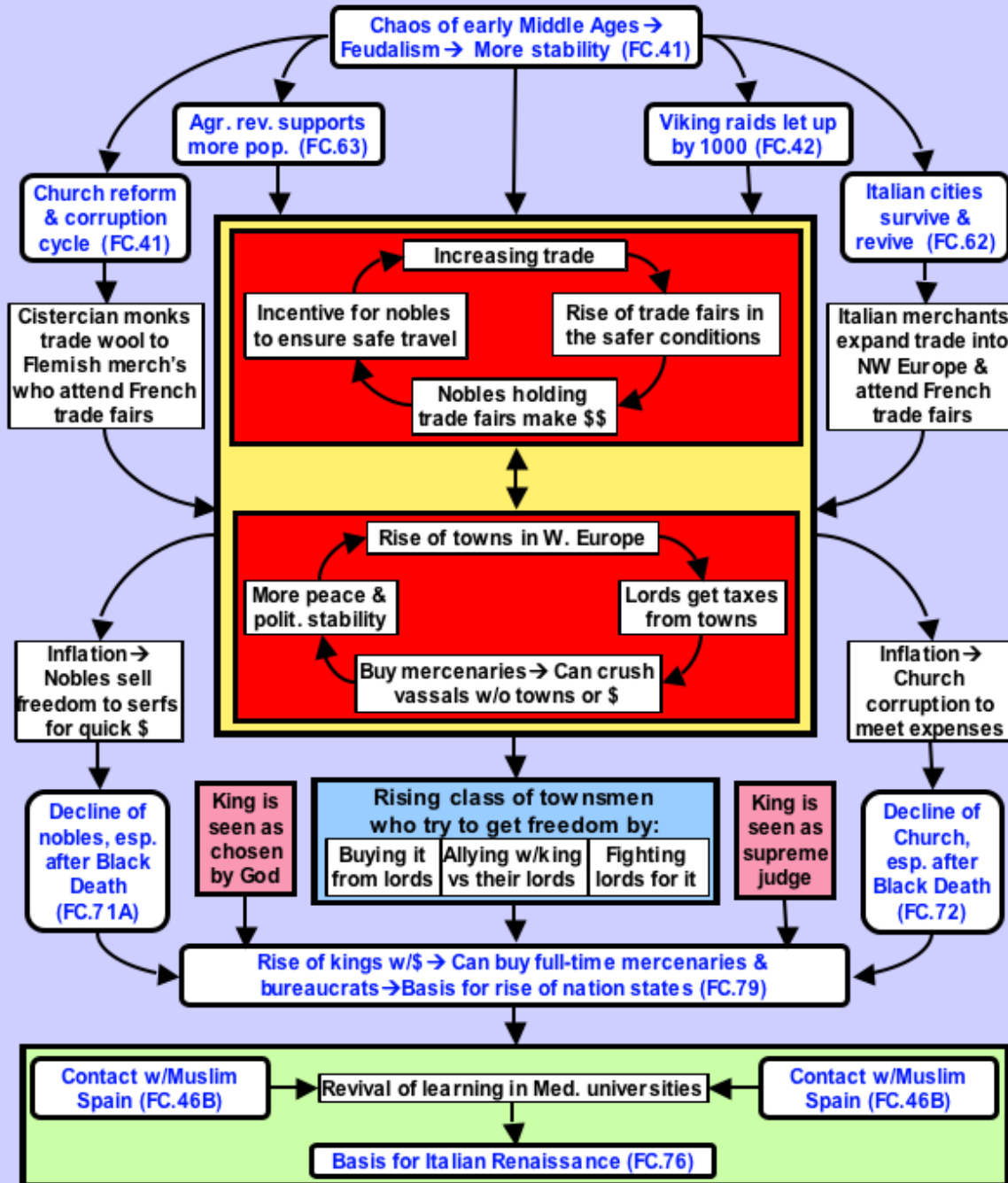
AN AGE OF ACCELERATING CONNECTIONS (600 – 1450)



- During the Medieval times the Latin West had fallen backward and was far behind the Islamic world in intellectual achievements.
- In the mid 14th century a renaissance (rebirth of intellectual thought & creativity) began in Florence, Italy and eventually spread throughout the rest of Western Europe.

