

# Chapter 8: The Rise of Europe (500-1300)

# The Early Middle Ages

- Why was Western Europe a frontier land during the early Middle Ages?
- How did Germanic kingdoms gain power in the early Middle Ages?
- How did Charlemagne briefly reunite much of Western Europe?

# The Early Middle Ages

- From about 500 to 1000, Europe was a frontier land, a sparsely populated, undeveloped area on the outskirts of civilization.
- During this time, Europe was cut off from advanced civilizations in the Middle East, China, and India.
- Eventually, a new European civilization emerged that blended Greco-Roman, Germanic, and Christian traditions.



# Invasions of Europe, 700–1000



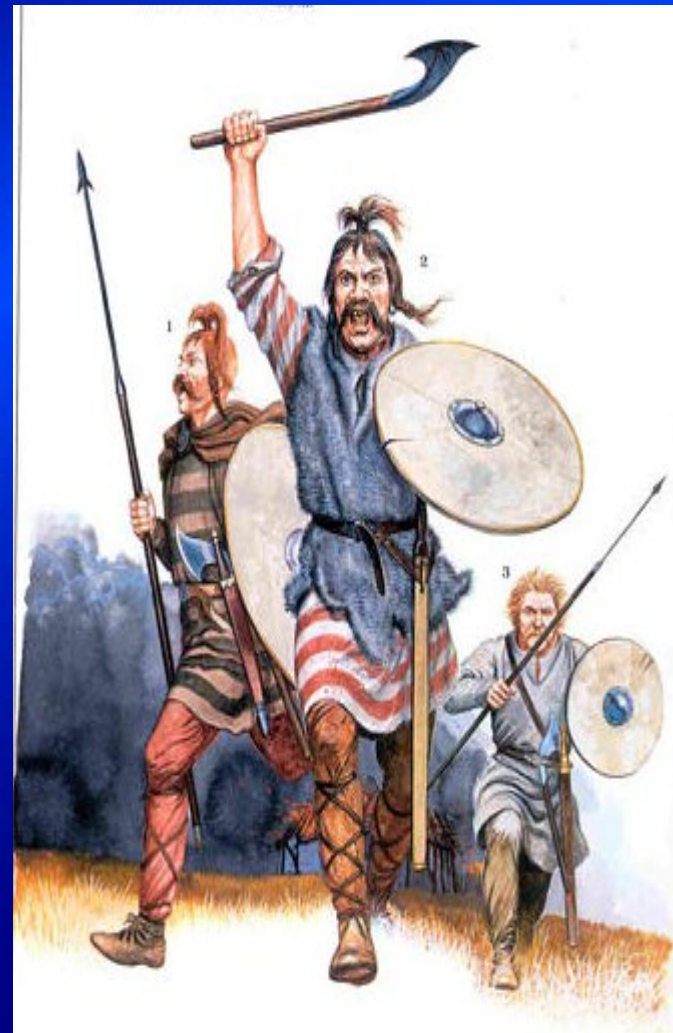
# The Germanic Kingdoms

After the fall of Rome, Germanic tribes divided Western Europe into many small kingdoms.

The Germanic peoples

- were farmers and herders.
- had no cities or written laws.
- elected kings to lead them in war.
- rewarded warrior nobles who swore loyalty to the king with weapons and loot.

The **Franks** were the strongest of the Germanic tribes. **Clovis**, king of the Franks, conquered *Gaul* and then converted to Christianity, the religion of the people in Gaul. By doing so, he gained a powerful ally in the Christian Church of Rome.



# The Empire of Charlemagne

Charlemagne helped Pope Leo III by crushing a rebellion in Rome.

In gratitude, the pope crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Romans.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

By crowning a Germanic king successor to the Roman emperors, the pope revived the ideal of a united Christian community.

This action laid the ground for struggles between future Roman Catholic popes and German emperors.



