

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

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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
 - *Welcome to the Renaissance*
 - *Turnovers...*
 - *The Black Death and a Century of War*
 - *Wobbling Out of Control (part 1)*



The Renaissance

- Things began to go *extremely* wrong
 - 1347 The bubonic plague ravaged Europe
 - Within the span of four years, roughly 50% of the population of Europe was dead—200 million
 - This doesn't include the 3.5 million killed in the Hundred Years' War between England and France being fought at the same time or the hundreds of thousands of Jews who were slaughtered in an attempt to appease an obviously angry Jesus



The Renaissance

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1347

1365

The bubonic plague ravaged Europe

Timur took power in Central Asia

- Around 1330, a nine-year-old Turk named Timur was taken with his brothers from their home in Uzbekistan by invading Mongols

- They were forced to raid caravans and villages to survive, and on one of these raids, Timur was wounded in the leg by arrows

- Thus, he gained the name, "Timur the Lame"

- But the injury just left him more determined to succeed, and he used his military and political genius to become the leader of the group

- Seeing himself as the spiritual descendent of Genghis Khan, he sought to unify the various khaganates into one, massive Mongol Empire again

- He cemented that connection in 1370 by assassinating the husband of Saray Mulk Khanum (who was from Genghis Khan's family line) and marrying her himself



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 - But the injury just left him more determined to succeed, and he used his military and political genius to become the leader of the group
 - He also positioned himself within the Islamic world as a God-inspired, supernatural warrior
 - Calling himself "The Sword of Islam," he promised to bring the whole known world under the authority of Allah and Islam including winning huge, crucial victories against Christianity, such as slaughtering the powerful Knights Hospitaller at Smyrna



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Timur took power in Central Asia

- Around 1330, a nine-year-old Turk named Timur was taken with his brothers from their home
- Within three decades, Timur the Lame had conquered all of Central Asia, taking back lands from the growing Ottoman Empire in Anatolia, the waning Delhi Sultanate in northern India, and even the powerful Mamluks out of Egypt
 - Europeans corrupted his name to “Tamerlane,” and he was feared throughout the world



The Renaissance

- Things began to go *extremely* wrong
 - 1347 The bubonic plague ravaged Europe
 - 1365 Timur took power in Central Asia
 - He was phenomenally generous to his allies, and completely ruthless to his victims
 - In Isfahan alone, he slaughtered 200,000 people, stacking their heads into towers
 - Eyewitnesses described 28 such towers in Isfahan, each constructed from at least 1,500 decapitated human heads



The Renaissance

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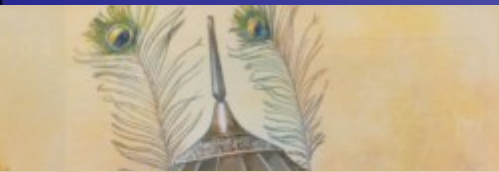
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- By 1404, he turned his face toward China, attempting to succeed where other Mongol conquerors had failed

(for instance, the new “Ming” dynasty under Hongwu in China had repelled an invasion by the Mongols in 1368)

(in fact, they actually ran the last Mongol khan, Toghun Temür, out of his own summer palace of Shàngdū [Xanadu] in 1369)



The Renaissance

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 - 1347 The bubonic plague ravaged Europe
 - 1365 Timur took power in Central Asia
 - By 1404, he turned his face toward China, attempting to succeed where other Mongol conquerors had failed, and to use the wealth of China to finance his conquests in the West
 - But he died in 1405 from the bubonic plague, stopping short of his plans



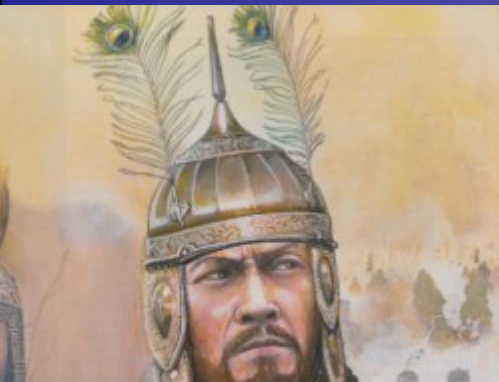
The Renaissance

- Things began to go *extremely* wrong
 - 1347 The bubonic plague ravaged Europe
 - 1365 Timur took power in Central Asia
 - But Tamerlane successfully broke the back of Christianity in Central Asia—after the 14th century, it functionally ceased to exist
 - He'd killed 150,000 Georgian Christians, 200,000 Jacobites in Kurdistan and Syria, 500,000 Mesopotamian Christians, etc.
 - In all, he slaughtered over 4 million Christians as the “Sword of Islam”



