The Holy
Inquisition or the Black Legend
Could never be a member of a church responsible for the death of millions.
Anonymous accusations, torture and death, all in the name of God. The Inquisition, invented by the Church to save human souls, it was responsible for untold human suffering. It was a time where merely being accused of heresy often carried a sentence of death or torture. A dark time of human history.
• The notion that the Inquisitions were evil and unjustifiable is considered common knowledge for generations and even now not even questioned.

• Everyone, including Catholics, are repulsed when they hear of the terrible stories of torture and death that are associated with the very word inquisition.
Some apologists think it unwise to talk about this subject

• In his book Catholicism and Fundamentalism, Karl Keating quotes Don Attwater from the 1940 Catholic Dictionary:

• “After full allowance has been given to other times and other manners some of its procedures and punishments must be set down as utterly unreasonable and in consequence cruel.”

• Keating concludes: “One should not seek to justify the Inquisitions but to explain them.”
• There is a wealth of new research done by contemporary historians which include Protestants, Jewish and atheist scholars going over material not previously available.

• This is the golden age of Inquisition studies and what is going to be presented is known in academic circles but has not been widely disseminated as obvious by opening comments.
The Holy Inquisitions

• They were the Holy Inquisitions, but that is not how most people view them.

• There has been a lot of willful misrepresentation and outright lies regarding the Inquisition.

• William Hitchcock, professor of History at St Louis University: “The image of the Inquisition needs no elaboration, according to traditional views it was a kangaroo court, operated by possibly psychotic fanatics for a taste for blood who tortured innocent people to obtain false confessions then sent them off to be burnt at the stake.”
The stereotype has always contained an unresolved ambiguity: Were the defendants innocent of the charges against them and hence victims of maligned hysteria or heroes of free thought, hence in a legal sense guilty as charged.

Depending of their purpose, those that write about the Inquisition emphasize one or the other. Although the two are obviously contradictory.

This false and contradictory representation of the Inquisitions has become part and parcel to our popular imagination.
• It is primarily the creation of anti-Catholic Protestant pamphleteers from four centuries ago whose work has been carried out by their literary and ideological descendants.

• Even many Catholics, eager for acceptance by the world or due to being the products of a secular formation have swallowed the myth of the Inquisition hook line and sinker and willingly join in the criticism.
• The BBC, hardly a bastion of pro-Catholic sentiment, produced and aired a secular documentary 4 Nov 1994 called “The Myth of the Spanish Inquisition” admitting the truth about the Inquisition is scarcely recognizable from the popular Protestant mythology.

• This program which represents popular opinion among Protestant and secular sources concludes that comparing the Inquisition to other tribunals of that period it emerges as practically enlightened.

• A review of the exhaustive records kept by the Inquisitors are only now being seriously studied for the first time.
• For years and years, Protestant polemics regarding the Inquisitions commonly known as the Black Legend, in academic circles, have been uncritically accepted as true.

• The mountain of primary source evidence has been virtually ignored.
Father Marvin O’Connel: Priest and Professor at Notre Dame.

• “The Inquisition was really a court system and jurist keep good records, clean records and abundant records. Scribes are taught to write neatly and legible. We can study the Inquisition because of this legal dimension.”

• There are 10’s of thousands of such documents.

• The researches studying these documents speak of how time and again how fair the system was.
Researchers discovering:

- Many people were released because of technicalities.
- The law was not abused because it was the law.
- The accused had many opportunities of avoiding further prosecution.
- Not an unfair system given the times.
- Spain was a relatively enlightened country given the times.
- Secular historians are defending the Church more so than Catholics.
Researchers discovering:

• The Spanish Inquisition used torture less frequently and less severely than other tribunals or in other countries.

• The common conception of the Spanish Inquisition torture chamber is another example of polemic fiction.

• The Spanish Inquisition not only had the best, most human jails in Spain, but it is documented that some criminals already incarcerated by civil authorities purposely committed blasphemy so as to be tried by ecclesiastical courts which were known to be more lenient.
Researchers Discovering:

• Secular courts had fewer safe guards to ensure justice for the accused.

• When the Inquisition was abolished in Spain the people rioted for its return.

• British researchers have concluded that fewer people were executed in 16 century Spain for heresy than any other western country.

• The 1994 BBC documentary tells us that in the entire 16th century the Spanish Inquisition only executed 40-50 people, versus the claim that millions were put to death by the Inquisition.
• Between the reigns of Queens Mary and Elizabeth, 400 people were executed at the hands of the crown which had set itself up as the head of the church.
Edward Peters

• The Inquisition was an invention of the anti-Catholic and anti-Spanish propaganda campaign waged by the Protestant reformers of the 16th century who were assisted by their new weapon the printing press. Today it is difficult to combat the myths of the Inquisition, especially when the term itself is a highly charge politically incorrect word that is associated with all the supposed evils of that other offense to humanity the Middle Ages themselves.
Myths

• A distinct organization maintained by the Catholic Church.
• Edward Peters: “There was never, except in polemic and fiction the “Inquisition”. A single all powerful horrific tribunal whose agents worked everywhere to thwart religious truth and intellectual freedom and political liberty until it was overthrown sometime in the 19th century. The “Inquisition” of modern folklore.
Myths

