

Name _____

Reading Guide - answer all questions completely and be prepared for a reading quiz when you return in the fall.

Chapter 1: The Later Middle Ages: Crisis & Disintegration in the 14th Century

1. What was the Black Death?

What were the preexisting conditions in Europe that allowed it to be so devastating?

2. What are the short and long term effects on European religion and society? (i.e. What were the changes that resulted from the Black Death?)

3. Discuss factors that led to the urban and rural revolts in the 14th century.

Was desperate poverty a chief cause, why or why not?

4. What were the causes of the 100 Years War (make sure to use specific examples to explain your answer)?

How was France changed politically as a result of the war?

5. What were the problems facing the governments of England, France, and the German lands at the end of the Middle Ages?

6. Describe how and why the Church was declining in power in the 14th century.

How did the religious leaders respond?

7. What were the effects of the Church's declining power on European culture, popular religion, and literature?

MAP EXERCISES

1. The Spread of the Black Death (MAP 1.1) – Page 4

What areas were largely spared from the impact of the plague, and was geography, including distance from the eastern Mediterranean, the primary explanation?

2. The Hundred Years' War (MAP 1.2) – Page 12

Compare the lands in France controlled in England in 1360 with those held in 1429. How do they differ?

What part did geographical proximity to England as well as the regions in France historically and traditionally under English control play in England's successes during the war?

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES

1. "Causes of the Black Death: Contemporary Views" – Page 3

How could Boccaccio's explanation lead to distrust of religious authorities?

How much should a historian trust a confession extracted by torture?

2. “A Medieval Holocaust: The Cremation of the Strasbourg Jews” – Page 6

What were the specific reasons stated in the document that led to the cremation of the Strasbourg Jews?

What were the several possible motives—religious, economic, and others—that led to the killing of many Jews during the Middle Ages, particularly in the aftermath of the Black Death?

3. “A Revolt of French Peasants” – Page 9

Why did the peasants react so strongly against their noble lords?

What seem to be the principal motivations of their action?

How reliable do you believe this source to be as an accurate account of what happened?

Identify any possible connections between the onset of the Black Death in 1347 and the revolt of the French peasants in 1358.

4. “A Feminist Heroine: Christine de Pizan or Joan of Arc” – Page 14

Is Christine de Pizan’s poem about the triumphs of Joan of Arc a “feminist” literary work? Why or why not?

What are the religious references and allusions in the poem?

What are the references to the classical world? In subject matter, is there anything "modern" in the poem?

Does the work better reflect the waning Middle Ages or the waxing Renaissance?

How:

Why:

5. "The Hundred Years' War" – Page 15

How accurate does this account appear to be?

What makes it either believable or questionable?

Why would the author have made such negative judgements about the French Soldiers?

6. "Boniface VIII's Defense of Papal Supremacy" – Page 20

Why did Boniface VIII make these extreme assertions of papal authority?

How would European politics have changed if his ideas had been accepted?

7. "Dante's Vision of Hell" – Page 25

What realism does Dante convey with this scene?

How would this piece of literature compare with earlier medieval works? Why would the church oppose this work?

