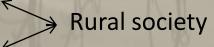
Western European Middle Ages (Medieval Europe)

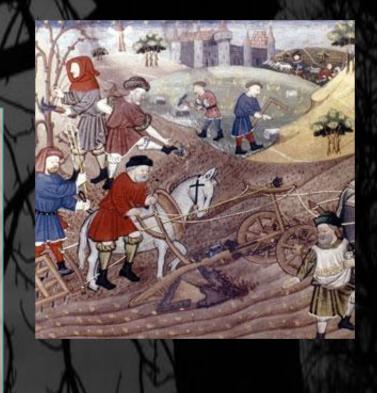


I. The Dark Ages?

- A. After Roman Empire divided, new way of life in the West
 - Mix of old Roman and Germanic customs,
 under authority of Roman Catholic Church
- B. End of civilization??? (no, but...)
 - Disruption of trade!
 - Downfall of cities!
 - Population shift!



- Decline in education, learning!
- Loss of common language!
 - New (<u>vernacular</u>) languages evolve from Latin and Germanic-languages
 - French, Spanish, Italian, English, etc.





II. Germanic Kingdoms

- A. Small, shifting kingdoms: became dominant form of governing – no true centralized government
- Loyalty to family/tribe and personal relationships:
 more important than citizenship in an empire
- Church: becomes a stabilizing factor in chaotic times
 - Clovis converted much of the Frankish (Germanic) people to Christianity (opportunity to align himself with an established power, and bring a sense of unity to the region).





III. Expansion of Christianity

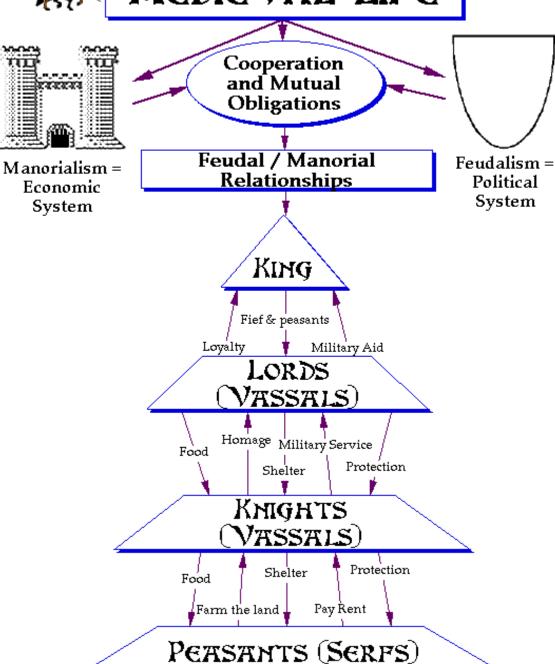
- A. 600 C.E. most Germanic tribes/people have converted to Christianity (sometimes out of fear)
 - Brought a sense of unity to western Europe
- B. Monasteries primary centers of education
 - Schools for the privileged, small collections of books
- C. Pope's authority expanded beyond church
 - Can raise armies, negotiate treaties with kings/enemies, create laws
 - Often at odds with kings, but also sought to create new unified western empire

- D. Holy Roman Empire 9th century C.E.
 - Combining the power of Medieval king, (Charlemagne), and the pope, western Europeans saw the first real attempt at centralized control
 - Boundaries often shifted, various kings held Holy Roman Emperor title, but never fully controlled western Europe





MEDIEVAL LIFE



IV. Feudalism/Manorialism

 B. What is it?: A system of governing and landowning based on specific rights and obligations

It's a Political/social/economic system

- Lord (noble) was granted a <u>fief</u> by the king in return for loyalty and taxes; <u>knights</u> used to fight/protect
- Serfs = peasants who could not lawfully leave the place where they were born