• Not the “Inquisition”
• There were three distinct periods of inquisition.
  • The Medieval Inquisition.
  • The Spanish Inquisition.
  • Holy Office of inquisition in Rome
The Medieval inquisition

• Began in 1184 by Pope Gregory IX.
• Appointed ecclesiastical judges to deal with the Albigensian heresy.
• Dissolved at the end of the 14th century.
• Clear from documents that inquisition never considered an agency or an organization.
• Referred to as a mode of jurisprudence and not as an organized tribunal.
Medieval Inquisition

• Inquisitors were mostly Dominicans and Franciscans.
• Appointed to this task because of their good reputations for holiness and their high degree of mobility.
• Where they sat there was inquisition.
• The image of an all powerful tribunal whose fingers reached into every corner of medieval society is one of the most damaging and enduring myths to be perpetrated against the Catholic Church.
• The small number of inquisitors and their limited scope contradict this exaggerated picture.
Medieval Inquisition

• At the end of the 13th century there were two inquisitors for the whole of the Languedoc (10570 sq. mi), the breeding ground of the Albigenses or Catharists (katharos-pure) heretics. Four more to cover the rest of France.

• Not an omnipresent casting a shadow of fear over all of Christendom.

• The vast majority of 13th century cases were directed against the Albigenses in southern France.
Spanish Inquisition

• Founded in 1478 as a state institution appointed to discover heresy.
• Conquista Ferdinand and Isabella instituted the Spanish inquisition in part to protect the Conversos, recent Christian converts who had been Muslim or Jews and who had become targets for popular indignation, bigotry and fear.
• The problem was that people were taking the law into their own hands.
• The inquisitions only had authority over baptized Catholics.
• Jews were not subject to the jurisdiction of the Spanish inquisition with the singular exception – if they were found apostatizing.
Holy Office of inquisition in Rome

- Established 1542.
- Heard the Galileo case.
- John Tedeschi: Was not a drumhead court, a chamber of horrors or a judicial labyrinth from which escape was impossible. No the inquisitorial process was the only one of the time that required the provision of a defense attorney. Further the accused was given the right to counsel and even received a notarized copy of the entire trial with the names of prosecutorial witnesses deleted so he could come up with a response. By contrast in secular courts the defense attorney was playing a ceremonial role. The felon was denied any right to counsel all the way up to the 19th century. And evidence against the accused was read only in court where he had to make his defense on the spot.
Holy Office of inquisition in Rome

• John Tedeschi: “It may not be an exaggeration to claim in fact that in several respects the Holy Office was a pioneer in judicial reform.”
Myth

• The Inquisition was born from the rampant bigotry and ignorance and intolerance of the medieval world itself. Which was dominated by the bigotry and ignorant and intolerant Catholic Church.

• The reality is that the inquisition found its origin in a calm and deliberate papal endeavor to establish a process that would eliminate the mop violence to which the communities felt the need to resort to. So medieval inquisitors were not only fighting theological error but a real and present danger to society.
Medieval Inquisition

• The inquisition was set up in southern France in response to the Albigensian heresy.

• Albigenses or Catharists are gone. But used in polemic fiction today.

• For example: the Cathars had women clergy, ergo they were protofeminists and because the Church opposed them that proves that the reason why the Church won’t ordain women today is because Catholicism is misogynistic.
Medieval Inquisition

• The Albigensians had a vernacular version of the bible ergo they were protofundamentalists, and because the Church opposed them that proves that the inquisition was founded to get rid of bible believing Christians.

• To project modern feminism or fundamentalism Christianity onto the middle ages is a laughable anachronism.

• And yet---
Medieval Inquisition

- The Inquisition: A Study of Absolute Catholic Power by Arthur Maricle, Ph.D: “By the 11th century, the Roman popes, (pope is an ecclesiastical office that is the very antithesis of the New Testament ideal of a local church pastor) began using a new tool: the crusades. At first the crusades had as their object the conquering of Jerusalem and the “Holy Land.” Along the crusaders paths thousands of innocent civilians, especially Jews were raped, robbed and slaughtered. In time however the crusade concept was altered to crush spiritual opposition in Europe itself. In other words armies were raised with the intent of massacring whole communities of bible believing Christians. One such group of bible believing Christians were known as the Albigensians.”
Arthur Maricle cont

• “This is but one example of the long and sorted history of Catholic atrocities committed against their bitter enemies the bible believing Christians. Much worse treatment against bible believers was forthcoming at that stage of bloody Catholic history known as the inquisition. Every citizen in the empire was required to be a Roman Catholic. Failure to give whole hearted allegiance to the pope was considered treason against the state punishable by death.”

