

Ecclesiastically the movement is towards a more centralized church organization paralleling the governmental trends. In the West this builds the leadership of Rome as it does in the east for Constantinople.

Socially, the flow is mixed. The earlier part features social catastrophe and the latter part moves towards the Renaissance. Early on ignorance is rampant and while this is not completely reversed at any point in this time, there is a school movement begun in the royal courts and continued to the church levels. Feudalism grows during this period and becomes the accepted societal norm for much of the time.

Academically chaos rules as men move towards a struggling humanism.

The more general characteristics are these:

--ignorance and poverty dominate the masses while greed and power motivate the leadership. Superstition and arrogance are increasingly the marks of the church

--education, apart from what I mentioned a few lines before this, is in a pathetic condition...apart from a few cathedral schools it is all a "learn on your own operation." Almost every discipline known to us suffers through this age.

--medicine and technology diminish to where the men of five hundred years earlier would have been leaders now.

If it all sounds gloomy, it was. General lawlessness prevailed and the barbarian tribes respected no one's property, life or ideal. Time is the answer to this problematic state as it is to most things and as the time is used it will prove to have the right antidotes but there is a lot of suffering in the meantime.

V.1. Historical Background

Historical Background

The early mediaeval period still finds the church existing on the idea of a united group although the rivalries of east and west are sharp. The west is in political shambles while the east enjoys