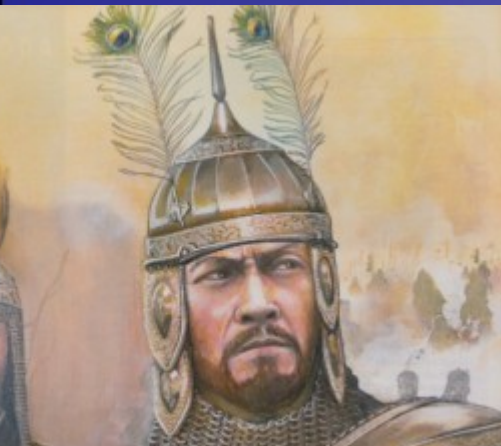
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 - Ironically, however, he had a staunch ally in Catholic King Enrique III of Castile, who was trying to shore up support for his ongoing campaign to rid the Iberian peninsula of those last Moors in Granada who were also tangentially allied with Eastern Muslim enemies of Tamerlane
 - Politics makes strange bedfellows



The Renaissance

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 - In all, he slaughtered over 4 million Christians as the “Sword of Islam”
 - Actually, between the jihads of Tamerlane and the intra-church crusades and Inquisitions of the Popes, more than 25% of the world's Christian population were martyred for their faith in the 14th century—and this was *on top of* the plague and the Hundred Years' War



The Renaissance

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 - 1377 Gregory XI condemned the Lollards
 - A staunch proponent of crusades, the Inquisition, and burning heretics at the stake, Gregory took a strong stand against the Lollards



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Lollards were a group of English and Dutch Christians who felt that the Church had lost its way, and that we should look back to the Bible to find God's Truth (kind of like the Waldensians)
 - Thus, they argued that the Pope was *not* the vicar of Christ on Earth
 - And that simony and indulgences were wrong and contrary to the heart of the Gospel
 - And that the worshipping of icons was idolatry
 - It's ridiculous to worship and adore things—even splinters of the cross, upon which Jesus died—just because they *might* have been physically close to Jesus at some point in His life
 - “If the cross of Christ, the nails, spear, and crown of thorns are to be thus honoured, then why not honour Judas' lips, if only they could be found?”



The Renaissance

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 - The Lollards were a group of English and Dutch Christians who felt that the Church had lost its way, and that we should look back to the Bible to find God's Truth (kind of like the Waldensians)
 - And that it's ridiculous that priests discourage us from praying for the living (since God will take care of them), but encourage us instead to pray for the dead (to help get them out of a Purgatory that has no basis in Scripture)
 - For that matter, it's similarly ridiculous that priests tell us only to pray in a church building, where it's holy
 - (If God *is* God, then He's God *everywhere* and on *every* day, and we should pray to Him *wherever* we are)



The Renaissance

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 - The Lollards were a group of English and Dutch Christians who felt that the Church had lost its way, and that we should look back to the Bible to find God's Truth (kind of like the Waldensians)
 - And that the bread and wine in Communion are obviously *still* just bread and wine, even after they've been consecrated—they are sober *signs* of Christ's body and blood, not spiritual or physical *manifestations* of them
 - And that it's wrong to sing *with notes* (i.e.; a melody)—instead, we should sing with plainsong only, since it's only the *words* which honor God, and not our fancy musicality
 - And that there's no Biblical reason why clergy should not be allowed to marry
 - (In fact, many of the Church's sins would've be lessened if we had allowed them healthy married lives)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Lollards were a group of English and Dutch Christians who felt that the Church had lost its way, and that we should look back to the Bible to find God's Truth (kind of like the Waldensians)
 - Arguing that the Catholic Church had created needless, unbiblical hierarchies, they preached the “priesthood of all believers”—the idea that *all* of us as Christians were called to being priests and reaching out to the world with the Gospel message
 - Much like the earlier Waldensians, they went out two-by-two, preaching the Gospel as itinerant preachers



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - The Lollards were a group of English and Dutch Christians who felt that the Church had lost its way, and that we should look back to the Bible to find God's Truth (kind of like the Waldensians)
 - **The primary leader and teacher within the Lollard movement was English theologian John Wycliffe**



