

Chapter 1

THE RISE OF EUROPE

PREFACE; GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Study Questions

1. In reading the Preface, what do you learn about the objectives of *A History of the Modern World*? How does the study of the past, especially of the European past, help us understand the contemporary world? How is political history related to other kinds of history?
2. Describe the origins of human beings.
3. What is the relationship between the study of geography and the study of history?
4. How has climate affected the history of Europe?
5. What historical factors have shaped agriculture over the centuries?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The basic anatomy and genetic make-up of human beings has not changed over the last 100,000 years.
2. The Mediterranean Sea is unique among the world's bodies of water.
3. Some of the most important older cities of Europe are located on rivers or other bodies of water.
4. Since the end of the Ice Age, Europe has been one of the most favored places on the globe for human habitation.
5. Geography is not destiny; what happens depends on the application of knowledge and abilities in any particular time and place and in any particular culture.
6. Agriculture depends on natural conditions but also on human invention and human decision making.

Identifications

Europe	Ice Age	Eurasian landmass
Caspian Gate	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	geopolitics
Ural Mountains	paleontologists	cartography

Map Exercises

1. Trace an imaginary line from Amsterdam eastward for about 3,500 miles, passing north of the Caspian Sea to the borders of western China, on the map on p. 4–5 in your text. What is the outstanding feature of this line? Of what historical significance has this feature been?
2. Can you locate on the physical map on p. 4–5 and on the front and back inside cover maps of the text, the major seas, rivers, straits, mountains, and cities mentioned?

1.1 ANCIENT TIMES: GREECE, ROME, AND CHRISTIANITY

Study Questions

1. Why does this history of the modern world emphasize the history of Europe? How did Europe contribute to the development of what is now called the “modern world”?
2. How do we conventionally date the following: (a) modern times, (b) the Middle Ages, (c) classical Greek and Roman civilization, and (d) ancient times? Why is “modern” a relative term?
3. What important changes took place in Europe after about 2000 B.C.?
4. For what major contributions are the Greeks and the Romans remembered? What role did the Romans play in transmitting the contributions of older civilizations?
5. Describe the origins of Christianity. What special contributions did it make to the development of Europe’s civilization?
6. Describe St. Augustine’s influence on Christian theology.

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Most features of what we call modern civilization first appeared in Europe.

2. As a time span the word “modern” is purely relative.
3. Europeans were by no means the pioneers of human civilization.
4. The Greeks proved to be an exceptionally gifted people.
5. The distinctive aptitude of the Romans lay in organization, administration, government, and law.
6. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the coming of Christianity, which brought a new sense of human life and unity.
7. Christians were most often denounced and persecuted for their political ideas.

Identifications

Neolithic Age	Aristotle	Caesaropapism
Indo-European	Alexander the Great	Roman law
Classical Greek virtues	<i>pax Romana</i>	St. Augustine
Parthenon		

Map Exercises

1. Consider the map, The Mediterranean World about 800, on page 25 in your text. What were the approximate boundaries of the Roman Empire at its height?
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 1.1?

1.2 THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES: THE FORMATION OF EUROPE

Study Questions

1. What factors contributed to the decline and breakup of the Roman Empire?
2. Describe and compare the three civilizations that confronted each other across the Mediterranean about 700 C.E.
3. Discuss the traditions and institutions of the Germanic tribes that invaded the Roman Empire.

