

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
 - *West vs. East (part 1)*



The Age of Crusades

- **Africa and Asia were in turmoil**
 - 950 The Abbasid Caliphate dominated the East
 - An Arab-centric Islam continued to grow in size and power, though at a slower rate than before
 - But there were other, independent Muslim states in Spain and in Persia
 - And there were Muslims living in the Jewish-led Khazar Khaganate, and among the Turkic tribes
 - There were even the Slavic Muslim Magyar tribes moving into Eastern Europe from the east, driven westward by the Viking Rus' tribe



The Age of Crusades

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The Abbasid Caliphate dominated the East
Crucial shifts in power erupted

- With the conversion of Vladimir the Great, the Rus' tribe expanded to the East and South, crushing the Khazar Khaganate

- What wasn't subsumed into the growing kingdom of the Kieven Rus' was left as burned and desolate grazing lands for the Turkic tribes
- This was the first and last Jewish state to rise between Hadrian's conquest of Israel in 132 (renaming it "Syria Palæstina", AKA "Palestine") and the recreation of the state of Israel in 1948



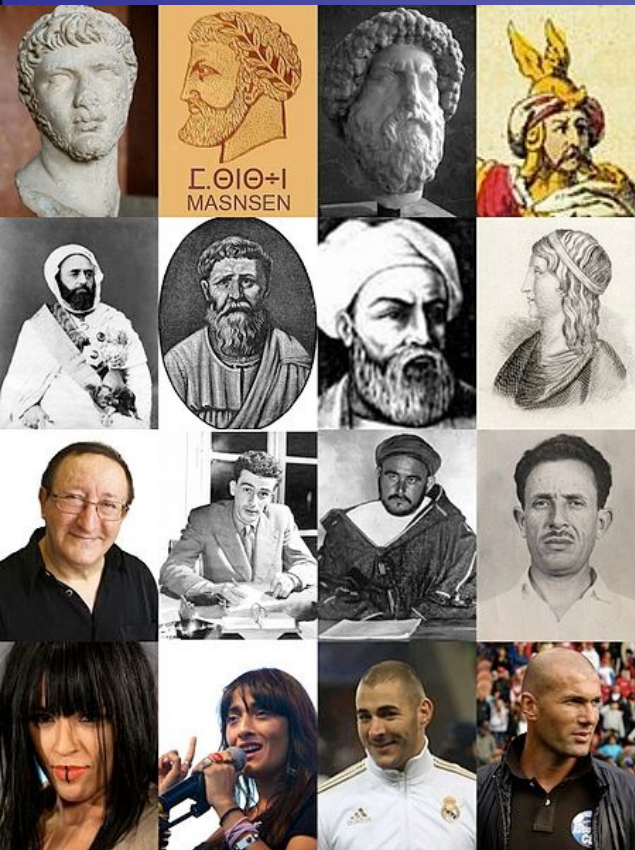
The Age of Crusades

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 - 1000 **Crucial shifts in power erupted**
 - With the conversion of Vladimir the Great, the Rus' tribe expanded to the East and South, crushing the Khazar Khaganate
 - **The Abbasid Caliphate lost its foothold in North Africa, shrinking back into the Arabian peninsula**
 - The Muslim Berbers grew in power in the West



