Medieval Europe

SSWH7 Analyze European medieval society with regard to culture, politics, society, and economics.

1. Explain the manorial system and feudal relationships, include: the status of peasants and feudal monarchies and the importance of Charlemagne.

2. Explain the political impact of Christianity and the role of the church in medieval society.

3. Describe how increasing trade led to the growth of towns and cities, include: the impact of the Bubonic Plague.

1. Describe the causes and impact of the Crusades on the Islamic World and Europe.
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• SubStandards:

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Essential Questions

1. Who in feudal society has the most power and why?
2. How did feudalism help shape political and social development in Europe in the Middle Ages?
3. How did the obligations of the serfs differ from those of lords and knights?
4. How did the manorial system influence economic growth in Europe during the Middle Ages?
5. Explain how these two systems worked together in Medieval Europe.
Map of Medieval Europe

- 500 – 1500 A.D.
- Three Roots of Medieval Culture
  - Classical heritage of Rome
  - Beliefs of Roman Catholic Church
  - Customs of Germanic Tribes

What are the effects of multiple invasions?
1. feudalism - Loosely organized system of government in which local lords governed their own lands but owed military services and other support to a greater lord.

2. manor - A lord's estate which included one or more villages and the surrounding lands.

3. serfs - A peasant bound to the lord's land.

4. knights - A European noble who served as a mounted warrior.

5. manorial system - The manor system was a way that feudal lords organized their lands in order to produce agricultural goods.


7. Vassal - A lord who was granted the land in exchange for service and loyalty to a greater lord.
What is Feudalism?

• The social structure, in which the king allots a gift in the form of a land and complete authority to a lord, to govern and rule an area, in exchange for the services such as defense, agriculture and allied services is the feudal system.

• Deals with relations between the king and his clergy and the Lords who pledge their loyalty to the crown in exchange for land to own
What is a Manorial System or Manorialism?

• Manorialism refers to the social interaction system that existed between these lords and the dependent population like the soldiers, serfs and laborers, with regards to their daily life and survival.

• The serfs worked on the fields and did all the hard labor like working for the upkeep of the manors and allied activities such as farming. In return, they were offered certain wages and protection by knights or the lords.

• The knights, who served the lords militarily for defending and gaining territories, in turn got rewards and titles from the feudal lords, who got that from the king.
What is the difference between Feudalism and Manorialism?

1. Feudalism:
   - Economic, political, and social organization of medieval European relationships
   - Deals mostly with upper class relationships
   - Lords and Vassals

2. Manorialism:
   - Agricultural, legal, and social organization of land
   - The land and its’ inhabitants were the manor.
   - Both belonged to a lord
Manorial System

A Medieval Manor

- Land cultivated for the lord
- Common fields
- Road
The **manor** was the heart of feudal life.

It included a village or two and surrounding lands. The manor system worked by mutual obligation.

Most of the population were **serfs**, who were bound to the land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE MANOR SYSTEM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lord of Manor</strong> to <strong>Peasants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use of land for farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protection</td>
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<td>• Could not be forced off land</td>
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Lords and Peasants: Mutual Obligations

- In return for their labor and other payments, peasants had the right to farm some land for themselves.
- They were also entitled to their lord’s protection from raids or warfare.
- Although they could not leave the manor freely, they also could not be forced off it.
- In theory, at least, they were guaranteed food, housing, and land.
- This system supported the nobility, making feudalism possible.
Importance Of Charlemagne

• Medieval emperor who ruled much of Western Europe from 768 to 814.
• He embarked on a mission to unite all Germanic peoples into one kingdom, and convert his subjects to Christianity.
• He promoted education (although he was illiterate) and encouraged the Carolingian Renaissance, a period of renewed emphasis on scholarship and culture.
• He instituted economic and religious reforms, and was a driving force behind the Carolingian miniscule, a standardized form of writing that later became a basis for modern European printed alphabets.
Charlemagne & Christianity

• In 800, Pope Leo III (750-816) crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Romans.