# The Age of Charlemagne

Charlemagne tried to exercise control over his empire and create a united Christian Europe. He helped spread Christianity to the conquered people on the fringes of the empire.

Charlemagne revived Latin learning in his empire and strived to create a “second Rome.”

# Section 1 Assessment

**Which group invaded Spain?**

- a) Franks
- b) Vikings
- c) Muslims
- d) Magyars

**The Germanic invaders of Europe**

- a) built elaborate cities and temples.
- b) had no written laws.
- c) sought to destroy the Christian church.
- d) wanted to preserve the Roman empire.



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# Feudalism and the Manor Economy

- How did feudalism shape medieval society?
- What was feudal life like for nobles and peasants?
- What was the basis of the manor economy?

# The Emergence of Feudalism

In the face of invasions by Vikings, Muslims, and Magyars, kings and emperors were too weak to maintain law and order.

In response to this need for protection, a new political and social system called feudalism evolved.

**Feudalism** was a loosely organized system of rule in which powerful local lords divided their landholdings among lesser lords. In exchange, lesser lords, or vassals, pledged military service and loyalty to the greater lord.

**Fief** – estate granted to a vassal

# Peasants and Nobles



| PEASANTS  | NOBLES   |
|---|--|
| <p><u><b>Serfs</b></u> were bound to the <u>land</u>. They were not slaves, yet they were not free.</p> <p><u>Serfs</u> made up the <u>majority of the population in medieval society</u>.</p> <p><u>Life was very harsh</u>.</p> | <p>Warfare was a way of life.</p> <p>Many <u>trained from boyhood to be <b>knights</b>, or mounted warriors</u>.</p> <p><u>(trained to be brave, loyal, and true)</u></p> <p><u><b>Chivalry</b> – code of conduct of knights</u></p> |

# The Manor Economy

The manor, or lord's estate, was the heart of the medieval economy. Based on farming and self-sufficiency.

Peasants and lords were bound by mutual obligation.

The peasant worked for the lord.

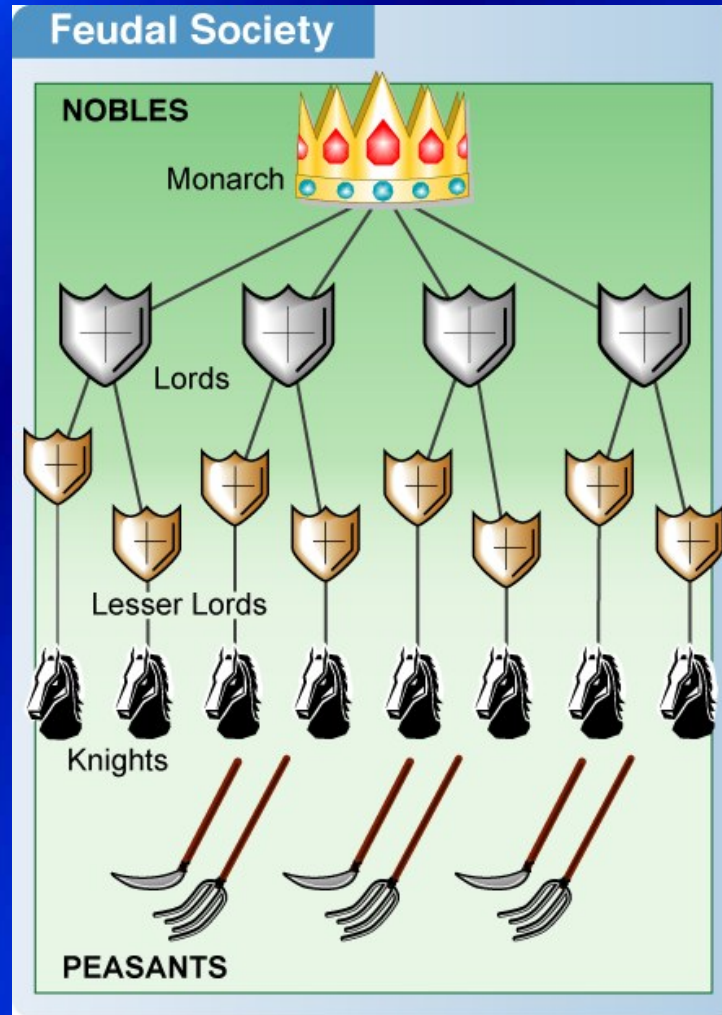
In exchange, the peasant received protection and a small amount of land to farm.