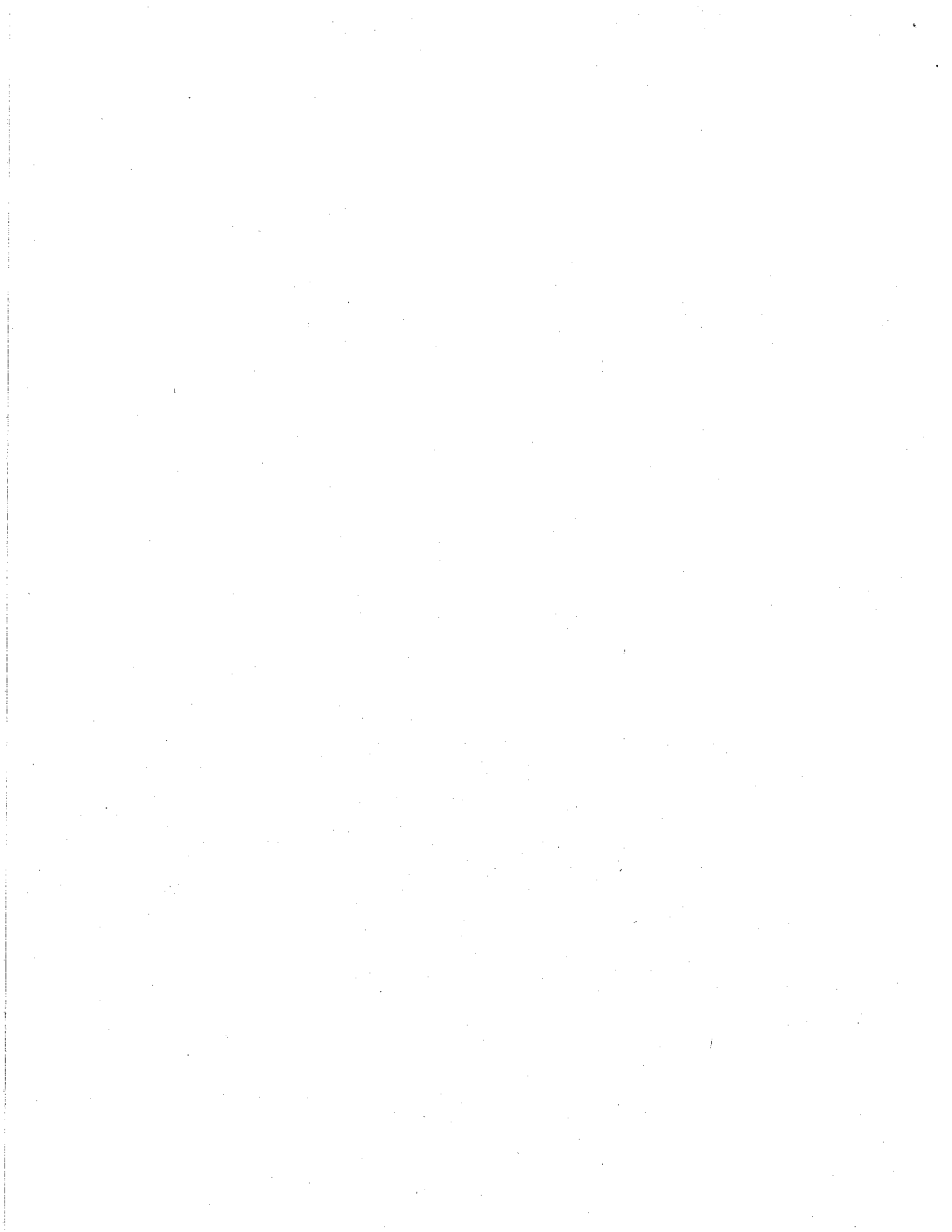
What lessons do you think this work was intended to teach its readers?

IDENTIFICATIONS

1. "little ice age" –
2. Black Death –
3. bubonic plague –
4. *Yersinia pestis* –
5. pneumonic plague –
6. Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* –
7. flagellants –
8. pogroms –
9. Statute of Laborers –
10. the *Jacquerie* –
11. Wat Tyler and John Ball –
12. Florence's *ciompi* –
13. the longbow –

14. the Battle of Crecy –
15. Henry V –
16. the Battle of Agincourt –
17. Joan of Arc –
18. Orleans –
19. Charles the dauphin/VII–
20. gunpowder –
21. the *gabelle* and the *taille* –
22. dukes of Burgundy and Orleans –
23. Golden Bull of Charles IV –
24. Italian communes –
25. the Visconti and the d'Este –
26. *condottieri* –
27. *grandi e popolo grasso e popolo minuto* –
28. Council of Ten and the doge –
29. Pope Boniface VIII's *Unam Sanctam* –
30. Avignon –
31. Catherine of Siena –
32. Great Schism –
33. the Antichrist –
34. Conciliarism –
35. Marsiglio of Padua –
36. Council of Constance –
37. purgatory –

38. good deeds and pilgrimages –
39. Meister Eckhart –
40. Modern Devotion –
41. Brothers of the Common Life –
42. William of Occam and nominalism –
43. the vernacular –
44. Dante's *Divine Comedy* –
45. Petrarch's sonnets –
46. Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* –
47. Christine de Pizan –
48. Giotto –
49. the "four humors" –
50. clocks, eyeglasses, and paper –



