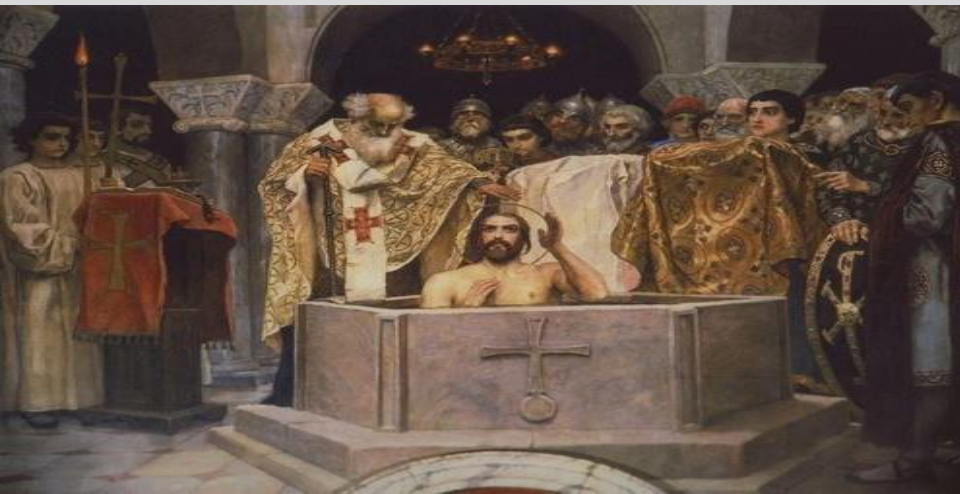


Aim: Was the Catholic Church powerful in Medieval Europe?

Do Now: Look over the religions map of the year 1000 and answer the questions with your partner



13

Section 4

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: PLACE

Feudal Europe's Religious Influences

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

The influence of the Latin Church—the Roman Catholic Church—grew in western Europe after 500. By 1000, at the end of the age of invasions, the Church's vision of a spiritual kingdom in feudal Europe was nearly realized.

A sign of the spread of Roman Christianity in western Europe was the increased presence of churches. The population of the continent was increasing rapidly—from around 14 million in 400 to 22 million in 1000—and the need to accommodate all the new faithful caused a boom in religious buildings.

It was an era of new Roman Christian states. By 1000 much of the Polish region had sided with Rome,

as did that of Hungary around 895. Large sections of Scandinavia adopted the Latin Church by 1000. In the fifth century, Ireland became the "island of saints." There, between 500 and 800, Ireland helped bring England under the influence of Roman Christianity.

However, in 1054, in far eastern Europe, the prince of Kiev received baptism from the Eastern Orthodox, or Byzantine, Church, as regions to the south had done in the eighth century. Disputes between the two wings of Christianity—headed by Constantinople and Rome—would soon separate the two forever.



The Church

- Over the course of the early Middle Ages, the Catholic Church became more influential and powerful, to the point where the Church and the beliefs of its clergy [people who had high positions in the Church like priests and bishops] controlled secular [non-religious] life and secular government.
- By the 11th century (1000s), the Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church, had the power to decide who would be king in some regions and was able to raise an army to go to war. For centuries afterwards, secular leaders and the Church competed for power in western Europe.

1. Why did the Catholic Church become powerful in Western Europe?
2. What powers did the Catholic Church gain during the early Middle Ages?

Middle Ages

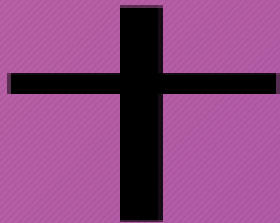


RELIGIOUS WORLD
THE CHURCH
(Pope, Bishops, etc.)

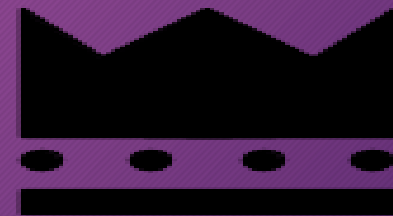
VS.



