

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 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*
 - *Falling Into Spiritual Collapse (part 1)*



The Renaissance

- New “empires” were being forged
 - 1469 Fernando II and Isabel united Spain
 - The European map had changed dramatically in the past couple of decades
 - In 1469, *another* crucial change was coming—teenaged rulers King Fernando II of Aragón and Queen Isabel of Castile were married at the urging of Isabel's friend and confessor, Tomás de Torquemada



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 - (NOTE: They were cousins, so they had to get a special dispensation from Pope Sixtus IV which they did, thanks to help [and bribes] from Spanish Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia)



The Renaissance

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 - 1469 Fernando II and Isabel united Spain
 - The European map had changed dramatically in the past couple of decades
 - In 1469, *another* crucial change was coming—teenaged rulers King Fernando II of Aragón and Queen Isabel of Castile were married
 - This brought the two major kingdoms together, forming a new Spanish empire, with unprecedented wealth and power
 - To weave the kingdoms together, Fernando and Isabel began “fixing” the issues Spain had struggled with for years



The Renaissance

- New “empires” were being forged
 - 1469 Fernando II and Isabel united Spain
 - 1478 The Spanish Inquisition was formed
 - A large part of Fernando and Isabel's reforms were focused on purifying Spain spiritually
 - If you'll remember, there was a large Jewish population in Spain, as well as one, last, Islamic stronghold in Grenada
 - So the monarchs were determined to rid Spain of both of these groups—by death, by forced exile, or by conversion
- (NOTE: Converted Jews were called “*Marranos*,” meaning “pigs”—from the Arabic محرم *muḥarram*, meaning “forbidden”)
- (NOTE²: Converted Muslims were called “*Moriscos*”—i.e.; “Moors” after their original home in the region of Mauritania, which includes Morocco)



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 - So the monarchs were determined to rid Spain of both of these groups—by death, by forced exile, or by conversion
 - But if you convert a Jew or a Muslim, how do you know that they really understand what it *means* to be a Christian?
 - That's where the *Dominicans* came in



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 - As with the Medieval Inquisition, the point of the Spanish one was to judge the orthodoxy of Christians, and to correct when necessary (contrary to modern perceptions, the Inquisition used very little physical coercion at all on those accused of heresy—at least at first)



The Renaissance

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 - As with the Medieval Inquisition, the point of the Spanish one was to judge the orthodoxy of Christians, and to correct when necessary
 - In fact, it began by *freeing* many people
 - Pope Sixtus emphasized that many people had been maliciously—and falsely—accused under the Medieval Inquisition, and that their cases should be reviewed by qualified judges and their sentences revoked, if needs be
 - Nonetheless, at the first *auto-da-fé*, six Marranos were burnt at the stake in an attempt to get them to confess their sins and thus save their souls



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - This was around the same time that things were changing in Russia as well
 - For years, the various tribes of the Rus had been serving as vassals of the Mongol Golden Horde
 - But in 1480, the leader of the Rus in Moscovy saw that the Horde was fragmenting, and called all of the Rus together under one banner
 - Declaring himself a “tsar” Ivan broke away from the Mongols and conquered much of northern Asia and Finland, creating a Russian Empire
 - He thus became known as “Ivan the Great”



The Renaissance

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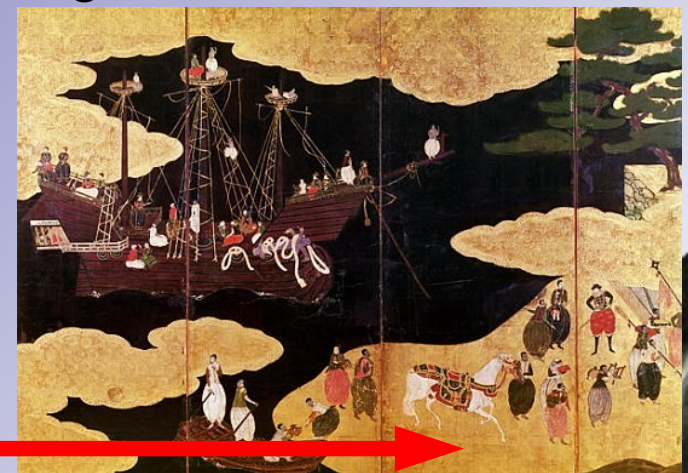
1481

