

Close 13th Century and Introduce 14th Century

Historical Theology

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Author: W Scott Negley

TWO 13TH CENTRY NOTES AND ON TO THE 14TH CENTURY

A significant change in architecture.

The Magna Carta

The 14th Century saw major changes in politics and culture which impacted the Roman Church.

I. GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

A. BEGAN TO REPLACE ROMANESQUE IN THE 12TH CENTRY

Why were cathedral so ornate? They served both a didactic and cultic purpose. Since most during this age were illiterate the building served to tell Biblical stories as well as those of saints of the past. The understanding of the Eucharist during this age drove the desire for such cathedrals. These were not primarily buildings for meetings or even for worship but a place where the "Great Miracle " happened, the bread and wine became the body and blood of Christ. In as much as possible they wanted a building worthy of such an event.

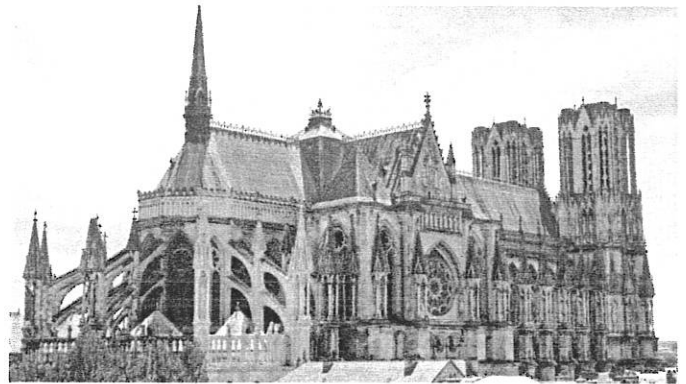
1. How did Gothic differ from Romanesque

Whereas Romanesque buildings were short, wide and dark, Gothic buildings were tall and open. Romanesque utilized semicircular arches which because of their intense lateral thrust required heavy thick walls to support them. Gothic buildings utilize pointed arches, columns, and ribbed ceilings with flying buttresses to counter the lessened

lateral thrust. This meant that the walls could be thinner, taller and have many more windows in them. This opened the cathedral to the sunlight and the array colors used in the stained-glass windows which depicted stories to enlighten parishioners.

2. What is in the name Gothic?

Gothic was originally not complementary because the style was considered barbaric and only worthy of the Goths.



II. THE MAGNA CARTA

A. MAGNA CARTA LIBERTATUM (THE GREAT CHARTER OF FREEDOMS)

Nobles force then king John of England to sign it as he had become very unpopular with his subjects. This because of increased taxation, having been excommunication by Pope Innocent III and costly wars in an effort to regain his empire in what is now northern France. It was an attempt to institute rule by law rather than by man. Before

this the king's will was the law and he was free rule as he saw fit. The nobles at this time wanted to rein in the King and bring some stability to country. Although it initially failed to accomplish this, the document served as the basis of many future documents including the constitution of The United States of America and its Bill of Rights. There remain only three clauses of the original document in English law. The first being significant to the church.

B. CLAUSE ONE STATES

“The English church shall be free and shall have her rights entire, and her liberties inviolate.” This basically says that religion (or the church) should be free from state supervision and control.

I. 14TH CENTURY CULTURE

A. RELIGIOUS

Whereas the beginning of the 13th Century saw what many consider the most powerful Pope in history the 14th Century saw the weakening of Papal power. Many of the Popes who followed Innocent III rode his coat tails in the exercise of power. The Pope who ushered in the 14th Century experienced the rapid decline of Papal power and subsequent Popes became the puppets of the French. The “Great Western Schism” in which there were two reigning Popes elected by the same cardinals was indicative of the turmoil within the Roman church.

B. ECONOMIC

Economically the world was shifting from feudalism to manufacturing and mercantilism. This seems to favor nationalism which would replace the nobles who often would deter trade by engaging in petty

wars and taxing any goods transported through their controlled land. With the breakdown of the feudal system many flocked to the major cities looking for work. This of course brought new challenges for the church. This also probably created conditions which increased the spread of the Bubonic plague, which some estimate killed one in three in many parts of Europe. The plague itself brought fear and resulted in superstition and persecution of Jews.

C. POLITICAL

The rise of nationalism further eroded the power of the Pope. The 14th Century saw the establishment of several nations which in turn led to the 100 years war between France and England.



Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity Volume 1*

<https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/867/magna-carta#:~:text=The%20provision%20of%20the%20Magna,the%20Episcopal%20Church%20as%20the>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Origins-of-the-Magna-Carta/>