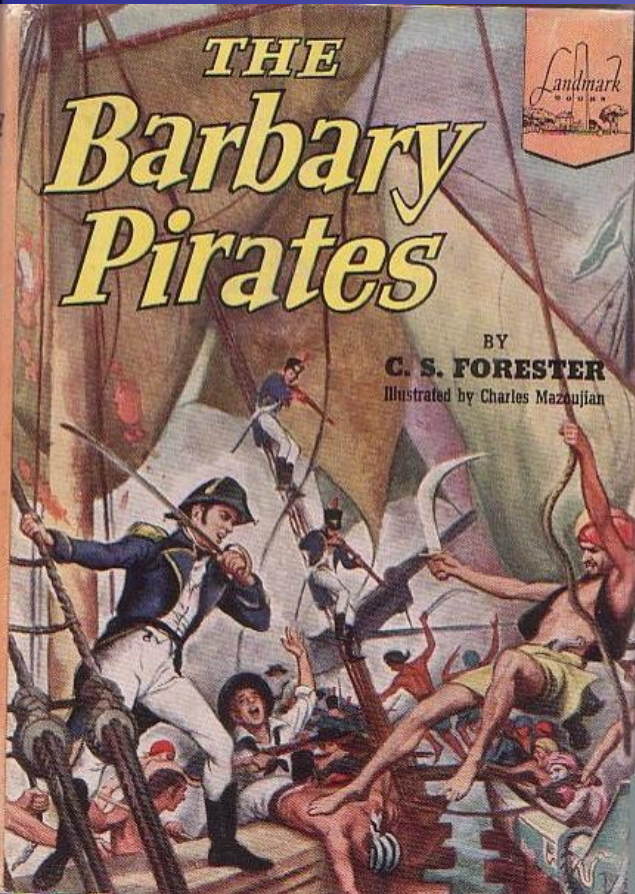
The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The name, “Berbers,” may not be familiar to most of you, but it will be in a minute
 - The ancient Greeks referred to people who weren't Greek as “βάρβαροι” (“*barbaroi*”—i.e.; people whose speech just sounds like they're saying, “bar bar bar...” in a constant babble)
 - In fact, a famous saying among the Greeks was, “πᾶς μὴ Ἑλλήν βάρβαρος” (“*pas mē Hellēn barbaros*”), meaning “whoever is not Greek is a barbarian”
 - The Romans—who loved to swipe anything Greek and make it their own—took the term and applied it to their non-Roman neighbors to the North and South, calling them all “barbarians”



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The name, “Berbers,” may not be familiar to most of you, but it will be in a minute
 - When the Muslims invaded that section of North Africa, they interacted with the exiled Jews there, as well as the remnants of the Roman Empire which still referred to the natives as “barbarians”
 - Not having a clue about the negative etymology of the term, the Arab Muslims thus referred to the area as بلاد البربر (“*Balad al-Barbar*,” or the “land of the Berbers”), and the name stuck
 - Even into the 19th century, the Northwest coast of Africa was often referred to as the “Barbary Coast,” and the native pirates in the area were specifically referred to as “Barbary pirates”
 - There's even a macaque native to the area that's known as the “Barbary ape”
 - And all because the Greeks thought everyone who didn't speak Greek just sounded goofy...



The Age of Crusades

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 - **The Abbasid Caliphate lost its foothold in North Africa, shrinking back into the Arabian peninsula**
 - The Muslim Berbers grew in power in the West, and the Fatimid Caliphate had grown under the legend of the Mahdi, and the Turkic Ghaznavid tribe had grown in Persia, invading the Indus Valley, forcing thousands of Hindus to convert



The Age of Crusades

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- Notice also that by 1013, the Danish Viking tribes had successfully conquered all of England under Sveinn Tjúguskegg (Sven "Forkbeard"), mingling with the Saxons who had invaded England in the 7th century



The Age of Crusades

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 - 1050 **Kingdoms rose and expanded**
 - The lands of the Rus' continued to expand
 - NOTE: Again, this pushed the Slavic tribes farther and farther westward into historically German territories such as Bohemia



The Age of Crusades

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 - **The Berbers became unified under the Almoravid Dynasty (from المرابطون or "Al-Murābiṭūn," meaning, essentially, "those who are prepared for battle")**



The Age of Crusades

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- Berber leader Yahya Ibn Ibrahim made a pilgrimage to Mecca and came back with the firm conviction that the Berbers practiced a diluted and polluted version of Islam

- Under his sponsorship, an Imam named Abdallah ibn Yasin began a series of reforms

Yasin also called for a *jihād* (جهاد or “*ġihād*,” meaning “struggle”) against all infidels, conquering much of Northwestern Africa

The Almoravid *jihād* even began a reconquest of Spain... from the Spanish *Muslims* that had lived there in relative peace for centuries (but more on that later)



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- Persia was conquered by the Turks

■ Somewhere around 1000, a Turkic general named Seljuk (who had served under the Khazar Khans until they'd been conquered by the Rus') converted to Islam and returned to his tribe, south of the Caspian Sea