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire, and became a professor of philosophy and theology at Oxford
 - The more he read Scripture, the more he became convinced that the Catholic Church was doing it wrong—and his arguments were very convincing
 - (which is why it's *Wycliffe* teaching these monks here)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire, and became a professor of philosophy and theology at Oxford
 - The more he read Scripture, the more he became convinced that the Catholic Church was doing it wrong—and his arguments were very convincing
 - He found a protector and patron in John of Gaunt, the regent of England at the time for the young King Richard II
 - (which was fortunate, because it gave him free reign to develop his theology and following, but also unfortunate, because John wasn't really all that popular—and that's not a good star to attach yourself to)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire, and became a professor of philosophy and theology at Oxford
 - The more he read Scripture, the more he became convinced that the Catholic Church was doing it wrong—and his arguments were very convincing
 - But he was vilified by both the Catholic clergy (whom he called corrupt and immoral) and the powerful monastic movement (which he'd called to task for celibacy and wealth-hoarding)
 - Remember—though monks like Anthony had originally focused on simple lives of poverty and reflection, by the time of the Renaissance, the monastic movement had grown to be powerful landowners and political leaders in their communities—usually, the *wealthiest* landowners
 - After Wycliffe started preaching, the monks of England saw a significant decline in almsgiving and clerical taxes, and were forced to earn a living by their own labor
 - (Wycliffe suddenly became very unpopular in the Church)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire, and became a professor of philosophy and theology at Oxford
 - But arguably, the *most* unpopular thing that Wycliffe is remembered for was translating the Bible into English, so that everyone could read it (Which was exactly what church reformers like Peter Waldo had been so excited about doing... including *Jerome*, who'd translated the Bible into *Latin* in the first place)



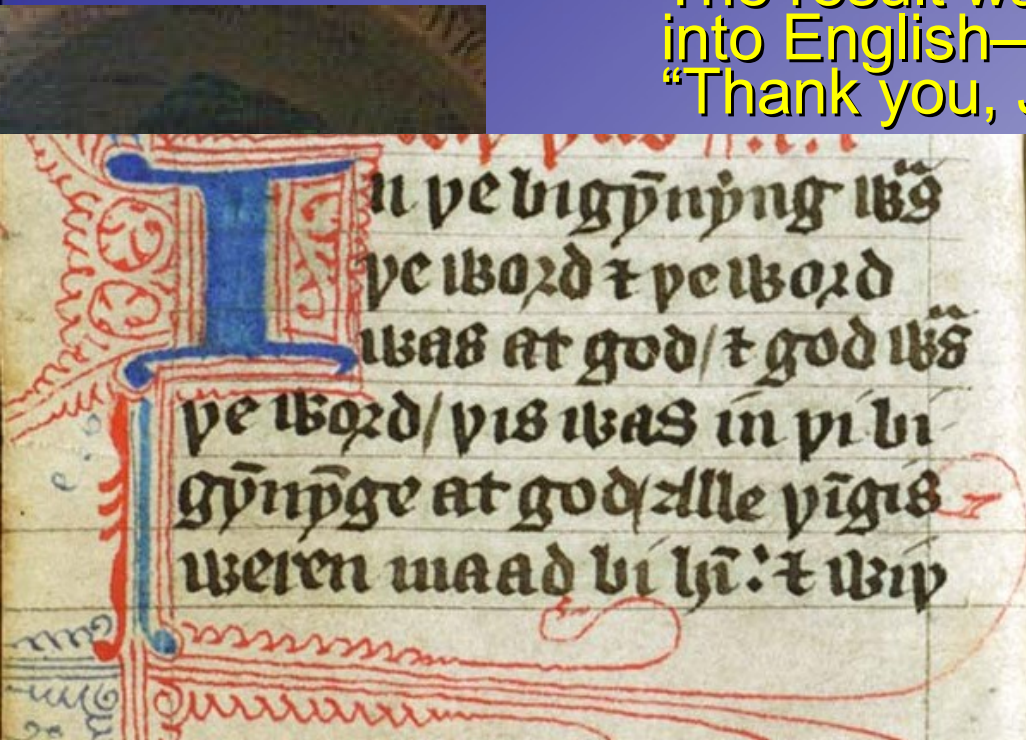
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 - John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire, and became a professor of philosophy and theology at Oxford
 - But arguably, the *most* unpopular thing that Wycliffe is remembered for was translating the Bible into English, so that everyone could read it
 - In fact, Wycliffe (and Nicholas of Hereford, who helped him) actually translated Jerome's Latin Bible, not the original Hebrew and Greek
 - They got the best, most accurate copies that they could find
 - They took into consideration the best literary and exegetical guides available to them
 - They made sure that their translation was based on the actual grammar of the Latin, rather than their own interpretations of it
 - Then they translated it into English
 - (NOTE: This more or less established the steps that we follow today when trying to produce the best translations of the Hebrew and Greek originals)



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 - In fact, Wycliffe (and Nicholas of Hereford, who helped him) actually translated Jerome's Latin Bible, not the original Hebrew and Greek
 - The result was the very first Bible translated into English—and everyone in the room said, "Thank you, John..."