SECULAR WORLD
THE STATE
(Emperors, Kings, etc.)



POWER

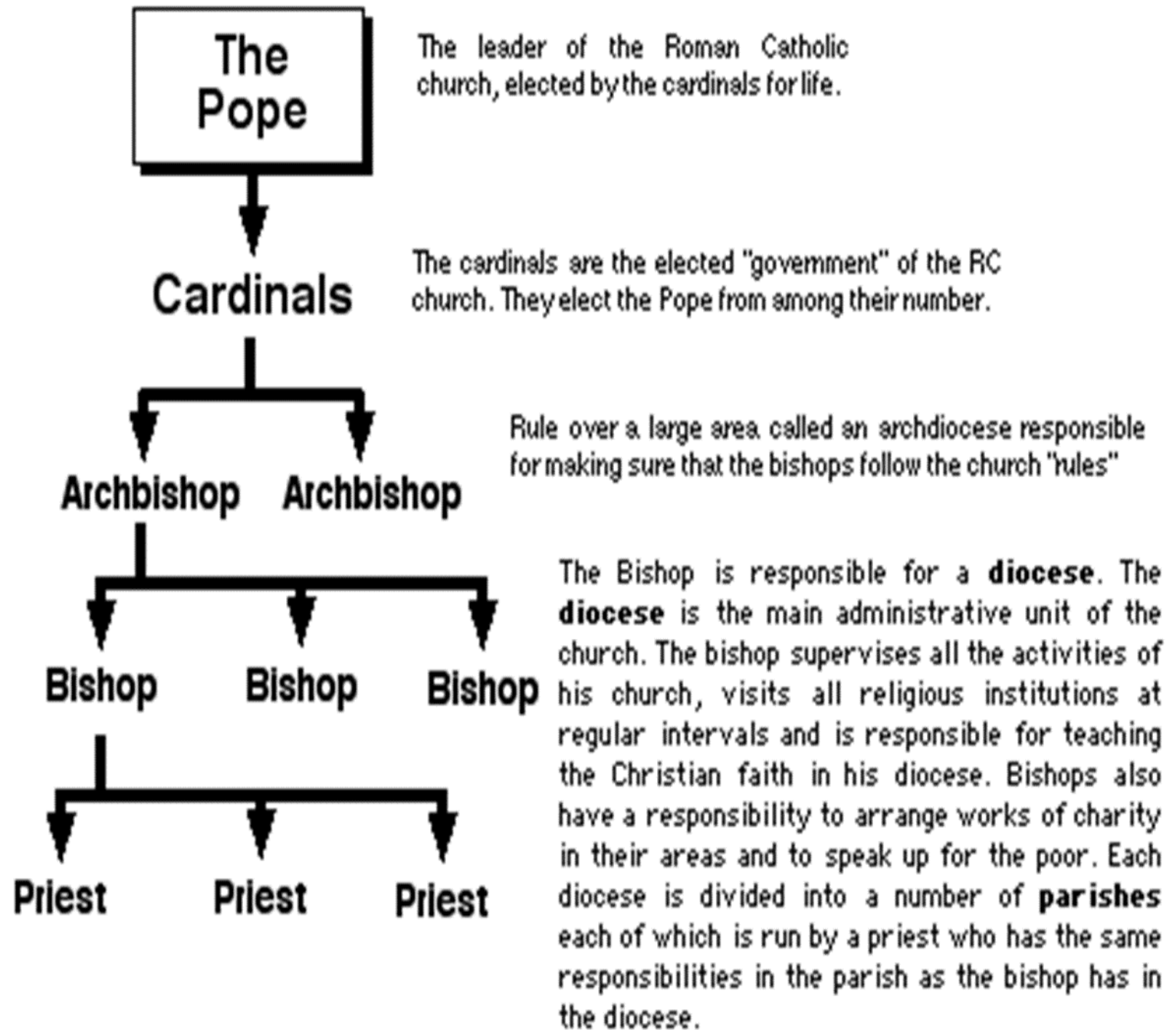


Popes versus Emperors

- Otto I “Otto the Great” - German king in 936 invaded Italy on the Pope’s behalf
- Otto the Great - crowned Holy Roman Empire
- Review - What is the Holy Roman empire a combination of
 - A) Catholic Church
 - B) Roman Traditions
 - C) Customs of Germanic tribes

