

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



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
 - *West vs. East*
 - *The First Crusade(s)*
 - *The Crusades Become a Fad*
 - *Kill 'em All—Let God Sort 'em Out...*
 - *The Last Crusades*



The Age of Crusades

- An intellectual explosion began...
 - 1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
 - Born in 1214, Bacon had been a student of Bishop Robert Grosseteste in England, learning about astronomy and optics from his master
 - Soon, Bacon was teaching at Oxford (and later, at the University of Paris), focusing his lectures on Aristotle



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - While the Roman Catholic Church was burning copies of ancient non-Christian writings like those of Aristotle on the Continent, the British Isles were taking a different view
 - (If you'll remember, the Irish monks had been stealing ancient books in late-night commando raids from the Continent for centuries, hiding them until the “Forbidden Books” craze was over)



The Age of Crusades

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - While the Roman Catholic Church was burning copies of ancient non-Christian writings like those of Aristotle on the Continent, the British Isles were taking a different view
 - **So at the same time that Rome was condemning the study of Aristotle, Oxford was *teaching* him to an entire generation of British scholars**



The Age of Crusades

- An intellectual explosion began...
 - 1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
 - Born in 1214, Bacon had been a student of Bishop Robert Grosseteste in England
 - Bacon's genius was to incorporate the learning of the past with a vision for the future
 - From Aristotle, he learned logic, and the need to actually *experiment* to learn the truths of science
 - (NOTE: Prior to this, most scientific inquiry was conducted by simply regurgitating tradition and the work of learned past masters rather than examining the raw data at hand)
 - (NOTE²: Then again, Aristotle asserted that women had fewer teeth than men did, without ever actually bothering to count his own wife's teeth to see if he was right)



The Age of Crusades

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1256

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 - From Aristotle, he learned logic, and the need to actually *experiment* to learn the truths of science
 - Thus, Bacon argued that when we make inductive arguments, we need to actually examine them against the facts to see if they really are true:
All men are flesh and blood
Prester John is a man
∴ Prester John is flesh and blood



The Age of Crusades

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 - From Aristotle, he learned logic, and the need to actually *experiment* to learn the truths of science
 - By definition, his work argued for an appreciation for the works of Aristotle, Plato, and other non-Christians of the ancient past instead of a knee-jerk dismissal of them and yet, to do so with the *Bible* as the basis for pulling it all together
 - To Bacon, Scripture was the foundation of any true philosophical or scientific study—the lens through which you evaluate the data that you find in the physical world around you
 - In fact, his major scientific work—the seven-part *Opus Majus*—was actually written for the Pope, asking for a reform in the way that the Church viewed the physical sciences (and, tacitly, the Greeks)



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 - Bacon is thus seen by many historians as the father of modern science
(and by many Creationists as the poster child for doing science with a Scriptural slant)



The Age of Crusades

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 - He was also arguably the father of modern warfare, since he was the first European to master the creation of gunpowder



The Age of Crusades

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1256

Roger Bacon became a Franciscan

- Born in 1214, Bacon had been a student of Bishop Robert Grosseteste in England
- Bacon's genius was to incorporate the learning of the past with a vision for the future
- But in 1256, he devoted his life to his calling as a Franciscan monk, and since they were prohibited from owning anything (including libraries or paper) and from publishing books, then he had to cease all of his scholarly work
 - (NOTE: Around this time, the Franciscans engaged in a famous debate with theologians from the Vatican, arguing about whether or not Jesus even actually owned His own *clothes*...)



The Age of Crusades

- An intellectual explosion began...