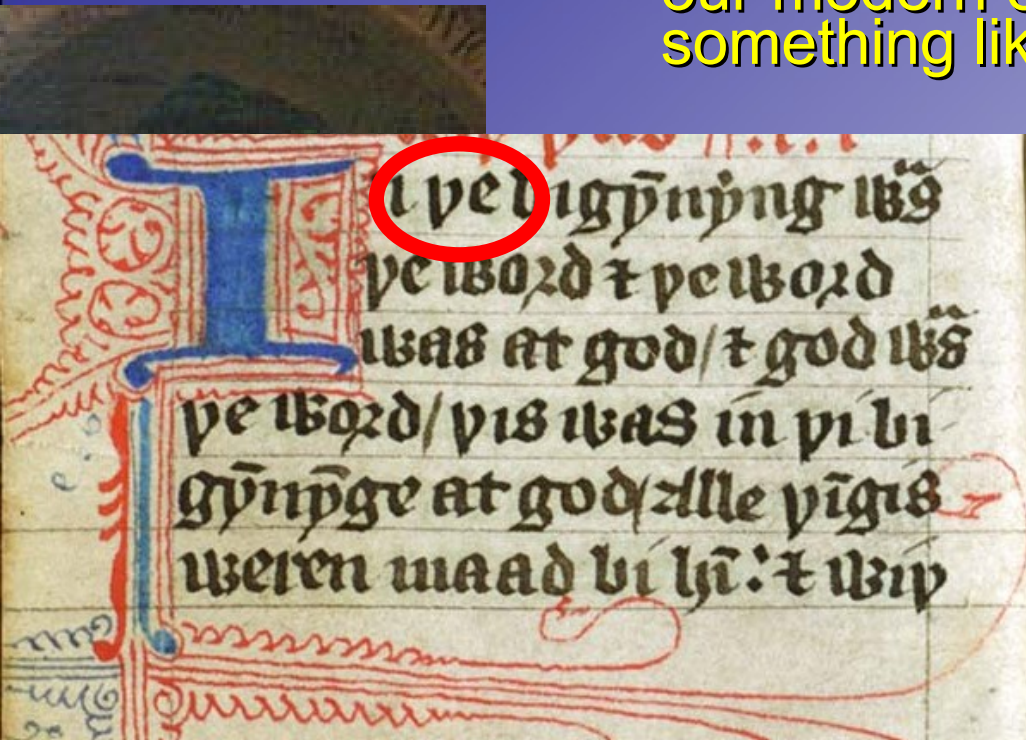


- This is John 1:1-3 in Wycliffe's Middle English—
 - "In þe bigynnyng was þe word, and the word was at God, & God was the word. þis was in þe bigynnyge at God. Alle þingis weren maad bi hym, and wipouten hym was maad no þing, þat þing þat was maad."



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment³—
 - You'll notice that the “th” sound is made with a “thorn” symbol—“þ”—the same as the the Vikings and Germans (who'd invaded England) did it
 - But you'll also notice that the “p” was becoming stylized in its printed representation as “p̃”
 - Thus, even though the “p” and the “y” are clearly different letters here, the Middle English way of writing “the” actually looks (to most of our modern eyes) more like they're writing something like “ye”
 - This is why modern people, in our ignorance, will often use phrases like “Ye Olde _____” when we're trying to sound Middle English-y
 - Try saying that back then, and they'd think you were nuts



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment⁴—
 - You'll also notice that this page is hand-written, rather than mechanically printed
 - By necessity, John Wycliffe should thus also be remembered as the guy who invented bifocal eyeglasses, to help him perform the tedious work
 - (yes, I know that Ben Franklin is credited as inventing them in the 18th century, but he was just perfecting the technology that Wycliffe had invented in the 14th century)



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 - But arguably, the *most* unpopular thing that Wycliffe is remembered for was translating the Bible into English, so that everyone could read it
 - Between the proto-Reformation teachings and lay preaching of the Lollards, the theological writings of Wycliffe, and his translation of the Bible (and yes, even the invention of bifocals), it's hard to over-estimate how important John Wycliffe's contributions were to the history of modern Christianity
 - After he died from a stroke while speaking a mass in 1384, his work was carried on by his follower, Czech priest Jan Hus
 - But this isn't the last that we'll hear about John Wycliffe...