Pope Sixtus IV issued the *Aeterni Regis*

- Trying to broker a peace between King Fernando of Spain and King João II of Portugal, Sixtus affirmed the Treaty of Alcáçovas, which they had both signed in 1479

- The Pope declared that Fernando had sovereignty over Castile and the Canary Islands, and João had sovereignty over the *rest* of Africa and everything to the East

- (NOTE: That got *real* interesting, once trade routes were opened up to Oriental kingdoms like China and Japan)



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- With Spain focused on its wars against Grenada, and England engaged in the War of the Roses, and France focused on its affairs all around Italy, Portugal could pretty much do anything it wanted

- Soon, Portugal had holdings all along the coastlines of Africa and the slave trade was booming —with God's own blessing (through the Pope)



The Renaissance

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 - 1481 Pope Sixtus IV issued the *Aeterni Regis*
 - 1482 Torquemada was named Grand Inquisitor
 - The grandson of Jewish converts to Christianity, Tomás de Torquemada had joined the Dominican order as a youth, and had become good friends with Queen Isabel
 - Given his family history, he knew first-hand that not every conversion to Christianity was sincere, so he took the Inquisition seriously
 - His name became synonymous with fear and torture



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - But Torquemada—and the Inquisition itself—can be interpreted and re-interpreted many ways
 - To the Catholic Church during the Renaissance, he was considered a hero—
 (“the light of Spain, the savior of his country,
 the honor of his order”)



The Renaissance

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 - But Torquemada—and the Inquisition itself—can be interpreted and re-interpreted many ways
 - To the Catholic Church during the Renaissance, he was considered a hero
 - To the Protestants of the Reformation, he was considered the worst kind of sinner—one who did horrors in the name of Jesus Christ
 - He invented new ways to torture people, and was renowned for being utterly, unrelentingly cruel in carrying them out



The Renaissance

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 - To the Catholic Church during the Renaissance, he was considered a hero
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 - To the average citizen of Spain, he was something of a boogie-man
 - In fact, he had to travel with bodyguards, since he constantly received death threats, and had survived more than one assassination attempt



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - But Torquemada—and the Inquisition itself—can be interpreted and re-interpreted many ways
 - And yet, from all accounts, he appears to have been a very caring, very devout monk
 - He lived in very small, spartan quarters, when other Inquisitor Generals lived in palaces
 - He wept as he prayed for those whom even torture could not wring a confession out of
 - (NOTE: The whole idea of the torture was to create as much pain as possible, so that the accused would finally be willing to relent and renounce Satan—thus, saving the person's soul)
 - (One could therefore argue that Torquemada was simply history's most extreme of being "cruel to be kind")
 - (To be *less* cruel would be to allow a soul to be damned for eternity, simply because the Inquisitor had lacked the fortitude to allow them a moment's pain to save them)



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 - He wept as he prayed for those whom even torture could not wring a confession out of
 - For that matter, he actually *reduced* the use of torture and execution performed by the Inquisition—arguing that it didn't seem to be working, and thus just added more suffering for the accused
 - He also instituted better rules and safeguards on accusations and trials to protect people from false accusations
 - But does that make him a good man, or an even *more* heinous villain because he thought that a constrained, controlled torture was a good, loving thing?



The Renaissance

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 - On top of all of that, it's possible that the Spanish Inquisition wasn't anywhere near as bad as people tend to think about it
 - With the rise of Spain and Portugal as major powers also came the rise of propaganda *against* them
 - Other European nations began embellishing the “Black Legend” of the Iberian peninsula, upping the ante on just how horrific the Inquisition was in order to make the Spanish and Portuguese sound worse than they were
 - It was simply good business to turn the Spanish into Europe's “bad guys,” and race hatred grew between the paler northern Europeans and the darker southern Europeans



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 - With the rise of Spain and Portugal as major powers also came the rise of propaganda *against* them
 - In all, less than 2,000 people died during the 27 years of Isabel's reign (which included the 15 years of Torquemada's leadership)
 - Compare that to the 500 people that self-proclaimed "Witchfinder General" Matthew Hopkins killed in England in less than two years or the 900+ that French judge and witchfinder Nicolas Rémy killed in the decade of his own witch trials—added to those of Jean Brodin, Pierre de Lancre, and others...



