

Lecture 19: Demographic Growth and the Rise of Universities

I. The Rise of Cities ca. 1200

- A. Demographic Growth in the West
- B. Urban Life: Cities and Towns in the High Middle Ages
- C. On the Margins: migrant laborers, the poor and sick

II. Paris and University Life

- A. Masters and Universities
- B. Students – example of Medieval Paris
- C. Scholasticism and Dialectical Argument

III. Responses: Moral Theology and the idea of Purgatory

- A. Moral Theology and its Maters
- B. Purgatory and Redemption

Demographic Growth and the Rise of Cities ca. 1200

Between 1000-1300: Population of Europe doubles = 38.5 million to 80 million

Causes: Increase in production of foodstuffs leads to sustained population growth

Effects: Specialization of labor; growth of cities as centers of trade

Five components marked out medieval urban centers:

- 1) Population density (5,000-10,000 people; by 1300 Paris has 200,000)
- 2) Walls
- 3) Most cities have monumental building – a cathedral or abbey church
- 4) Occupational diversity = specialization of labor
- 5) Sustained markets = economic centers

Urban centers facilitate the **Commercial Revolution** = shift in marketing and selling of goods for **profit**.

Control of production increasingly under the auspices of **Guilds** = corporate bodies that regulate goods.

Medieval Universities – Masters and Curriculum

Peter Abelard (ca. 1079-1142) -- Master in Paris, author of “Sic et Non”

University of Paris – *universitas* = a corporate body, or unity – created in 1200

Faculties of Theology, Canon and Roman Law, Medicine and the Liberal Arts

Major University of the 13th Century:

Paris (France) – Theology
Bologna (Italy) – Canon and Roman Law
Oxford (England) – Theology;
Cambridge (England) – Philosophy and Natural Law
Montpellier (Southern France) and Salerno (Southern Italy) – Medicine

Scholastic Method = employs tools of logic and reasoning

Dialectical Reasoning = logically proceed from a thesis to an anti-thesis to arrive at a truth or synthesis = either

- 1) harmony or concord of ideas; or
- 2) modification of one of the original points

Master Taught: By 1) *lectio* = lectures; or 2) *disputatio* = disputation or arguing difficult questions

Use of **Glossed Texts** – texts with commentary designed to reason through argumentation.

Masters of Moral Theology:

Peter the Chanter (taught ca. 1180s)

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – both taught in Paris