4. Why did Latin Christendom experience what some historians have called the “Dark Ages” after about 500 C.E.? In what ways did the church in this period suggest that the period was more dynamic than the phrase suggests?
5. Describe the significance of the Christian church as an institution. What impact did the rise of the papacy have?
6. Describe the origins and accomplishments of Charlemagne’s empire. What accounted for its fall?
7. In what sense was Europe assuming some of its modern political form by the year 1000?
8. How do the illustrations on p. 18, 22, and 27 demonstrate some of the cultural contributions of Christianity?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. It was in the half-millennium from the fifth to the tenth centuries that Europe emerged.
2. The Roman Empire in the west fell into decrepitude in the fourth and fifth centuries.
3. The barbarian invasions of the fifth century and the Arab conquests of the seventh century broke the unity of the Greco-Roman or Mediterranean world.
4. Of the three civilizations that confronted each other across the Mediterranean about 700 C.E.—the Byzantine Empire, the Arabic world, and Latin Christendom—Latin Christendom looked the least promising.
5. In Latin Christendom, the Christian church was the one organized institution of political, spiritual, and cultural importance.
6. Among the Franks, in what is now northern France and the German Rhineland, there had arisen a line of capable rulers of whom the greatest was Charlemagne.
7. By the year 1000, or soon thereafter, the entity we call Europe had come into existence.

Identifications

Constantine

Sunni

Shiite

Byzantine Empire

Muhammad

Qur'an

Donation of Constantine

Charlemagne

Dark Ages

Barbarian

Monastery

Great Schism of East and West

Caliph

Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, Mediterranean World about 800, indicate the approximate boundaries of (a) Latin Christendom, (b) Greek Christendom, and (c) the Muslim world around 800 C.E. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 25.
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 1.2?



1.3 THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES: SECULAR CIVILIZATION

Study Questions

1. What sweeping changes in the eleventh century enabled Europe to pull itself out of the so-called Dark Ages?
2. Why did slavery practically disappear from medieval Europe?
3. How would you define feudalism? What were its origins?
4. How was feudalism different from the old Roman imperial principle?
5. What were the differences between (a) feudalism and the manorial system and (b) the lord-vassal relationship and the lord-serf relationship?
6. Explain the role of commerce and of the towns in the High Middle Ages. What effects did commerce have on the rural countryside? How did the growth of towns also change the countryside?
7. What economic roles were available to women in the High Middle Ages?
8. Describe the growth in the High Middle Ages of (a) royal power, (b) royal councils, and (c) parliaments.
9. How do the illustrations on p. 31 and 35 depict key economic activities of the Middle Ages?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Important changes began to take place in Europe in the eleventh century in agriculture, commerce, and political life.
2. The use of labor-saving devices, together with the influence of the Christian clergy, accounts for the gradual disappearance of slavery from Europe and its replacement by the less-objectionable and less-degrading status of serfdom.
3. The notable feature of feudalism was its mutual or reciprocal character.
4. The manorial system was the agricultural base on which a ruling class was supported.
5. The new towns struggled to free themselves from the encircling feudalism and to set themselves up as self-governing little republics.

6. The spirit of the medieval economy was to prevent competition.
7. The three centuries of the High Middle Ages laid foundations both for order and for freedom.

Identifications

High Middle Ages	Three-field system	Guild
Vassal	Law merchant	Serf
Hugh Capet	Corporate liberties	Magna Carta
Manor	Hanse	Estates
Parliament		

1.4 THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES: THE CHURCH

Study Questions

1. What fundamental institutional changes took place in the church in the eleventh century before and under Gregory VII, and under Innocent III?
2. During the High Middle Ages, what were (a) the origins and nature of the universities, (b) the contributions of Arabic learning, and (c) the role of the scholastic philosophers?
3. What do the paintings on p. 43 and 44 reveal about medieval art and thought?
4. Discuss the chief accomplishment and contributions of Thomas Aquinas as one of the eminent scholastics of the period.
5. Describe the motives and results of (a) the European crusades to the Holy Land and (b) crusading activities elsewhere. What does the illustration on p. 47 tell us about the crusades?
6. Describe European civilization around 1300. How might it be compared with that of the Arab world and the Chinese Empire of this period?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. In the High Middle Ages, religion permeated every aspect of political, social, and cultural life.

