

While none of the prevailing pontiffs desired the council, all were requested to resign the supposed office. Gregory IX was persuaded, he was given no other choice. Benedict XIII in Avignon was deposed although he would not accept this judgment and continued to act as pope for the rest of his days. John XXIII (bogus), attempting to flee the council, was captured, returned, and compelled to agree to his own disposition although he, like the others, later sought to relent and take the tiara again. But the council overcame them all and elected Martin V as the next pope, with the blessings of all the church save the dispossessed parties.

The Council of Constance betrayed Hus and almost anything that could be called evangelical. But its contribution to the reformation was quite large. It determined that the correct way to run the church was with a council and it designated a ten year cycle of councils. The thought of a council running the church was horrifying to the popes and they did all they could do to end the conciliar movement... an aim achieved by 1450. The result in the Reformation times would be simply this: the popes were challenged to a council by Luther, by the Emperor, etc., any one of which council might have amended a few peripheral things and burned a few reformers. But the popes were fearful of councils and would not call for one until it was far too late to do any service in terms of hindering the reformation.

Constance did lay a foundation for a reunion of the eastern and western churches. It was almost consummated in 1439 but a fiery Greek archbishop rattled the bushes and inflamed the Greek church against the reunion on the proposed grounds. It remains that way until today.

#### VIII.2.b Papacy

##### The Papacy of this age

The papal office was not graced with great leadership during this time and we mention only a few of the men in the office...not due to their excellence, incidentally, but because they were there.

Eugene IV (1431-1447) worked vigorously to overturn the conciliar idea and he was the architect of its fall.