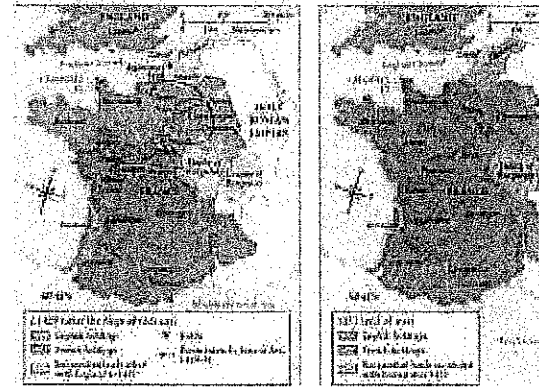
AP Euro Summer Skills Packet: Complete the following activities – all activities due on the first day of school.

The Calamitous 14th Century: Was it that bad? (AP)

Directions: In *A Distant Mirror*, Barbara Tuchman describes "a violent, tormented, bewildered, suffering and disintegrating age" known as the Dark Ages. Read about the various events associated with the Late Middle Ages and rank them in order of importance from 1 to 8 in creating a dark period in European History and then explain the most impactful event.

The Babylonian Captivity (1309-1378): During this time period, the Pope moved from Rome (Italy) to Avignon (France) known as the Avignon Papacy. This initiated a series of seven French popes who reigned from Avignon, and who generally favored France. The city of Rome was left destitute. A contemporary account noted: "... living in [Avignon], in the Babylon of the West... Here reign the successors of the poor fishermen of Galilee [who] have strangely forgotten their origin. ...to see these men loaded with gold and clad in purple, boasting of the spoils of princes and nations; to see luxurious palaces and heights crowned with fortifications, instead of a boat turned downwards for [their] shelter..."

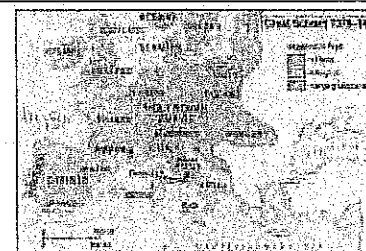
Hundred Years War (1337-1453): During most of the middle ages, wars had been short and small in scale. In the 14th century, a new trend developed as a series of conflicts between the English and the French known as the Hundred Years' War (1337 to 1453) occurred. In 1328, Charles IV, the son of Philip the Fair, died. An assembly of French barons gave the crown to Philip VI of Valois, the nephew of Philip the Fair. Edward III, King of England, asserted that he had a superior claim to the throne because his mother was Philip the Fair's daughter making him Philip the Fair's grandson. However, the French did not want an English king on their throne. Hence, the war began and both European monarchs imposed high taxes upon the people. The French taxed salt, bread, and wine. The war, fought entirely on French soil, raged off and on for more than 100 years. English victories were followed by French victories, then a period of stalemate would ensue, until the conflicts



again rose to the surface. This war marked the end of English attempts to control continental territory and the beginning of its emphasis upon maritime supremacy. By the end of the Hundred Years War, the French population had been cut in half because warfare and disease (i.e. Black Death).

Black Death (1347 to...): In the early 1330s an outbreak of deadly bubonic plague occurred in China. In October of 1347, several Italian merchant ships returned from a trip to the Black Sea, one of the key links in trade with China. When the ships docked in Sicily, many of those on board were already dying of plague. Once people are infected, they infect others very rapidly. Within days the disease spread to the city and the surrounding countryside. Plague causes fever and a painful swelling of the lymph glands called buboes, which is how it gets its name. The disease also causes spots on the skin that are red at first and then turn black. After five years, 25 million people were dead --one-third of Europe's population. Medieval society never recovered from the results of the plague. So many people had died that there were serious labor shortages all over Europe. European Christians prayed devoutly for deliverance from the plague but their prayers were not answered. The Italian writer Boccaccio said: " its victims often "ate lunch with their friends and dinner with their ancestors in paradise... No doctor's advice, no medicine could overcome or alleviate this disease... Many ended their lives in the streets both at night and during the day; and many others who died in their houses were only known to be dead because the neighbours smelled their decaying bodies. Dead bodies filled every corner."