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 - And yet, from all accounts, he appears to have been a very caring, very devout monk
 - On top of all of that, it's possible that the Spanish Inquisition wasn't anywhere near as bad as people tend to think about it
 - In short, though people still today use the Spanish Inquisition as the classic example of all things horrific and judgemental in the name of religion, it really wasn't all that much different from all of the *other* heretic-and-witch-finding offices that were around at the same time in Europe



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Pope Sixtus IV issued the *Aeterni Regis*

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1484

Pope Innocent VIII issued the *Summis*

- Spurred on by famed witch hunter, German Dominican Heinrich Kramer

(author of the wildly popular book “*Malleus Maleficarum*,” AKA “*Der Hexenhammer*,” AKA “*Hammer of the Witches*”—which had quickly become the encyclopedia of witchcraft for Renaissance Europe)

MALLEUS MALEFICARVM.

MALEFICAS ET EARVM

hæresim framacā conterens,

EX VARIIS AVCTORIBVS COMPILATVS,
& in quatuor Tomos iuste distributus,

QVORVM DVO PRIORES VANAS DÆMONVM
versutias, prestigiosas eorum delusiones, supersticiosas Strigimarum
ceremonias, horrendas etiam cum illis congressus, exaltam denique
tam pestifera scilicet dissensionem, & putredinem complectuntur.
Tertius proximi Exorcismarum ad Dæmonum, & Strigimarum male-
ficia de Christi fidelibus pellenda; Quartus verò Artem Doctrinalem,
Benedictionalem, & Exorcismalem continet.

TOMVS PRIMVS.

Indices Autorem, copiam, rerumque non desunt,

Editio nouissima, infinitis penè mendis expurgata; cuique accessit Fuga
Dæmonum & Complementum artis exorcisticæ.

Ubi sunt mulieres, in quibus Psychica, vel diuinationis fuerit spiritus, merces moritur;
Leuitici cap. 10.



EVGDVN.

Sumptibus CLAVDII BOVRGEAT, sub signo Mercarij Galli.

M. DC. LXX.

REGVM PRIVILEGIO RECTE.



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Spurred on by famed witch hunter, German Dominican Heinrich Kramer, Innocent issued the *Summis Desiderantes Affectibus*, which gave expanded powers to Inquisitions to hunt down and punish all witches



It was believed that Europe was infested with witches, who had sold their souls to Satan and were regularly performing spells to bless and to curse people, livestock, villages, etc.



That led to widespread paranoia, with farmers assuming that their crop failures, couples assuming that their infertility, etc., were all due to spells cast by local witches performing magic—which was actually kinda true



With prayer and doctrinal teaching limited to clergy alone, people drifted back to “folk magic” and superstition for solutions to everyday issues, such as infertility, illness, or crop failure



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 - It was believed that Europe was infested with witches, who had sold their souls to Satan and were regularly performing spells to bless and to curse people, livestock, villages, etc.
 - This sort of thing couldn't be allowed by the Church, since witchcraft infringed on the powers of the local priests and bishops (who *alone* could bless and curse people, livestock, villages, etc.) and the European witch-hunts officially began



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- Spurred on by famed witch hunter, German Dominican Heinrich Kramer, Innocent issued the *Summis Desiderantes Affectibus*

- In 1487, Innocent also called for a crusade against the Waldensians

- To help pay for the crusade, he sold indulgences to all who would take up arms
- He also sold offices in the Vatican, turning simony into an accepted institution (actually creating new offices to be auctioned off to wealthy families)
- He died in 1492 from a fever...