• “Heresy to a Catholic is anti- Catholic truth found in the bible.”
www.mtc.org/inquis.html
Albigensians or Catharists

• Dr. John Obrien in his book: *The Truth about the Inquisition*. “In the second half of the 12th century, the Albigensians or Catharan heresy spread through Europe in an alarming fashion, it menaced not only the Church’s existence but the very foundations of Christian society and orderly government. In answer to this grave menace there grew up in Germany and France and Spain a kind of proscriptive law which visited heresy with capital punishment. Against that action of the Christian state to defend itself, the Church did not protest. Indeed she felt called upon to cooperate with the state and their enforcement for her very existence was likewise threatened.”
Albigensian Heresy

• Claimed to be practicing primitive Christianity itself.
• Denied the real presence of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of the mass.
• Professed hatred and contempt for the Church, branding her the scarlet woman of the apocalypse drunk with the blood of saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.
• The pope was antichrist.
• The Sacraments were childish imposters and transubstantiation was a mad blasphemy.
Albigensian Heresy

- Founded by Constantine of Samosata in the city of Albi, France.
- Called themselves Catharists from Kathros which means the pure.
- Masqueraded as Christians but were dualists.
- Two fold principle of creation.
- Yahweh, the God that created the world was an evil god, because matter was evil.
- Since they considered matter evil and spirit good they deemed sexual relations repugnant because sex results in procreation which means more evil matter.
Albigensian Heresy

- Rejected marriage as an abominable sin, a perpetual sinful state worse than fornication, adultery, incest or sodomy.
- They reasoned that married couples felt no shame or remorse for their sin.
- They practiced abortion and considered it objectably good.
- Since they considered all matter evil they also denied the incarnation (that Christ assumed a human nature) regarding Christ instead as the highest angel.
Albigensian Heresy

• Denied Jesus’ humanity and his divinity.
• Jesus was a pure spirit who only appeared to be a man, they denied that he could endure injury.
• Denied the crucifixion and the resurrection.
• The Christian teaching of Christ passion and death was brushed aside as a mere allusion.
• The virgin Mary was sinless like Christ and had a celestial body like Christ and only appeared to be a woman.
Albigensian Heresy Three Categories

• The perfected, the consoled and the believers.

• The believers were obliged to prostrate themselves before the perfected and to venerate them.

• They made one pseudo-sacrament out of baptism, confirmation, penance and the Eucharist which they called the *consolamentum*.

• Those that died without receiving the *consolamentum* would pass either to eternal punishment or because they believed in a form of reincarnation or the transmigration of souls into the body of an animal.
Albigensian Heresy

• Since the body of an animal might be the dwelling place of a human soul they were strict vegetarians.

• Refused under all circumstances to take an animals life, although they did practice abortion.

• Advocated denying the rights of the state.

• Refused the *oath of fealty* which was the very glue that held feudal society together. Oath of fealty-a vassal would swear allegiance and pay homage to his lord which created a lasting bond between the vassal and his lord.

• Refused to pay any taxes.
Albigensian Heresy

- Taught that the public prosecution of crime was unjust and that no one had the right to administer justice.
- Beliefs constituted an attack upon society’s most basic component: the family.
- Sex was evil at its core although some catharist believed that homosexual activity was okay precisely because it is not open to new life.
- Procreation was condemned.
Albigensian Heresy

• If a woman died while pregnant or while giving birth they taught that she was eternally damned.

• The *consolamentum* was only given to those who renounced sexual relations.

• After receiving there were severe penalties for a man who so much as touched a woman.

• When severely ill where given the *consolamentum* they were urged to make their pledge binding with the *endura* which was suicide.
Albigensian Heresy  Consolamentum for sick

• Chose to be either a martyr or a confessor.
• Martyrs were suffocated with a pillow.
• Confessors died of thirst and starvation.
• One of the so called perfect would be on hand to ensure that the person was made to die.
• In the middle of the 13th century many small children were made to suffer the *endura*. In other words made to starve to death in the name of Cartharism.
Albigensian Heresy

• Elphege Vacandard in his work *The Inquisition*: Everyone who reads the acts of the tribunals of the inquisition of Toulouse must admit that the *endura* whether voluntary or forced, put to death more victims than the stake or the inquisition.

• Many non-catholic historians admit that orthodoxy in faith and state itself was at peril.

• Albigensesans were not only revolting against the Church and state but against man’s proper stewardship of creation.

• Beliefs struck at the very root of medieval society.
Albigensian Heresy

- People were taking the law into their own hands and killing the heretics or alleged heretics without any benefit remotely resembling a trial.
- Unconcerned about the soul or salvation of the executed.
- In 1122 the Frankish king Robert had 13 Catheters executed by burning them alive at Orleans “because he feared for the safety of the kingdom and the salvation of souls”.
- Mobs starting storming prisons and taking the law into their own hands and putting the Albigensians to death.
Albigensian Heresy

• Besides these problems the Pope was dealing with a difficult Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II which he had already excommunicated twice.

• Frederick II was burning heretics at an alarming rate.

• Pope was concerned that many of these people going to the stake might be more than unrepentant heretics.

• There were military actions trying to stamp out the heresy by force.
Albigensian Heresy Solution

• In 1233, Pope Gregory IX responded to the problem by setting us a regular legal process to replace the prevailing lynch mop mentality.

• The Dominicans and Franciscans offered a medieval version of the untouchables: vowed to poverty they would be immune to greed and bribery and would become his examiners and judges devoted and trained in the conversion of heretics.

• The first duty of the inquisitor to bring the heretic into the true embrace of the Catholic Church.

• Inquisitio means investigation not condemnation.
Albigensian Heresy

• Step by the pope towards a rational legal process and a step away from the mob mentality of vengeance.

• Dominicans had the task of preserving societal security as well as doctrinal integrity.

