

Name _____

Due Date:

Eurasian History Homework: The Power of the Church

Directions: Please read Chapter XII, Section IV “The Power of the Church” (pages 370-373) and respond to the prompts below.

Rationale: Thus far in our exploration of the relationship between Church and state we have taken a brief look at the relationship between early Christianity and the Roman Empire. When the Western Roman Empire fell, the Roman Catholic Church gradually established itself as the most powerful institution in Western Europe. As the Church’s power rose and extended, tensions often developed between the Roman Catholic Church and some political leaders. Now we will turn our attention to the relationship of church and state power in the period after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

1. What do you think of the ideas of Pope Gelasius I regarding political and religious authority? Please explain your reasoning.

2. What power did the Pope have in the hierarchy of the Church?

3. In what ways did the Roman Catholic Church offer some stability and comfort to the masses during the European Middle Ages?

4. What was *cannon law* and how did it operate?

5. Explain the ways in which the Pope could use *excommunication* and *interdict* to exert control over kings of various regions of Europe.

6. Why did many kings and nobles seek to use *lay investiture*? What does this tell us about tensions between the Roman Catholic Church and political leaders?

7. What does the history of the emperor Henry IV and Pope Gregory tell us about the relationship of the Roman Catholic Church and state power in the 11th century A.D.?

8. The Concordat of Worms (1122 A.D.) signified an attempt to reconcile some of the tensions between church power and state power. In what ways did it allow power to both the Roman Catholic Church and leaders of various states?