

## Chp. 5 Europe in the Middle Ages

### Key Terms

**Middle Ages** – the years between ancient and modern times; from about A.D. 500 until 1500.

**medieval** – of the middle ages.

**feudalism** – a system of power in Europe during the Middle Ages, in which kings and queens had the most power, followed by nobles, knights, and peasants.

**vassal** – in medieval Europe, a man who promised to be loyal to a landowner, who in return gave him a share of the land, called a fief.

**manor** – a large estate, often including a village and farmlands, ruled by a lord in medieval Europe.

**self – sufficient** – able to supply one's own needs; the residents of a medieval manor were self – sufficient.

**serf** – a person who lived on and farmed a lord's land in feudal times; he or she did not own land and depended on the lord for protection.

**Charlemagne** – king of the Franks who conquered much of Western Europe, great patron of literature and learning.

**Gaul** – a region of France, Belgium, and parts of Germany and northern Italy occupied by the ancient Gauls.

**clergy** – persons ordained to perform certain religious duties.

**excommunicate** – to expel or prevent someone from taking part in Church life; in the Middle Ages, Catholic Church leaders threatened to excommunicate a lord who rebelled against Church power.

**guild** – an association of all the people in a town or village who practiced a certain trade; weavers, grocers, masons, and others in the Middle Ages formed guilds and set standards for quality and prices.

**apprentice** – an unpaid worker who is being trained in a craft; in medieval Europe, boys became apprentices between the ages of 8 and 14 and trained for seven years.

**chivalry** – the noble qualities that knights were to have: bravery, loyalty, and doing heroic deeds to win the love of a worthy woman.

**troubadour** – a traveling performer who wandered from place to place in France, Italy, and Spain, singing songs and reciting poems about the chivalrous deeds of knights.

**Crusades** – several military expeditions between A.D. 1095 and 1272, supported by the Catholic Church, to win the Holy Land back from the Seljuk Turks; the Holy Land included Jerusalem and parts of present – day Israel and Jordan.

**Pope Urban II** – pope who developed reforms begun by Pope Gregory VII, began the Crusades, and built political power for the papacy.

**Peter the Hermit** – French religious leader who led one of the bands of the First Crusade.

**Saladin** – Muslim leader who became sultan of Egypt and ultimately defeated the Crusades; was also a man of learning and a patron of the arts.

**Holy Land** – a small region at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, also known as Palestine, which includes parts of modern Israel and Jordan; considered holy by Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

**Jerusalem** – the capital city of modern Israel; a holy city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

**nation** – a community that shares a government and sometimes a common language and culture; in medieval Europe, kingdoms became nations as the kings gained power and unified their lands.

**Magna Carta** – the “Great Charter”; an agreement between King John of England and his nobles and clergy in which the king's power over his nobles was limited.

**Parliament** – a council that advised the English king or queen in government matters; today, a group of elected officials who make up the legislative branch of the British government.

**Pope Gregory VII** – pope who reigned from A.D. 1073 to 1085; considered one of the great papal reformers of the Middle Ages.

**King Henry IV** – king of Germany and the Holy Roman Empire; argued with Pope Gregory VII and was banned from the Church.

**King John** – king of England who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215 under threat of civil war.

**Joan of Arc** – peasant girl who led the French army to victory over the English in the Hundred Years' War.

**Runnymede** – a meadow along the Thames River in England.

**Orleans** – a city in north – central France; the site of the Hundred Years' War and the defeat of the English by the French under the leadership of Joan of Arc.

### Main Ideas

- **Duties of the lord's (Sec. 1):** to protect his vassals and their lands; if a vassal died that had young children, the lord would become the child's protector.
- **Peasant's and Serf's and their rules in regards to their place on the manor:** Peasants did all the labor on the manor; Peasants had to give a part of their fall harvest to the lord; serfs belonged to the land; serfs could not leave manor without agreement from this noble; serfs could buy land to become a free peasant or escape to the city for a year and a day and gain their freedom.
- **Church's Power during medieval times:** took on jobs the government does today – Church made laws and set up courts to enforce them; gained wealth by collecting taxes; took fiefs from lords in exchange for services performed by the clergy; limited warfare among feudal lords.
- **Town life vs. manor life (know the main difference):** Manor life was based on being self-sufficient, while town life is not based on being self-sufficient.
- **Importance of the Holy Land:** Holy Land had holy sites; key trade routes; located near the rich empire of Byzantine.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Crusade:** Began in 1096 and lasted until 1099; was a war between the Muslims and the Christians over the Holy Land; Peter the Hermit puts together a group of common people as an army to attack the Muslims; is easily defeated, but the remaining people of Peter's army join up with the knights and defeat the Muslims.
- **Kings and popes disagreements:** king and pope disagreed on who should pick Church officials called bishops; pope claimed he had the right to choose them, but the king wanted to choose them because they controlled large areas of kingdoms.
- **Weakening of feudalism:** kings would gain power as different forces weakened feudalism; the Crusades would weaken nobles; families of nobles would lose their land to kings that claimed the estates of nobles who died in Crusades; kings would support new towns in exchange for money; kings would then hire armies to attack troublesome nobles.
- **Characteristics of feudalism:** structure like a pyramid; power rested at the top (Kings/Queens); the people on the bottom had very little power or say.
- **Roles of women in feudalism:** women were important part of feudal society; noblewoman was often sent to family and friends for training; was lady of household; she managed the household; performed necessary medical tasks; and supervised servants; “lord of the manor.”
- **Problems of medieval towns:** overcrowding and disease – space was limited in medieval towns and disease and sickness spread quickly; the black death wiped out one third of Europe's population in just four years.
- **Importance of guilds:** guilds made rules to help its members earn good wages; guilds set prices and prevented outsiders from selling goods in towns; they also set standards for the quality of goods.

- **Basis for the Crusades beginning:** the basis for the Crusades beginning was the Muslims invading and capturing much of the Byzantine empire; Muslims would attack/turn away Christians from the Holy Land; and Europeans wanted to control Palestine's key trade routes.
- **Results of the Crusades:** Christians never recaptured the Holy Land; increased trade; made the use of money more common; towns would become more important, because feudalism grew weaker, banks were started
- **Countries involved in the Hundred Years' War:** England and France; England king would invade France when the French king died, because he owned land in France. The English king thought that he was the next rightful king of France,
- **Explain the effect of the Magna Carta on Europe in the Middle Ages:** brought the King more power and allowed feudalism to decline. It would limit the king's power over the nobles. It would also allow England to become more united because the nobles had a say in the government. The king could no longer tax them without their agreement, and could no longer jail nobles without just cause
- **Why was the church so powerful in the Middle Ages?** Took on jobs the government does today, church made laws and set up courts to enforce them, gained wealth by collecting taxes, took fiefs from lords in exchange for services performed by the clergy, limited warfare between feudal lords, had the ability to excommunicate someone from the church.
- **In what ways did kings become the main authority in their kingdoms?**
  - 1) began to support the new towns in exchange for money
  - 2) agreed to protect towns and made laws to help towns grow rich
  - 3) with the money paid by townspeople kings hired armies and used them to attack troublesome nobles