

## European Middle Ages

### I. Dark Ages

#### A. Time Period and Characteristics

1. 500-1000 AD
2. after fall of Rome
3. absence of law and order
4. central government replaced by weak local lords
5. decline in literacy (learning of Greece and Rome lost)
6. collapse of trade
7. decline of towns
8. money economy disappears
9. economy centers around manor system
10. Catholic Church is main preserver of literacy and Greco-Roman
11. feudalism

#### B. Feudalism

1. The exchange of service for loyalty and protection
  - a. Economic
  - b. Social
  - c. political
2. Causes:
  - a. Barbarian invasions
  - b. Decline of centralized government
  - c. Need for protection
3. Effects
  - a. Well defined social class system
  - b. People turned to local rulers for protection
  - c. Increased emphasis on social classes
4. Feudal Class System
  - a. King
    - i. Gave the local lord the right to own the land
    - ii. Expects lords to be loyal and provide armies and pay taxes
  - b. lord
    - i. gave the knights the right to own land
    - ii. judged disputes brought to the manor court
    - iii. expect knights to be loyal, serve in army and pay taxes
  - c. Vassals = lesser lords
  - d. knights gave the peasants the right to work on land or in village
    - i. expect the peasants to work part time without pay on knights land
    - ii. pay taxes or a share of crops

- iii. followed a code of conduct = chivalry including loyalty, honor, courage, respect for women
    - iv. devoted to feudal lord, heavenly lord, chosen lady
    - v. stages of knighthood (page, squire, knight)
  - e. serfs = peasants tied to the land
- C. Manor System
  - 1. grant of land given to lord = fief
  - 2. self-sufficient
    - a. everything needed to run the manor is there
    - b. due to lack of security have to have all that is needed to survive
  - 3. Manor = lord's house and land surrounding it.
- D. Catholic Church
  - 1. unifying force
    - a. almost everyone is Catholic
    - b. Jews are minority
  - 2. Controlled everyday life
    - a. Attend village churches
    - b. Some priests ran schools, hospitals
    - c. All Christians paid tithes (tax to church) 10% of income
    - d. Missionaries
    - e. Preserve learning
- E. Charlemagne
  - 1. King of Franks
  - 2. unified people
  - 3. preserved learning (palace schools)

## II. High Middle Ages

### A. Characteristics and Time Period

1. 1000-1500
2. beginning of rise of kings and fall of local lord
3. beginning of rise of towns and fall of manor system
4. Church is weakened
5. Beginning of merchant middle class in Italy leads into Renaissance and Reformation

### B. Crusades

1. called in 1096 by Pope Urban II
2. fight off the advance of Turks toward Constantinople
3. win back Holy land from Muslims

4. First Crusade is successful
  - a. Men are promised eternal life
  - b. Men are promised land
  - c. Men get adventure and money
  - d. Set up crusader states
5. Second Crusade ends with Muslims in control
6. Third Crusade ends in truce
  - a. Unarmed pilgrims can travel to holy land
  - b. Jerusalem stays under Muslim control
7. Fourth Crusade is about money and total failure
  - a. Crusaders involved in local politics at that point
  - b. Looted Constantinople
8. Children's Crusade
  - a. Kids set out in 1212
  - b. No weapons
  - c. God would give them Jerusalem
  - d. Many sold, died or starved
9. Effects
  - a. Byzantine empire weakened
  - b. Pope's power declines
  - c. Kings become stronger
  - d. Feudal lord's power declined
  - e. Religious intolerance grows
  - f. Trade between Middle East and Europe
  - g. Europeans learn technology from Muslims

#### C. Towns Grow

1. Europe more stable
2. improvements lead to growth of towns
  - a. three field system = more food
  - b. more food = more people
  - c. diverse jobs people leave manor
3. Guilds develop:
  - a. Organization of workers with same profession.
  - b. Helps train and set wages
4. learning revives in towns
  - a. universities develop
  - b. people start to write in vernacular

## II.

### III. Nations Develop

#### A. England

1. William the Conqueror
  - a. 1066 invades England
  - b. sets up government
2. Moves toward limited monarchy
  - a. Jury courts introduced by Henry II

- b. Magna Carta 1215 (limits kings power)
- c. Model Parliament by Edward I 1295

B. France

- 1. Hugh Capet established Capetian Dynasty
- 2. Phillip increases territory of France
- 3. Louis IX strengthens central government
- 4. Philip IV adds Third Estate

C. 100 Years War

- 1. Fight between France and England over throne of France
- 2.
- 3. Joan of Arc
  - a. Leads the French
  - b. Tried for heresy
- 4. end of the Middle Ages

D. Bubonic Plague

- 1. starts in Asia
- 2. spreads to Europe through trade and travel
- 3. 20-25 million people die in Europe
- 4. population falls
- 5. economy falls
- 6. church is weakened

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.