

Middle Ages Completed Review

Fall of the Roman Empire

In Western Europe after the fall of Rome, there was an end of learning and education, movement out of urban areas, **and a period of economic disorder and weak government.**

As a result of the invasion and collapse of the Roman Empire:

- Warfare disrupted trade throughout Europe
- Travel became unsafe because of violence
- cities, towns, and villages were abandoned

Byzantine Empire

After the fall of Rome, the Byzantine Empire was prosperous (doing well).

- The Byzantine Empire reached its greatest size under Constantine, who made the **Constantinople the capitol city.**
- **Justinian's Code of Law** was the legal guide of the Empire.
- The Byzantine Empire **preserved the culture of Greece and the Roman Empire.**
- **Orthodox Christianity was the principle religion of the Empire.**

Barbarians

- **Vikings were Norsemen from Scandinavia who terrorized Europe using their masterful sailing skills.**
 - The Vikings virtually destroyed the areas they invaded at the time and their invasions heightened the insecurity which helped lead to the development of Feudalism.
 - **Constant attacks by barbarians groups, such as the Vikings, impacted Medieval Europe by causing the decentralization of power and formation of manor economics.**

The Holy Roman Empire

Clovis and the Franks

- The Frankish kingdom was established by Clovis, who converted to Christianity. This helped him politically because he gained the support of the Catholic Church and the people
 - Clovis built a large kingdom, but after his death his sons divided up his lands

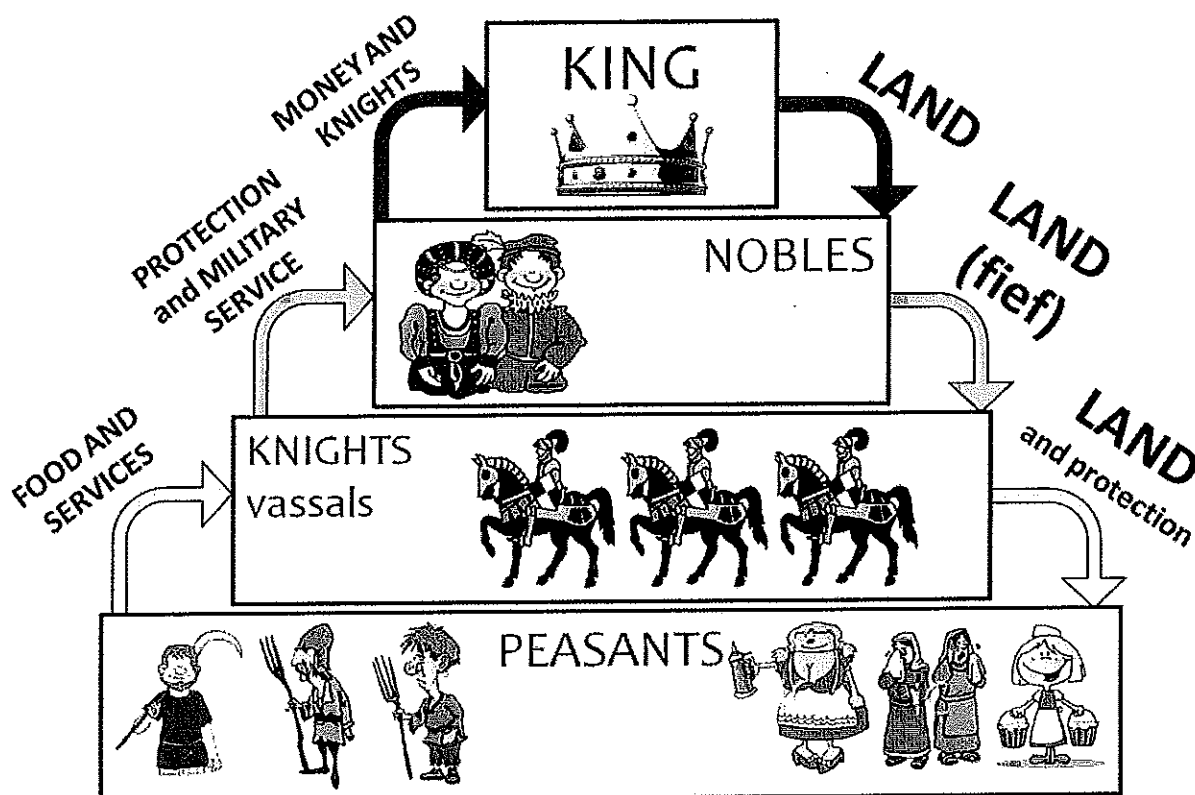
Charlemagne

- The grandfather of Charlemagne, Charles Martel led the Christian Franks against the Muslim forces at the Battle of Tours in 732.
 - The Battle of Tours stopped the tide of the Islamic Empire advancing through all of Europe.
- Charlemagne, as king of the Carolingian Empire, was a fierce warrior, a strong statesman, and a pious Christian.
 - Charlemagne expanded his empire to include most of present day France, Germany, and Italy.
 - He attempted to revive learning and make his empire a “new Rome”
 - Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas day in 800 A.D.
 - Following his death, Charlemagne's empire basically collapsed and fell apart.
 - The development of feudalism is credited to Charlemagne.

