

- I. Catholic Church
 - a. It was the most powerful institution in Europe during the Middle Ages
 - b. Provided hope, salvation, education, and services
 - c. Pope was the central figure and had political influence
 - d. 496 Clovis the Frankish king converted to Christianity

- II. Role of Church
 - a. POLITICAL
 - i. The pope crowned rulers ex. Charlemagne
 - ii. Canon Law: Rules of the Church
 - iii. Performed sacraments and other religious rituals
 - iv. Had the power of excommunication
 - v. Ex. Pope Gregory VII excommunicated King Henry IV
 - vi. In the 13th century the Holy Inquisition was created
 - vii. This was to investigate any act of heresy against the Catholic Church

 - b. ECONOMIC
 - i. Church was wealthy because they paid no taxes
 - ii. Tithe: worshippers paid one tenth salary
 - iii. Great monasteries and Cathedrals were built in Gothic style and paid for with taxes and donations
 - iv. Lent money without interest, they forbid usury
 - v. Usury is a loan with high interest
 1. **Reason for success was because many others who lent money had a USURY, which was an illegally high interest rate which made the Church a better option
 - vi. The Jews charged interest on loans

 - c. SOCIAL
 - i. Monastery: both secular and religious function
 - ii. The Parish Church was the center of every town
 - iii. Religious figures provide guidance
 - iv. Clergy was educated and literate
 - v. They helped preserve ancient Greek and Roman culture
 - vi. They also tended to the sick
 - vii. Writings & paintings were based on religious themes
 - viii. Jews were prejudiced and targets, they were forced to live in ghettos