# Feudal Society



Under the feudal system, everyone had a well-defined place in society.



# Section 2 Assessment



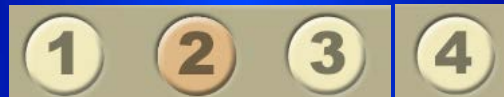
Lesser lords who pledged service to the greater lords were called

- a) serfs.
- b) vassals.
- c) nobles.
- d) peasants.

The heart of the medieval economy was

- a) the village.
- b) the marketplace.
- c) the castle.
- d) the manor.

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# Section 2 Assessment



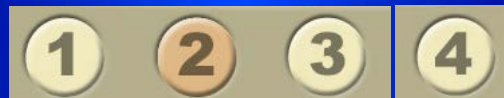
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# Bell work

- Finish up anything you need to for your feudal contract. We will start presenting these at 12:40. Then we are going to take notes.
  
- QUIZ ON FRIDAY!

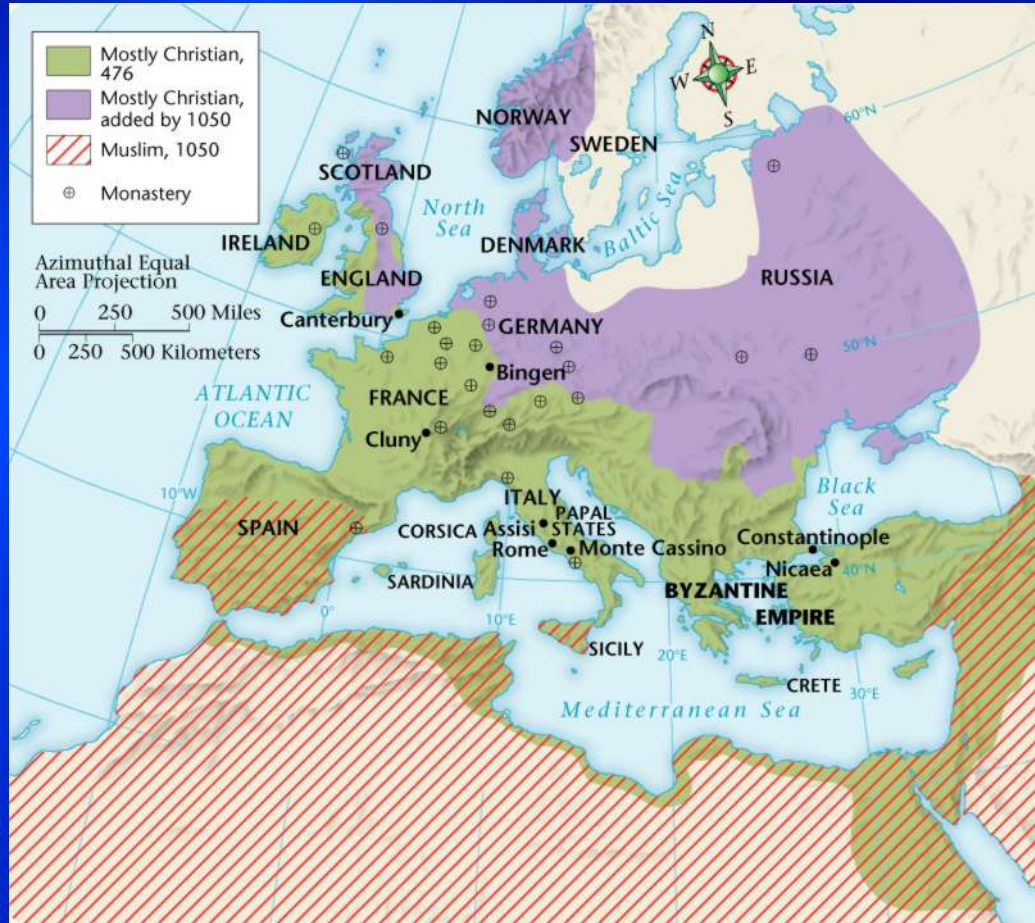
# The Medieval Church



- How did the Church and its monks and nuns shape medieval life?
- How did the power of the Church grow?
- How did reformers work for change in the Church?
- What problems did Jewish communities face?



# Spread of Christianity in Europe

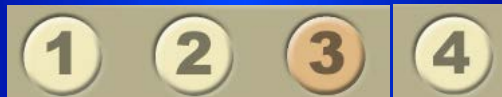


# The Church and Medieval Life



The Church's teachings and practices shaped the lives of the people of Europe.

- The church was a social center as well as a place of worship.
- Christian rituals and faith were part of the fabric of everyday life.
- Priests guided people on issues of values and morality.
- Monks and nuns cared for the poor and sick, set up schools for children, and gave food and lodging to travelers.



# The Power of the Church Grows



In the centuries after the fall of Rome, the Church became the most powerful secular, or worldly, force in medieval Europe.

- Medieval popes began to claim **papal supremacy**, or authority over all secular rulers.
- The medieval Church developed its own body of laws, known as **canon law**, as well as its own courts. Anyone who disobeyed canon law faced a range of penalties.
- The Church also had absolute power in religious matters.
- **Tithe** – Tax the Church required Christians to pay



# Reform Movements



## *The success of the Church brought problems:*

- As Church wealth and power grew, discipline weakened.