Feudalism

- The Middle Ages in Western Europe was characterized by the manorial system and the importance of land ownership.
 - Manor was an agricultural estate run by a lord and worked by peasants.
 - The manor economy was based on farming and self-sufficiency

- Feudalism is a political and social system based on ownership of land.
 - It is based on a rigid class structure.



Feudal Pyramid of Power

Under Feudalism

- Kings controlled all of the land in the kingdom
 - They leased land to lords called a fief in exchange for military service and taxes
- Lords who took care of the fief and provided knights to the king
 - Lords gave land to vassals, or “lesser lords” in exchange for military service. Knights protected lords and served in the king’s military in exchange for land.
 - A fief was an estate granted to a lord or vassal that was worked by peasants.

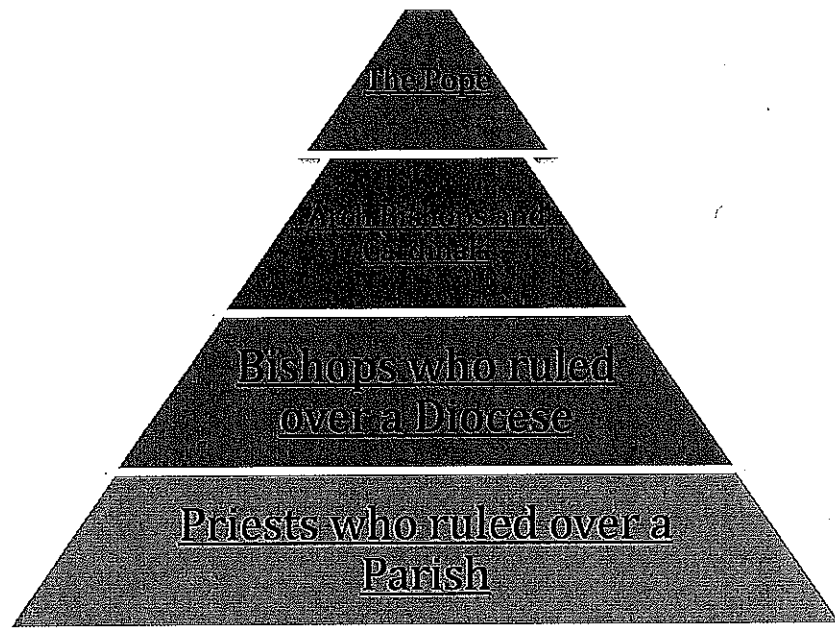
- Knights gave out land to the peasants, called serfs
 - Chivalry was the code of conduct a knight was supposed to follow once he was a knight (Fight bravely, demonstrate loyalty to their lord, and treat other knights with loyalty were a few of the traits of chivalry.).
- Serfs had no rights, were not allowed to leave their manor, and provided the knight with free labor, food, and service.
 - Serfs: The common people -The language of the common people was called “vernacular.”

Peasants, Trade, and Cities

- Medieval cities were smaller than other ancient cities. They were limited by the wall, which surrounded them.
- Merchants in medieval cities formed guilds, or business associations.
 - Guilds regulated every aspect of a business. They set quality standards, specified methods of production, and fixed prices.
- New agricultural technologies in the Middle Ages led to an increase in food production.
 - The “three-field system” contributed to the agricultural revolution that took place during the Middle Ages because it allowed peasants to produce more crops.
 - In Europe during the Middle Ages, increases in trade and commerce resulted in the development of towns and cities.

The Church

- After the fall of Rome the Church took over the central role in society.
- The Church, despite its faults, did a lot of work in medieval communities. The Church provided a sense of unity and stability for the people through a common religion – Roman Catholicism.
 - In the early Middle Ages, the Catholic Church contributed to cultural unity in Western Europe by using missionaries to convert Germanic tribes.



Structure of the Church

The church had powerful weapons that it could use against rulers of Europe.

- People believed they needed to receive the sacraments of the Catholic Church in order to achieve salvation.
 - These sacraments included: Eucharist (communion), Marriage, Holy Orders, Baptism, Extreme Unction (last rights), Confirmation, and Anointing of the sick.

- A Monk was a person who dedicated their life to the Church
 - Monasticism: The practice of living the life of a monk.
 - Monks and nuns emphasized the value of hard work, preserved knowledge by copying and storing important texts, and helping the sick and needy.
 - St Benedict was the monk who established the first standard set of rules for Monasteries to follow.
 - These standards were known as Benedictine Rule.
 - Monks and nuns should live in poverty, study, do labor, etc.
- Tithe - Tax the Church required Christians to pay
- To excommunicate is to deny sacraments to one person. To interdict was to deny the holy sacraments to an entire area. Popes would do this to put pressure on kings/lords.
- Any belief that went against church doctrine was referred to as heresy.
- The Papal States were the territories surrounding Rome, which were controlled by the Pope and the Church.
- As the Middle Ages went on the church became more involved in political affairs. The feudal government of the time complicated matters.
- The Church had great power over people during the Middle Ages because it decided who could achieve salvation.
 - The church increased its power during the Middle Ages because church officials were often appointed to high government positions.
 - During the medieval period in Europe, the political power of the kings and great nobles was often constrained by the actions of high church officials.