• Failure to curb the Cathar heresy could have precipitated the collapse of Western Christendom.
Albigensian Heresy

• Charles Henry Lea was a famed protestant historian and vigorous opponent of the catholic church whose work has provided much scholarly myopia by helping to institutionalize the myths of the black legend but even he had to admit: “the cause of orthodoxy was the cause of progress and civilization had Catharism become dominant or even allowed to exist on even terms, its influence could not have failed to become disastrous”.
Albigensian Heresy

• In his book *The Truth about the Inquisition*, Dr John Obrien wrote: “It is evident that the Inquisition marks a substantial advance in the administration of justice and therefore in the general civilization of mankind. It substituted court action for mob action and lynch law. Far from being a failure the Inquisition succeeded in its task of stemming the Albigensian heresy, which like a black plaque was devastating Christendom”.
Myth-The Outrageous Procedures

• The black legend purpose ably created by protestant propagandist in the 16th century and carried on by any number of the enemies of the Church both religious and secular created a popular picture of the inquisition which was immortalized by later authors of literary fiction.

• The methods of the inquisition are portrayed as unjust, cruel, inhumane, and barbaric.

• In Poe’s *The Pit and the Pendulum* we are introduced to a bizarre collection of exquisite and inventive tortures which are entirely the product of the imagination of a 19th century American writer of horror stories.
Myth-The Outrageous Procedures

• In Dostoyevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*, we are introduced to the villainous character of the Grand Inquisitor who by his own admission would gladly torture and kill Christ himself if he should disagree with him. Never mind there was ever such a thing as the Grand Inquisitor.

• Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe* portrays the Knights Templar as the equivalent of papal shock troops and the grand master of the order as a kind of grand inquisitor with an army at his back who goes around force ably baptizing Jews in order to torture them to death as heretics.
Myth-The Outrageous Procedures

• There are a bunch of historical illustrations from the 19th and 20th centuries featuring lurid scenes of torture with titillating elements of fair haired and often bare breasted young maidens being leered by Spaniards with hot irons and other instruments of torture. In reality the compelling gothic fiction of victims being broken on the wheel or the feet roasted on the fire or being walled off to languish for eternity are simply that—fiction.
Reality

• The available hard evidence leads us to an entirely different conclusion.
• The actual procedures of the inquisition are well known and well documented through a whole series of papal bulls and other official documents and by such how to manuals as those prepared by Bernard Gui, one of the best known inquisitors of the medieval inquisition.
Bernard Gui

- Name may be familiar via the novel *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco which was made into a movie in 1986.
- A mysterious death has occurred in a Benedictine Abbey and the monks are convinced that the apocalypse is coming. Sean Connery plays a respected Franciscan friar who has been asked to solve the mystery. However, more deaths take place as the investigation draws closer to uncovering the secret the Abbey wants hidden and the Holy Inquisition steps in and Sean Connery’s character must race against time to prove the innocence of the unjustly accused and avoid the wrath of the Holy Inquisitor Bernardo Gui.
Bernard Gui

• In the movie, Gui is portrayed as a fevered, misogynistic, anti-intellectual and flat out unbalanced fanatic who clearly enjoyed torturing and putting people to death. He himself puts people to death.

• In the climax of the movie he meets a violent end at the hands of a mob, disgusted by his barbaric inquisitional methods.

• Even though we have learned that the inquisition was instituted in reality as an anecdote for mob violence.
Bernard Gui

- William Thomas Walsh’s *Characters of the Inquisition*
- Bernard Guidonis was a Dominican who served for 17 years and tried 930 cases, averaging 54/year.
- Known for his serenity, calm temperament, famed for his practice of justice.
- Critics credit him with burning hundreds at the stake.
Bernard Gui-Toulouse Records

- Released from obligation to wear crosses: 132
- Sentenced to pilgrimages, without wearing crosses: 9
- Released from prison: 139
- Sentenced to wear crosses: 143
- Imprisoned: 307
- Abandoned to the secular arm and burned: 42
- Fugitives, declared excommunicate: 40
- Sentenced to be exposed to the stocks: 2
- Exiled: 1
- Houses ordered demolished: 22
Bernard Gui

• Of the 307 imprisoned, he released 139 from serving their full sentence.
• 42 were found to be incurable heretics, with no hope of reformation and were turned over to the secular officials to be burned at the stake.
• Of the 42, 17 were condemned at one hearing indicating that the inquisition had discovered a large and dangerous conspiracy.
• Bernard was considered to fail in 8 out of every 100 cases he prosecuted for the Inquisitor deemed it a failure when he could not win a man back to a sane Christian life.
Bernard Gui

• At the end of his term, Bernard compiled the *Practica* where he put all his advice.

• Bernard went on to be a university professor and a bishop and died at the ripe age of 70 in Louroux.
• Inquiry means asking questions and the inquisitors were interrogators and also theological experts who were required to meticulously follow instructions or be themselves dismissed or punished if they failed to demonstrate proper regard for justice and mercy. In 1223 when Robert Berge announce his intention to burn heretics rather than to convert them he was suspended and imprisoned for life by Pope Gregory IX. The actual procedures of the inquisition vs the horrific tortures we would expect were surprising just and lenient and had a methodology based on experience and instruction.
The Process

- The faithful were summoned to a church.
- A solemn sermon was preached. This was called the **Edict of Faith**.
- All heretics were urged to come forward and confess their errors within a period of 15 to 30 days. This was called the **Time of Grace**.
- Nothing to fear during this period.
- If one came forward and confessed his guilt he was guaranteed to be readmitted into the community of faith after a suitable penance.
- Gui wrote: “This time of grace was the most salutary and valuable institution and many persons were reconciled thereby.”
The Process

• Principal goal was to draw the heretic back into the faithful community and the grace of God.