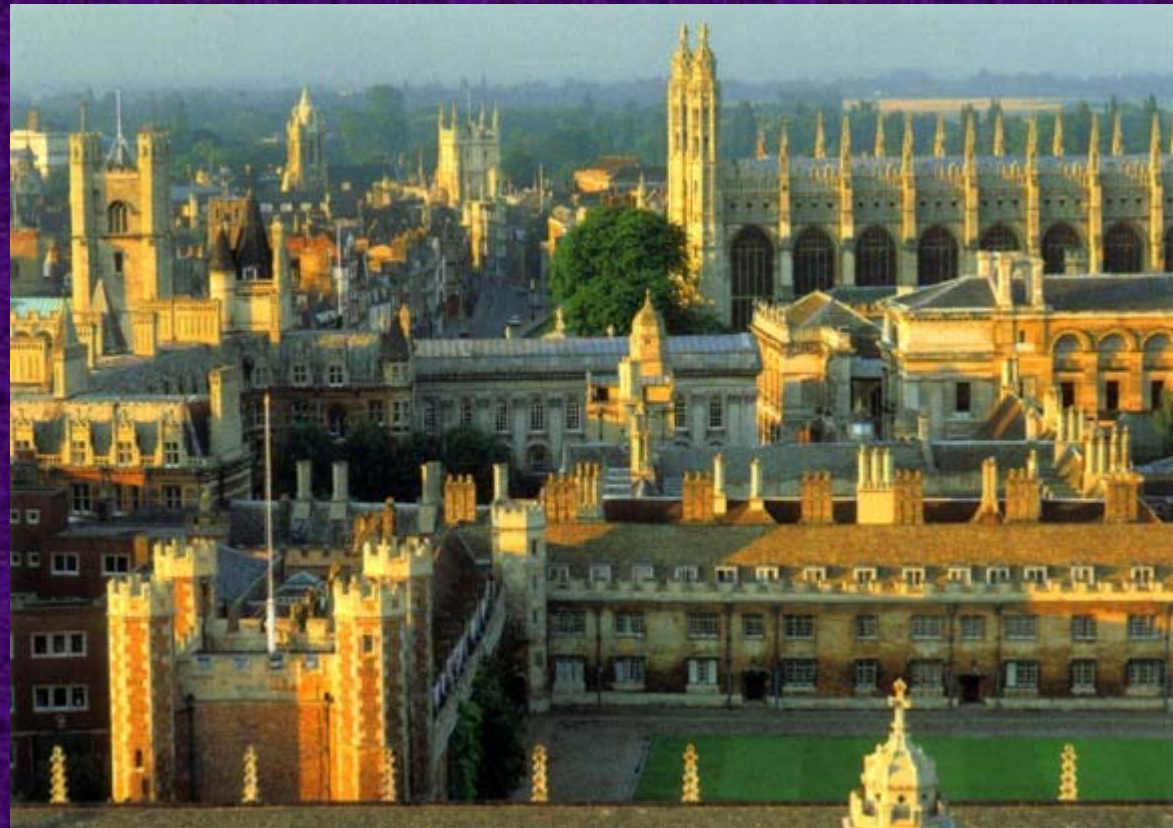


FC.64 THE RISE OF TOWNS IN WESTERN EUROPE (c.1100-1300)



- Between 1300 – 1500 several dozen universities were added to the handful of colleges in Europe.
- Degrees in law, medicine, and theology were earned.

