

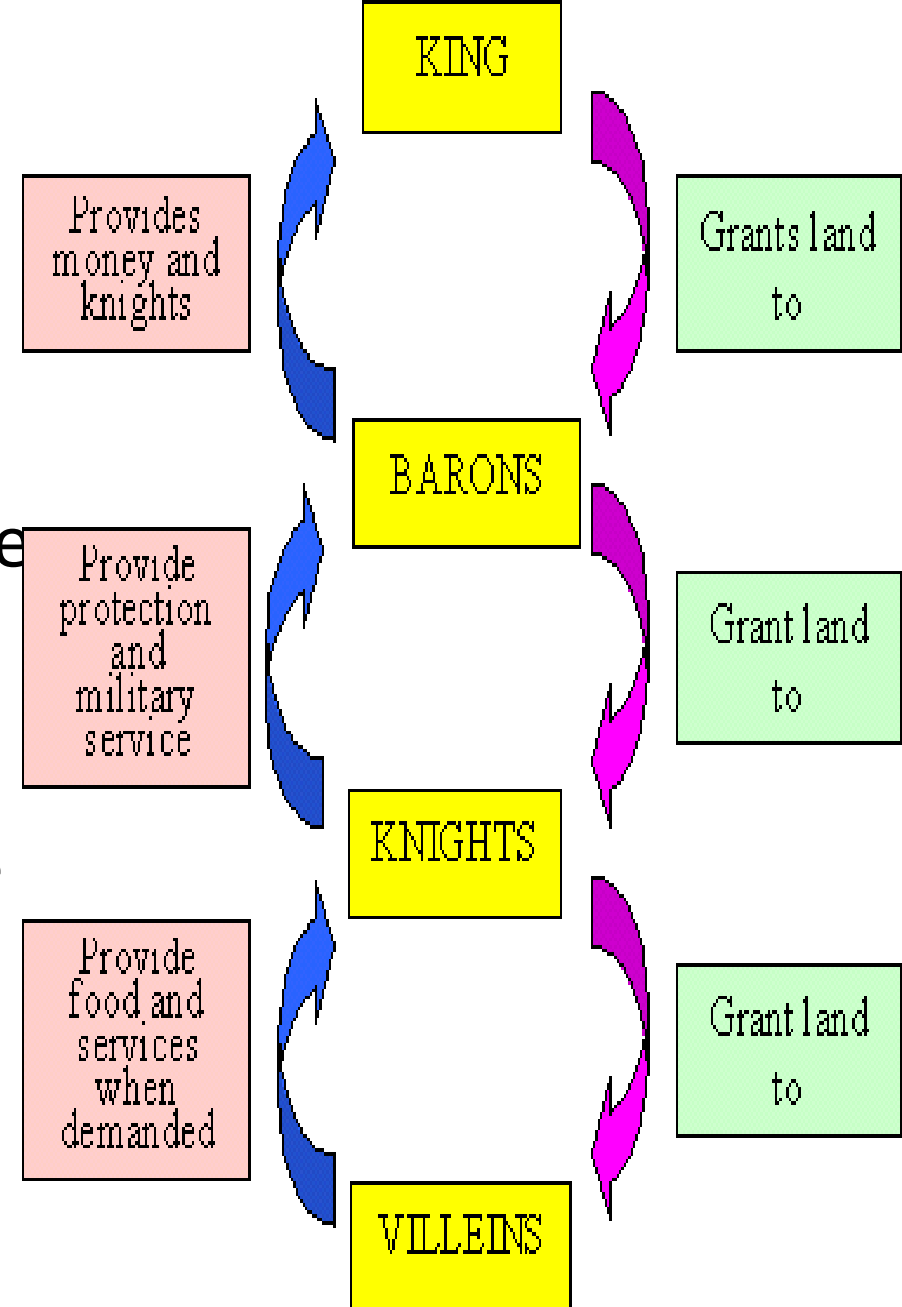
# The Middle Ages in Europe

## Chapter 8

# Important Ideas

- The Byzantine Empire merged with Constantinople, lasting 1,000 years.
  - Emperor Justinian used the Roman laws to create a new legal code.
- After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe fell into a period of chaos.
  - Invaders kept cities in chaos
  - Cities became ruined or weak
  - The learning of the ancient world was lost

- Europeans developed feudalism →
- The catholic church preserved learning and became the most powerful institution in Europe
- St. Augustine emphasized the role of faith
- St. Thomas Aquinas believed Christian teachings were compatible with the exercise of reason
- Christians and Muslims fought for the Holy Land.