• Catholic historian Marion Torres Horack: The inquisition was first and foremost a penitential proselytizing office not a penile tribunal. In theory it was a sinner not a criminal that stood before an inquisitor. If a lost sheep returned to the fold, the inquisitor considered himself successful. If not the heretic would die in prison or open rebellion against God and Church and as far as the inquisitor was concerned his mission was a failure.
The Process

• During the time of grace, the faithful were required to make known to the inquisitor any heretics known to them.

• If the inquisitor thought there were sufficient grounds to proceed against that person a warrant was dispatched ordering his appearance on a specific date but always accompanied with a full written statement of all the charges against him.

• Only after the delivery of the warrant and a full statement of the charges and evidence held against him, only then could a formal arrest be issued.
The Process

• If the accused failed to appear he was not automatically tracked down and burned at the stake. With only 8 inquisitors in groups of two to cover all of France they did not have the mechanism or the resources to launch a manhunt for someone that failed to appear.
• They would make him an excommunicate and a proscribed man, that is to say: any one that fed or sheltered him would suffer the pain of anathema themselves.
The Process

• The names of the accusers were suppressed to protect witnesses from the danger of backlash from friends of the accused that might keep them from coming forward.

• As a safeguard against false accusations, the accused was given the opportunity to provide the inquisitors with a detailed list of his personal enemies. This would invalidate testimony from anyone on the list, people with a personal grudge against the accused.

• The accused could appeal to a higher authority. Even the papacy if need be. There are records were people appealed to Gregory IX and Innocent IV. That verifies that the process was carried out.
The Process

• Those that indicted others falsely were severely punished. Bernard Gui writes of a father who falsely accused his own son. When the son’s innocence was discovered, it was the father who was sentenced to life in prison.

• The inquisition was an ecclesiastical procedure with no jurisdiction whatever over those outside the Catholic Church.
Torture

• When is it ever okay to torture someone?

• Torture was ubiquitous in ancient, medieval and renaissance world and is still used in countries today. Torture was not regarded as a mode of punishment, but as a means of eliciting the truth.

• Not used by inquisitors until authorized by Innocence IV in a papal bull *Ad exstirpanda* issued 15 May 1252. Was issued in the wake of the murder of papal inquisitor Lombardy, St Peter of Verona who was killed by Cathar sympathizers 6 April 1252. It was confirmed by Alexander IV 30 Nov 1259 and Clement IV on 3 Nov 1265.
Torture Restrictions

• The torture could not cause loss of life or limb.
• It was used only once.
• The Inquisitor deemed the evidence against the accused to be virtually certain. The first step was to show the accused the instruments and then give them a grace period with which to reconsider. A doctor was to be on hand who could stop the procedure at any time. Carried out in the presence of two disinterested priests to maintain objectivity.
• Sensible judges attached no great importance to confessions extracted by torture.
Torture

• Certain criminals would vie to be tried by the inquisitors since secular authorities did not have any such type of restrictions.
• Goal was to save soul not send them to the stake.
• Gui’s records show that he used torture once over the course of six years.
• Review of the records shows: 1/100 abandoned to the secular power for execution.
• 10-12 % received a prison sentence.
• Inquisitors often reduced or commuted sentences.
The Spanish Inquisition

• Lasted 300 years and each case had a file.
• Father Marvin O’Connell: “it is a given that the officers of the inquisition were so glutted with pride and bloodlust that they would stop at nothing to gain their ends. Does not the very name of Torquemada sum up visions of ruthlessness and cruelty.”
Father O’Connell

“"This is secondary to a deep seated prejudice which has been carefully cultivated over so long a time that it has become an integral part of our culture. No evidence was required and no rebuttal was allowed in one of the most enduring public relations victories ever accomplished in the history of the 15 and 16th centuries, Spain’s Golden Age was consciously and methodically distorted by what scholars now candidly call the Black Legend."
The Spanish Inquisition

• Lies told to promote a protestant and particularly an English protestant ascendency which eventually crossed the Atlantic with the English colonists, who eventually founded the US. That cause has hopefully vanished from both the old and new world. But the racists and bigoted distortions of the black legend have been imbued with a life of their own.
The Spanish Inquisition-Torquemada

• The name Torquemada is the epidemic of the sadistic perpetrators of the Spanish Inquisition.

• Fray Tomas De Torquemada actually checked the excessive zeal of the early Spanish inquisitors in many ways including the mitigating and use of torture. William Walsh thinks the use of torture used by Torquemada was no worse than that used by American police in the 1930’s. In Barcelona from 1488 to 1498 there was a total of 23 executions. Torquemada is not the monster of the Black Legend. So we can see while the Spaniards were victorious on the high seas and the field of battle, they were the abject losers of the propaganda war.
The Spanish Inquisition

• Henry Kamen is a member of the Royal Historical society and Higher Scientific research in Barcelona. “In fact the Spanish Inquisition used torture very infrequently. In Valencia out of 7000 cases, only 2% suffered any form of torture at all and usually no more than 15 minutes.”