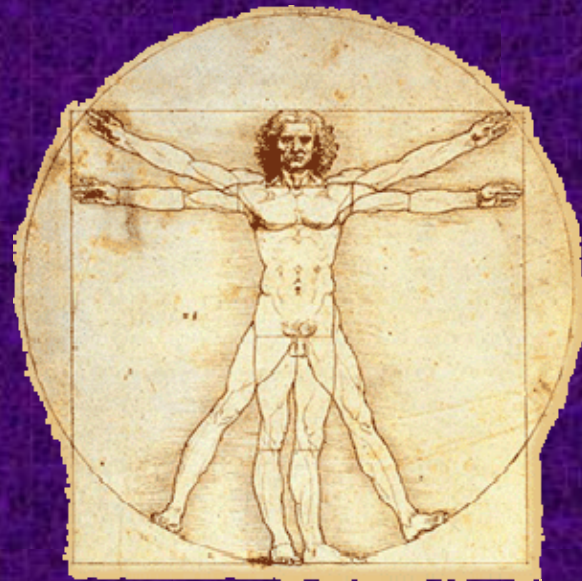
Cambridge
University, UK



- Efforts to synthesize reason (the newly rediscovered works of the Greeks) and faith (Biblical teachings) was known as scholasticism.
- Thomas Aquinas wrote *Summa Theologica* (a scholastic work).



- With this escalating influence of secularism, the Renaissance became a movement that would affect both culture and politics.
- This shift toward humanism (the interest in humanities, and human potential and achievements across many different fields of life) is the Renaissance's ultimate legacy.
- Humanists studied history, poetry, literature, and philosophy and greatly affected European education.



- *The construction / engineering of the dome of the Florence Cathedral by Brunelleschi is symbolic of the Renaissance itself:*
 - *The dome completely changes the cityscape of Florence in the same way the Renaissance will dramatically change Europe*
 - *Brunelleschi was a goldsmith, not a trained architect*
 - *No one had ever constructed a dome to cover such a large area before (approx. 150' wide & 100' tall)*
 - *THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE!*



- In regards to writing, most humanists tried to duplicate the “elegance” of Latin and Greek works, while other humanists began writing in the vernacular – the everyday language of common Europeans.

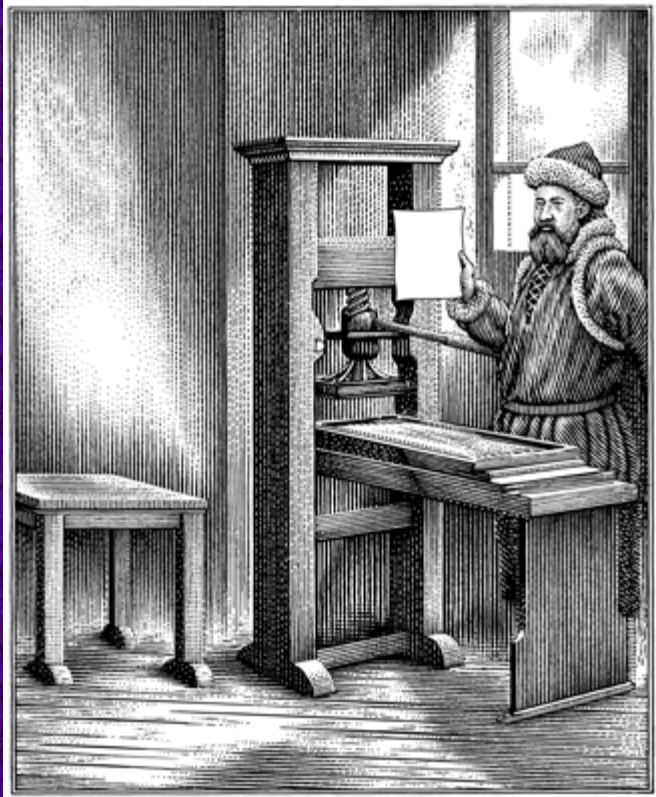
Vernacular

Dante: *Divine Comedy*
Geoffrey Chaucer:
Canterbury Tales



Classic Latin & Greek

Boccaccio: *Famous Women*
Erasmus: he made a corrected and revised edition of the New Testament