First

Field

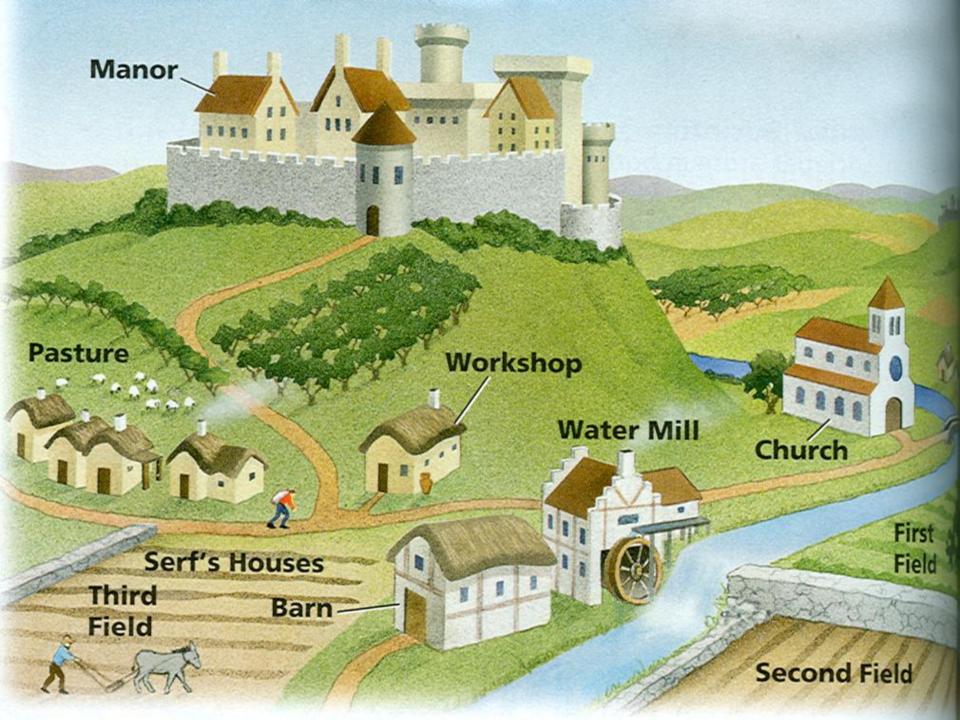
Second Field

Not slaves

Thire

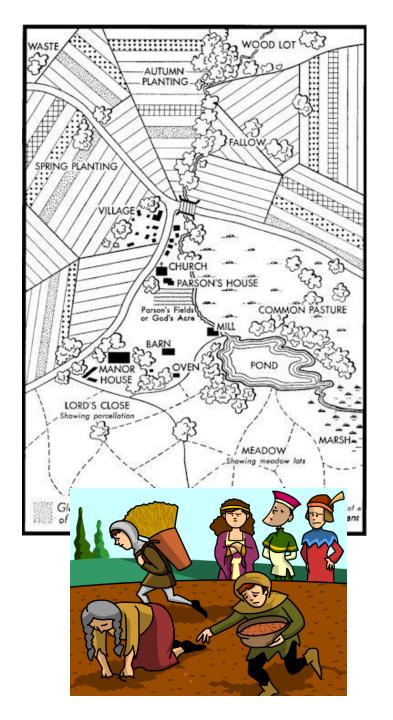
Field

What they produced on the land belonged to the lord



- C. Manor system the lord's estate (property)
 - Basic economic system of middle ages
 - Serfs provided with housing, farmland, "protection"
 - Manor life was not easy
 - Serfs had no protection against vengeful knights/nobles
 - Taxes on food, marriage
 - Tithe church tax





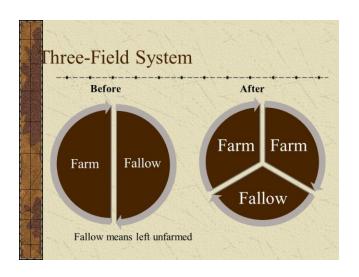
V. Women's Role

- A. Women considered inferior to men
 - View of Church and general society (patriarchal)
- B. Noblewoman
 - Could inherit estate from husband if no immediate male heir
 - Wife in charge of manor when husband away
 - Still limited mostly stayed at home or lived in a convent
 - Property was not handed down to daughters
- C. Peasants
 - Life based on raising families, working land men/women equally responsible (but still patriarchal)
 - Daughters not formally educated (unlike noble daughters)

VI. Medieval European Economy

- A. Combination of developments leads to Commercial Revolution (IIth century C.E.)
- B. By 900s, new agricultural techniques
 - Moldboard plow curved iron plate, allowed deeper turning of soil
 - New Horse Collar would not choke horse
 - Three-field system leave 1/3 of land unplowed (fallow) to regain fertility
- C. Political stability began to take hold in 10th century,
- Population increase forces growth of towns and cities





