The High and Late Middle Ages

Section 5: A Time of Crisis
The Black Death: A Global Epidemic

- The Bubonic plague, or Back Death, arrived in Europe from Asia in 1347 and thereafter kept recurring.
- It caused massive deaths and inflation that led to peasant revolts in England, France, Germany, and elsewhere.
Upheaval in the Church

► The church was unable to answer the questions or fill the needs of its members during the Black Death.
► In 1309, Pope Clement V moved the papal court to Avignon in France.
► Later, reformers elected another pope to rule from Rome.
► Popular preachers such as John Wycliffe taught that the bible and not the Church held the truth, and his followers began translating the Bible for everyone to read.
The Hundred Years’ War

- England and France fought a series of conflicts between 1337 and 1453 over French lands that both states claimed and over control of the English Channel and regional trade.
- Joan of Arc helped to turn the tide for France.
- In England, the war gave power and prominence to Parliament, which had to fund it.
Causes and Effects of the Black Death

**Causes of Black Death**
- Bubonic plague
- Carried by fleas on rats
- Spreads from Asia to Middle East to Europe

**The Black Death in Europe**
- People turn to magic and witchcraft.
- People flee cities or hide in homes.
- Christians blame Jews.

**Effects of the Black Death**
- One-third of people die.
- Production declines.
- Inflation
- Peasants revolt.
## Causes and Effects of the Hundred Years’ War

### Causes
- English rulers want to retain French lands.
- French kings want to extend their power.
- Both want to control the English Channel.
- Both want to control trade.

### Hundred Years’ War
- England wins battles due to longbow.
- Joan of Arc leads French armies.
- Joan’s execution rallies the French.

### Effects
- French monarchs grow stronger.
- English Parliament gains “power of the purse.”
- English turn to trading ventures.
- Castles and knights cannot stand up to cannon and longbow.
- Monarchs need armies, not feudal vassals.