- Writers and humanists in Europe greatly benefited from advancements in printing.
- In 1454, Johann Gutenberg printed the Bible off his printing press. In subsequent decades countless books would become available to the masses of Europe.
(similar to the Internet? Ideas can flow and reach new groups of people)

- The rebirth of creativity of the Renaissance was most notably exhibited in art. New techniques using oil paints, mannerism, and frescoes became more commonplace.

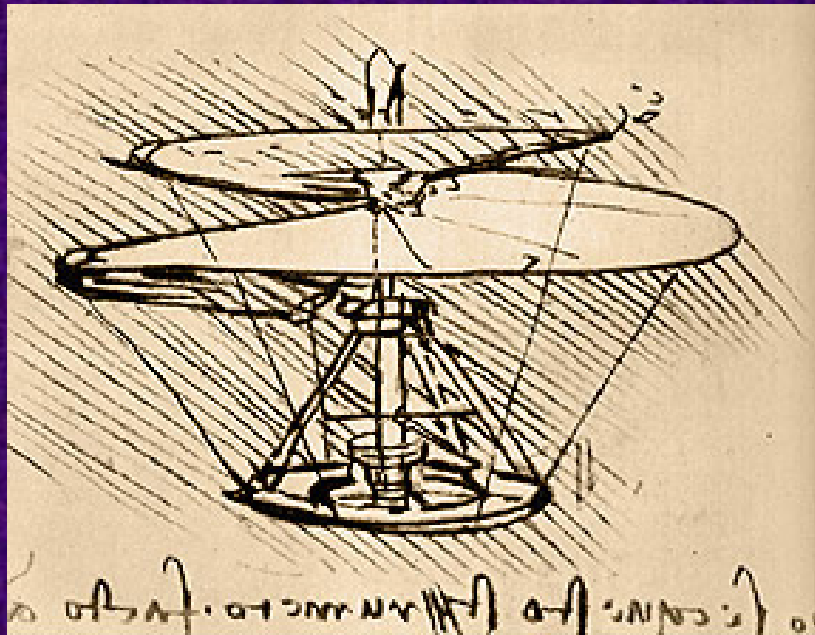


Mona Lisa, Leonardo da Vinci



David, Michelangelo

- Da Vinci is often called the ultimate renaissance man because he was an artist, writer, and thinker.



- Michelangelo was a painter and sculptor.
- Next to *David*, perhaps his most famous artwork is the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



- Artists were often commissioned by Church officials (as was the case with Michelangelo and the painting of the Sistine Chapel) and wealthy merchants & bankers.
- The Medici family who dominated Florence's political arena were also patrons of the arts.

