**Chapter 8 Notes**

* As medieval monarchs struggled to exert royal authority over nobles and churchmen, they slowly built the framework for the European nation-states of today.
* Nation-states are regions that share a government and that are independent of other states.
* During the early Middle Ages, monarchs stood at the head of society but had limited power. WHY was their power limited? Because nobles and the Church had as much power as monarchs.
* During the High Middle Ages (about 1000-1300), the balance of power started to shift. HOW?
	+ Monarchs used various means to centralize power.
		- They expanded the royal domain and set up systems of royal justice that undermined feudal and Church courts.
		- They organized government agencies, developed tax systems and built standing armies.
		- They strengthened ties with townspeople of the middle class. This gained them support.
* In the 500s, after a series of invasions, most of the Roman colony became known as England.
	+ In 1066, King Edward died without an heir.
	+ A council of nobles chose Edward’s brother-in-law Harold to rule.
	+ But William, Duke of Normandy, also claimed the English throne. He was related to King Edwards and William claimed he had promised him the throne.
	+ William raised an army and won the backing of the Pope. At the Battle of Hastings, William triumphed over Harold.
	+ William the Conqueror, as he was called, became the king of England on Christmas Day 1066.
	+ William’s French speaking nobles combined with the Anglo-Saxon population slowly, over the years, blended Norman French and Anglo-Saxon customs.
* To keep track of his kingdom, William had a complete census taken in 1086. The result was the Domesday Book, which listed every castle, field, and pigpen in England. The title implies that the survey was as thorough and inevitable as “doomsday,” which was believed to be God’s final day of judgment that no one could escape. Why was this type of census needed?
	+ Information in the Domesday Book helped William and later English monarchs build an efficient system of tax collection.
	+ William’s successors also created the royal exchequer, or treasury, to collect taxes, fees, fines or other dues.
* In 1154, an energetic, well-educated, King Henry I came to the throne of England.
	+ He broadened the system of royal justice by expanding accepted customs into law.
	+ He then sent out justices to enforce these royal laws.
	+ *The decisions of the royal courts became the foundation of English common law, a legal system based on custom and court rulings.*
	+ Common law applied to all of England.
	+ People began bringing their disputes to the royal courts rather than those of the nobles or the church.
	+ Under Henry II, England developed an early jury system. A jury was a group of men sworn to speak the truth. These juries decided which cases should be brought to trial (like today’s grand jury).
* Henry’s efforts to extend royal power led to a bitter dispute with the Church over the issue of legal authority.
	+ Henry claimed the right to try the clergy in royal courts.
	+ Thomas Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury, fiercely opposed the king on this issue.
	+ After years of conflict, four of Henry’s knights killed the archbishop.
	+ Henry denied any part in the attack. Still, to make peace with the church, he eased his attempts to regulate the clergy.
* A son of Henry II, King John, was a clever, cruel and untrustworthy ruler. During his reign he faced 3 powerful enemies:
	+ King Philip II of France-John lost a war with him and had to give up land
	+ Pope Innocent III-John battled him over selecting the new archbishop of Canterbury.
		- When John rejected the Pope’s nominee, the Pope excommunicated him (excommunicated means exclusion from the Roman Catholic Church as a penalty for refusing to obey church law).
		- Innocent also placed England under the interdict—an order that forbade Church services in an entire kingdom.
		- John was forced to give in.
	+ His own English nobles-John angered the English nobles with oppressive taxes and other abuses of power.
		- In 1215, a group of rebellious barons (lords) cornered King John and forced him to sign the Magna Carta.
		- This document contained *2 very important ideas that would shape English government in the future*:
			1. It asserted that the nobles had certain rights. Over time, these rights were extended to all English citizens.
			2. The Magna Carta made it clear that the monarch must obey the law.
		- The Magna Carta is important because it contained three important principles that inspired the Framers of the U.S. Constitution:
			1. Due process of law-the government can’t take anything from you without going through the channels of the law
			2. Habeas corpus-no person can be held in prison without being charged for a specific crime
			3. The king agreed not to issue any new taxes without the consent of the Great Council. This came to mean that any taxation without representation was unjust (our main reason for revolting against GB).
* Keeping with the Magna Carta, English rulers often called on the Great Council for advice. In the 1200s, this council evolved into Parliament, which later became England’s legislature. As Parliament acquired a larger role in government, it helped unify England.
	+ In 1295, King Edward I had representatives of the “common people” join with the lords and clergy. Much later, this assembly became known as the Model Parliament. WHY? Because it set up the framework for England’s legislature--Parliament developed into a two-house (bicameral) body: the House of Lord and the House of Commons.
	+ Over time, Parliament gained “the power of the purse”. What is this? The right to approve any new taxes. This new power limited the monarch. HOW? Parliament could insist that the monarch meet its demands before voting for taxes.
* Unlike William the Conqueror in England, monarchs in France did not rule over a unified kingdom. They had little power over the French territories ruled by powerful nobles.
* In 987, Hugh Capet, the count of Paris, was elected fill the French throne. He was probably chosen because he was thought too weak to pose a threat to the nobles.
	+ Hugh and his heirs slowly increased royal power. HOW?
		- First, they made the throne hereditary, passing it from father to son. This line became known as the Capetian dynasty and it lasted for 300 years, making the kingdom more stable.
		- Second, they added to their lands by playing rival nobles against each other.
		- They won support of the Church.
		- They built an effective bureaucracy: government officials collected taxes and imposed royal law over the king’s lands. (Bureaucracy-a system of government that includes different job functions and levels of authority)
* In 1179, Philip II became king of France.
	+ Called Philip Augustus, he was smart and able ruler.
	+ Instead of appointing nobles to fill government positions, Philip paid middle-class officials who would owe their loyalty to him.
	+ He quadrupled royal land holdings. HOW? Through trickery, war and diplomacy he gained control of English-ruled lands in Normandy, Anjou and elsewhere.
	+ Before his death in 1223, Philip had become the most powerful ruler in Europe.
* In 1226, Louis IX became King of France.
	+ He was deeply religious and he persecuted heretics, or those who held beliefs contrary to Church teachings.
	+ He also persecuted Jews and led French knights in two Crusades, or wars against Muslims.
	+ The Church declared him a saint after his death.
	+ Louis improved royal government by
		- sending out officials to check on local administrations
		- expanding the royal courts
		- outlawing private wars
		- ending serfdom
* Louis’s grandson, Philip IV, set up the Estates General in 1302. This body had representatives from all 3 French classes of society: clergy, nobles, and townspeople. It never gained the power of the purse or otherwise served as a balance to royal power.

