

2020-04-08 - Lecture 28

8.3 Western Europe after the Roman Empire, c 500-1200

- 1) Western Europe impoverished feudal society - famine, war, political power with warlords or Church Bishops. **Dark Ages** spanning from about **476-1000**.
- 2) Pilgrimages to Holy Sites
 - 11th and 12th centuries
 - Pilgrimage (1) Jerusalem to see Sepulcher of **Christ** at Basilica of Holy Sepulcher
 - Pilgrimage (2) Rome to see Crypt of **St. Peter**
 - Pilgrimage (3) Compostela de Santiago to see Tomb of **St. James**
 - **Pilgrims could gain redemption by visiting Holy Sites**
 - In Rome and elsewhere in Italy we see development of the **campanile**, a tall bell tower (instead of a westworks as is seen in northern Europe). The **campanile** was a strong architectural feature that pilgrims could see from very far away, and thereby be directed to the abbey church at their destination.
 - To Compostela there were four major routes through France
 - (1) **Via Turonensis** - begins at **Tour of St. Jacques** in Paris
 - (2) **Via Lemonicensis** - begins at **Abbey Ste. Madeleine** in Vezelay (Burgundy)
 - (3) **Via Podiensis** - begins at **St. Michel Aiguilhe** (san michel agweel) near Le Puy
 - (4) **Via Tolosana** - begins at Church of **St. Trophime** in Arles and St. Gilles-du-Gard
 - Road to Compostela a.k.a. **The Way of St. James** marked along the way by the symbol of St. James - the scallop shell. Symbolism: **The lines of the scallop shell indicate many coming from different starting points and converging all to the same destination.**
 - The top three routes converged at **St. Jean-Pied-de-Port** before entering Spain
 - Once in Spain, pilgrims entered upon the Camino Frances (the French Highway) and the fourth route converged with the other three at **Puente la Reina**.
 - Pilgrims protected by armed Knights from the **Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon** - shortened to the **Knights Templar**. They were organized in 1139 and basically were a militia of the Catholic Church.
 - Along Route (3), pilgrims visited Abbey church Ste. Foy in **Conques** (khaunk). See image of the tympanum depicting the pilgrimage.
 - Pilgrimage churches modeled after **Cluny III**
 - Pilgrimage churches had **outer aisles - ambulatories** and **chevets** that created an outer ring of circulation so that the priest's services and the choir would not be disturbed by the constant flow of pilgrims.
 - Upon arriving at **Santiago de Compostela**, pilgrims entered through the **Portico de la Gloria** on the west side finished in **1180**.
- 3) **Crusades** to Middle East
 - End of 11th Century
 - Unification of Christendom through fighting common enemy in Palestine where Muslims had ruled for 400 years (since establishing Dome of the Rock on the Jewish Temple Mount)
 - **Pope Urban II** calls for a liberation of Jerusalem (1095)
 - 100,000 Knights muster in Constantinople to march to Palestine (1097)
 - Knights conquer Jerusalem and kill all the Jews and Muslims (1099)
 - To consolidate power 50 castles were built, such as formidable **Krak de Chevaliers** (Castle of the Knights or Castle of the Cavaliers) in modern-day Syria. Controlled by another group of knights called the **Hospitallers** until 1271
 - **glacis** were slippery slopes
 - **bastions** were round defensive pieces
 - **battlements**
 - **merlins** were the positive masonry bits rising above the top of the wall
 - **crenels** were the negative spaces between each merlin

- 4) **Frederick II** (ruled 1220-1250)
- Holy Roman Emperor and King of Jerusalem
 - Strong vision of **renovatio romanae imperii**
 - **Imperial Palace** in Prato **1238** (Italy - north of Florence)
 - perfect square geometry with symmetrical towers at corners and midpoints
 - battlements made of **Ghibelline merlons**
 - **Castel del Monte** in Puglia **1240** (Italy - south near the heel of the boot)
 - perfect octagonal geometry
 - ambitious synthesis of religious and secular form. A powerful large form normally reserved for religious institutions now used for a palace or castle
 - reminiscent of the Dome of the Rock and comparable to Pantheon