Great Schism (1378-1415): In the year 1378, the Roman Catholic Church split when the King of France decided that he did not like the Italian Pope and elected one of his own. During the Great Schism, there were two popes claiming authority over the Catholic Church. (The "Babylonian Captivity" was one of the main factors causing the Great Schism). In 1377, Pope Gregory XI made a significant move and returned the papacy to Rome. After Pope Gregory XI died, an Italian Pope was elected. However, the French did not like him. Therefore, they elected their own pope who ruled from Avignon where the pope had been living. Western Europe was politically divided over which pope to support. France, Sicily, Scotland, Castile (Spain), Aragon (Spain) and Portugal supported the Avignon pope while Rome, Flanders (Belgium), Poland, Hungary, and Germany supported the Roman pope. Many citizens were confused over this split. The effects of this split on the general population can be summarized as follows, "The papal office suffered the most; the pope's authority diminished as pious Christians became bewildered and disgusted." (The schism ended with the election of a single pope, Pope Martin V, in 1417.)



English Peasant Revolts of 1381: The peasants who survived the Black Death wanted to improve their lifestyle. Feudal law stated that peasants could only leave their village if they had their lord's permission. However, after the Black Death, lords actively encouraged peasants to leave the village where they lived to come to work for them. Peasants could demand higher wages as they knew that a lord was desperate to get in his harvest. So the government faced the prospect of peasants leaving their villages to find a better 'deal' from a lord thus upsetting the whole idea of the Feudal System which had been introduced to tie peasants to the land. To curb peasants roaming around the countryside looking for better pay, the government introduced the Statute of Labourers in 1351 that stated: *No peasants could be paid more than the wages paid in 1346. No lord or master should offer more wages than paid in 1346. No peasants could leave the village they belonged to.* In 1381, Wat Tyler and peasant supporters marched to London in order to present a petition to the king. 60,000 strong, the petitioned called for the abolition of serfdom and end to heavy taxation. Workers in the cities, especially London, rose in support of the peasants and their demands. King Richard II, then only fourteen years of age, offered to meet the peasant demands. Before the meeting, the rebels plundered Lambeth Palace and burned books and furniture. King Richard II agreed to meet with Wat Tyler and his peasant followers. At the meeting, Wat Tyler was knocked off his horse and stabbed in the stomach, killing him. The rebellion was over. Wat Tyler's head was cut from his corpse and displayed on London Bridge.

OTHER PEASANT REVOLTS:

Bulgaria, 1277-1280	Flanders, 1323-1328	Estonia, 1343-1345
Hungary, 1382	Kent, 1450	Cornish, 1497

Little Ice Age (1250 - 1850) and the Famine of 1315: Around 1250, glaciers began expanding and ice flows crept southward across the globe. By 1300, summers grew cold and wet. Torrential rains plagued the globe and weather became unpredictable. Winters brought unprecedented snowfall. The resulting weather changes made agriculture difficult. Massive rainfall and cooler temperatures ruined crop yields in Europe. The poor weather killed crops and other plants. Throughout the fourteenth century, Europe experienced a number of famines leading to mass starvation. Climate change wiped out crops leaving people with less to eat. The worst of the famines began in 1315. In spring 1315, rain fell especially heavy and continued into summer while the temperatures remained cool. Crops failed and there was little straw or hay for animals. Scarcity led to a spike in food prices. Wheat prices rose by as much as 300% in parts of Europe making it impossible for many to buy. People began to starve to death. As people died, life expectancy dropped from 35 to 30 years. People ate their animals, seeds, grass, and each other. The elderly intentionally starved themselves to death to save food for others. Parents abandoned their children. The famine killed up to 25% of the population. Real numbers are difficult to determine. The poor weather let up in 1317, but Europe did not recover until 1325.

Population Growth and Decline Statistics

Time Period	Index	Time Period	Index
1000-1050	109.5	1500-1550	113.0
1050-1100	104.3	1550-1600	114.1
1100-1150	104.2	1600-1650	112.4
1150-1200	122.0	1650-1700	115.0
1200-1250	113.1	1700-1750	121.7
1250-1300	105.8	1750-1800	134.3
1300-1350	69.9	1800-1850	141.5
1350-1400	88.2	1850-1900	150.8
1400-1450	133.3	1900-1950	136.7

The indices are based on the figures for 100 (that is 1000 = 100). These figures are estimates only.

Rank:

- Babylonian Captivity
 Hundred Years War
 Black Death
 Great Schism
 Peasant Revolts
 Little Ice Age
 Famine of 1315
 Population Change

Rationale (two paragraphs in complete sentences):