**Later Middle Ages -- ~1000-~1500 ce/9**

**1202-1204**

Fourth crusade: the Comune offers weapons and ships, but the crusaders are late in reaching Venice and overwinter there in 1203-1204 at the expenses of the Comune.

The aged, blind doge Enrico Dandolo suggests that the crusade be directed instead toward the Christian, but schismatic Eastern Empire; the Venetians will remit all expenses incurred so far, in exchange for command of the enterprise and part of the spoils.

The son of the doge, Ranieri Dandolo, acts as a substitute for Enrico as doge in Venice during his absence as commander of the expedition.

Ranieri promotes the enactment of *Novae constitutiones sive leges* = new statutory laws, adding up to those already in force.

**1204**

Sack of Constantinople; institution of a Latin Empire (Romània), made of large fiefs given to the crusader lords.

The doge is now *Dominator quartae et dimidiae partis totius Imperii Romaniae* = Lord of the fourth part and a half of the whole Empire of Romània.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_lions.htm>

The Comune adopts for the government of the new territories the lexicon of the feudal system, but does not abandon the principle of elective magistrates.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_feudi-da-mar.pdf>

Institution of Curia dell'Esaminador, with the task of inspecting and validating written evidence (e.g. private deeds, records of service by public officers...) as admissible in judicial trials.

**1205**

At the death of Enrico Dandolo in Constantinople, Pietro Ziani (not Ranieri Dandolo!) is elected as doge.

New text of *promissio ducis*, stating among the rest that justice will be equally given to all, that no gifts will be accepted by the doge and that the rights of travellers, shipwrecked in the territory, will be legally protected, restating as especially important the older rules in *promissio maleficiorum*.

**1207**

Rules of law are agreed upon in the Latin Empire about judicial evidence.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_latin-empire_pact.pdf>

Electoral law, legificating constitutional custom about the composition and election of the Councils.

The electoral base are the 35 military trentacìe (harking back to the *placitum* as the assembly of the army).

Every year on St.Michael's day, September 29 (when most merchants are back in Venice for winter), 3 trentacìe in turn elect one elector each; these 3 electors elect the members of the Councils and magistrates.

Minor Council = 6 members (one for each sestiere) presided over by the doge; Major Council = 35 members (one for each trentacìa) presided over by the Minor Council.

Aggregation of the magistrates, raising the number of the members of the Major Council above the total of the 42 elected members.

**1213 mv = 1214**

New statutory laws aimed at making trials more expedite.

**1215**

IV council of the Lateran, gathered by pope Innocent III; inquisitorial trials are instituted against heretics; the clergy are forbidden to take part in God's judgments (ordeals, iudicial duels).

**1220**

Frederick II Hohenstaufen, King of Sicily and Germany, becomes King of Italy and Western Emperor.

**~1223**

Active protection of the interests of individual citizens in front of foreign governments.

<http://www.arielcaliban.org/PX_derobationes.pdf>