Fourteenth Century Background

1. Universal chronology breaks down into “ages.”

2. Church breaks down into schism and heresy.

3. Empire breaks down, thanks to collapse of Pope-Emperor partnership.

4. Christendom breaks down into “Europe.”

5. Europe breaks down into nation-states.

6. Italy breaks down into communes.

7. France breaks down into the Hundred Years War.

8. International language of Latin breaks down into vernaculars that prevent international communication.

9. Literatures break down into national/vernacular works.

10. Art breaks down into personal point of view (Giotto).

11. Traditional religion of the church breaks down into personal piety, personal inspiration and mysticism (Meister Eckhart, 1260-1327).


13. Philosophy breaks down into subjectivism, intuition (Ockham).

14. Social cohesion, labor cooperation, entrepreneurial/labor unity breaks down under the impact of Black Death. End of “happy” family manor, beginning of modern labor, unions vs. owners (example: Ciompi Rebellion in Florence, 1381).

15. Agriculture breaks down under over-extension, famine, drought, and then Black Death; no workers, land values explode, overpopulation