

engaging in international policy. This gave the popes aspiration of world wide political power.

The Germanic Territories

The Germanic states maintained a loosely knit organization or confederation of which more will be said later. The Reichstag was the "congress" of Germany and most of the Germanic territories gathered about it as a policy making body. The actual Teutonic unity was more one of culture than national force. More than 200 separate entities comprised the Germanic lands. Renaissance culture had not penetrated the Teutonic territories to the degree it had France. The German universities were younger, less well developed and not as creative. But the desire of local German rulers for prestige tended to make them zealous and protective of their educational centers.

Other European bodies

Bohemia...still had a national church in the Hussite tradition.

Balkans...under the thumb of the caliphs and more loyal to eastern orthodoxy than to Rome.

Scandinavia...Sweden and Norway are just warming up to some measure of independence from Denmark and are very Catholic although not particularly well developed or progressive in economics.

Low Countries...under the eye of Spain and others. The Netherlands is emerging as a trading giant and will soon have disproportionate influence in the world of that time.

II.2.a.

Summary

Political Summary

In surveying the political world of that time, we may observe a general pattern of political factors that dominate the then-known political structure:

- intense national rivalries
- growing national pride
- social pressure from the masses
- powerthirst by kings
- emerging middle class
- new world acquisitions