**Section 2**

* During the early Middle Ages, the Church spread its influence and increased its power across Europe. Meanwhile, monarchs also became more powerful.
* In the early Middle Ages, Charlemagne brought much of present-day France and Germany under his rule.
	+ After his death, the empire dissolved into a number of separate states.
	+ In time, the dukes of Saxony extended their power over neighboring German lands.
* In 936, Duke Otto I of Saxony took the title of King of Germany.
	+ Like Charlemagne, Otto I worked closely with the church.
	+ He also took an army into Italy to help the pope defeat rebellious Roman nobles.
	+ In 962, a grateful pope crowned Otto emperor. Later, Otto’s successors took the title Holy Roman Emperor:
		- “Holy” because they were crowned by the Pope
		- “Roman” because they saw themselves as heirs to the emperors of ancient Rome
* German emperors claimed authority over much of central and eastern Europe as well as parts of France and Italy. The real rulers of these lands were nobles and church officials who were like the emperor’s vassals.
	+ For German emperors, the challenge was to control their vassals.
	+ Another challenge for the emperors involved the appointment of Church officials. Emperors wanted to decide who would become bishops and abbots in their lands. At the same time, popes wanted to end monarch interference in the church.
* In 1054 Henry IV was crowned king of Germany (later he became the Holy Roman emperor). At that time, Gregory VII was pope. During their reigns, the conflict between monarchs and the Church erupted.
	+ Many medieval Europeans admired Pope Gregory VII, who instituted many Church reforms.
	+ Gregory wanted to make the Church independent of the monarchs so he banned the practice of *lay investiture*.
		- Under this practice, the emperor or another lay person (a person who is not a member of the clergy) “invested,” or presented, bishops with the ring and staff that symbolized their office. Gregory said only the pope had the right to appoint and install bishops in office.
	+ Gregory’s ban upset Henry IV (the Holy Roman emperor).
		- Henry argued that bishops help their lands as royal fiefs. Since he was their overlord, Henry felt entitled to give them their office.
	+ The feud heated up as the two men exchanged insulting letters.
	+ Rebellious German princes undermined Henry but supporting the Pope.
* In 1076 Gregory excommunicated Henry, which means he excluded him from the Roman Catholic Church for refusing to obey.
* Gregory then tried to crown a new emperor, forcing Henry to make peace. In January 1077, Henry humbled himself before Gregory and begged for forgiveness. Gregory knew that Henry was only trying to save his throne, but as the Pope he had no choice but to forgive him. Gregory lifted the excommunication.
* Henry quickly returned to Germany, gathered an army, returned to Rome and forced Gregory into exile.
* The struggle of investiture continued for 50 years. Finally, in 1022, both sides accepted a treaty known as the Concordat of Worms. This treaty declared that the Church had the sole power to elect bishops and give them spiritual authority. The emperor, however, still gave them fiefs.
* During the 1100s and 1200s, ambitious German emperors sought to control Italy.
	+ The Holy Roman emperor Frederick I, called Frederick Barbarossa, or “Red Beard”, dreamed of building an empire from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea.
	+ Barbarossa was unsuccessful at taking over the wealthy cities of northern Italy, but he was successful in arranging marriage between his son Henry and Constance, heiress to Sicily and southern Italy.
		- This is important because it entangled German emperors even more deeply in Italian affairs.
	+ Barbarossa’s grandson, Frederick II, was raised in southern Italy. An able and arrogant leader, he pursued his ambitions in Italy, clashing repeatedly and unsuccessfully with several popes. Like his grandfather, he tried but also failed to take over the cities of northern Italy.
* While Frederick II was involved in Italy, German nobles grew more independent leaving the Holy Roman Empire just a loose union of feudal states.
* In the 1200s, the Church reached the peak of its political power. For example, reforming popes like Gregory VII claimed the right to depose kings and emperors.
* In 1198, the powerful Pope Innocent III took office. As head of the Church, Innocent III claimed supremacy over all other rulers.
	+ He clashed with all the powerful rulers of his day, and usually won. (Remember when King John dared to appoint an archbishop of Canterbury without Innocent’s approval? He excommunicated King John and placed the kingdom under interdict.)
	+ In 1209, Innocent launched a brutal crusade, or holy war, against the Albigensians in southern France. WHY?
		- The Albigensians were a religious group regarded as heretics by the Church because they rejected central Catholic beliefs and rituals.
		- Tens of thousands of people were slaughtered in the Albigensian Crusade.
	+ Innocent increased the Church’s political power by:
		- Reformed the Church courts
		- Changed the way Church officials were chosen
		- Called a council that issued decrees that justified the pope’s new power