# A Byzantine Culture Emerges

- 330 A.D. Emperor Constantine moved the capital empire to Byzantine, renamed it Constantinople.
- Constantinople was surrounded by 3 sides of water and had thick walls
  - Almost impossible to attack.

- Western half of the Roman Empire collapsed in 400 A.D.
  - Eastern half survived another 1000 years
- Imperial system of government
- Official language was Latin but was changed to Greek
- Did not follow Roman Catholicism, they were Eastern Orthodox
  - Does not recognize the Pope as head of church
  - Had their own patriarch
  - Decorated their churches with icons of Jesus and saints

- Byzantines developed a strong culture
  - Church of Hagia Sophia
  - Schools taught ancient Greek texts
  - Used gold, silver and ivory for art
  - Known for mosaics
- Under Emperor Justinian 527-565
  - conquered the old Roman Empire
  - Code of Justinian
    - Collected all the Roman laws and organized them into a single code
    - Special laws to religion
    - All persons in the empire had to be Eastern Orthodox

# Reasons for survival of the Byzantine Empire

- Classical Culture
  - Rich infusion of Greek, Roman, Christian and Middle eastern cultures
- Location
  - Major city for trade: Silks and spices from the East, furs from Russia
- Strong Central Government
  - Powerful emperors with strong administrations and single set of laws
- Large Army
  - Taxed merchants and peasants to support a large army

# Decline of the Byzantine Empire

- Was in constant battle with:
  - Slavs and Avars to the north
  - Persian Empire to the east
  - Islam to the south
    - Muslims took the most of the territory in the middle east
- The Seljuk Turks defeated the Byzantine army in 1071 and took Asia Minor
- Crusaders attacked the city in 1204
- By the 1440's the empire was reduced to a small area around the Constantinople
- 1453 Constantinople was conquered by the Ottoman Turks



# Western Europe in Turmoil

- The Barbarian Invasions
  - The Romans considered people of foreign non-Roman culture was a “barbarian”
  - Germanic tribes:
    - Goths, Vandals, Lombards, Burgundians, and Franks
- In 300 A.D. a war like tribe known as the Huns moved from central Asia to Europe.
  - Forced Germanic tribes to move west into the Roman Empire

- Rome allowed the Visigoths to enter to escape the Huns
  - Visigoth turned against the Romans
  - Defeated and sacked Rome in 410 A.D. (was helped by Germanic slaves in Rome)
- After a period of invasions the Germanic tribes created kingdoms
  - Angles and Saxon invaded England
  - Visigoths into Spain
  - Lombards occupied North Italy
  - Franks to Gaul (France)

- Constant warfare disrupted trade across Europe.
  - Traveling became unsafe
  - Bridges and roads fell apart
  - Cities and towns were abandoned
  - Criminals roamed free
  - Life became rural and unsafe
  - Rich families moves to fortified homes (castles) in the countryside.
  - Shortage of food
  - Churches and monasteries was the only place people could read and write.

# The Rise of the Franks

- The Franks established the largest Germanic kingdom
- Charles Martel help unite the Franks
- 732 A.D. at the **Battle of Tours** Martel stopped the advance of Islam from Spain into France
- 751 A.D. his son Pepin seized power and became the King of Franks
- With the Pope's support he took control of Northern Italy.
- Frankish Kings created a powerful army by granting land to nobles in exchange for service in the King's army with their knights. → Feudal System

# Reign of Charlemagne

- Pepin's son, Charlemagne, became king in 768
- Expanded the practice of giving land to nobles in exchange for loyalty and services
  - Nobles gave land to knights in exchange for protection
    - Peasants gave up their rights to their local lords for protection
      - Services included providing firewood, livestock and crops

- The Charlemagne Kingdom included, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Northern Italy
  - New capital at Aachen (center of learning)
- He used his riches to attract scholars to his palace for children of nobility.
- Charlemagne was crowned “**Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire**”
  - Western Europe now independent from the Byzantine empire
  - Christendom became the unity of Western Europe
- After his death, the empire was divided to his sons