1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan

1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held

- Dominican friar Pablo Christiani informed King James I of Aragón

- (or “Jaime I,” if you want to get all *Spanish* about it, or “*Chaime* I,” if you want to get all *Aragonés* about it, who would probably most accurately be called “*Jaume* I,” since he actually spoke *Catalan*)



The Age of Crusades

- **An intellectual explosion began...**
 - 1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
 - 1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held
 - Dominican friar Pablo Christiani informed King James I of Aragón that he could solve the growing “Jew” problem in Spain by disputing their lack of faith in Christ from their own Talmud



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Talmud (תלמוד) is an encyclopedic work of Jewish theology compiled in the early centuries after the destruction of the Temple by Titus (under the orders of Emperor Vespasian) in the year 70 AD
 - It is comprised of the Mishnah (משנה), the oral tradition of rabbinic teachings on the Torah and the Gemara (גמרא), the collected rabbinic commentaries on the Mishnah
 - Pablo Christiani claimed that he could argue the validity of Christ from the Talmud itself



The Age of Crusades

- **An intellectual explosion began...**

1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan

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- So Pablo Christiani squared off against a rabbi named Nahmanides (AKA "Ramban")
 - Ironically, Nahmanides won the disputation
 - King James himself said that he had never heard "an unjust cause so nobly defended"
 - The next Sabbath, the King attended the services at the (very, very small) synagogue in Barcelona



The Age of Crusades

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1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan

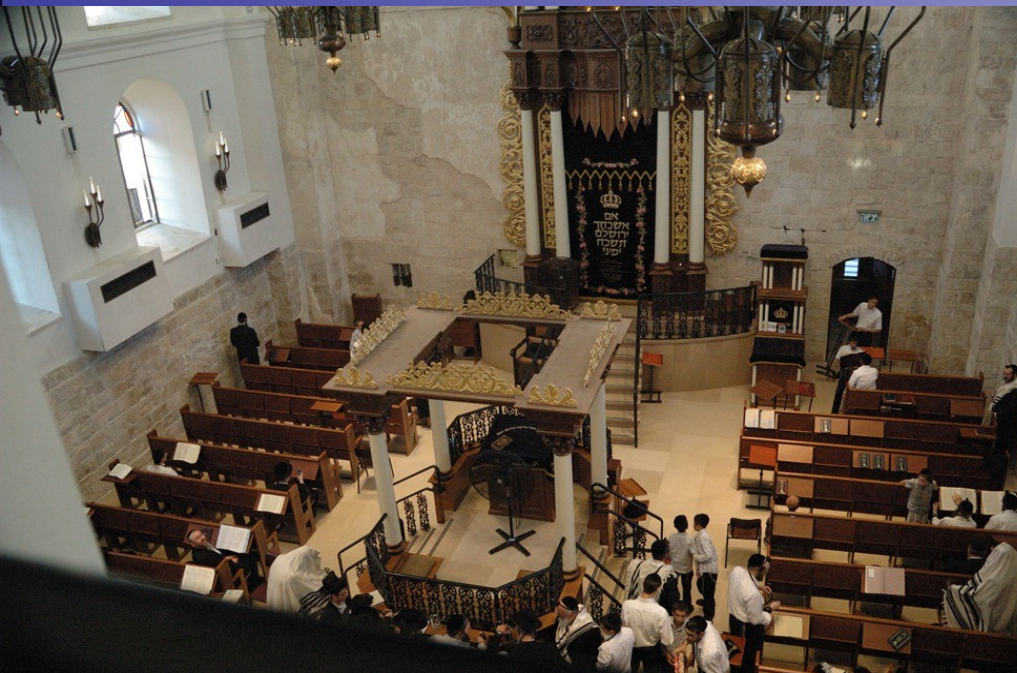
1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held

- So Pablo Christiani squared off against a rabbi named Nahmanides (AKA "Ramban")
 - Ironically, Nahmanides won the disputation
 - But Christiani still publicly claimed victory so Nahmanides published his account of the disputation, along with his arguments against Christianity
 - But that made it an actual *attack* on *Christendom*, so James exiled him from Spain



The Age of Crusades

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 - Ironically, Nahmanides won the disputation
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 - Nahmanides eventually made his way to Jerusalem, where he established the Ramban Synagogue, which is still in operation today



The Age of Crusades

- But there were other explosions too...
 - 1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
 - 1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held
 - 1270 The Eighth (and Ninth) Crusade
 - Good King Louis IX of France was horrified when the Mamluks conquered Antioch leaving only the Crusader States of little Tripoli and the Kingdom of Jerusalem
 - He called for a new, *Eighth* Crusade to win the Crusader States back from the Muslims



The Age of Crusades

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 - 1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
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 - Louis got his brother Charles of Anjou to join him in attacking Tunis
 - (NOTE: Tunis was ruled by the Hafsids, who were a Berber group related to the Muslims who occupied Spain, and Charles thought that they just *might* be able to convert them)



The Age of Crusades

- But there were other explosions too...