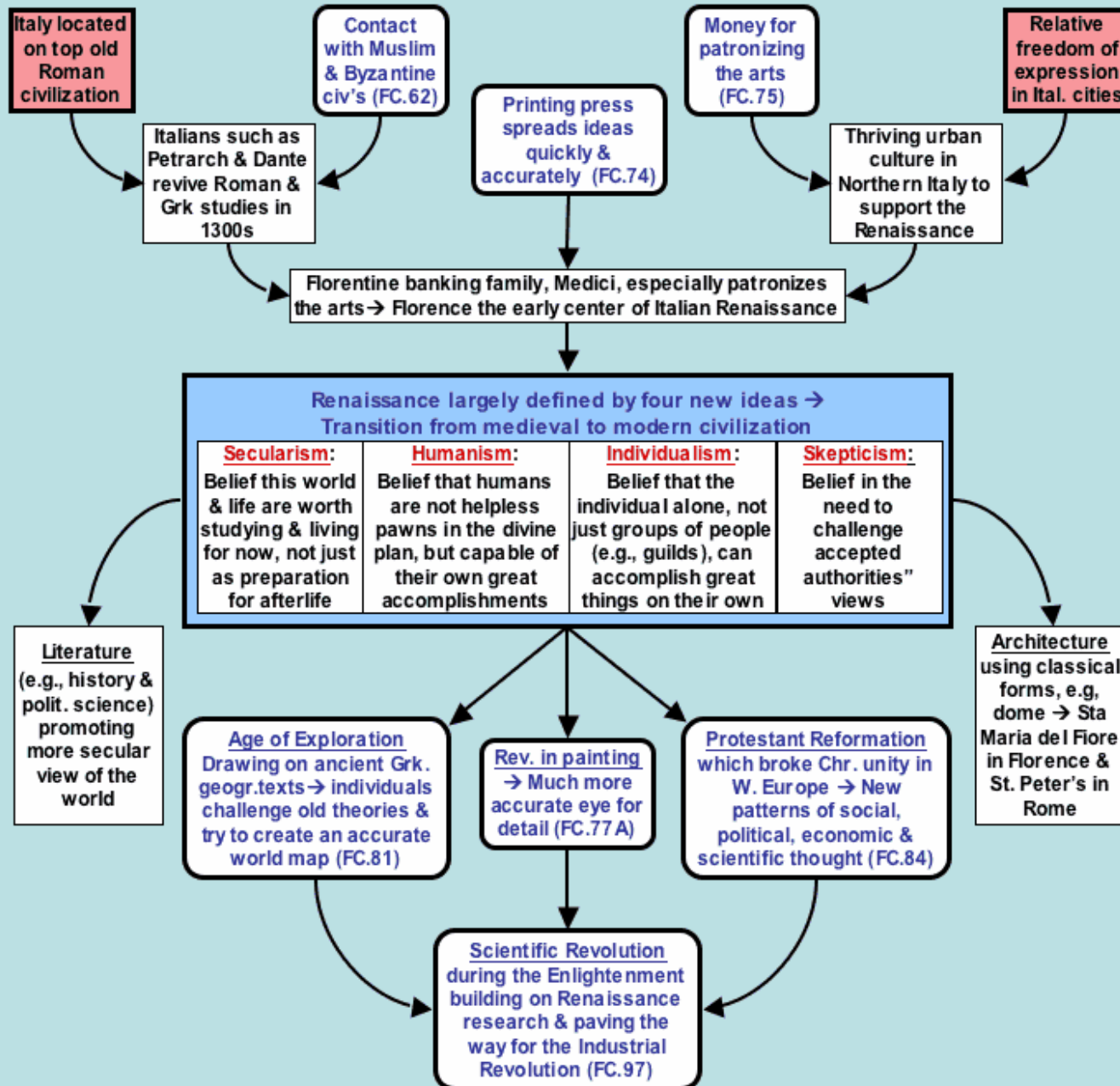


Lorenzo de' Medici



Cosimo de' Medici

FC.76 THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE AND ITS IMPACT (c.1400-1550)



- Although merchants were gaining wealth and influence within the political circles of Europe, hereditary monarchs remained upon the top of political power.
- Yet this power was constantly competing with the Church, nobles, and growing independent towns.
- Most evident of this challenge, was the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 by English King John. (Nobles forced him to sign the “Great Charter” which assured their hereditary rights. However, it is most recognized as a watershed moment when the power of kings was limited).

- By 1500, England's parliament (legislative body of nobles and commoners) and France's Estates General were thorns in the side of monarchs.



