

2021-22 / LESSON 19 / 2021-12-02

Later Middle Ages -- ~1000-~1492 ce/11

1255

First documents by the Council of Pregàdi: 60 members elected yearly, tasked with organising the yearly *mude* of State ships; they also judge crimes by magistrates and civil servants, and manage delegated political matters about trade and navigation.

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_senate.pdf

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_collegio-vs-pien-collegio.pdf

Institution of Curia del Mobile for cases in which the actor demands sums of money lesser than a certain limit.

Maritime statute promoted by Ranieri Zeno: restatement of the maritime statutes of Jacopo Tiepolo plus the later statutes, updated with legificated customs and an appendix of *Statuta tarretarum* for the *taride*, a lesser merchant ship.

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_maritime_statutes.pdf

1257-1270

First war against Genoa for the control of Acres and other trading harbours in the Middle East.

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_genova.pdf

1259

Three Procuratori di San Marco, then four, then six, one for each sestiere, taking care of the growing workload of the commissarie.

1261

End of the Latin Empire of Constantinople; restoration of the Byzantine Empire with the Palaeologi.

The Major Council, including the aggregates, now counts about 400 members. The number of the members to be elected is raised progressively in order for them to be more numerous than of aggregated magistrates.

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_elections_1261-62.pdf

1268

Cancellier Grande is documented as director of public and private archives (Cancelleria superior and Inferior).

First Zonta = addition of 20 members to the Pregàdi.

Final discipline of the ducal election: a first panel is elected by the Major Council, then 8 turns of alternate elections and draws, to compose the final panel of 41.

1284

The Mint of the State produces gold ducats, whose weight (3,55 gr) and purity (997/1000) remain unchanged until the end of the Republic. Most of the gold comes from Central Africa via Zanzibar and the Ethiopic coast, and is sold on Mediterranean markets by Arab traders.

Failed attempts to reform the electoral law.

end of the XIII century

The Habsburg dukes of Austria are becoming the main territorial lords north of the Alps; since the election of Frederick III in 1440 (crowned by the pope in 1453) the Western Emperors will be elected among the Habsburg until the dissolution of the Empire in 1806.

The gastaldi disappear, substituted in the government of the *vici*, as they already are in Chioggia as well as in the Domini, by rectors = podestà, unipersonal magistrates elected by the Major Council.

1294-1299

Second war with Genoa for privileged access to the Black Sea, bypassing the Byzantine customs for access to Far Eastern merchandise coming by the Silk Road and to Russian hemp.

Republic -- 1297-1797

Hereditary aristocracy

1297, September 29

Beginning of the Serrata (closing) of the Major Council. Because of the war and the economic crisis, too few candidates offer themselves to cover the public offices. The Major Council deliberates to command as members of the Major Council the citizens having the following requisites, as ascertained by the Council of Forty:

- all current members of councils and magistrates, plus those who were in office in the last four years, and
- all adult male members of families whose members covered public offices since 1172.

In addition, a committee elected by the Major Council suggests citizens without such requisites, but deemed wise and practical; each name is added to the final list if at least 12 members out of 40 of the Council of Forty give positive vote.

The new law is temporary, until the next turn of election on March 29, 1298.

1298

The Genoese defeat the Venetian fleet at Curzola (Korçula).

1298, March 29 and September 29; 1299, March 29

The emergency regulations are prorogated.

1299, September 29

The new discipline for membership of the Major Council is renewed with no term, having given good results and shown no drawbacks or provoked protests from the rest of the people.

A difference in status is introduced between the citizens, who maintain full civil rights and equality with anyone in front of the law, and the aristocracy, with the same civil but in addition also political rights.

Taking part in public life is a lifetime duty, not a privilege, and does not require, or add to, personal patrimonies.

The number of the members of the Major Council almost doubles.

Public offices are only covered by members of the Major Council, except for the Pregàdi.

As old families die out, new ones, if proven trustworthy, are co-opted by deliberation of the Major Council itself.

http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_lane-enlargement.pdf

1299

The Zonta to the Council of Pregàdi is brought from 20 to 35 members.