- Under the leadership of Seljuk and his followers, the tribe conquered the Persian Ghaznavids, launching the Great Seljuk Empire—a fast-growing and incredibly violent Muslim power



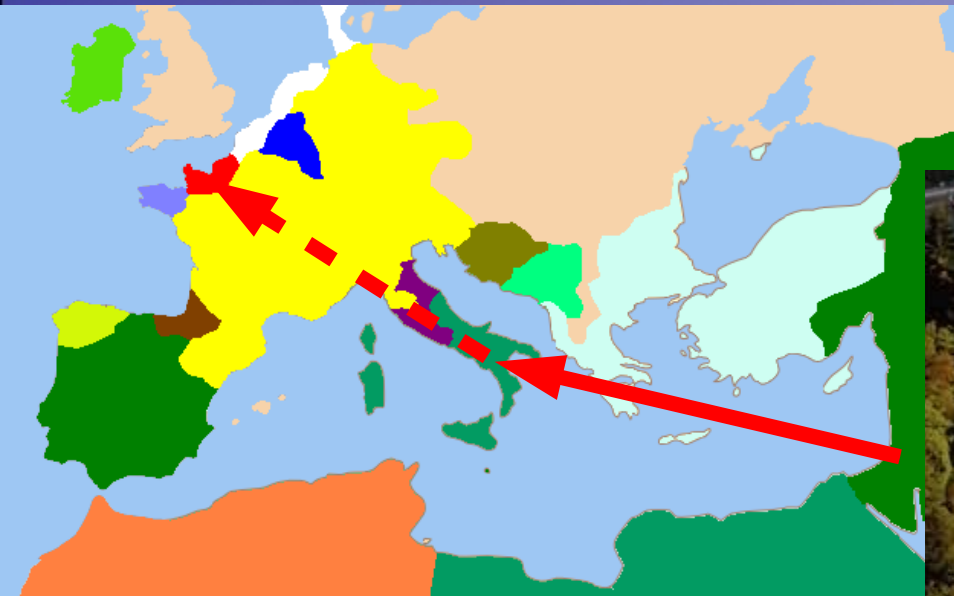
The Age of Crusades

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 - 1100 **The Seljuk Empire became dominant**
 - Using lightning-fast raids and a constant push for expansion, the Seljuk Turks became the dominant power from the Middle East to India
 - At the same time, the militant Fatimid Caliphate extended beyond Africa and into the Middle East
 - They begin to encroach upon the traditionally Arabian territory of the Abbasid Caliphate
 - But, more relevant to the history of the Christian Church, they also conquered Jerusalem and began fighting over it against the Seljuks, slaughtering all of the Christians whom the Abbasids had allowed to continue living and worshipping in the city
 - To the well-trained and battle-starved Christian knights of Europe, that served as a declaration of war



