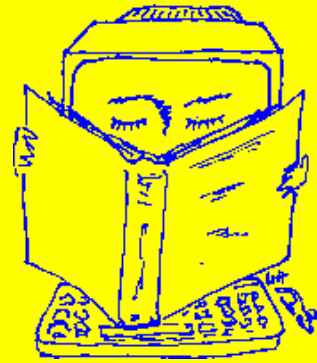


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Series Editor: Lionel Hartley



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The Popes

The Pope is the bishop of Rome and the head of the Roman Catholic church which claims that he is the spiritual descendant of St. Peter. St. Peter is assumed to be the first Pope by Catholic tradition, whereas Protestant tradition assumes the first Pope to have been James the brother of Jesus, Bishop of “The Way” (Church) at Jerusalem.

Popes are elected by the Sacred College of Cardinals. They date their pontificate from their coronation with the tiara, or triple crown, at St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome. Popes had great political power in Europe from the early Middle Ages up until the Reformation. Although the power of the Pope has diminished, in recent times the Papacy has regained an element of sway, in religious, political and fiscal circles, especially with the growth of the so-called Ecumenical Movement.

Webster’s Concise Encyclopaedia offers this possible history:

11th-13th centuries The papacy enjoyed its greatest temporal power under Gregory VII and Innocent III.

1309-78 The papacy came under French control (headquarters at Avignon rather than Rome), referred to as the “Babylonian Captivity”.

1378-1417 The so-called “Great Schism” followed, with rival popes in Avignon and Rome.

16th century Papal political power further declined with the withdrawal of allegiance by the Protestant states at the Reformation.

1870 The Papal States in central Italy, which had been under the pope’s direct rule from 756, merged with the newly united Italian state. At the Vatican Council the doctrine of papal infallibility was proclaimed.

1929 The Lateran Treaty recognized papal territorial sovereignty, even in Italy, only within the Vatican City.

1978 John Paul II became the first non-Italian pope since 1542.

– Webster’s Concise Encyclopaedia
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The Popes

(according to Catholic Tradition)

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178. Gregory IX, 1227-41
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184. Bl. Gregory X, 1271-76
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189. Martin IV, 1281-85
190. Honorius IV, 1285-87
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193. Boniface VIII, 1294-1303
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199. Innocent VI, 1352-62
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206. Martin V, 1417-31
207. Eugene IV, 1431-47
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214. Alexander VI, 1492-1503
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230. Innocent IX, 1591
231. Clement VIII, 1592-1605
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236. Innocent X, 1644-55
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| 240. Bl. Innocent XI, 1676-89 | 253. Pius VIII, 1829-30 |
| 241. Alexander VIII, 1689-91 | 254. Gregory XVI, 1831-46 |
| 242. Innocent XII, 1691-1700 | 255. Pius IX, 1846-78 |
| 243. Clement XI, 1700-21 | 256. Leo XIII, 1878-1903 |
| 244. Innocent XIII, 1721-24 | 257. St. Pius X, 1903-14 |
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| 249. Clement XIV, 1769-74 | 262. Paul VI, 1963-1978 |
| 250. Pius VI, 1775-99 | 263. John Paul I, 1978 |
| 251. Pius VII, 1800-23 | 264. John Paul II, 1978 – |

– Resourced by Lionel Hartley from various sources.
Dates as accurate as can be determined.

Footnote: Gregory XII, 1406-15 (the 205th. Pope) resigned during “Western Schism” to permit the proper election of a successor.