

*HERESY
AND
INQUISITION*



INQUISITIO, ONIS (F)

- Seeking or searching for
- Seeking proofs or grounds
- Legal inquiry
- Inquisitio versus accusatio

Religious reform (11th c.) → increased chances of salvation



Greater concern with individual beliefs and behaviour



Decrees of Lateran IV (1215) → Clearer definition of Catholic



Othering → deliberate and sanctioned attacks on those OUTSIDE of 'Catholic'

TODAY'S FOCUS...

- Persecution of heretics in the 12th and 13th centuries
- Institutions used in that persecution-->inquisition (method of court procedure)

MEDIEVAL 'OTHERING' STEREOTYPES

- Sexual deviancy
- Filthiness
- Putrefaction
- Pollution
- Devil at work to subvert
Christian order and
create chaos



Heretics
Jews
Lepers
Prostitutes



DEFINING HERESY

HERESY FROM HAERESIS

- Initial meaning = choice
- Christian meaning: doctrine contrary to orthodox (normative) teachings
- Heretic
 - Belief counter to Catholic doctrine AND maintain and teach those beliefs to others

ANALYZING INQUISITION RECORDS

1. Heresy: What ideas about Catharism do we learn from this trial record? What are some of the doctrinal ideas (religious ideas) discussed?
2. Catholicism: Conversely, what can we learn about the accepted religious beliefs of Catholicism from this document?
3. What can we learn about village life?
4. What do we learn about inquisition procedure? Structure of a trial and those involved in it?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- WEAK: Were Cathars actually heretics?
- GOOD: What about Cathar beliefs was so concerning for the Catholic church and why?

- WEAK: Was inquisitorial procedure fair in Cathar trials?
- GOOD: How did inquisitorial procedure work to support the goals of these trials: confession, abjuration, and reconciliation? What role did each aspects of procedure play?



Image: Gregory IX from 1270 manuscript (Austria)

INQUISITION: CREATION

- Lateran IV and framework
- Gregory IX (1227-1241) → appointment of full-time investigators “inquisitors of heretical depravity”
- Use Roman legal procedure of inquisitio

STAGES OF AN INQUISITION

1. Appointment of an inquisitor
2. Tempus Gratiae (period of Grace)
3. Summoning of suspects
4. Questioning of witnesses
5. Questioning of suspect
6. List of personal enemies correlated to witnesses
7. Admission of guilt = light penance, warning, and absolution
8. No admission of guilt = judicial torture



Languedoc

Auto Route

Canal du Midi

Mediterranean Sea

Pyrenees



Minerve

Babio

Toulouse

Montpellier

Castres

Lavaur

Caraman

Avignonet

Les Casses

Salssac

Lastours

Carcassonne

Minerve

Beziers

Fanjeaux

Narbonne

Mirepoix

Limoux

Foix

Pulvert

Quillan

Montsegur

Montaillou

Peyrepertuse

Padern

Aguilar

Puilaurens

Queribus

Perpignan

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QUESTIONING (INTERROGATION) OF SUSPECTED HERETIC

- Oath to tell truth
- “Do you have anything to confess?”
- Initial interrogation and subsequent ones (July 15th, August 11th, August 28th, August 29th, August 30th, September 1st)
- Judgement: September 3rd

*CENTRAL
AIM OF
INQUISITION*

Punishment? (NO)

Reconciliation? (YES)