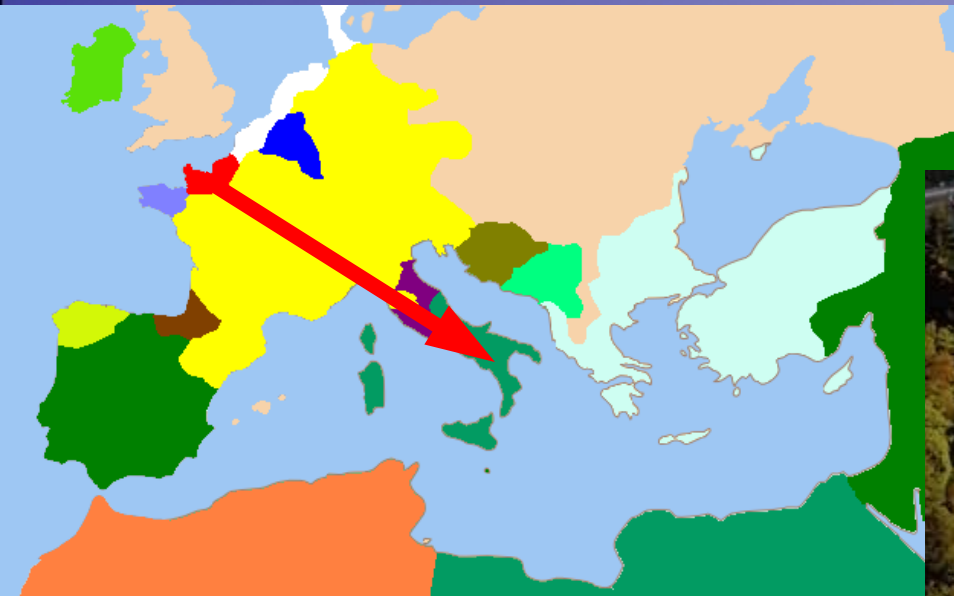
The Age of Crusades

- Rewind back to Church news...
 - 1016 The Normans invaded Italy
 - Coming back from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a group of Norman knights stopped at the Lombard port of Salerno on the way home
 - While they were there, Fatimid pirates attacked the port, and Prince Guaimar III of Salerno urged the knights to give them tribute (remember that southern Italy was, at this time, under the influence of the Fatimid Caliphate—the Christian Italian kings were just vassals)



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 - The knights refused, rallied the people of Salerno, and successfully drove off the pirates
 - A giddy Prince Guaimar then petitioned them to send for more Norman knights to come and help them re-take southern Italy for Christendom



The Age of Crusades

- **Rewind back to Church news...**

1016 The Normans invaded Italy

- Coming back from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a group of Norman knights stopped at the Lombard port of Salerno on the way home
- **As fortune would have it, Duke Robert of Normandy had to exile a powerful family—the Drengots—for murdering a popular courtier**
 - He chose to send the five brothers—Gilbert, Osmund, Ranulf, Asclettin, and Ludolf—and all of their retainers to Italy to fight



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - As part of their ongoing feud with Rome, the Emperors in Constantinople had actually *supported* the Fatimid takeover of Italy
 - Thus, when the Normans arrived to fight off the Muslims, the Christian Byzantine Emperor Basil II actually threw his support behind the *Muslims* against the *Christians*
 - In fact, he sent his own, personal, Varangian Guards to Italy to fight against the Normans
 - That means that the decisive Battle of Cannae in 1018 was actually fought by the Viking-descended Normans against the Viking-descended Varangians over who would control Italy...

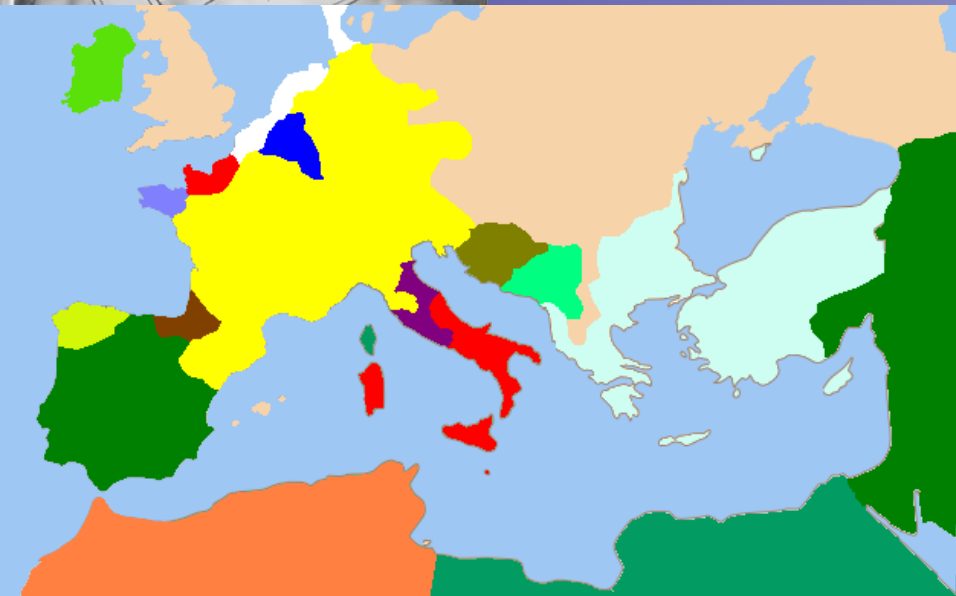


The Age of Crusades

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 - As fortune would have it, Duke Robert of Normandy had to exile a powerful family—the Drengots—for murdering a popular courtier
 - **The Normans lost the Battle of Cannae, which entrenched the Byzantines even further in Italy**
 - Pope Benedict VIII was frightened by this, so he supported the Normans' invasion of Sardinia
 - He also petitioned the Holy Roman Emperor, Heinrich II, to come to their aid
 - Under his successor, Konrad II, the forces of Ranulf Drengot and his nephew, Richard, were finally able to drive both the Muslim and Byzantine powers out of Italy by 1053
 - They also secured the island of Malta, which would become crucial during the Crusades...



