

## The Medieval European Mind: Dialectic Triumphant

### I. *Ecclesia* (The Church) — The Role of Monasticism

#### A. Functions

#### B. Benedictine—Monte Cassino, 529

#### C. Reform Movements

1. Cluniac
  - a. Cluny—910
  - b. Priors and Monasteries
2. Cistercium—1098
  - a. Citeaux
  - b. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)
3. Franciscan (recognized 1210)—“gray friars”
  - a. St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)
  - b. St. Bonaventure (1221–1274)
  - c. “Spiritual Franciscans”
4. Dominican
  - a. Dominic de Guzmán (1170–1221)
  - b. “black friars”
5. Augustinian
  - a. Rule (*regula*) of St. Augustine
  - b. organized as an order in 13th century

### II. Intellectual Developments in the Middle Ages

#### A. 640–790: Intellectual Stagnation

#### B. 790–1000: Carolingian Renaissance and Intellectual Renewal

1. Recovery of the Seven Liberal Arts (including Dialectic)
  - a. Alcuin of York (735–804)
  - b. Gerbert of Aurillac (945–1003), Pope Sylvester II
2. Reintroduction of Neoplatonic Ideas
  - a. (Pseudo-)Dionysius the Areopagite translated into Latin
  - b. John Scotus Eriugena (ca. 810–ca. 877) — condemned in 1225

## C. 1000–1200: Conflict Between Neoplatonic Epistemology and Dialectic

1. Dialecticians Challenge Prevailing Neoplatonic Synthesis
  - a. Berengarius of Tours (ca. 1000–1088)
  - b. Roscellinus of Compiègne (ca. 1045 or 1050–1120)
  - c. Peter Abelard (1079–1142)
    - (1) *Sic et non, Glosses on Porphyry, Dialectica*
    - (2) views condemned: Soissons (1121) and Sens (1140)
  - d. Adelard of Bath (1080–1145), *Natural Questions*
  - e. John of Salisbury (ca. 1115–1180), *Metalogicon*
2. Neoplatonic Synthesis Defended by Those Using Dialectic
  - a. Lanfranc of Bec (1010–1089)
  - b. Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) — ontological proof
3. Neoplatonic Synthesis Defended Using Neoplatonic Epistemology
  - a. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)

## D. 1200–1347: Aristotelianism and the Neoplatonic Synthesis (Scholasticism)

1. Church Rejects, Then Accepts Aristotle
  - a. 1210 – Council of Sens prohibits Aristotle’s work on physics
  - b. 1215 – Robert, papal legate, prohibits Aristotle’s work on metaphysics and natural philosophy (allowed lecturing on dialectic but only by full professors)
  - c. 1231 – Pope Gregory IX allowed expurgated versions of Aristotle’s works to be used in schools
  - d. 1250 – Robert Grossteste, Bishop of Lincoln, translates Aristotle’s *Nicomachaen Ethics* into Latin
  - e. Church declares Aristotle’s works as criteria of truth
2. Problem of Universals
  - a. Realists (*universalia ante rem*)
  - b. Nominalists (*universalia post rem*)
3. Conflict of Faith and Reason
  - a. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) — *Summa theologica* (teleology)
  - b. William of Occam (ca. 1280–1347) — Occam’s Razor

## E. Results in Secular Western Christendom

1. Advocacy System in Law
2. Determining the Mind of God
  - a. Johannes Kepler
  - b. Georg Freidrich Wilhelm Hegel
  - c. Steven Hawking
  - d. Chet Raymo