• Roman Catholicism was the center of the lives of all of Medieval Society

• When he died in 814, Charlemagne’s empire encompassed much of Western Europe, and he had also ensured the survival of Christianity in the West.
Christianity & Its Role In Medieval Society

- Back during the Middle Ages religion played a major role in the daily life of the Europeans. The major religion that ruled Europe during this time was Christianity.
- Western Europe was dominated by the Roman Catholic religion.
- The Catholic Church had a great control over the European people, so much so that it had its own laws and taxes.
- The church was very powerful and could even control the kings of the land.
- Going against the church was known as heresy and was considered a foul crime.
• Attending church and praying was a daily occurrence for all types of people during the Middle Ages.
• Christians of this time period were so devout, meaning completely committed, that they made a journey to the birthplace of Christianity.
• The holy cities that many would go to were Rome or Jerusalem.
• Our Father, which art in heaven,
  Hallowed be thy Name.
  Thy Kingdom come.
  Thy will be done in earth,
  As it is in heaven.
  Give us this day our daily bread.
  And forgive us our trespasses,
  As we forgive them that trespass against us.
  And lead us not into temptation,
  But deliver us from evil.
  For thine is the kingdom,
  The power, and the glory,
  For ever and ever.

Amen.
The Bubonic Plague

• In the early 1330s an outbreak of deadly bubonic plague occurred in China.
• The bubonic plague mainly affects rodents, but fleas can transmit the disease to people.
• Once people are infected, they infect others very rapidly.
How did the Black Death spread to Europe?

• Since China was one of the world’s busiest trading nations, it was only a matter of time before the outbreak of the plague in China spread to western Asia and Europe.

• In October of 1347, several Italian merchant ships returned from a trip to the Black Sea, one of the key links in trade with China.

• When the ships docked in Sicily, many of those on board were already dying of plague.

• Within days the disease spread to the city and the surrounding countryside.
"Realizing what a deadly disaster had come to them, the people quickly drove the Italians from their city. But the disease remained, and soon death was everywhere. Fathers abandoned their sick sons.

Lawyers refused to come and make out wills for the dying. Friars and nuns were left to care for the sick, and monasteries and convents were soon deserted, as they were stricken, too.

Bodies were left in empty houses, and there was no one to give them a Christian burial."
Aftermath of the Bubonic Plague or "Black Death"

• The disease struck and killed people with terrible speed. The Italian writer Boccaccio said its victims often
  "ate lunch with their friends and dinner with their ancestors in paradise."

• By the following August of 1349, the plague had spread as far north as England, where people called it "The Black Death" because of the black spots it produced on the skin.

• A terrible killer was loose across Europe, and Medieval medicine had nothing to combat it.
1. Where did the Black Plague originate and how did it reach Europe?
2. Describe the process of how humans are infected with the Black Plague?
3. Why do you think plagues spread more rapidly in inner cities and towns rather than in the country-side?
4. When did the Plague first get introduced to the European population? Use the map in the PowerPoint to Answer the question.
5. How much of the European population perished or died as a result of the Black Plague? What percentage of the European Population died as a result of the Black Plague?
6. Do you think modern medicine can prevent plagues such as the Bubonic Plague today? Why or why not?
The Death Toll of the Black Death

• After five years 25 million people were dead--one-third of Europe's people.
• Even when the worst was over, smaller outbreaks continued, not just for years, but for centuries.
• The survivors lived in constant fear of the plague's return, and the disease did not disappear until the 1600s.
Food for thought

- What is a Crusade?
  - *any vigorous, aggressive movement for the defense or advancement of an idea, cause, etc.*
  - *A crusade is also a war declared by a Pope.*
- How might a Crusade benefit?
  - The Pope?
  - A Knight?
  - A Lord?
  - A Merchant?
- “one mans crusade is another man’s terrorism”
  - If you were Muslim you would call the crusades the Frankish invasion, after the group of people invading your land.
- Pilgrimages and Christianity
  - Holy Relics & Sites
Causes of the Crusades

- Muslim Turks captured Jerusalem from the Byzantine Empire
- Muslims stopped Christians from Visiting Holy Land
- Christian pilgrims were attacked
- Byzantine Empire feared attack on Constantinople
Effects of Crusades

• The Crusades contributed to increase the wealth of the Church and the power of the Papacy.

• One of the most important effects of the crusades was on commerce. They created a constant demand for the transportation of men and supplies, encouraged ship-building, and extended the market for eastern wares in Europe.

• The crusades could not fail to affect in many ways the life of western Europe. For instance, they helped to undermine feudalism. Knights and lords who fought in the Crusade and perished had their land confiscated by the monarch or king in power.