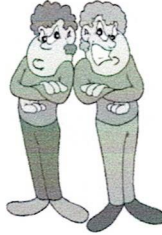


The Great Schism

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The Great Schism of 1054

- The Great Schism of 1054, also known as the East-West Schism, was the event that split the Christian Church into eastern and western sects. The term *schism* means split.
- This event is significant because it represents the first definitive break in Christian unity.
- Out of this break came the western Roman Catholic Church, and the Eastern Orthodox Church.



The Final Straw

- The schism in Christianity was a long time coming. Obviously, there had been differences between the east and west for many years, but this issue was the breaker.
- The pope is also known as the *Bishop of Rome*. As the Bishop of Rome, he claimed supremacy over the Bishops of other major cities, including Constantinople. This irritated the Bishop, or *Patriarch* (as he preferred to be called), of Constantinople.
- The eastern Patriarchs argued that the Pope had authority only over the west, and that the Patriarch of Constantinople had authority over the east.
- This disagreement peaked in 1054 when Pope Leo IX and Patriarch Michael I *excommunicated* each other, or kicked each other out of the church. Excommunication was a very serious penalty, because it meant no access to the sacraments, and no entrance to heaven.
- This finalized the break in the Church that had been building for many years. Eastern Orthodoxy was born.



East-West Differences

- Eastern and Western churches had been growing apart for years as they developed different practices, and sometimes, they adopted different *doctrines* (religious beliefs or rules).
- For starters, church services in the east were conducted in Greek – which was the language of the majority of people. In the west, church services were conducted in Latin, a practice which continued in the Roman Catholic Church until the 1960s.
- Secondly, churches in the east were allowing their priests to marry. The western churches would not embrace this, and the Roman Catholic Church continues to disallow this practice.
- Third, the eastern churches allowed divorce in certain circumstances. The western churches forbid divorce, and the Catholic Church continues to frown on it today.
- Finally, the issue of *icons*. Icons are religious pictures that were used to aid in worship. The eastern churches had outlawed their use, suggesting it was idol worship. The west disagreed with this policy.



Result?

- Eastern Orthodoxy would come to dominate Eastern Europe in the form of Greek and Russian Orthodoxy. It helps to explain some of the cultural differences between eastern and western Europe.
- The split was nasty, and left hard feelings which spilled over into the Crusades. Western knights sacked Constantinople and killed Orthodox Christians.

Global History
The Great Schism

Name _____

1. Define: schism -

5. Explain the deal breaker.

2. What was the Great Schism of 1054?

3. What was its significance? Its result?

6. Define: excommunication -

4. What were the differences between Eastern and Western Churches?

West	East
	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

7. What was born out of the break?

8. What were some results of the split? (At least 2)