

## Ch 1 Section 4 European Societies Around 1492

### The European Social Order

#### The Social Hierarchy

- Communities are organized according to social **hierarchy** or rank
- Monarchs, nobles have wealth, power; at top of hierarchy
- Artisans, merchants have social mobility
- Majority are peasants, at bottom of hierarchy

#### The Family in Society

- Life centers on **nuclear family**—parents and their children
- Men do field work, herd; women do child care, house work, field work

### Christianity Shapes the European Outlook

#### Religion

- Roman Catholic Church dominates; pope, bishops make decisions
- Parish priests interpret scriptures, administer sacraments

#### Crusading Christianity

- **Crusades**—Christian military expeditions to take Holy Land, 1096–1270
- Isabella, Ferdinand end *reconquista* or reconquest of Spain, 1492
- Crusades led to decreased power for the Pope, increased power for European monarchs, and increased trade between Europe and Asia

#### Decline in Church Authority

- **Reformation**—disputes over church practices, authority in the 1500s
- Europe divided between Catholicism and Protestantism

### Changes Come to Europe

#### European Situation in 1400s

- Recovery from natural disasters, plague, war; millions die

#### The Growth of Commerce and Population

- Italian city-states profit from trade with Asia, Middle East
- Population rebounds: stimulates commerce, growth of towns
- Urban middle class gains political power

#### The Rise of Nations

- Monarchs collect new taxes, raise armies, maintain bureaucracies
- Merchants accept taxes in exchange for protection, expanded trade
- Major European powers emerge: Portugal, Spain, France, England

#### The Renaissance

- **Renaissance** starts in Italy—interest in world, human achievement
- Investigate physical world; study arts, classics

### Europe Enters a New Age of Expansion

#### Overland Travel to Asia

- Expense, danger of journeys lead to search for alternative route

#### Sailing Technology

- Navigating instruments, new sailing technology promote exploration

#### Portugal Takes the Lead

- **Prince Henry** of Portugal called “Henry the Navigator”
  - founds sailing school, sponsored 1st European sea voyages
  - sends Portuguese ships to explore west coast of Africa
- Traders sail around Africa via Indian Ocean; increase profit