1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
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1270 **The Eighth (and Ninth) Crusade**

- Louis got his brother Charles of Anjou to join him in attacking Tunis
- But the day after Charles and his troops arrived, Louis got sick and died from fouled drinking water
 - King Edward I of England arrived in 1271, just as Charles signed a treaty with Tunis, ending the Crusade



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Edward was known in Britain as “Longshanks,” because he was so tall (i.e.; “long-legged”)
 - And his portrayal by Patrick McGoochan in *Braveheart* was—unfortunately—just about the only historically accurate part of the film...
 - Edward was a consummate warrior who was renowned for his ruthlessness
 - For instance, he not only brutally conquered Wales and turned Scotland into a vassal state (his son, Edward II, was thus the first crown prince to be known as the “Prince of Wales”)



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 - Edward was a consummate warrior who was renowned for his ruthlessness
 - For instance, he not only brutally conquered Wales and turned Scotland into a vassal state, but he also enforced his new laws against usury in England by slaughtering hundreds of Jews
(who often were used as money-lenders, since Rome had long since outlawed usury by Christians)



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 - Edward was a consummate warrior who was renowned for his ruthlessness
 - For instance, he not only brutally conquered Wales and turned Scotland into a vassal state, but he also enforced his new laws against usury in England by slaughtering hundreds of Jews—and then, ultimately, issuing the Edict of Expulsion in 1290, which forcibly expelled all of the Jews from England



The Age of Crusades

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- So Edward came all that way for a Crusade, and he wasn't going to be thwarted merely by Louis' death and Charles' diplomacy
 - Moving on from Tunis to Acre, Edward dragged Charles along as he launched the *Ninth* Crusade to stop the Mamluk Muslims who were now laying siege to Tripoli



The Age of Crusades

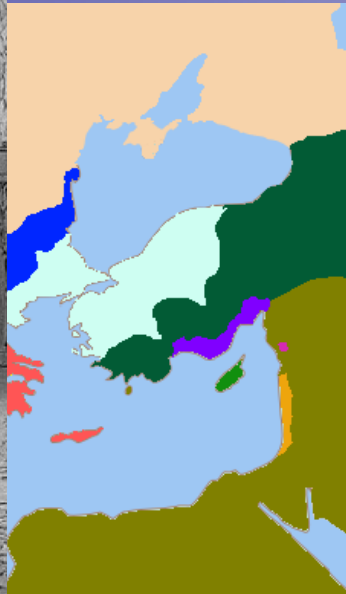
- But there were other explosions too...

1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan
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- Edward split their troops, attacking the army around Tripoli from both Cyprus and Acre and he also made a deal with the *Mongols* in Persia, having *them* attack the Mamluks, too
 - The Mamluks were defeated, the Mongols rode back to Persia, and Edward brokered a cease fire to last for 10 years, 10 months, and 10 days

- But then Edward was attacked by a Muslim assassin while he slept and was stabbed with the assassin's poisoned blade and *still* managed to kill the assassin, even before his own guards could get into the room

- (NOTE: Edward was quite ill for a while, but went home to England, rested and fully recovered)
- (NOTE²: Poor Scotland...)