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- A staunch proponent of crusades, the Inquisition, and burning heretics at the stake, Gregory took a strong stand against the Lollards

- **Gregory formally condemned Wycliffe's teaching in the same year that he also formally moved the Papal throne from Avignon back to Rome ...and then he almost immediately died...**



The Renaissance

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 - 1378 Urban VI alienated pretty much everybody
 - After Gregory's death, the College of Cardinals felt compelled to elect a *Roman* Pope to succeed him, what with the Pope now residing in Rome
 - They picked Bartolomeo Prignano, an Italian monk trained in Avignon under Gregory
 - From the beginning, Urban annoyed everyone
 - He wasn't actually Roman (he was from Naples), so he annoyed the Italian citizens
 - He wasn't French or a cardinal, so he annoyed the powerful French cardinals
 - He had a nasty temper and wasn't really very politically astute, so he annoyed all of the influential leaders that he dealt with—so much so that the cardinals argued that he'd gone mad from the sudden flush of Papal power
(what with him commanding clergy to refrain from simony, cardinals to stop taking bribes, etc.)



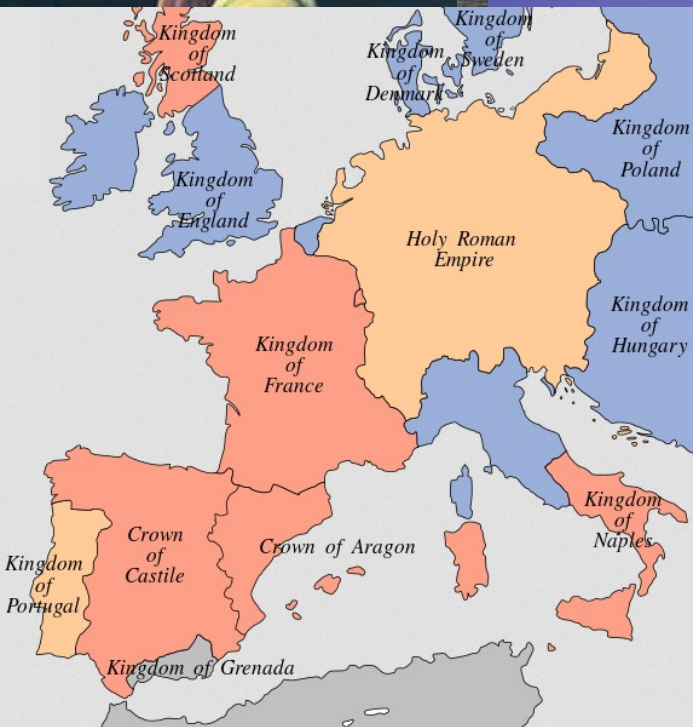
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 - The same College of Cardinals that elected him felt compelled to elect a *new new* Pope that year
 - So Robert of Geneva became the new Pope Clement VII
 - (NOTE: Urban was still technically Pope at the time—setting off the Western Schism)



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 - There were officially two duelling Papacies at this point—Urban's in Rome, and Clement's back in Avignon—and Europe chose sides
 - England, northern Italy, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe sided with Urban in Rome
 - France, Scotland, Naples, Castile, and Aragon sided with Clement in Avignon
 - Ironically, the Holy Roman Empire remained neutral in the fight
 - Remember: these were both *legitimate* Popes, duly elected by the very same College of Cardinals—and both vying for control of the Church



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 - But Clement wasn't as reform-minded as Urban had been
 - Formerly known as the “Butcher of Cesena,” Clement had slaughtered 8,000 prisoners after taking the city, back when he was commanding the Papal troops in northern Italy
 - He was particularly famous for his ability to decapitate a man with a pike



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 - But Clement wasn't as reform-minded as Urban had been
 - In contrast to Urban, Clement actually *encouraged* simony, and helped fund his Papacy through bribes and extortion
 - He also enjoyed sex with boys, shortening the jerkins for young Papal pages from knee-length to just below the belt, so that he could admire their buttocks
 - He's who the Lollards *should* have called the antichrist, instead of Urban...



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 - Urban reigned until 1389, and Clement reigned until 1394, but the Western Schism of the Catholic Church continued long after their deaths (and, in 1410, the Schism even came to include a *third* Pope in *Pisa*...)



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 - 1397 The Medici Bank was created in Florence
 - And that ended up starting a whole new ball game...