The Age of Crusades

- Rewind back to Church news...

1016

The Normans invaded Italy

1045

Pope Benedict IX sold the papacy

- Pope Benedict VIII had been from a noble family that had produced a *lot* of Popes

- His uncle had been Pope John XII

- Pope Benedict VII—who had presided over a synod condemning simony and nepotism in the Church—had been a cousin

- So was Pope John XI—who was the illegitimate son of Pope Sergius III

- And upon Benedict's death, his successor was his own brother, Pope John XIX...
...who happily accepted a bribe from Patriarch Eustathius to acknowledge the authority of the bishop of Constantinople over the Eastern churches...
...only to pocket the money and refuse



IOANNES·XII·PP·ROMANVS



BENEDICTVS·VII·



IOANNES·XX·PP·ROMANVS



The Age of Crusades

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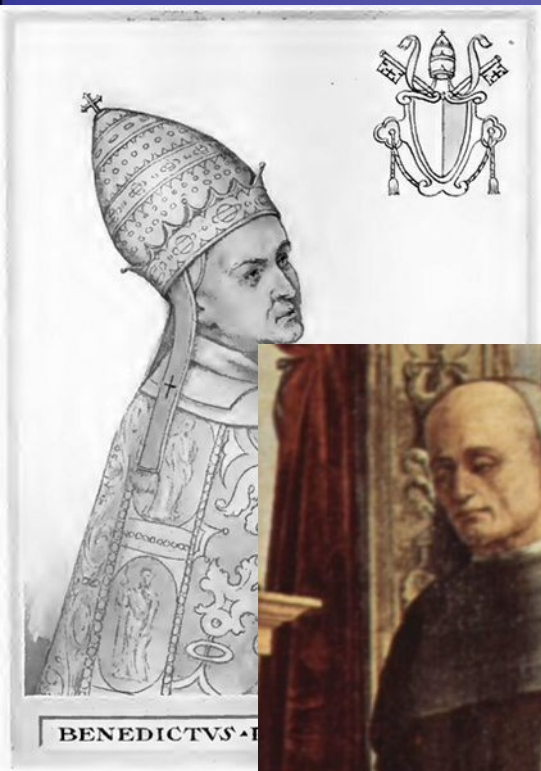
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Pope Benedict IX sold the papacy

- Pope Benedict VIII had been from a noble family that had produced a lot of Popes
- Their brother—the powerful Alberic III, Count of Tusculum—wanted *another* Pope in the family
 - So when John XIX died in 1032, Alberic used his influence to put his own son on the papal throne—Pope Benedict IX (who was between 12 and 18 at the time, depending on the historian)
 - Benedict was openly bisexual—and very sexually active, conducting bisexual orgies in the Lateran Palace and taking particular joy in publicly raping the wives of local nobles who could do nothing to openly oppose the “Vicar of Christ” (who was also supported by Emperor Konrad II)
 - Pope Victor III would later write, “His life as a pope was so vile, so foul, so execrable, that I shudder to think of it”
 - Theologian Peter Damian summarized him by saying, “he feasted on immorality,” and wrote a treatise against Benedict’s illicit sex, focusing on sodomy, bestiality, and orgies



The Age of Crusades

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- Benedict was so unconscionably evil that he was forcibly removed from the papacy by his own clergy in 1044 and replaced by the new Pope Sylvester III
- But with the support of the Emperor, Benedict returned in 1045 and re-took the throne
 - But before the year was out, the clergy were able to convince him to sell the papal throne to his godfather, Pope Gregory VI
 - To his credit, Gregory had bought the papacy specifically to try to reform the Church and bring back a little dignity to the office