# Europe's New Threats

- Slavs and Magyars from the east invaded Germany, France and Italy
- Muslims from North Africa attacked Southern Italy
- Vikings from the north (Scandinavia)
  - Fierce Warriors and sailors
  - Searched for trade, loot, and land

- 800-1000 A.D. the Vikings attacked the coasts of Western Europe.
- Spreading fear and destruction
- Created new settlements in
  - Danelaw, North England
  - Normandy, France
  - Islands of Sicily



# Feudal Society

- In order to protect themselves and provide the basic needs, people adopted *feudalism*.
  - The king would give land (fief) to a noble (vassal) in exchange for loyalty and service
  - The vassal would give a piece of land to servants in exchange for services and food.

- **SOCIAL**

- A strict class structure based on control of land and military power
- People born as a serf, knight, or lords could not change their social position.
- Lords who had large pieces of land had a large army of knights

- **POLITICAL**

- Leading nobles controlled political life
- Built large castles for protection
- The king needed the lord's knights for the army
- Nobles fought against each other and against the king
- Civil wars were frequent and powerful nobles would take land

- ECONOMIC

- Most people lived in manors
- Each manor produced its own food, clothing and shelter.
- In England alone, there were 9,000 manors
- Serfs (peasant farmers) gave their lord a part of their harvest
  - in return they would get land to live on, and for protection
  - The lord could pass laws, require labor, and act as a judge.
  - Serfs could not leave the land
  - Serfs could almost be considered as slaves

- Farming in the Middle Ages
  - Farmers used a three-field system
    - Two fields were used to farm
      - One for summer
      - One for winter
    - One was left to recover fertility
  - Farm animals were small and few
  - Bad weather and a poor harvest could lead to famine and death.

- Peasant Life-Styles

- Peaseants produced the food needed
- Worked long hours, most on the land
- Most were farmers some had other jobs
  - Millers, blacksmiths, tavern owners
- Peasants lived on farms or near by cities on a lord's manor
- The cottage (house) had no floors, bed was made of hay, pigs and animals lived inside the house
- Water was drawn from a well or stream

- **WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE AGES**
  - Roles were determined by the Catholic Church and nobility
  - Suppose to be obedient to men
  - Women of all social classes gave birth to a large number of children
    - Many children died in infancy
  - Life-styles varied according to social status
    - Noble women spent most time praying and domestic chores (some would receive an education)
    - Peasant women worked in the fields plus, take care of the house, husband, children and animals

# Age of Faith

- The Catholic Church was the single most powerful organization in Western Europe
- Head of the church-Pope
  - Successor to St. Peter, leader of the apostels
  - Pope governed the church
    - Cardinals, bishops, and other church officials
- The church controlled large amounts of land in Europe
- The church possessed monasteries, abbeys, and convents

# Reasons for the Church's Power

- The Role of Faith
  - People were very religious
  - Church represented God-had the power to send people to heaven or hell
- Power and Wealth
  - Nobles gave land to the church when they died hoping to go to heaven
  - The church was the largest landowner in Europe
  - Collected money through tithes
- Center of Learning
  - Main center of learning
  - Church officials usually only people to read and write
  - Rulers depended on the church because they were educated



# The Crusades

## Holy War against Muslims

- 1000 A.D. the Seljuk Turks took control of the Holy Land (Jerusalem)
  - Drove out Christian pilgrims
- 1095 Pope Urban II received a plea from the Byzantine Emperor to help with the Muslim invasion
- The church called all Christians in Europe to unite and recapture the holy land
  - Was promised salvation

- “Crusade” means “war of the cross”
  - Flag was a red cross with a white banner
- Many participants died of hunger or disease on the way to the Holy Land
- Several crusades were fought for the next 200 years

# English Political Traditions

- England developed traditions of liberty and limited self-government
- MAGNA CARTA 1215
  - English nobles rebelled against King John on taxes and forced loans
  - King John was forced to sign an agreement
    - Not to take away a free man's property or imprison a man without procedures
    - Free men the right to a trial by jury
    - Consent of the council of nobles for new taxes
- PARLIAMENT
  - Later English Kings would call nobles and representatives of the towns to grant them new taxes