Powers of the Church

- **Excommunication:** exclusion from the church
- **Interdict:** denial of sacraments (important religious ceremonies)
- **Cannon law:** the law of the church
- **Heresy:** any belief that goes against the established belief



How is this Hierarchy different than other social hierarchies?

Hierarchy of the Church

- **Clergy:** Religious officials who work for the church
- **The Hierarchy:**
 - - Pope: supreme authority
 - - Cardinals: advise the Pope; provides spiritual and legal advice; chooses the next Pope
 - - Archbishop: Oversees a group of bishops
 - - Bishop: manages a group of parishes; oversees local parish priests
 - - Parish: the leader of one particular manor
- * This system allowed opportunity for advancement

Analyze documents

- : Examine each of the following documents, then respond to the accompanying prompts to determine if the evidence supports that the Catholic Church was or was not powerful in Medieval Europe.
- **1b. Identify a piece of textual or visual evidence from this document that supports the claim this document makes.**

Doc 1: A painting depicting the three “estates” or classes in Medieval France.



Document 2

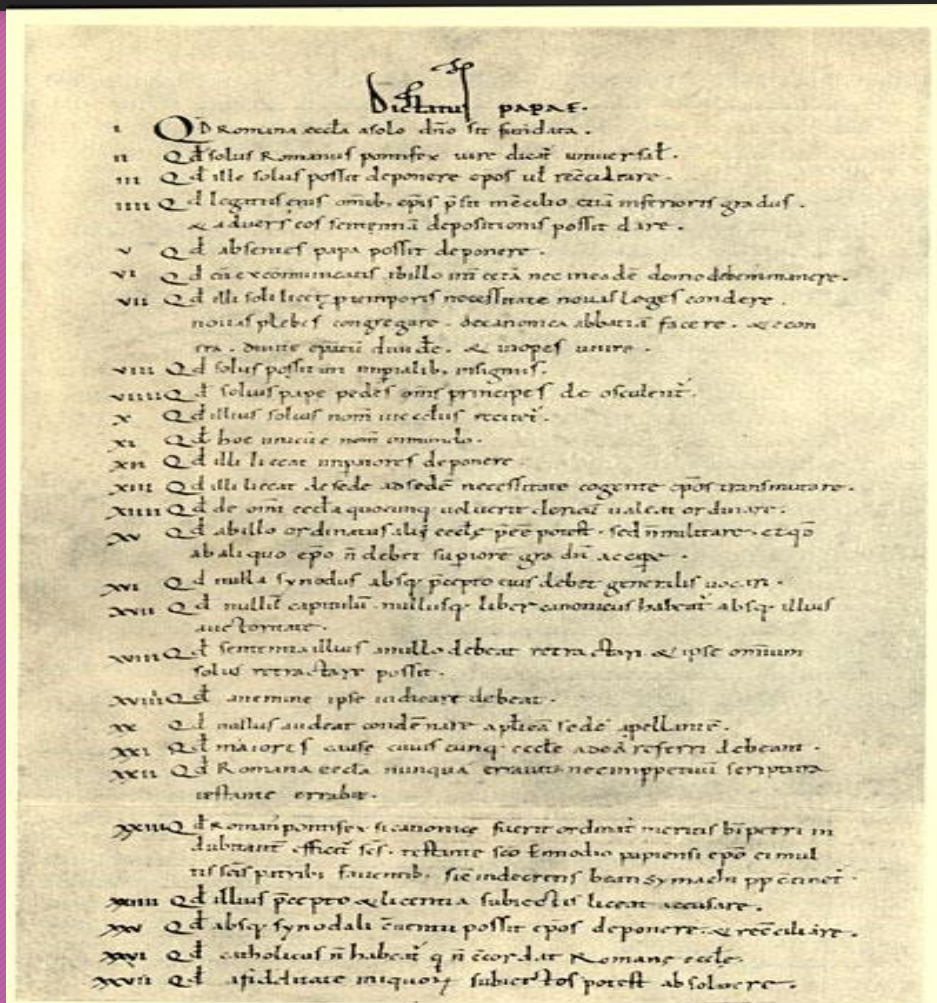
- During the European Middle Ages, the Catholic Church really dominated European civilization. It's almost impossible to imagine the scope of the Church's power in the Middle Ages, but let's try.
- First off, the Catholic Church was the caretaker of the most important thing that Christians had, their souls, which, unlike our temporal [secular] bodies, were eternal. And then there was the parish priest, who played a pivotal role throughout every person's life, baptizing them, marrying them, hearing their confessions, [and] providing last rites.
- The church also provided all of the social services: It distributed alms [money or food given as a donation] to the poor, and ran orphanages, and provided what education was available. Most Europeans would in their lives meet exactly one person who could read the Bible, which was only available in Latin - their parish priest.
- And, the church owned over 1/3 of all the land in Europe, which helped make it the most powerful economic and political force on the continent.
- And the Pope claimed authority over all the kings of Europe, as the successor to the Roman Emperor. So this was a very powerful institution...