The Age of Crusades

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1016 The Normans invaded Italy

1045 Pope Benedict IX sold the papacy

1046 Pope Benedict IX tried to take it back

- Supported by his own troops, Benedict re-took the papal throne *again* by force

- Though Benedict controlled the Lateran Palace, the Roman Catholic Church still officially recognized Gregory as the *actual* Pope...
...even though Sylvester III also returned to reassert that *he*, in fact, was still the *rightful* Pope

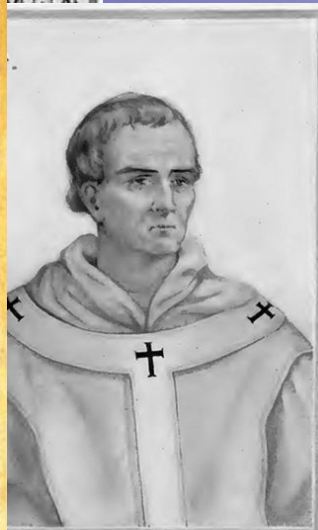
- Powerful German King Heinrich III was called to chair a corrective synod at Sutri

- Both Benedict IX and Sylvester III were officially deposed as Popes

- Gregory was forced to resign, since his appointment was the result of the most egregious simony in the history of the Church

- And a new, *German* Pope named Clement II was installed...

...who then promptly crowned Heinrich as the new Emperor...



MENS · II · PP · GERMANVS



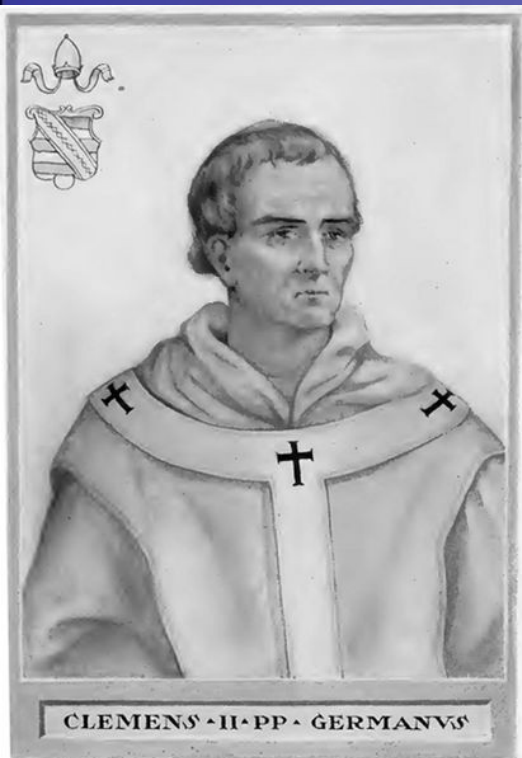
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1047 **Clement II was not a great Pope**

- The Church wasn't happy that he had been installed by a mere *king*
- Nor were they happy that he kept his original see and remained bishop of both Bamberg *and* Rome at the same time
- But he did have the distinction of legitimizing prostitution within Christendom, so long as the prostitutes and brothels *tithed*
 - He argued that without the sexual release of being able to visit a prostitute, men would simply be raping women indiscriminately in the streets
 - Though it might help to remember that even recent Popes like Benedict IX and John XII had tended to enjoy raping women with some regularity, so you can see why he might be thinking that



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 - **So Clement was poisoned within his first year...
...at which point, Benedict IX took power again**



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- 1048 Pope Benedict was Pope for a third time
 - He still stands as the only Pope to hold office for three separate, Church-affirmed tenures
 - In July, however, Heinrich's German troops forcibly removed him once again, installing German Pope Damasus II as the new pontiff
 - Damasus then had Benedict excommunicated...
...for *simony*...
(NOTE: this prevented Benedict from ever being able to be Pope again)
 - This is fortunate, since 23 days after he took the papal throne, Damasus was poisoned and died
 - Heinrich then picked German Pope Leo IX to succeed him



The Age of Crusades

- Rewind back to Church news...
 - 1048 Pope Leo IX made a huge splash
 - His papal reign would bring about major changes, including the final schism between East and West, and the actions that precipitated the coming of the Crusades...

