

Prelude to a Reformation

Hold he þ̄ d̄naunt was mayden marie
And hit his lone floure and fructifis

When yowh his lyfe be querut ye resemblaunce
Of hys hat in me so fresch hyllynesse
pat to yntte othir men in remembraunce
Of hys p̄sone & hane heere his h̄nesse
Do make to yis ende in sothfastnesse
pat yei y^e hane of him lest yowght & mynde
By yis p̄yutire may ageyn him fynde

The ymages y^e in y^e churche been
waken folk yente on god & on his seyntes
Whan ye ymages yei be holden & seen
Were oft w̄syte of hem carifith restreyntes
Of yowghtes gode Whan a ying depeynt is
Or entailes if men take of it heese
Thoght of ye h̄nesse it wil in h̄yū brede



Late Medieval Christianity

Religion

Expansion of Christian Society and Cult

Layers of Mediated Authority

Biblical Literacy (and the Lack Thereof)

'Superstition' & 'Magic'



Late Medieval Christianity

Politics

The Changing Roles of Bishops

Before and After Nicaea

Differences East and West

The Emergence of the Papacy

Gregory the Great (c. 540-604; +590)

Gregory VII (c. 1015/28-1085; +1073)

Undoing the *Donation of Constantine*

Investiture Controversy

Dictatus Papae

Innocent III (c. 1160/1-1216; +1198)

From Vicar of St. Peter to Vicar of Christ

Papal Armies



Late Medieval Christianity

“Apparatus”

An International Order

Ecclesiastical Law and Courts

Centralized

Hierarchical

Empowered

Landed

Wealthy



Late Medieval Christianity

“In the West, after the collapse of imperial administration and the advent of the new Germanic kingdoms, the Church itself became a virtual successor state to the Roman Empire, the one political body in sight which provided a model of rational and law-governed life that was not limited to custom and local royal power but appealed to a universal standard of right. Organised with increasing sophistication in a network or pyramid of courts, with a supreme magistracy in Rome, the Church both supported and relativised the kingdoms in which it worked, providing a literate civil service, a body of ‘clerks,’ but also insisting that the liberties of the clerical body were carefully negotiated in relation to the international system whose focus was the court of Rome.”

Rowan Williams, *Why Study the Past?*, 60-61



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

King Henry II (r. 1154-1189) & Archbishop Thomas Becket

One Law for All of England: Criminous Clerks

Becket: Preservation of Church's Autonomy

Henry Complains, Knights Murder Becket

Henry's Remorse and Reversal of Course



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

King John (r. 1199-1216) & Archbishop Stephen Langton

Innocent III 'Provides' Langton to Settle Dispute

John Refuses Langton Entrance

Innocent III Puts England Under Interdict (1208)

Innocent III Excommunicates John (1209)

Innocent III Threatens John's Deposition (1212)

John Becomes Innocent III's Vassal

Langton Returns to England (1214)

Magna Carta (1215)

Innocent III Sides With John Against Langton!

Langton Exiled, Papal Legates Step In



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

Henry III (r. 1216-1272) & The Legates

Young Henry's Dependence on the Legates

Roman Oversight of Governance:

Lay Resentment

Clerical Resentment

Resistance:

Robert Grosseteste (c. 1175-1253; +Lincoln, 1235)

Simon de Montfort (c. 1208-1265; Earl of Leicester)

Rebellion (1264)

Montfort Killed

Henry Weakened



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

King Edward I (r. 1272-1307) :
“The English Justinian”

Codify & Uniformly Enforce English Law

Impatient of Dictates of Churchmen

Roman

English

Archbishop Winchelsey Resists and Loses

Edward I's Reforms:

First Statute of Westminster (1275)

Statute of Mortmain (1279)

Circumspecte Agatis (1285)

Statute of Carlisle (1307)

Clergy Squeezed Between King and Rome: Taxes



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

Resisting Rome:

King Edward II (r. 1307-1327)

King Edward III (r. 1327-1377)

King Richard II (r. 1377-1399)

An Age of Anxiety, Heavy Taxation, & Plague

AbC Winchelsea Exiled, Church Weakened

Suppression of the Templars (1308):

Inquisitors?

Torture?



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

Resisting Rome:

King Edward II (r. 1307-1327)

King Edward III (r. 1327-1377)

King Richard II (r. 1377-1399)

Avignon Papacy (1309): The Pope's In France!?

English Political Response

Statute of Provisors (1351)

First Statute of Praemunire (1353)

Penalties for Obtaining Benefices from Rome (1365)

Suspension of Peter's Pence (1365)

Second Statute of Provisors (1390)

Second Statute of Praemunire (1393)



The Emergence of **English Nationalism**

Anticlericalism

Pope

Wealthy Bishops

Absentee Clergy

Idle or 'Sporting' Priests and Monks

Hypocritical Friars



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

“William Langland, in *Piers the Plowman*, attacked the clergy for the abuses which disgraced the church and divided the nation. His personification of Sloth as a parson who had been more than thirty years in his parish yet could read not a line of his books though he was well able ‘to fynde in a felde or in a furlong an hare,’ may well have been based upon personal experience of the men whom he had met. And if Langland was, on the whole, sympathetic towards the monks he was bitter in his criticisms of the friars, who professed poverty but managed nevertheless to grow fat on ‘sondry metes, mortrewes (hashed meat) and puddynges, wombe-clouts (tripe) and wylde braune, egges yfryed with grece.’”

JRH Moorman, *A History of the Church in England*, 116-7



The Emergence of

English Nationalism

Economic Impact of the Bubonic Plague

Labor Force Reduced, Wages Increase

Serfs Buy Freedom

New Independent Farmers

Legislation Fails to 'Fix' What's Wrong

Statutes of Labourers (1349-)

Poll Tax

Resentment and Great Revolt (1381)

Many Clergy Sympathetic to Commoners

Some Clergy Side with Rebels