The Renaissance

- New “empires” were being forged

1492



The Renaissance

- New “empires” were being forged
 - 1492 This was a *huge* year for Spain for 3 reasons
 - Fernando said that 1492 was the most important year of his reign, because it was the year that... they finally completed the 780-year Reconquista, defeating Grenada and kicking the last Muslim and Jew out of Spain
 - They issued the Alhambra Decree
 - All Jews were given three months to leave the kingdom—on pain of death—and they could take with them none of their money
 - Somewhere between 200-800,000 Jews were thus suddenly dispossessed
 - Many fled to safety in North Africa and Sultan Bayezid II sent the Ottoman Navy to convey thousands to safety in Greece
 - Thousands more feigned conversion to Christianity (fueling the fires of the Spanish Inquisition)



The Renaissance

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 - Fernando said that 1492 was the most important year of his reign, because it was the year that... they finally completed the 780-year Reconquista
 - This was also the year that Fernando and Isabel sent Columbus westward to the New World



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - When I was a kid, Columbus was a hero, since he discovered America
 - In fact, I remember being chided by a teacher when I mentioned that Leif Erickson had actually landed here almost 500 years earlier
 - For that matter, *other* people had discovered America thousands of years before then (we called them “Indians” when I was a kid)



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - When I was a kid, Columbus was a hero, since he discovered America
 - Today, schoolchildren learn that he was an imperialistic, cultural rapist, who forced his colonial European values onto the natives
 - He was renowned for his cruelty once he became the Governor General
 - (actually, there seems to have just been a *lot* of cruelty being perpetrated by leaders in the Renaissance, in general)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Christopher Columbus
 - (well, actually, he was Italian, so it would be *Cristoforo Colombo*, though the Spanish he worked for called him *Cristóbal Colón*, but his mommy called him *Christoffa Corombo* in his native Ligurian language [which, in Latin, was translated *Christophorus Columbus*], which we have Anglicized as *Christopher Columbus*)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - A seasoned mariner, he went to Lisbon to earn his fortune, asking King João II for a bid to sail west to find the Far East
 - That made sense to him because, like *most* people in Europe, he knew that the Earth was not flat (contrary to another childhood myth) and he had estimated (wrongly) that the Japans were only a little over 2,000 miles away
 - But João already had Africa, so it seemed redundant



The Renaissance

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 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - A seasoned mariner, he went to Lisbon to earn his fortune, asking King João II for a bid to sail west to find the Far East
 - So he approached Fernando and Isabel with the same pitch
 - They had prosperity, but no prospects, since Portugal had rights to Africa and the East by sea (and thanks to the Ottomans, land travel was too dangerous)



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 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - A seasoned mariner, he went to Lisbon to earn his fortune, asking King João II for a bid to sail west to find the Far East
 - So he approached Fernando and Isabel with the same pitch
 - Though their scientific advisors said it would never work, their courtiers argued, “What have you got to lose?”
 - So they gave him three ships and lots of promises



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - It took him five weeks to cross the ocean on the *Santa María*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Clara* (which the crews nicknamed the *Niña*—the “Little Girl”) (though *none* of them was very big, by our standards)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - It took him five weeks to cross the ocean on the *Santa María*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Clara*
 - To his credit, Columbus wrote in his personal log about his primary motivation to bring Christianity to the East
 - He was extremely devout in his faith, and became more so as he got older
 - He was particularly fascinated with “end times” prophecies, and wrote a book entitled *El Libro de las Profecías*, that claimed that Christ's coming was imminent, and that his voyages to the New World were part of God's means to finally bring the Gospel to the whole world, and thus bring about the Second Coming
 - (Most people don't realize that he actually made *four* voyages to the Americas, and served as Spain's Governor here for years)



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 - He was extremely devout in his faith, and became moreso as he got older
 - Nonetheless, he also got more ornery as he got older, and demanded more respect
 - He tended to order public torture and humiliation against his enemies as Governor, and wrote another book entitled *El Libro de los Privilegios*, which listed all of the favors that he claimed that the Spanish crown owed him and his family
 - He was removed as Governor in 1500 on charges of tyranny and despotism—which meant that the Spanish crown decided that they owed him nothing



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment²—**
 - Christopher Columbus was from the crucially important port city of Genoa
 - It took him five weeks to cross the ocean on the *Santa María*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Clara*
 - **So was Columbus a good Christian, or a cruel tyrant—a great explorer, or just an opportunist?**
 - Arguably, yep...



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 - This was also the year that Fernando and Isabel sent Columbus westward to the New World
 - Upon the death of Pope Innocent VIII, Spanish Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia became the new Pope Alexander VI...

