The 13th century

Cathedrals, universities, and the king under the law.

Gothic cathedrals rose across France, the universities of Paris and Oxford flourished, Aquinas joined Aristotle to Christian thought, and Magna Carta bound the English king.

What rose

1215. Magna Carta. Source: Magna Carta

1194–1220. Chartres Cathedral is rebuilt. Source: Chartres Cathedral

1248. The Sainte-Chapelle is consecrated in Paris. Source: Sainte-Chapelle

1265–74. Aquinas writes the Summa Theologica. Source: Summa Theologica

c. 1286. Eyeglasses are invented in northern Italy. Source: Glasses

What fell or stalled

The Mongol invasion devastated Hungary and Poland in 1241. Source: Mongol invasion of Europe

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