• Professor Heime Contreras: “ We find comparing the Spanish Inquisition with other tribunals, that the Spanish inquisition used torture much less and if we compare the Spanish Inquisition with tribunals in other countries we find that the Spanish Inquisition has a virtually clean record in respect to torture.”
Opponents of the Church demonstrate shock and dismay at the lurid picture of the Spanish Inquisition Act of Faith where repentant heretics were called upon to publicly renounce their heresy and the unrepentant were publically executed.

What about other contemporary examples of crime and punishment?
Crime Punishment

• In France disemboweled for stealing sheep.
• In England it was death for pouching deer or damaging the shrubbery in a public garden, stealing a nobleman’s handkerchief or attempted suicide.
• During the reign of King Henry VIII, the crime for poisoning was to be boiled alive in oil. In 1837, 400 were executed in England in a single year. These people went to death for robbery, burglary and horse theft, forgery, sacrilege or interfering with the postal service.
Crime Punishment

• Branding people with red-hot irons was abolished in Britain in 1829. Breaking on the wheel used in France and Germany. Condemned man was tied to a wheel and the executioner used an iron bar or hammer to break each arm and leg in several places. Sometimes a blow to the chest or strangulation was used to end the man’s agony but usually he died of thirst. Abolished in Germany in 1827. Pressing was used in England until 1735. A wooden board was placed on their body and stone or iron weights were added until the person agreed to plead or died. In Elizabethan England, William Harrison recorded: the person was drawn from prison to the place of execution on a sled, hung till half dead, quartered alive, then members and bowels were cut from their bodies and thrown into a fire.
Myth-Endless power of the Spanish Inquisition

• In 16th century Spain, the inquisition was divided into 21 tribunals each covering thousands of square miles. Each tribunal only had 2-3 inquisitors and a handful of clerks for administration and record keeping. In the BBC documentary, Professor Kamen noted “these inquisitors of Spain had no power to control society in the manner historians have imagined them. They had no power. They had no function. They had no tools to do the job. We, in reinforcing that image, have given them tools that never existed”.
Endless Power of Spanish Inquisition

- The inquisitions limited contact with the population explains why they did not attract the hostility of the Spaniards. After all if the Spanish Inquisition was the reign of terror that it is purported to be you would think the people most upset with the Spanish Inquisition would be the Spanish. But that was not the case. Outside the major cities, the people might see an inquisitor every decade or no more than once in a century. The fact that the inquisition was seldom seen and less often heard by most people may have been one of the reasons it had so much support.
Myth

• Persistent myth that Queen Isabella reinstituted the inquisition in Spain in order to persecute and expel the Jews. We have already seen that the Spanish Inquisition was established in part in order to protect the newly converted Jew, the conversos. To protect them from mob violence. There were many prejudices against the Jews at this time.
Some History

- Jews and Christians lived separately due to different food requirements and religious observances. The first great Christian persecution of Jews occurred in the 7th century. The Jews greeted with relief the Muslim invasion from North Africa. Under the Muslim caliphate of Cordoba the Jews prospered socially and economically. This came to an end in 12th century with the overthrow of the caliphate by the invading Almoravids (an Islamic Berber imperial dynasty of Morocco, who prosecuted Christians and Jews alike and destroyed their places of worship) Many Jews fled to Christian territory and were looked on favorably since they were not at war with the Christians
Jews in Spain

• Jews were excluded from jobs and professions exercising authority. They were very active in medicine and financial administration. They played a cultural role as translators of Arabic. Royal and aristocratic circles relied heavily on Jewish doctors. In Aragon all the nobles had a Jewish physician. In some towns the only doctors available were Jews.
Jews in Spain

• They were in charge of the usury.
• There were times when lending rates would reach 40%. In 1369, Joseph Picho, a Jew, was the chief treasurer and manager of the revenues of the realm. In 1469 the Cortes of Ocana complained to Henry IV that many prelates and ecclesiastics give to Jews and Moors the revenue and tithes that belong to them.
By the 15 century, Jews served in the lower grades of the fiscal system as tax collectors rather than treasurers. There were exceptions. Under Ferdinand and Isabella, Abraham Seneor was treasurer of the Santa Hermandad, David Abulafia was in charge of supplies for the troops at Granada and Isaac Abravanel administered the tax on sheep. A foreign traveler commented on Isabella that her subjects say publicly that the queen is a protector of Jews.