The Age of Crusades

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The Age of Crusades

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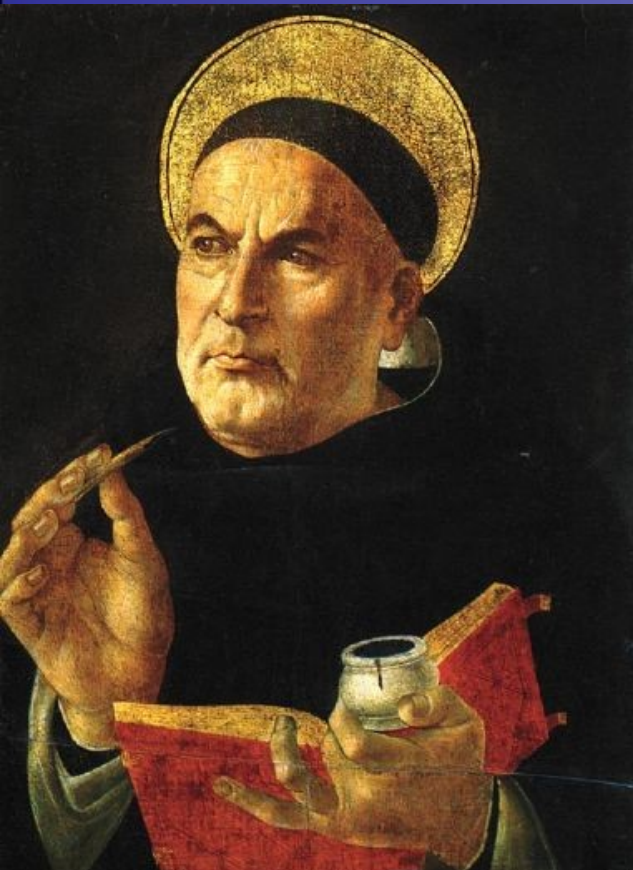
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- Edward split their troops, attacking the army around Tripoli from both Cyprus and Acre and he also made a deal with the *Mongols* in Persia, having *them* attack the Mamluks, too
- But after the cease fire was over, in 1282, the Mamluks took Tripoli, and then Acre was destroyed—the Kingdom of Jerusalem fell
- And that marked the end of the Crusader States in the Holy Land, as well as the end of the Crusades...



The Age of Crusades

- An intellectual explosion began...
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 - 1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiæ*



The Age of Crusades

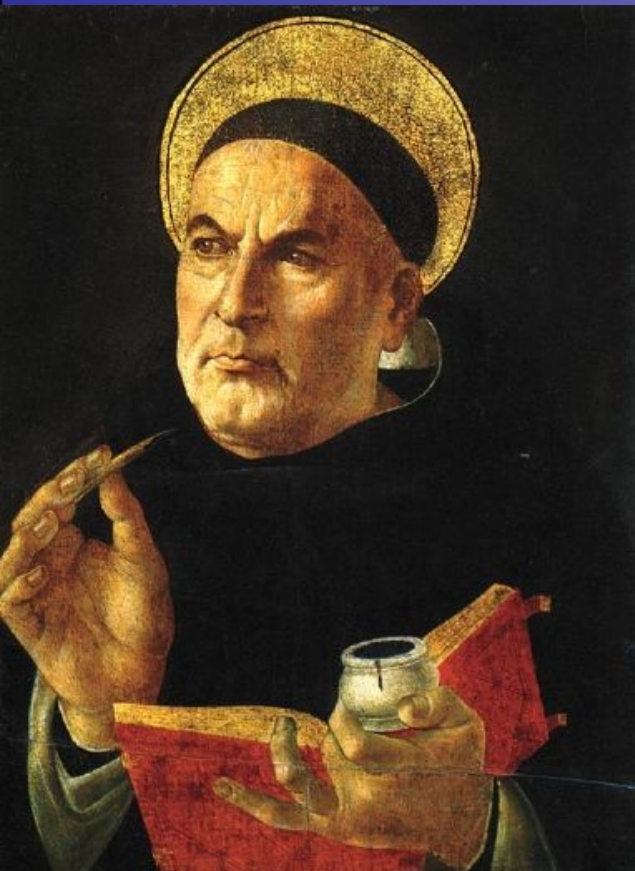
- Funky little teaching moment—
 - It is literally *impossible* to overestimate how important Thomas Aquinas was to Roman Catholic theology
 - As Pope Pious X wrote in 1914,
“The capital theses in the philosophy of St. Thomas are not to be placed in the category of opinions capable of being debated one way or another, but are to be considered as the foundations upon which the whole science of natural and divine things is based; if such principles are once removed or in any way impaired, it must necessarily follow that students of the sacred sciences will ultimately fail to perceive so much as the meaning of the words in which the dogmas of divine revelation are proposed by the magistracy of the Church.”
- In other words,
- A) You can't understand *Christianity* until you understand *Aquinas*
(so everyone trying to be a good Christian prior to the late 13th century was just out of luck)
 - B) You can't *debate* whether Aquinas is right—he didn't present his *opinions*, but rather the very unquestionable Truths of God