- **A major conflict between the Holy Roman emperors and the popes concerned who would appoint clergy/bishops.** Church officials wanted more control over appointments of church leaders. They wanted to get rid of lay investiture.
- **“Lay investiture” was when secular rulers (Kings/Emperors) chose nominees to church offices/ high-ranking church officials, instead of the Pope, and gave them the symbols (a ring and staff) of their office.**
- Henry VI and Pope Gregory argued over lay investiture – Henry was **excommunicated** but then readmitted after an apology.
 - In 1122, the **Concordat of Worms passed: the Church won the power to appoint church officials and the emperor got to give the bishop new symbols of the government while the church gave spiritual symbols**

England

England faced invasion from the Angles and Saxons and Vikings after the fall of the Roman Empire.

- **In 1066, William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings and established feudalism in England.**
- At the time of Henry II, each region or kingdom in England had its own set of laws. Henry wanted to establish a **common law** throughout England
 - Henry’s Son John became king – he was highly corrupt and made many mistakes
- **King John** wanted to choose the archbishop, instead of the Pope. The pope placed an **interdict on England – which means people could not receive sacraments.** John begged forgiveness and pledged to make England a Fief of the Catholic Church – so people **owed a fee** to the church every year.
 - King John’s corruption and heavy taxation of the Nobles caused them to rebel against him.

- In 1215, they forced him to sign the Magna Carta, which limited the power of the English Monarch. The Magna Carta was important because it asserted that the monarch (king) must obey the law and granted certain rights to the people.

- instituted the idea of *Habeas Corpus*, which meant you could not be held in jail without due cause.

*****The following ideas about government that emerged in England have influenced the modern world: English common law, the Magna Carta, Parliament*****

Crusades

- The Crusades were a series of wars over control of the Holy Land between Christians and Muslims. A “crusade” is a war fought for religious reasons.
- People may have gone on crusades because:
 - A knight was expected to and was promised "salvation" by the pope.
 - A child might feel compelled by God to go.
 - A peasant would be free from paying his rent and it was an adventure away from the hard life on a manor, and like the knights they were promised immediate "salvation" should they die in battle.
- The “Reconquista” refers to the campaign to drive the Muslims out of Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella.

Effects of the Crusades

Positive

- Increased trade between east and west – furthered cultural diffusion
- A revival of learning
- The growth of a money economy to undermine serfdom

Negative

- Led to a legacy of bitterness between Christians and the Muslim World
- They hurt the Byzantine Empire

Gothic Architecture

- **Gothic architecture developed some distinct characteristics of its own.**
 - **Flying Buttresses - resembled wings coming from a structure to support the walls.** These advancements allowed thinner walls and larger windows, which allowed for these new churches to have much more natural light.

Islam

- Islam quickly spread throughout the Middle East after its beginnings in the Arabian peninsula in the 7th century CE. Afterwards it moved to North Africa, Spain, and Sicily.
 - The strength of armies, common language, and fair treatment of conquered peoples.
 - **Mansa Musa's journey to Mecca in the 1300's is evidence that Islam had a major influence on the Mali Empire in western Africa.**
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- **During the Golden Age, a vast trading empire network was created, which helped spread religion, culture, and technology.**
 - **Muslim culture reached foreign lands through Muslim merchants and sailors.**
 - **Muslim trade was extensive. It was highly impacted by the Crusades, where both Christians and Muslims were interacting.**
 - Banks, use of credit, and partnership were developed to support the increase in trade.
- **Through the achievements of Muslim scholars, Europeans were able to read the works of Aristotle and other Greek philosophers.**
 - These works were translated into various languages, which were later accessed in Europe during the rebirth, or Renaissance.
 - Islamic scholars studied both Greek and Indian mathematics before making important contributions of their own.

The Plague

- During the 13th century the middle ages had reached a high point, the population had grown and there was an explosion of learning and culture
 - Europe had become overpopulated and people were beginning to feel the effects of that overpopulation.
- The Black Death was the most devastating natural disaster in European history.
- The Black Death, or bubonic plague, was a bacterial infection, which killed 38 million people throughout Europe out of a pre-plague population of 75 million.
 - In urban areas, the death rate was 50-60% of the population.
- **Infected fleas spread the plague throughout Europe.**

Effects of the Black Plague

- The plague contributed to Anti-Semitism in Europe. People blamed the Jews for the plague.
 - **The plague led to the rebirth of Christianity**, as people sought salvation and hope during a time of crisis.
 - **It caused economic and social instability by drastically reducing the workforce.**
- The plague was good for land ownership – more death = more farmland available, deflation allowed people to buy land, cities grew, merchants explored new businesses.