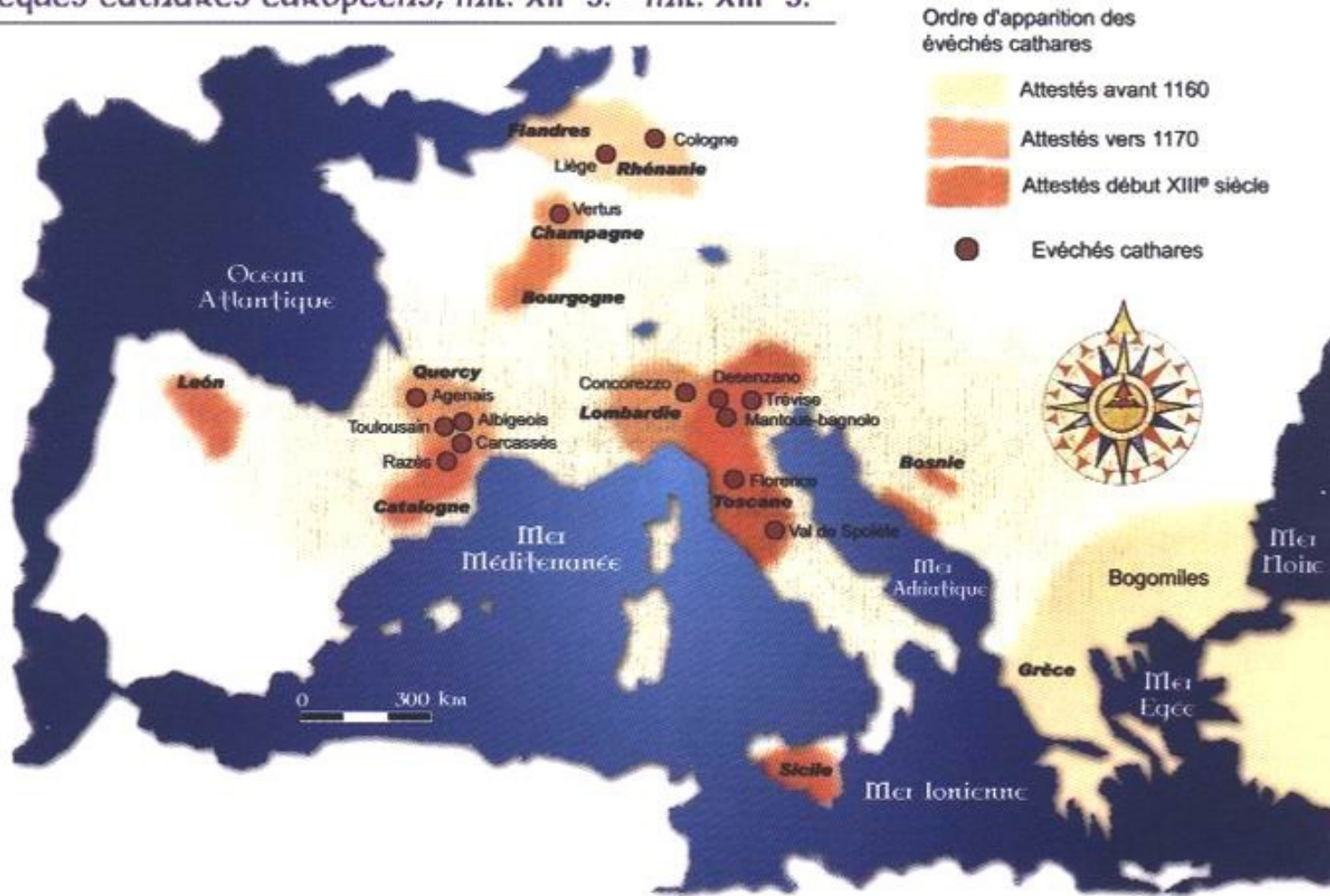
PENALTIES

- First offense and confessed?
→ imprisonment, loss of property, fasting, pilgrimage, wear yellow cross
- Unrepentant or second offense
→ “relaxation to the secular arm”



Image: Philip II of France and Cathar executions (15th century manuscript)

Les évêques cathares européens, mil. XII^e s. - mil. XIII^e s.



Cathars

- 12th and 13th c.
- Southern France (especially Languedoc)

CATHAR BELIEFS

- Dualism
- Consolamentum (baptism)
- Sins: procreation and consumption of meat
- Denial of human aspects of Jesus
- Church as creation of Satan

IDEAS OF PERSECUTION: WHERE FROM?

- R.I. Moore “heresy, leprosy, and Jewishness lay in the eyes of the beholders and their distinctiveness was not the cause but the result of persecution.” (*The Formation of a Persecuting Society*, 2nd edition 2007)
- David Nirenberg: inter and intra communal violence within and between communities NOT top down only (*Communities of Violence*, 1996)