FC.69 ENGLAND & THE ROOTS OF ENGLISH DEMOCRACY (1066-1300)

Strong Saxon state & institutions (FC.43)

Norman conquest of Eng. in 1066 (FC.43)

William the Conqueror rules England w/fusion of Saxon & feudal institutions:

Maintains personal control over Church elections & 1/5 England for his royal estates	Keeps Anglo-Saxon institutions: - Danegeld, only non-feudal tax in W. Europe - Loyalty oath sworn solely to the king - Local officials (sheriffs) filled by lower nobles who depended on the king for their positions	Gives 180 vassals split fiefs in return for 5000 knights → Eng. subinfeudated into feudal state
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Strong but harsh rule of William I (1066-87) & his son William II (1087-1100)

Strong rule of Henry I (1100-35):

Marries Saxon princess → Charter guarding old Saxon rights	Establishes king's justice & more efficient govt. throughout England
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Henry II (1154-89):

Marries Eleanor of Aquitaine → Angevin Emp. controlling 1/3 France → Centuries of conflict w/French kings	Establishes principles of state prosecuting criminals & grand juries to view evidence & hand down indictments
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John I (1199-1216) overtaxes subjects., gets Eng. put under interdict by pope, & loses French holdings → Forced by nobles to sign Magna Charta (1215) which guarantees:

Nobles' right to trial by jury of peers	Concept that king is not above law	Nobles' right to due process of law
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Eng, an island → Few invasions → Less need for heavy taxes, big armies or strong kings

After Henry III's weak reign (1216-72), Edward I (1272-1307) restores royal power & calls Model Parliament (1295) to discuss England's taxes all in one sitting → Sets precedent of calling all classes together

Eng, an island → Trade → Mid Class who combine w/ Lower nobles in House of Commons

Growing power of Parliament → English Revolution in 1600s → Basis for modern democracy (FC.96)

- Conflict between the king of France and the Pope resulted in the Great Western Schism – a time of two popes, 1378-1415.



- Despite these power struggles, the formation of nation-states (a territory with defined political boundaries and culture) were beginning to take shape in Europe (Germany and Italy would remain a collection of smaller states and principalities).
- This was most clearly exhibited in the Hundred Years War between France & England (1337-1453).



- The conflict began over competing claims to the French throne (because of arranged marriages, royal families of various nations were often related, thus when no clear heir was apparent, numerous claims to thrones were made from a variety of places).

