

heirs of Rome: Byzantine Empire, Islamic world, Europe

Early Middle Ages (5th–9th c.)

Roman + Germanic + Christian = “medieval Europe”

rural, local, isolated

Islamic expansion & “Christendom” (7th–8th c.)

Charlemagne (r. 768–814)

Carolingian renaissance

monastic schools

classical Greek & Roman texts are “out”; Gospels are “in”

High Middle Ages (10th–12th c.)

Commercial Revolution (11th c.)

cities → urban professionals → universities

Scholasticism

Peter Abelard (1079–1142), University of Paris

Aristotelian logic, Platonic ideas, Christian text

classical philosophy + Christianity = Truth!

doubt is essential: “by doubting we come to investigate, and by

investigating we recognize the truth”

Late Middle Ages (13th–15th c.)

mendicants (“beggars”) / friars (“brothers”): preaching, poverty

Franciscans: St. Francis of Assisi (ca. 1182–1226)

Dominicans: St. Dominic (1170–1221)

14th c. crises (Great Famine, Black Death, Hundred Years’ War, revolts)

Avignon papacy (1309–1378)

Great Schism (1378–1417)

popular piety

England: John Wycliffe (ca. 1330–1384, Lollards): English bibles

Bohemia: Jan Hus (ca. 1372–1415, Hussites): bread & wine

anti-clericalism

emphasis on mystical experience, emotional engagement

Discussion: How do doubt and rational inquiry relate to faith and belief?