The Age of Crusades

- *Pop quiz:* What kind of monk was Aquinas?
(Hint: Look at his robes...)

☒ Dominican



The Age of Crusades

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1256 Roger Bacon became a Franciscan

1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held

1270 The Eighth (and Ninth) Crusade

1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiae*

- Thomas Aquinas was born into a wealthy noble family in Sicily in the early 13th century

- His family wanted him to succeed his uncle as the Abbot of the prosperous Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, but he chose instead to become a poor Dominican

- So his family kidnapped him and held him prisoner in their castle tower for over a year, trying to change his mind

- They even hired a prostitute to try to seduce him, to undermine his vows of purity and chastity

(but according to tradition, angels came and ministered to him to strengthen his resolve)



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- Eventually, his sister snuck him out of the castle so that he could go on his way

- He went to study at the University of Paris (at the same time that Roger Bacon was teaching there, actually)



The Age of Crusades

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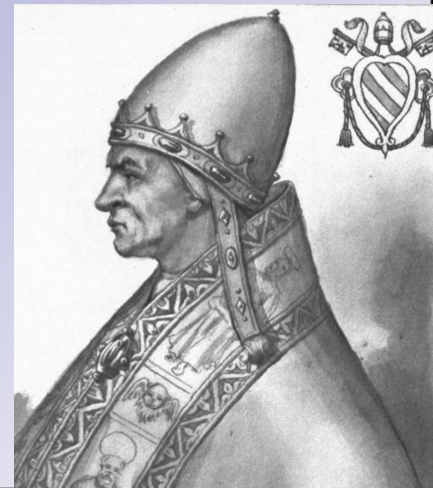
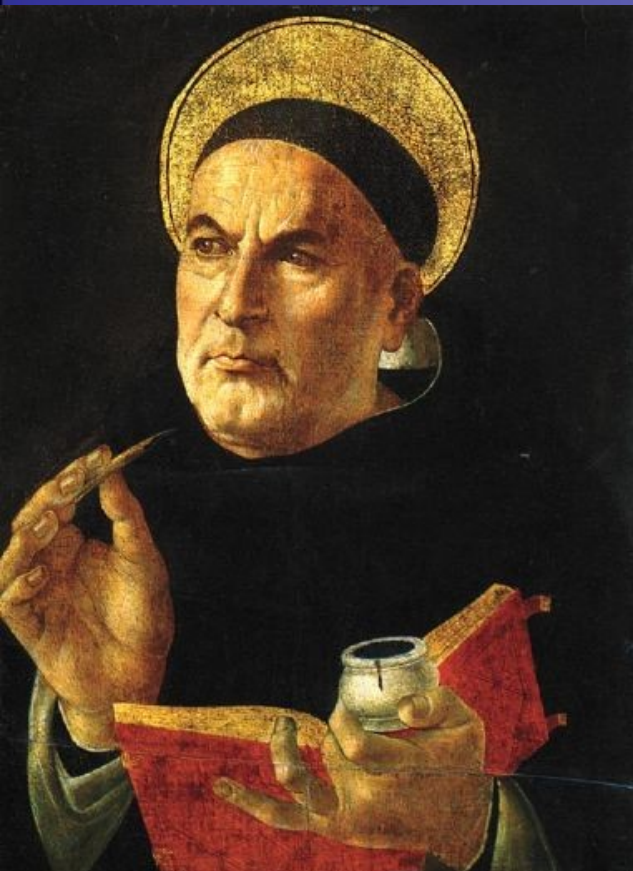
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- His family wanted him to succeed his uncle as the Abbot of the prosperous Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, but he chose instead to become a poor Dominican
- Eventually, his sister snuck him out of the castle so that he could go on his way
 - He went to study at the University of Paris, declining Pope Innocent IV's offer of a special dispensation to make him the *Dominican* Abbott of the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, so that he could continue his studies at Cologne