The attempt to make Queen Isabella, a catholic, a persecutor of Jews is an attempt to paint the Church as anti-Semitic.
Jews in Spain

- One often hears that the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. How often do you hear that they were expelled from England in 1290? Or the French expelled them in 1306. The truth of the matter is that Spain was one of the few countries where Jews were allowed to reside by a special royal indult where they agreed to live by their statutes and were forbidden from apostatizing among Christians. It was Queen Isabella herself who guaranteed the Jews the safe practice of their religion and insisted that Christians respect Jewish law.
1492

• Columbus discovers America.
• Jews expelled from Spain.
• Reconquest of Spain from Muslim control was accomplished with the retaking of Granada.
• There remained a real threat from the forces of Islam and those that remained in Spain that sympathized with the ousted Islamic regime. The Spanish feared this might include the Jews. It was believed that there were many Jews among the Muslim allies who were only too willing to reopen doors to attack from the Muslim front.
There was also tension between Jews and the conversos. The Jews were exempt from the jurisdiction of the inquisition and willingly cooperated with the inquisition. It became apparent that some wanted to pay off old scores. They would make false testimonies saying that the conversos continued to observe Jewish customs. When they were discovered to be lying they would be arrested and tortured. So they were causing havoc with the inquisition.

With the fall of Granada in January 1492, The King and Queen issued an edict of expulsion on 31 March 1492, giving the Jews of Castile and Aragon until 31 Jul to accept baptism or leave the country.
Death Sentence

• Heretics were put to death since they were seen as a menace to society. Heresy was considered more dangerous than civil crimes because the Church believed that a deliberate obstinate heretic spent an eternity in hell, so they resorted to capital punishment to curb the spread of heresy. Secularist, on the other hand believe that the body dies and that is it or tend to believe that we are all going to heaven.

• The post Christian, progressive enlightened humanistic paradigm-Nazi Holocaust, million deaths via atheistic communism.

• Secularist protest capital punishment but advocate euthanasia, abortion and infanticide.
Death Sentence

• In 350 years the Spanish Inquisition turned over for execution some 3000-5000 heretics.

• According to the WHO there are over 3,000 abortions/day in the US alone and 125,000/day in the world. The abortion inquisition is alive and rampant. And the reason: almost always it is a matter of convenience.
Professor James Hitchcock writes: Those that resent the Church’s claim to moral authority use as their most effective weapon the allegation of hypocrisy, “How can this church which has the blood of millions on its hands dare to condemn abortion?”
Death Sentence

• “The enlightenment has, as everyone knows condemned religious persecution which in Western Europe ceased... during the 18th century but the enlightenment also spawned the committees of public safety during the French revolution and the irony is those bodies did indeed fit the stereotypes so long attached to the Inquisition, they were in fact kangaroo courts often ruled by unbalance fanatics and they did indeed condemn people whole sale without regard for guilt or innocence and if the committees of public safety of the French revolution were to function as long as the inquisition, roughly 600 years- their death toll would have been incalculable.”
Death Sentence

• Those committees of public safety formed the de facto executive government in France during the Reign of Terror (1793-94) which was a stage of the French Revolution. It is believed that 16,594 were executed by guillotine (2,639 in Paris) and 25,000 summary executions across France.
Heresy

- It was once obvious to people of Catholic culture that heresy was more dangerous than murder because heresy affects the eternal life of the soul which is far more valuable than our mortal existence. Jesus said: “do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” There used to be a hierarchy of values where spiritual matters were higher than material concerns. Regarding the punishment of heretics Thomas Aquinas said: If it is just to condemn counterfeiters to death, then surely it is necessary to put to death those that have committed the far worse crime of counterfeiting the faith. For eternal salvation must be considered superior to temporal property.
Goal

- The inquisitional process was not used exclusively by the church, it was also used in secular courts albeit without the many safeguards for the individual that the ecclesiastical court supplied. The whole point behind the inquisition process was to discover the truth.

- In our pluralistic world where all are encouraged to ask like Pontius Pilate “truth, what is truth?”

- The inquisition process believed that there was such a thing as truth and set out to discover it.
Reformation

• Protests by Luther that began in 1517 were barely noticed by the popes. By the time they were it was too late. He was protected by a secular prince.

• Paul III (1534-1549) came to grips with the reform movement that had swept much of Europe away from Roman Catholic Obedience.

• Started to reform the clergy.

• Paul III started to reform Church.

• Capuchin Order, broken from the Franciscans in 1520 were sympathetic with Luther.
Reformers

• Failed to reconcile with Lutheranism and had sympathizers convert to Protestantism.
• Paul III issued the bull *Licet ab initio* on July 4, 1542, establishing the Roman Inquisition.
• Consisted of six cardinals.
• Called inquisitors-general and empowered to investigate heresy and appoint deputies when thought it was necessary.
• Became stronger with Paul IV who launched the Counter-Reformation that Paul III had started.
Roman Inquisition

• Cardinal-Inquisitors could deputize other inquisitors. Had power to proceed against anyone charged with heresy regardless of rank or status except ecclesiastical and lay authorities.

• Came up with a list of books that were prohibited due to doctrinal content.

• Pope Sixtus V in 1588 changed it to the Congregation of the Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition or Holy Office.