2. The Roman Catholic church as an institution was virtually created in the eleventh century.
3. As the early agglomerations of traders developed into organized towns and guilds, so the informal concourses of students and teachers developed into organized institutions of learning, receiving the sharp corporate stamp that was characteristic of the High Middle Ages.
4. The scholastics sought to reconcile the body of Greek and Arabic learning to the Christian faith.
5. New threats to Europe arose after 1250, but Europe by then was capable of resistance.
6. By 1300 medieval Europe shared many common institutions, religious and secular.
7. In the very “disorder” of Europe there was also a kind of freedom and a dynamism that promoted change.

Identifications

Holy Roman Empire	Anselm	Scholasticism
Cluniacs	Innocent III	Abelard
Gregory VII	Aristotle	Sacraments
Henry IV	Theology	Crusades
Thomas Aquinas	<i>Reconquista</i>	

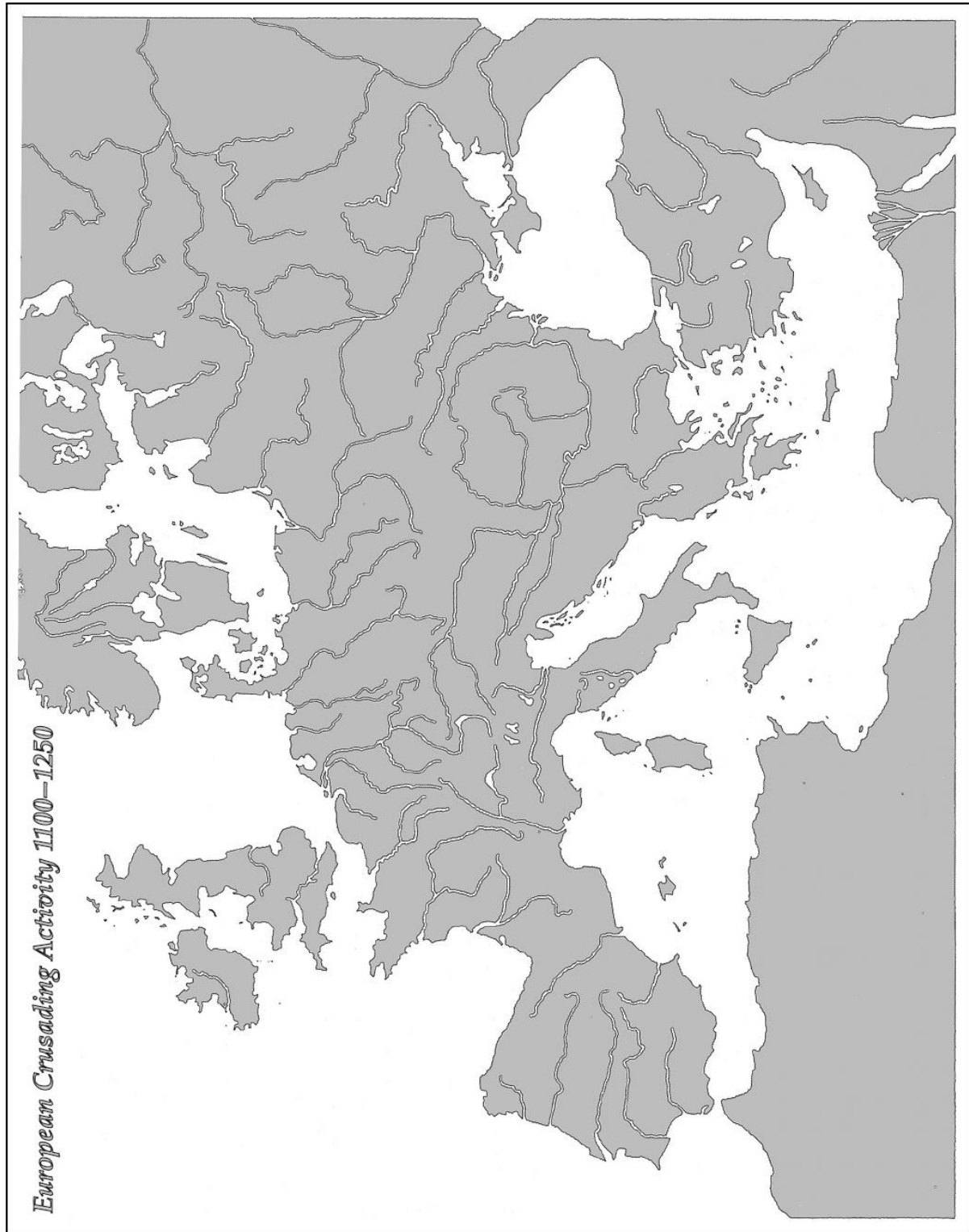
Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, European Crusading Activity, 1100–1250, sketch an approximate picture of European crusading activity from about 1100 to 1250. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 45.
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 1.4?