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Much like Albert Einstein, Thomas Aquinas was considered a little *slow* by his teachers and classmates at Cologne
 - He rarely spoke or engaged in social activities, so they began referring to him as a “dumb ox”
 - But Albertus—the head of the school—disagreed: “You call him the dumb ox, but in his teaching, he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world...”
 - Eventually, Aquinas even became the head of the University of Paris himself



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1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiæ*

- While in Paris, he took up the debate against the Averroists

- These were scholars who followed the Muslim philosopher, Averroës, who taught a skewed version of Aristotelian philosophy

- (NOTE: Aquinas was a *huge* fan of Aristotle, referring to him consistently as "the Philosopher")



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- While in Paris, he took up the debate against the Averroists

- These were scholars who followed the Muslim philosopher, Averroës, who taught a skewed version of Aristotelian philosophy—most notably that philosophy / science and religion occupy completely separate intellectual spheres, and that we therefore shouldn't try to mingle the disciplines

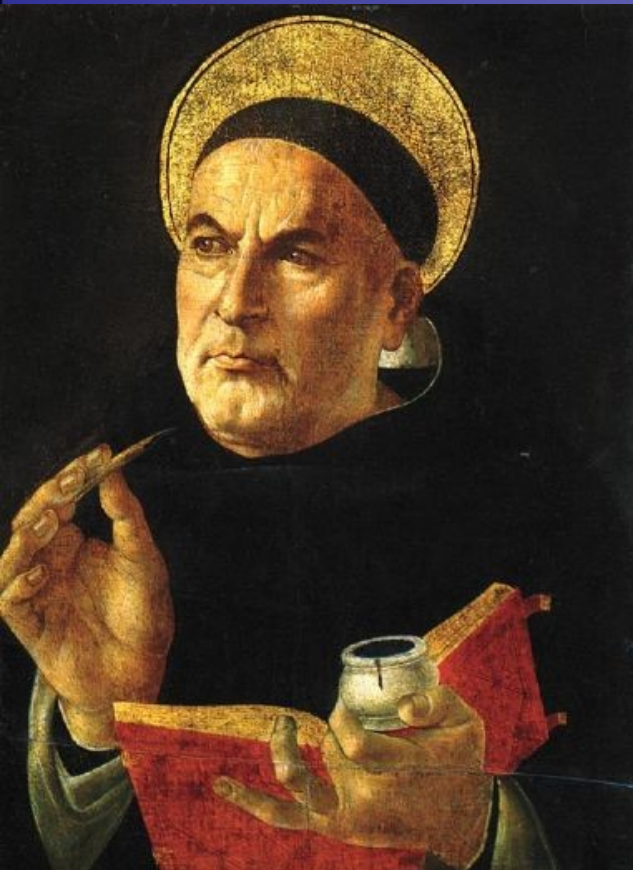
- Similarly, he taught that though a man's religious “soul” may die, his non-personal “intellect” lives on and joins God—whom Aristotle defined as “thought thinking itself”
- Basically, Averroës was picking up on all of the parts of Aristotle that Aquinas *didn't* agree with

- (NOTE: Averroës got into as much trouble with other *Islamic* scholars as he did with Aquinas)