VII. Expansion of Trade in Late Middle Ages

A. Causes:

- Growth of cities leads to specialization of manufacturing
 & artisanal techniques
- Exchange between Europe and Asia grew
 - Crusades into Middle East helped brought influx of Asian goods and ideas into Europe

B. Effects:

- Growth of guilds Groups of people in the same business/trade
 - Offered some level of control over prices, quality of goods increased
- Expansion of banking system helped to facilitate longdistance trade; made loans and expanded monetary systems

VIII. Changes in Medieval Government

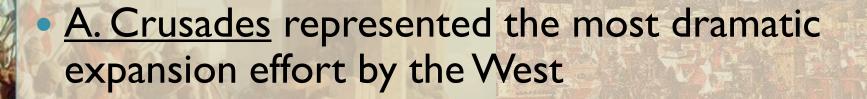
- A. Conflicts between nobles and kings led to compromises over political power
 - Magna Carta (Great Charter)
 - 1215 King John of England agreed to sign the charter, promising to limit his power over nobles and Church
 - No new taxes w/out nobles' permission
 - Could not appoint bishops w/out Church permission (end of <u>investiture</u>)
 - B. Parliaments
 - Governing bodies representing interests of nobles, Church, urban leaders (<u>three estates</u>)
 - 1265 first English parliament



IX. Expanding the West

- A.Western European culture began to expand after I Ith century C.E.
 - Reasons:
 - Population growth
 - Religious fervor
 - Increased trade
 - Where?
 - From central to eastern Europe (modern-day E Germany and Poland)
 - Christian "reconquest" of Spain (11th -15th century) Spanish Christians pushed out Muslims rulers
 - Vikings established settlements in northern Atlantic Iceland, Greenland, Hudson Bay (Canada)





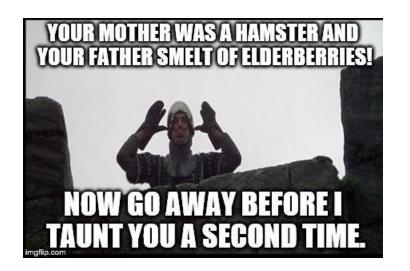
- First crusade called by Pope Urban II in 1095
 - Immediately successful in reclaiming Jerusalem, but would eventually lose it to the great Muslim leader, **Saladin**.
 - Overall, Crusades seen as unsuccessful

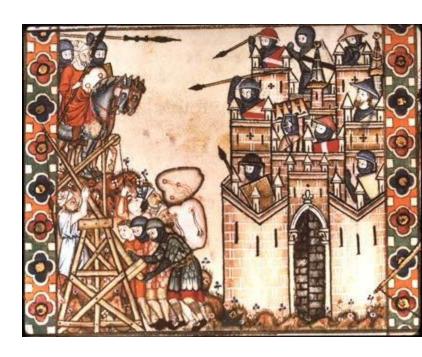
Motives

- Reclaim Holy Land, reunite Christendom (east/west)
- Remove "undesirables" from society
- Profits merchants made money off of loans, sales of goods, prospect of opening new trade routes
- A guaranteed spot in heaven, all sins forgiven if died in battle

B. Effects of Crusades

- Expanded trade between Europe and Asia
- Weakened the power of the pope, increased power of kings
 - People were upset with the Church after Crusades seen as unsuccessful
- Legacy of intolerance/prejudice between Christians and Muslims
- Increased persecution of Jews in Europe
- Women in position of authority
 - had a chance to run estates





X. Leaving the "Dark Ages" – 13th-14th Centuries

- C. Rapid population growth causes problems
 - Agricultural techniques can't keep up famine and starvation
- Black Death
 - Series of plagues, beginning in 1348 severe decrease in population (at least 1/3, perhaps 2/3)
 - Resulted in increase of peasant rights, decline of feudalism
- Growth of professional armies/weapon technologies strengthen kings/emerging nations
- Slow development of arts and secular thinking eventually paves way for Renaissance (thanks to the Byzantines and Muslims)