

Challenges to Church Authority

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The church reacted to challengers by punishing people who opposed its teachings.
2. Christians fought Moors in Spain and Portugal in an effort to drive all Muslims out of Europe.
3. Jews faced discrimination across Europe in the Middle Ages.

The Big Idea

In the Middle Ages, the Christian Church dealt harshly with people who did not respect its authority.

Key Terms and People

heresy, p. 546

Reconquista, p. 547

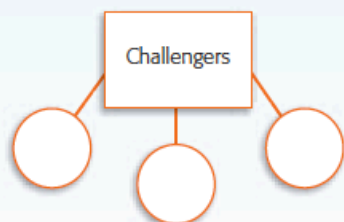
King Ferdinand, p. 548

Queen Isabella, p. 548

Spanish Inquisition, p. 548

TAKING NOTES

As you read, look for information about groups of people who challenged the authority of the Catholic Church or were seen as the church's enemies. Use a diagram like the one below to help you organize your notes.



If YOU were there...

You are a student at a university in Córdoba, Spain. Your fellow students include Christians, Muslims, and Jews. But a new king and queen want all Muslims and Jews to leave Spain.

How will the rulers' decision affect your friends?

BUILDING BACKGROUND As you have read, most Europeans in the Middle Ages belonged to the Catholic Church. As Christianity spread in Europe, many Jews and Muslims were pressured to become Christian or leave their homes. At the same time, others openly challenged the church's authority.

The Church Reacts to Challengers

By around 1100, some Christians had begun to question church teachings. They felt that the clergy focused more on money and land than on God. Others didn't agree with the church's ideas. They began to preach their own ideas about religion.

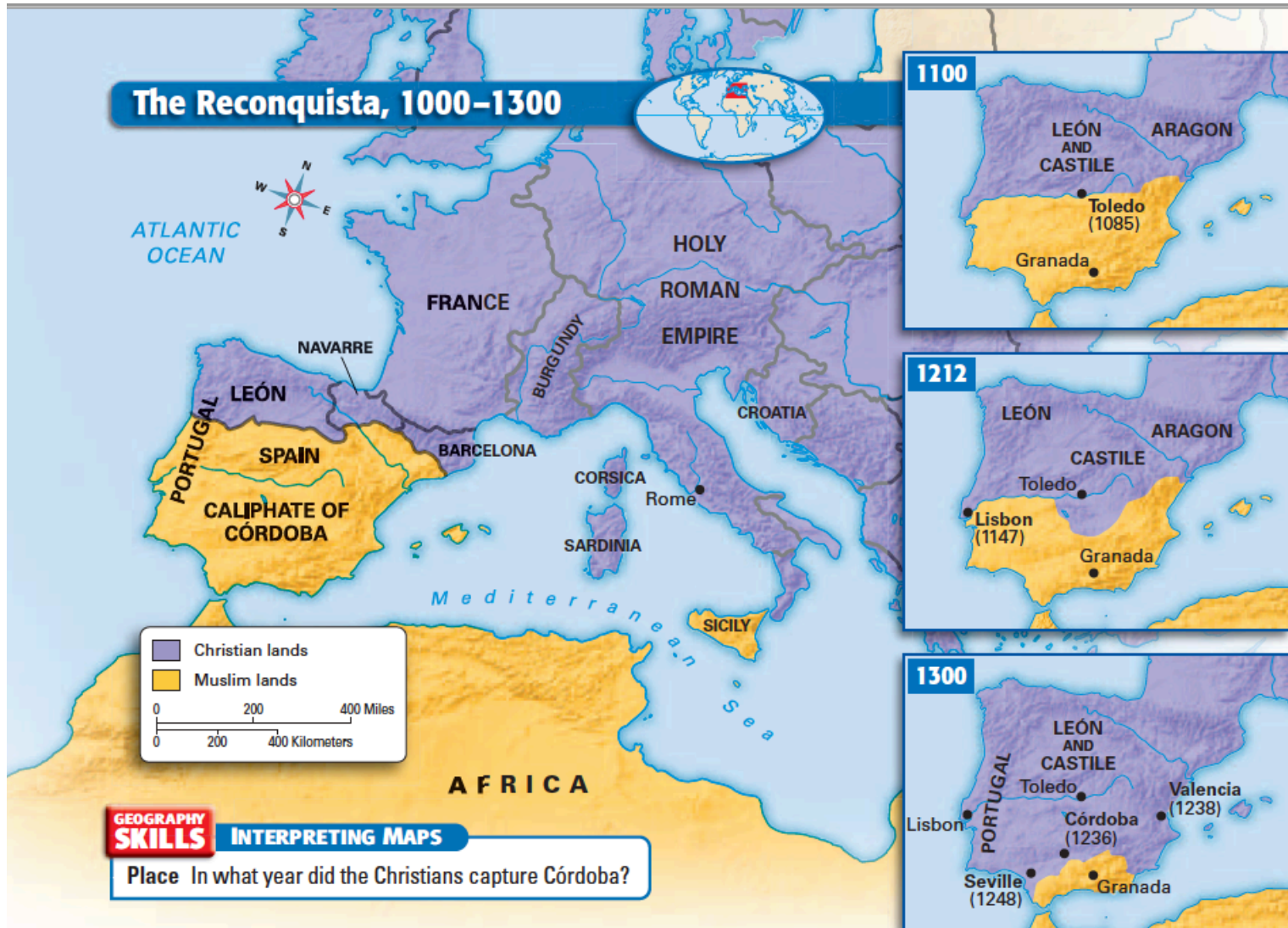
Religious ideas that oppose accepted church teachings are called **heresy** (HER-uh-see). People who hold such ideas are called heretics. Church officials sent priests and friars throughout Europe to find possible heretics. Most of these priests and friars tried to be fair. A few tortured people until they confessed to heresy, even if they were innocent. Most people found guilty in these trials were fined or put in prison. Others were killed.