• Ran similar to the medieval inquisition. Unlike Spanish inquisition the sentencing was done in private.
Roman Inquisition

• Followed detailed manuals that had been developed.
• City-republics insisted that local representatives sit with the inquisitors.
• Local bishops might intervene when their interests were at stake.
• The chief target of the newly founded Roman Inquisition was the “heresy” of Protestantism.
• Kept Protestant influence from spreading.
• Then turned its operations to the internal ecclesiastical discipline.
• Understood that the lack of catechesis or consistent pastoral guidance could result in misunderstandings of doctrine.
Galileo 1564-1642

• On the cover of Edward Peter’s book Inquisition there is a drawing by Francisco de Goya titled “For having discovered the movement of the earth”

• Most people think Galileo is famous for:
  • 1. Inventing the telescope.
  • 2. Used it to prove that the earth goes around the sun
  • 3. The Catholic Church condemned him for his discoveries.
Galileo

- Hans Lippershey, a Dutch eyeglass maker, invented the telescope in 1608.
- In 1609, Galileo heard about the invention and made one for himself and soon did make many discoveries. That the milky way is a galaxy made up of millions of stars, that the moon is covered in craters and that the sun has spots on its face and other things which he published in a book he called The Starry Messenger in 1610. He was an overnight success.
Galileo

• Contrary to being prosecuted by the Catholic Church many of the Cardinals belonged to the same scientific society that Galileo belonged and they took great interest and pride in his discoveries. He was honored by the Jesuit Roman College and when he was criticized from the pulpit by a Dominican monk, the leader of the Dominicans personally apologized to Galileo on behalf of the entire order.

• What got Galileo in trouble with the Church was a certain conclusion he drew from many of his discoveries.
Galileo

- Having observed that the moons of Jupiter revolved around it just like our moon revolves around the earth and observing the faces of Venus which indicates that it revolves around the sun and not the earth, he concluded that the earth goes around the sun which is called heliocentrism not the sun around the earth called geocentrism. This position was already well known. A Catholic monk by the name of Nicolaus Copernicus 1473--1543 (who by the way attended the University of Cracow) had came up with the idea of heliocentrism which was taught in the catholic universities as a theory.
Galileo

- What Galileo discovered fit the theory but it was not proof. The Catholic Church did not weigh in either way but favored geocentrism. It was a matter of science and not faith and morals. Most of the resistance to heliocentrism came from the universities not the Church. Some in the Church believed heliocentrism was counter to the bible and others believed that it was not. Galileo had wide support in the Church and the Jesuit scientists were the first to verify his discoveries. When Galileo was accused of saying things contrary to scripture the evidence was investigated by Saint Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, an Italian Jesuit. He determined that Galileo had not countered scripture. But told Galileo not to teach that the earth revolves around the earth until he could prove it. Galileo realized he did not have proof and was obedient for most of a decade
Galileo

• In 1623 Cardinal Maffeo Barberini became Pope Urban VIII. He was in the same scientific society as Galileo and a big fan. Galileo took the opportunity to ask the pope for his permission to write a book about the motions of the solar system. The pope agreed with one condition: the book must present a balanced view of both heliocentrism and geocentrism and he was asked to mention the pope’s own personal view of the matter which was that bodies moved in heaven in manners not understood here on earth.
Galileo

Galileo agreed but did not quite keep the promise. He wrote the book as a dialogue between two characters. Each taking one side of the argument. The believer of heliocentrism was witty, clever and logical. The believer of geocentrism he named Simplicius which Galileo said was named after a famous Aristotelian philosopher. However, Simplicio means simpleton in Italian. Simplicius was hopelessly slow and dull witted. Guess who presented the pope’s view? The pope did not take the suspected public ridicule lightly.
Galileo

• Galileo had alienated one of his biggest and most powerful supporters, the Pope, and was called to Rome to defend his writings in September 1632. He finally arrived in February 1633 and was brought before inquisitor Vincenzo Maculani. Throughout his trial Galileo steadfastly maintained that since 1616 he had faithfully kept his promise not to hold any of the condemned opinions, and initially he denied even defending them. However, he was eventually persuaded to admit that, contrary to his true intention, a reader of his Dialogue could well have obtained the impression that it was intended to be a defense of Copernicanism, despite Galileo's rather implausible denial that he had ever held Copernican ideas after 1616 or ever intended to defend them in the Dialogue.
Galileo  Sentence of the Inquisition

• Galileo was found “vehemently suspect of heresy”, namely of having held opinions: that the sun lies motionless at the center of the universe, that the earth is not at its center and moves. He was to “abjure, cure and detest” those opinions.

• Sentenced to formal imprisonment. On the following day the sentence was commuted to house arrest- stayed the rest of his life.

• His book *Dialogue* was banned. It was forbidden to publish any of his works.
Galileo

- Lived under house arrest with a papal pension for the rest of his life. During his house arrest he wrote his finest work, a book on motion and inertia that is a cornerstone of modern physics. While Galileo had many run-ins with the Church, other astronomers had no problem with the Church (such as Johannes Kepler, a German mathematician) and were teaching about heliocentrism. Kepler even worked out and described the equations that described the orbits of the planets around the sun. Kepler never had the problems that Galileo had. Galileo emerges as one of the giants of science but he was no martyr for free thinking against an ignorant and brutal church. He was never tortured or imprisoned and certainly not burned at the stake. Galileo’s problems were not his scientific endeavors but his own arrogance.
Closing Remarks

• Ellen Rice: Reinvestigating history is only invalid if it puts an agenda ahead of reality. The experts, once true believers of the inquisition myth, were not out to do a feminist canonization of Isabella or prove that Francis Torquemada was a Marxist. As Henry Kamen said researching the inquisition archives has demolished the previous misconceptions we had of the inquisition.