Document 3

- Pope Gregory was elected pope in 1073 CE. He believed that as pope, he was God's "vicar [representative] on earth" and that his authority extended over religious life and secular political life. In 1075, he issued a decree forbidding a practice called lay investiture. Lay investiture was a practice whereby secular rulers like emperors or kings could select leaders of the church. Pope Gregory felt that this practice reduced his power so he ended it. This angered many kings and emperors. Dictatus papae is a compilation of 27 statements about the powers of the pope. It was included in Pope Gregory VII's register under the year 1075. Dictatus papae reflects the views of Pope Gregory about the power of popes.



Pope versus Kings



Excerpts from Dictatus Papae:

9. That of the pope alone all princes shall kiss the feet.

12. That it may be permitted to him [pope] to depose [remove from power] emperors.

14. That he has power to ordain [make someone a priest] a clerk of any church he may wish.

17. That no chapter and no book shall be considered canonical [included in a list of sacred books] without his authority.

18. That a sentence passed by him may be retracted by no one; and that he himself, alone of all, may retract it.

19. That he himself may be judged by no one.

Document 4: Canon Law, Excommunication, and Interdict



Doc. 4

- During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church developed its own set of laws called canon law. Medieval canon law was based on the Bible and decision made by the clergy as well as local laws and Roman law also influenced canon law.
- Canon law set out the rules that Catholics needed to follow and included topics like religious teachings accepted by the church, crimes, the role of the clergy, and marriage.
- Depending on the situation, breaking canon law could result in excommunication, the limiting or ending of a person's membership in the Catholic Church. Those who were excommunicated could not receive the sacraments [sacred ceremonies of the church] or a Christian burial, which many believed could condemn them to hell for eternity.
- Popes and other clergy members in the Church used excommunication to punish those who opposed them. If the Church wanted to send a message to a noble or king who disagreed with them or spoke out against them he could impose an interdict, an order that excluded a whole region from receiving holy sacraments in the Catholic Church. In some cases, this led to revolts from the people who feared their souls were in danger which might lead to the Church getting what they wanted. A powerful noble who opposed the Church might face an interdict, but even the strongest ruler usually gave in rather than have to deal with revolts by the common people.

Mid assessment

Based on the evidence from these documents, write a thesis statement in response to the questions, “Was the Catholic Church powerful in Medieval Europe?”

- Remember: CLAIM + REASONS = THESIS
- CLAIM
- The Catholic Church (was/was not) very powerful in Medieval Europe ...
- +
- REASONS
- List your reasons that support the claim.