In the early 1200s, Pope Innocent III decided that heresy was too great a threat to ignore. He called a crusade against heretics in southern France. With this call, the pope encouraged the king of France and his knights to rid their country of heretics. The result was a bloody war that lasted about 20 years. The war destroyed towns and cost thousands of people their lives.

READING CHECK

Finding Main Ideas How did church leaders try to fight heresy?

The Reconquista, 1000–1300



Christians Fight the Moors

France was not the only place where Christians fought people they saw as the church's enemies. In Spain and Portugal, armed Christian warriors fought to drive the Muslim Moors out of their lands.

The Weakening of Muslim Control

By the late 900s the once powerful Muslim government of Spain had begun to weaken. Political and religious leaders fought each other for power. Various ethnic groups also fought each other.

In 1002 the Muslim government fell apart completely. Caught up in fighting among themselves, Muslim leaders were too busy to guard against the Christian kingdoms of northern Spain.

The Fight against the Moors

For centuries, the kingdoms of northern Spain had been small and weak. But as the Moors' power declined, these little Christian kingdoms seized the opportunity to attack. Slowly, they took land away from the Moors. They called their efforts to retake Spain from the Moors the **Reconquista** (reh-kahn-KEES-tuh), or reconquest.

In 1085 Castile (ka-STEEL), the largest of the Spanish kingdoms, won a great victory against the Moors. The Castilian victory inspired other Christian kingdoms to fight the Moors. The kingdoms of Aragon and Portugal soon joined the fight.

The Christian armies won victory after victory. By the 1250s, the victorious Christian armies had nearly pushed the Moors completely out of Europe.

THE IMPACT TODAY

Although the Moors were driven out, many places in Spain and Portugal still bear names that came from Arabic, the language the Moors spoke.

The only territory still under Muslim control was a small kingdom called Granada (grah-NAH-dah).

The Rise of Portugal and Spain

As a result of their victories, both Portugal and Spain grew more powerful than before. Portugal, once a part of Castile, broke free and declared its independence. Meanwhile, Castile and Aragon decided to unite.

In 1469 Ferdinand, the prince of Aragon, married Isabella, a Castilian princess. Ten years later, they became king and queen of their countries. Together, they ruled all of Spain as **King Ferdinand** and **Queen Isabella**.

Ferdinand and Isabella finally brought an end to the Reconquista. In 1492 their army conquered Granada, the last Muslim stronghold in Spain. That same year, they required all Spanish Jews to convert to Christianity or leave the country. A few

years later, they banned the practice of Islam as well. Through this policy, all of Spain became Christian.

The Spanish Inquisition

Ferdinand and Isabella wanted only Christians in their kingdom. To ensure that Christianity alone was practiced, they created the **Spanish Inquisition**, an organization of priests that looked for and punished anyone in Spain suspected of secretly practicing their old religion. Later, the Inquisition spread to Portugal as well.

The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions were ruthless in seeking heretics, Muslims, and Jews. People found guilty of heresy were sentenced in public ceremonies. Many of those found guilty were killed. They were often burned to death. In total, the Spanish sentenced about 2,000 people to die. Almost 1,400 more were put to death by the Portuguese Inquisition.

READING CHECK Summarizing What was the purpose of the Spanish Inquisition?

BIOGRAPHY

Queen Isabella

1451–1504

Although she is considered one of the greatest monarchs in Spanish history, Isabella was never actually the queen of Spain. She was the queen of Castile, but she had no official power in her husband's kingdom, Aragon. In practice, however, the two ruled both kingdoms together.

In addition to her role in the Reconquista, Isabella made great contributions to Spanish society. She encouraged religion and education and supported many artists. She also helped pay for the transatlantic voyages of Christopher Columbus, during which he discovered America.

Analyzing How did Isabella help promote Spanish culture?

