

VI. Scholastic
PeriodVI. THE SCHOLASTIC PERIOD: 1054-1416Foreword:

This is not the best division of material but it will serve. The cut-off dates find the beginning with the Great Schism and the ending with the council of Constance. During this time the scholastic movement budded, flowered, bore fruit, and dried up! It is the dominant influence in the age so far as the church is concerned but the Renaissance is the movement in society that serves as its counterpart.

This age will see great social changes as the geography of the world begins to shrink and as the feudal system loses its grip on the masses. The beginning of the strong nationalism that will keep Europe divided as a political entity is apparent. The church will be increasingly power minded and its political involvement will become horrendous. Attempts to reform the system will meet with miniscule success and even then only in such matters as elections, successions, etc. The real problem with the church is the loss of the apostolic doctrine and there is no reform adequate to bring it back. Of course there are some reformers and some of the movements better known to us in later history are born during this time. But the total results are small in the light of the great abuses.

The inquisition is born during this time and the church-stated ideology increases. The ecclesiastical structure will find itself opposed to whatever appears to be a threat to its supremacy, from Italian protestors, to poor Galileo although the latter, to be sure, does not arrive on the scene until after our period. The mentality is such, however. That is what arrests us.

Classicism will become the large move in studies both theological and secular. Rediscovery of the classical models will result in an attempt to Christianize their content and bring them into the aura of Christian doctrine. This will be seen in the work of Aquinas, with Aristotle in particular, but that is not the only effort.

You, the student, will find it more difficult to