

05 – THE RISE OF UNIVERSITY

Although the Middle Ages have inherited the Roman model of education – *septem artes liberales* - they have left us the institution of University.

Universities are western phenomenon but we should not ignore stimulative impulse from the East. Devoted to their goal – knowledge as a mission – oftentimes they had to resist their inimical environment. That never-ending struggle for autonomy did not obstruct their rapid expansion throughout medieval society.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Islamic influence?

What are the proportions of Islamic influence in the development of university? Was that the turning point that enabled its development? Or did the western culture – as a successor of a Greek culture – already have a seed of that development?

2. University as urban phenomenon?

Universities are exclusively associated with urban areas – unlike cathedral schools. Was the development of cities in the 12th century crucial as a prerequisite for emergence of universities?

3. Autonomy

Can we talk about the autonomy of medieval universities? Having a Pope as an ally, universities based their power on judicial autonomy from local civil and church authorities. Le Goff said that papal alliance gave the universities independence in the conflict with the local government. But the Papacy supported universities in order to subjugate them more easily and to ensure their orthodoxy. Are the claims that intellectuals are Pope's servants undue? (Example – University of Paris)

4. Organization of University Corporation

Unfortunately, we know very little about development of university corporations. Corporation that strives to its own monopole, but at the same time with very international character. (Example – University of Paris)

5. Change in the status of teacher

Was the status of medieval Magister in the constant process of change? Can we talk about the growth of his reputation, improvement of his economical status and the emergence of contempt towards the manual work which was not characteristic to "master of the workshop" of the 12th century? Does this lead to an alienation of the worlds of intellectuals and practitioners? Did the alienation of the spheres of scientific and technical, i.e. the worlds of intellectuals and practitioners influence the future development of science?

6. Mobility - Mobility of students in the context of medieval mobility.