



Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy

1305-1377 A.D. Due to a crisis of authority in the Western Church and under pressure from Philip the Fair, the king of France, the seat of the Popes was moved by Pope Clement V from Rome to Avignon in France, where it remained for 70 years (this suggests a parallel to the time Jerusalem lay desolate after the Jews were held captive in Babylon). In 1377, the papacy was returned to Rome in a bold move by Pope Gregory XI.



Martin V

1366-1431 A.D.
Roman Pope whose election by the conclave at the Council of Constance ended the Great Schism and restored the authority of the Church in the Papal States. Returning to Rome, his chief concern was the restoration of the authority and unity of the Church.



Robert I

1274-1329 A.D. Known as "Robert the Bruce," he was crowned and claimed King of Scotland, thus defying Edward I of England. He gradually drove the English out of Scotland, winning independence in a battle at Bannockburn and forcing England's Edward III to recognize his right to the throne.



Tenochtitlan

c. 1325 A.D. Discovered at the site of present-day Mexico city, this ancient Aztec capital was destroyed by the Spanish in 1521.



Hundred Years War

1337-1453 A.D. A series of conflicts between England and France that began with Edward III contesting the legitimacy of Philip VI, and claiming the French throne as well. Although the early phase of the conflict was marked by stunning advances by the English, because of the course of several battles, inner turmoil, succeeding rulers, and key participants such as Joan of Arc, the tides turned, ending the long and painful war with the French victorious.



John Wycliffe

1328-1384 A.D. First great English leader of church reform. He rebuked the corruption and wealth of the church and its political involvement, and was supported by the king. This paved the way for the Protestant Reformation.



Edward the Black Prince

1330-1376 A.D. Prince of Wales and eldest son of Edward III, an English soldier during the Hundred Years War, establishing his reputation for valor at the battles of Crécy and Poitiers. It is surmised that his nickname derived from a black suit of armor.



Ming Dynasty

1368-1644 A.D. A Chinese dynasty founded by the first of 17 Ming emperors, Hong-wu, and marked by its successful education, foreign trade, and advancement of the arts. It is noted for the use of blue glaze on porcelain (blue-and-white wares). In the 15th century, the Ming constructed the Forbidden City in Beijing.



The Black Death

14th century A.D. A form of bubonic plague, this contagious, often fatal, epidemic disease was widespread throughout Europe and much of Asia, killing one third of the population. It was caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, transmitted from person to person or by the bite of fleas from an infected host, especially a rat, and characterized by chills, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and the formation of buboes.



Geoffrey Chaucer

c. 1340-1400 A.D. English poet and popular Medieval author, best known for his masterwork, *The Canterbury Tales*, begun about 1387. This literary work shares 23 stories among a group of pilgrims traveling to Becket's shrine at Canterbury.



Tamerlane

1336-1405 A.D. Mongolian conqueror remembered especially for the savage brutality of his conquests. Commanding his nomadic hordes from their capital at Samarkand, he spanned from India and Russia to the Mediterranean Sea.



Urban VI

1318-1389 A.D. Pope whose election precipitated the Great Schism. This offensive move caused the French cardinals to elect an antipope.