

Summer Homework: Chapter Nine Terms

Lay Investiture:

Lay Investiture was essentially the choosing of church officials by secular authority; in other words, lords and kings appointed church officials. Feudal monarchs relied on churchmen for the running of their governments and usually appointed people loyal to their position despite their qualifications. Lay investiture led to conflicts between secular rulers and the papacy, as in the case of Pope Gregory VII and Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV of Germany. Pope Gregory, who wanted reform, decreed that lay investiture was no longer allowed. This caused problems with Henry IV; German bishops began to support Henry IV because he gave them their position while the lay nobility sided with Gregory VII because they wanted the king to have less power. The issue over lay investiture continued throughout the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries and was settled by a compromise at Worms. Lay investiture is important because it led to problems between secular and religious figures during this time, especially between the pope and Holy Roman Emperor, and showed the struggles between church and state. The ramifications of this included the loose unity of the German states; this Investiture Controversy led to a weakened Germany that would not be able to unify until the nineteenth century; this led to other problems in the twentieth century as well.

Sources:

1. Textbook Pages 274-276
2. <http://www.loyno.edu/~MidAges/fharris.html>
3. Lecture

Indulgences:

Indulgences were reductions of the penalties enforced by the church for sins, rewarded by the clergy to men who helped their cause. In the late eleventh century, 1095 to be precise, Pope Urban II offered indulgences to those who would fight in the Crusades and for the holy city of Jerusalem. Over time, indulgences made the Catholic Church wealthy and gave it more power. Indulgences are important because they gave men a reason to fight in the Crusades and also signified the power that the clergy had in the lives of the average medieval individual. They were also a symbol of the corruption within the Catholic Church and led to the Protestant Reformation later on.

Sources:

1. Textbook Pages 277-278
2. Lecture

Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII:

Henry IV was the King of the Germans and the Holy Roman Emperor in the late eleventh century and early twelfth century. Pope Gregory VII was the pope in the late eleventh century who had been at Cluny. He wanted to reform aspects of the papacy, including Nicolaitism, simony, and lay investiture. Lay investiture led to conflicts between secular rulers and the papacy. German bishops began to support Henry IV because he gave them their position while the lay nobility sided with Gregory VII because they wanted the king to have less power. Henry IV was excommunicated because of this conflict, prompting him to then ask Gregory for forgiveness; although forgiven, the issue was not solved. Henry IV was excommunicated a second time and then travelled to Italy. He entered Italy and took over Rome after Pope Gregory VII died. The Investiture Controversy (*see lay investiture*) between the two had lasted for a number of years until compromise was reached at Worms. Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII are important because the Investiture Controversy they were involved in gave the nobility in Germany the opportunity to seize more power and thus prevented a strong, unified Germany to be formed until the nineteenth century. The outcome also showed the power the Catholic Church had over the Holy Roman Empire.

Sources:

1. Textbook Pages 274-276
2. Lecture