**Later Middle Ages -- ~1000-~1500 ce/13**

**1265**

Alfonso X el Sabio king of Castile publishes the volume of his encyclopaedia dedicated to the legal system and interpretation; Roman law is not binding in his kingdom, but can provide helpful criteria to the judge's reasoning.

**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 Domìni, 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.

**1299**

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