The Age of Crusades

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 - 1263 The Disputation of Barcelona was held
 - 1270 The Eighth (and Ninth) Crusade
 - 1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiæ*
 - But arguably, Aquinas' greatest contribution to the Church was his *Summa Theologiæ*



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The *Summa Theologiæ* was basically the first of what we'd call today a “systematic theology”
 - The first part was about the nature of God and the nature of Man
 - The second part was about sin, morality, and how we should live
 - The third part was about the nature of Christ, the Atonement, and the theology of the sacraments
 - For instance, in the earliest part of his *Summa*, Aquinas had argued for essential and accidental qualities for things
 - “Essential” qualities are what's true about a things essence, its core being
 - “Accidental” qualities are what's true about a thing merely in a given context
 - Thus, God is the only thing in the universe whose essential and accidental qualities are exactly the same, since He never changes
 - For example, God is both essentially and accidentally utterly good
 - But Man is essentially *sinful*, and only *accidentally* sometimes good



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 - For instance, in the earliest part of his *Summa*, Aquinas had argued for essential and accidental qualities for things
 - Or, when arguing for transubstantiation, Aquinas explained that the Communion elements are *essentially* the blood and body of Jesus Christ...
...but *accidentally* look like wine and bread



The Age of Crusades

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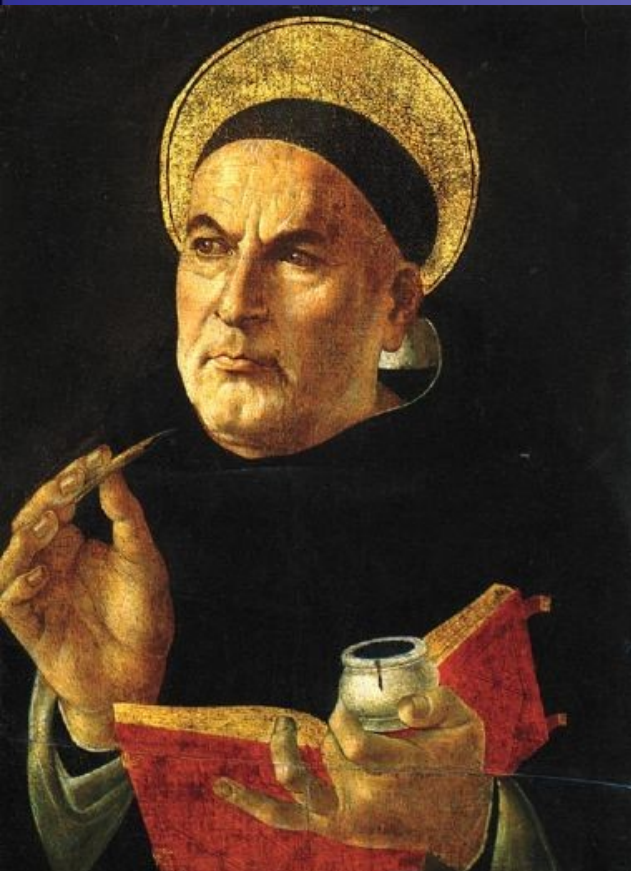
1270 The Eighth (and Ninth) Crusade

1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiae*

- But Aquinas stopped writing suddenly, before he finished that third section of the *Summa*

- His friend, Reginald, asked him to keep writing and teaching, but Aquinas replied:
“Reginald, I cannot, because all that I have written seems like straw to me...”

- He never explained that statement, and he never wrote another thing after that



The Age of Crusades

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1274 Aquinas published his *Summa Theologiae*

- That same year, Aquinas was invited to the Second Council of Lyon

- Other attendees included James I of Aragón an ambassador from new Byzantine Emperor Michael VIII of Constantinople and even an ambassador from the Persian Abaqa Khan



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- That same year, Aquinas was invited to the Second Council of Lyon

- But while Aquinas himself was riding his donkey on the way to the Council, he hit his head on a branch and died from his injuries

- Nonetheless, though he died thinking his work was just “straw,” Aquinas arguably ushered in a new era of intellectual growth, later called the *Renaissance*...

