

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

They influenced the people for their own benefit, and for the benefit of the Church. They influenced people to protect the position and wealth of the Church. In the name of God and religion, they influenced the general public. They said that the Church will decide everything regarding their body as well as spirit.

The Church wanted to influence all aspects of the life of people. According to them, everything including arts, literature, and Political Thought should be according to the Bible. But the Holy Bible is not about arts or literature or Political Thought.

Then the Church leaders said that they will guide the people according to the Bible. They interpreted the Bible to increase their wealth and power and to influence people. They guided the people according to their wishes, whims, and fancies.

The Secularists were against this. They said that God had given the freedom to all people. It is the freedom to choose between good or bad. It should not be under the influence or fear of church people. Man must use his freedom to understand the truth. They said that God does not want the help of the Church people.

Secularists wanted freedom of thought. They said that the Church should look after only the matters of the spirit. They said that the King should look after the worldly matter. Thus, there were a conflict between the Secularists and the Church. The life of ordinary people became very bad. St. Thomas Aquinas and Dante Alighieri lived during this period of conflict between the Church and Secular people. They wanted to separate religion from politics.

in general, The beginning of the period was marked by the collapse of Rome while its end was marked by the end of the Renaissance. The Roman Empire's fall brought forth an idea of uniting Europe in what was called Christendom, this was based on the beliefs of the church. Features such as migration of people, invasions, population distribution, and deurbanization characterized this period.

Medieval political theory was based upon certain ideas on which all parties agreed. the ideal of unity was firmly established. It was generally believed that there should be in Europe one state and one church, that authority in each should be concentrated in a single head, that church and state should be fused into a single system, and that the ultimate source of all authority was divine.