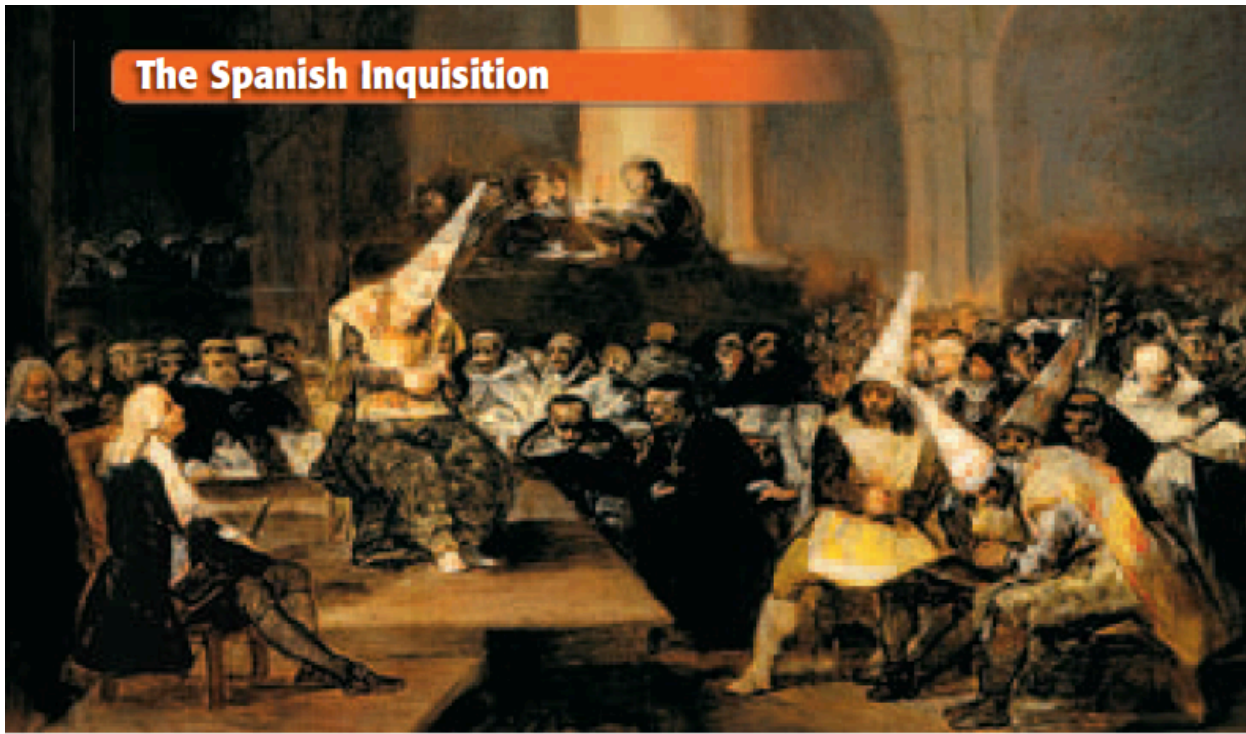
Jews Face Discrimination

Heretics and Muslims were not the only groups punished for their beliefs in the Middle Ages. European Jews also suffered. This suffering was caused by Christians who believed that the Jews had been responsible for the death of Jesus. These Christians thought Jews should be punished.

You have already read about how Jews were killed during the Crusades. You have also read that Jews were forced to leave their homes in Spain. Similar things happened all over Europe. Rulers, supported by the church, forced Jews to leave their countries. For example, in 1290, the king of England arrested all English Jews and forced them to leave the country. The same thing happened in France in 1306 and again in 1394.



The Spanish Inquisition



The painting shows accused heretics, in the pointed hats, before the Spanish Inquisition. The Spanish artist Francisco Goya painted it in the early 1800s.

How did the artist show what the accused heretics are feeling?

In the Holy Roman Empire, frightened people blamed Jews for the arrival of the Black Death. Many Jews had to flee their homes to escape angry mobs. Because the Jews were not Christian, many Europeans didn't want them in their towns.

READING CHECK Summarizing How were Jews discriminated against in the Middle Ages?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW During the Middle Ages, religion shaped how people thought, what they did, and where they lived. In some places religion led to wars and punishment for those who didn't agree with the Catholic Church. In the next chapter, you will learn about the era that followed the Middle Ages.

Section 5 Assessment

go.hrw.com

Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SN6 HP18

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Define** What is heresy?

b. Explain Why did the church send priests and friars to find heretics?
- a. Identify** Who did Spanish Christians try to drive out of their lands?

b. Explain What was the purpose of the **Spanish Inquisition**?

c. Predict How might Spanish history have been different if the Spanish had not defeated the Moors?
- Summarize** How did kings and other rulers punish Jews in the Middle Ages?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one here. Use your notes to help you fill in each box with a description of Christians' reactions to that group.

| Heretics | Moors | Jews |
|----------|-------|------|
| | | |

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Choosing Important People** There are two more people in this section to add to your list. How do you rank them on the list of most-to-least important? Who do you feel is most important?