not now help the rich. It wearied both sides and generally increased the animosity one felt to the other.

Monastic holdings generally impoverished the land areas of the common people in any given place. Benefits that they might have brought were gobbled up in the schemes of public domain. They not only did not pay taxes, in a sense they collected taxes.

In this field there was a great amount of suppression of the masses and dissent along with similar abusive practices by the establishment. The work of the Inquisition had, in some ways, climaxed in the last century (under the leadership of Torquemada) but it continued its search for suspects...most effectively in Spain and the northern Italian states. In the settings where the ecclesiastical and political rulers were in agreement, the oppressiaon was fairly consistent and effective. It was not, in those places, a time of new ideas.

State and Church Implementation

The concept of state-church as a ruling unit is an idea that prevails almost everywhere. It is hampered by the age old question of lay investiture and the rivalry that grows from men trying to outpower one another. Most ecclesiastics try to wield some civil authority and all civil authorities seem to have hoped to control the ecclesiastics. This rivalry would produce a race for the monies the church might produce and involve many arguments about church lands. As the largest land holder by far in most countries, the church had a vested interest in how lands were taxed and governments supported.

II.2.c. Reformation Social Setting

The Social Setting

Considerable changes were about to be seen in general society. These followed two lines:

Usable inventions

--Printing with movable type

After 1440 this revolutionized the work of literary production and paved the way for a world-wide literary onslaught. Many persons had a hand