

d. Innocent III (d. 1216) and Philip of France

Innocent was probably the strongest political pope of all time. His interdicts against the French king forced his submission. He defense of John in England was used against the Magna Carta. But the nature of his strength alerted European rulers of the danger of having this much power in the papal office..and they would work against it as much as possible. Politics would soon be the enemy of the spiritual forces if it had not already been that.

e. Boniface VIII (d. 1303) and the French Kings

Boniface attempted to act as Innocent had done and it did not go well with him. The French king imprisoned him and resisted his bull of Unan Sanctam in which he argued that no one could be saved who was not at peace with the Roman Bishop. At this point the balance of power had swung to the nationals and it will stay that way for a long time.

And in passing, this rivalry in the political arena would become a major factor in the reformation in the time of Luther, et al.

4. The Avignon Papacy

This period (1305-1378) is often called the "Babylonian Captivity of the Church". It is a period of time during which the Kings of France forced the removal of the papal office from Rome to the French/Swiss city of Avignon. The idea was to bring the papal authority to a point where the secular authority could keep better control over it. When the period ended in 1378, the kings did not universally recognize the new order and a confused situation prevailed for several years and we sketch only the major details.

1305...Clement V moves to Avignon under the persuasion of Philip IV of France.