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 1

1. It is generally agreed that by 1300 the rise of a distinctively European civilization was an accomplished fact. What were the most important contributions made to that civilization by (a) Greece, (b) Rome, (c) the early Middle Ages, and (d) the High Middle Ages?

2. How did Christianity shape the spiritual, intellectual, and institutional development of Europe (a) in the ancient world, (b) from the fifth to the tenth century, and (c) from the eleventh to the end of the thirteenth century?
3. Compare economic, political, and social changes in Europe in the High Middle Ages with religious, intellectual, and cultural changes in the same period.



GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 1

1. Geography describes and maps the earth, but geographers also study the cultural practices

- that shape human interactions with the environments in which they live. (p. 1)
2. It can be argued that Europe is more of a cultural conception, arising out of perceived differences from Asia and Africa, than a continent in a strictly geographical sense. (p. 3)
 3. Europe has undoubtedly shaped much of modern world history. (p. 3)
 4. Climate and the environment not only set limits but also provide opportunities for what human beings can do. Geography is not destiny. (p. 7)
 5. Whatever their backgrounds, and willingly or not, all peoples in the contemporary world have been caught up in processes of “modernization” or “development,” which often means acquiring or adapting some of the technical skills and powers first exhibited by Europeans. (p. 9)
 6. The Greeks were the first to write history as a subject distinct from myth and legend. (p. 12)
 7. The Greeks were not democratic in a modern sense in that slaves, resident noncitizens (called “metics”), and women were excluded from political life. (p. 12)
 8. The Romans, though ruthless in their methods of conquest, in the long run acted as civilizing agents, transmitting to hitherto isolated countries the age-old achievements of the East and the more recent culture of Greece and of Rome itself. (p. 14)
 9. The thousand years during which Greco-Roman civilization arose and flourished were notable in another way even more momentous for all later human history. It was in this period that the great world religions came into being. Within the time bracket 800 B.C.E. to 700 C.E. the lives of Confucius and Buddha, of the major Jewish prophets, and of Muhammad are all included. (p. 16)
 10. The idea that no ruler, no government, and no institution is too mighty to rise above moral criticism eventually opened the way to dynamic and progressive changes in European social and political systems. (p. 19)
 11. In the year 1000, the West began to experience new social and economic activity, ushering in the European civilization of the High Middle Ages. (p. 28)
 12. Some historical periods are so dynamic that a person who lives to a mature age can remember sweeping changes that have come in one’s own lifetime. Such a time began in

Europe in the eleventh century. (p. 29)

13. The three centuries of the High Middle Ages laid the foundations both for order and for freedom. (p. 38)
14. Many have asked why China did not generate, as Europe did in these centuries, the main forces that ultimately led to the modern scientific and industrial world. (p. 47)
15. European civilization in 1300 was by no means a “modern” society, yet the ancient and medieval cultures on European lands had created institutions and traditions that have remained influential even in the most recent eras of modern world history. (p. 48)