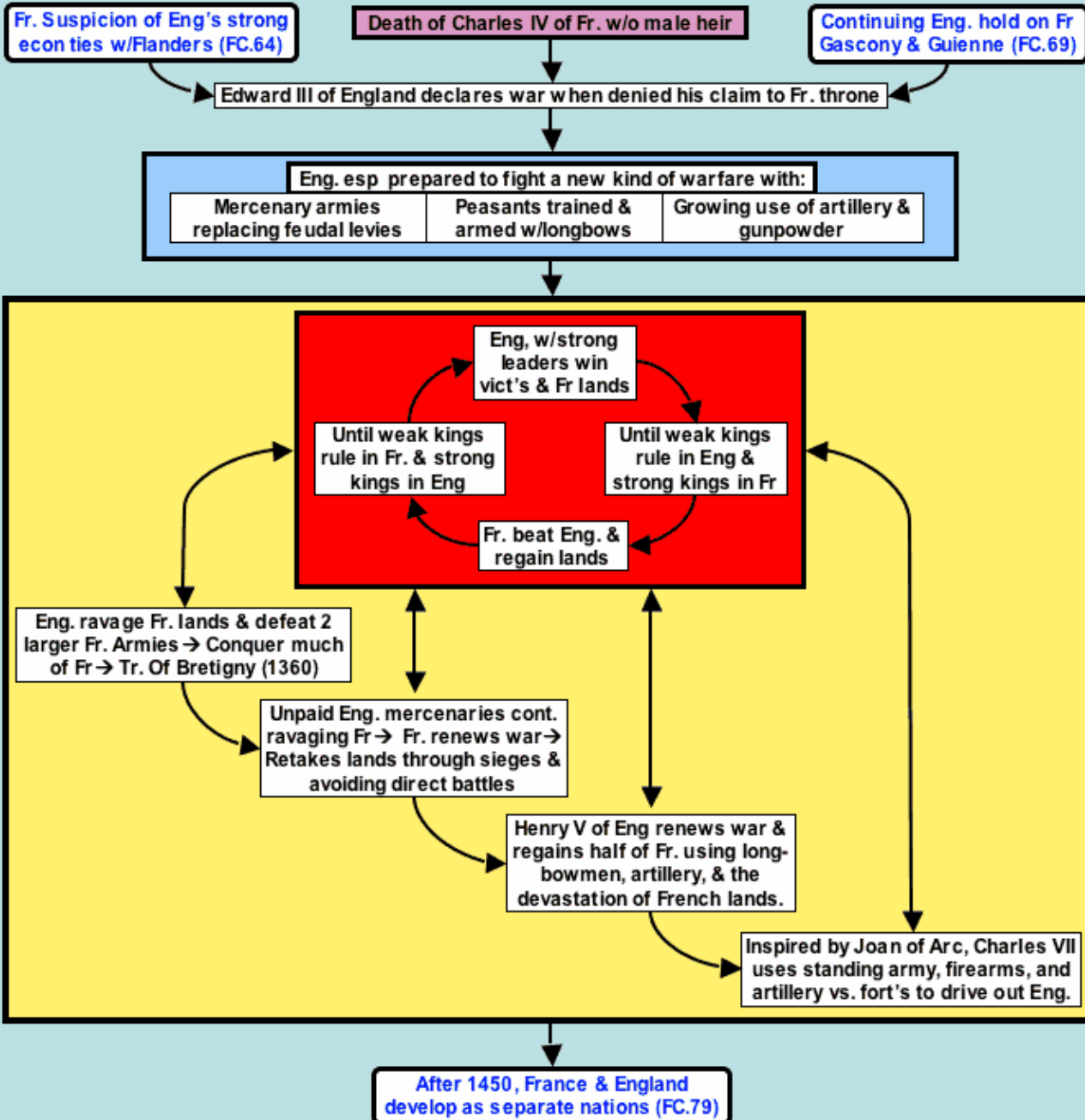


- Most importantly of the war was the use of new technology. The French used crossbows (which could pierce armor) the English used the longbow (which could shoot further and more often than the crossbow).



- Joan of Arc: French peasant girl who heard voices urging her to get involved in the struggle. She led French troops into battle and was successful.
- However, she was eventually captured by the English and burned at the stake.

FC.73 THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR (1337-1453)



- Both the English (wool trade) and the French (land tax) used taxation to support their armies.
- Toward the end of the war firearms would be introduced. In general, by 1450 armies would depend less on knights and more on bowmen, musketeers, and artillery units indicating a major shift in warfare.



