

(Bibliographic Note: And I hate to just stick these in but if I don't I will forget them completely.

For the lives of the popes: Farrow: Pageant of the Popes. It carries the imprimatur and is written as a catholic apologetic. Of John XII, he can find nothing of merit.

On the political intrigue of Rome: Malachi Martin: Rise and Fall of the Roman Church. An ex-Jesuit, Martin argues that political involvement was the moral and spiritual ruin of the church.)

b. Gregory VII (d 1085) and Henry IV

Gregory is another of the five greatest leaders in the papacy. He was long involved in diplomatic wars with the rulers of Germany who sought reform, control, and general manipulation of the papal office. I will discuss him at greater length in our chapter on "How Rome came out on Top". He was locked in battle with Henry IV over the investiture problem and forced Henry to yield..as a penitent standing barefoot in the snow before the gates of the castle at Canossa. Hildebrand was a strict reformer convinced of the authority of the Roman bishop (Oh, Hildebrand is his name as a monk, Gregory is the name taken on accession) and Henry IV was able to wriggle out of this and violate his word. But in the development of the Holy Roman Empire it was an epic moment.

c. Urban II (d. 1099) with the Eastern Emperors

The intrigue with the German leaders throughout this entire period is something that approaches the unbelievable. But Urban was able to gain mastery largely through the promotion of the first Crusade..an attempt to aid the eastern emperors in their fight with Islam. That the eastern emperor appealed to the Pope and that the Pope called for the marshalling of the forces was a great step in the Empire relationships.