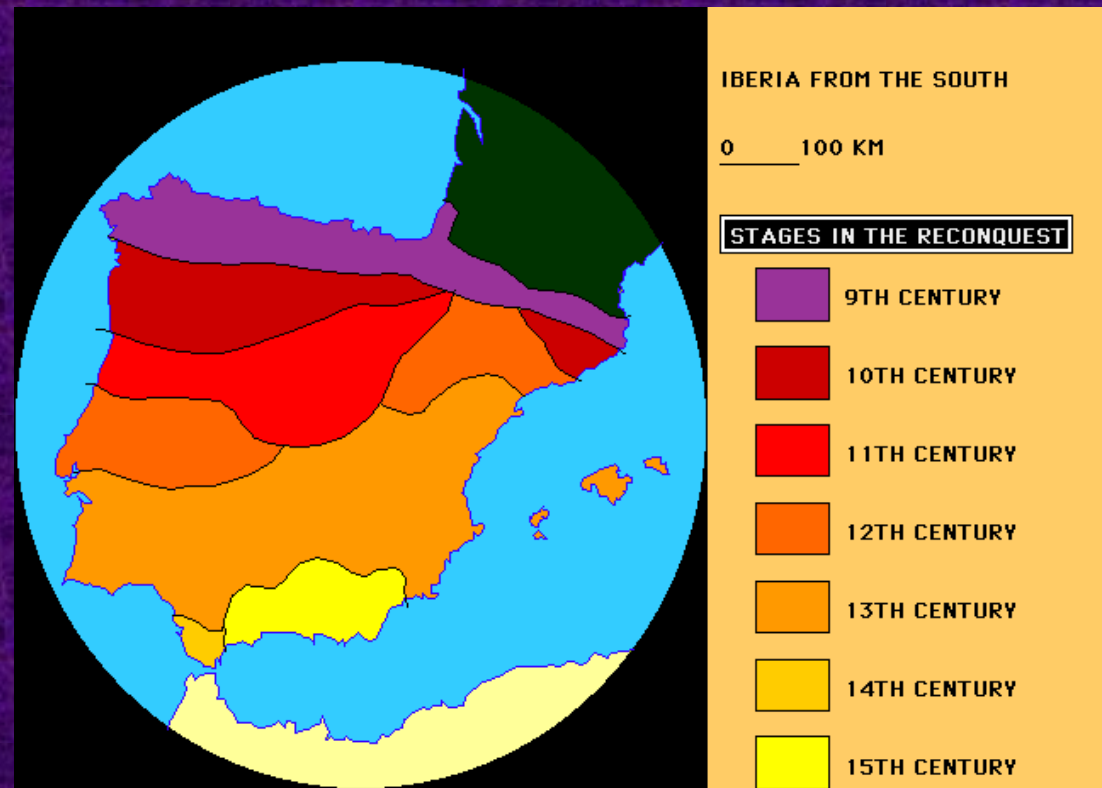
- Earlier, on the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal and Spain's reconquest of land from Muslims had been taking place over several centuries.
- Christian knights took . . .

Toledo, 1085

Lisbon, 1147

Cordova, 1236

Algarve, 1249



- In 1415 Portuguese soldiers seized a port city in Morocco, where they learned more about the trans-Saharan caravan trade in gold and slaves.
- Over the next several decades, Portuguese mariners would begin to sail down Africa's Atlantic coast attempting to gain access to this rich trade.




- As in many European territories, arranged marriages were often done for strategic political purposes. The marriage of Princess Isabella of Castile and Prince Ferdinand of Aragon in 1469 united the Iberian Peninsula into Spain (It would be this power couple who would sponsor the voyage of Columbus. Also in 1492, the final piece of Iberia (Granada) was taken back from Muslims).



Whatever happen to the Byzantines?

- The Byzantine Empire collapsed in 1453 at the hands of Ottoman Turks.
- Therefore, between 600-1450 Western Europe went from the “Dark Ages” to the “Renaissance,” while the Byzantines went from being Europe’s sole bright spot following the fall of Rome to one now occupied by an Islamic empire.
- The Ottoman “conquest” of Constantinople was viewed as a historic moment. For many Muslims it was symbolic – in that the once great “Christian” city was finally taken by “Islam.”
 - The Christian basilica Hagia Sophia became a mosque.



 The Ottoman Empire, ca. 1450. By the mid-fifteenth century the Ottoman empire had absorbed virtually all of the Byzantine empire.

- WE ARE NOW FINISHED WITH UNIT 3. BUT WHY IS 1450 A GOOD “BREAKING” POINT?
 - Europe is at a turning point, Middle Ages are ending.
 - Nation-states are forming.
 - There is a rebirth in learning, the Renaissance!
 - Portuguese & Spanish mariners are going to usher in an age of exploration.
 - The advent of the printing press.

Then again in 1453, no one knew this, things looked bleak for Europe:

- Hundred Years' War just stopped, would peace last?
- Constantinople falls to Muslim in 1453, is the rest of Europe next?
- Periodic outbreaks of the plague are still occurring, will there be another epidemic?

To be continued . . .