- Some clergy ignored their vows and lived in luxury.
- Some priests focused more on family than on Church duties.

## **A number of reform movements spread across Europe:**

- Abbot Berno of Cluny revived the Benedictine Rule, under which monks and nuns took vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity.
- Pope Gregory VII outlawed marriage for priests and prohibited simony, the selling of Church offices.
- Frances of Assisi set up the Franciscan order to teach poverty, humility, and love of God.
- Dominic set up the Dominican order to teach official Roman Catholic beliefs.



# Jews in Europe



Jewish communities existed across Europe.

In hard times, Christians persecuted the Jews, blaming them for economic problems, illness, and disasters.

Prejudice against Jews is called **antisemitism**.

In response to growing persecution, thousands of Jews migrated from Western to Eastern Europe.



# Section 3 Assessment



**What were the three vows of the Benedictine Rule?**

- a) obedience, poverty, and humility
- b) obedience, poverty, and hard work
- c) humility, poverty, and chastity
- d) obedience, poverty, and chastity

**Why did many Jews migrate from Western to Eastern Europe?**

- a) to escape persecution they faced in Western Europe
- b) to escape from Muslim invaders
- c) to join large communities of Jews already established in Eastern Europe
- d) to search for better farming conditions

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# Section 3 Assessment



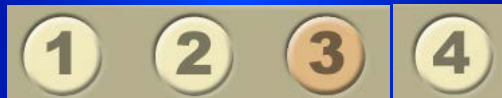
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# Bell Work

- What kinds of problems arose because of the success of the Church?

# Economic Expansion and Change



- How did new technologies spark an agricultural revolution?
- How did the revival of trade revolutionize commerce?
- How were guilds linked to the rise of towns and cities?



# Agricultural Revolution



## New farming technologies

iron plow      harness      windmill      three-field system

## Increase in food production

## Population explosion

Between 1000 and 1300, the population of Europe doubled.

1

2

3

4

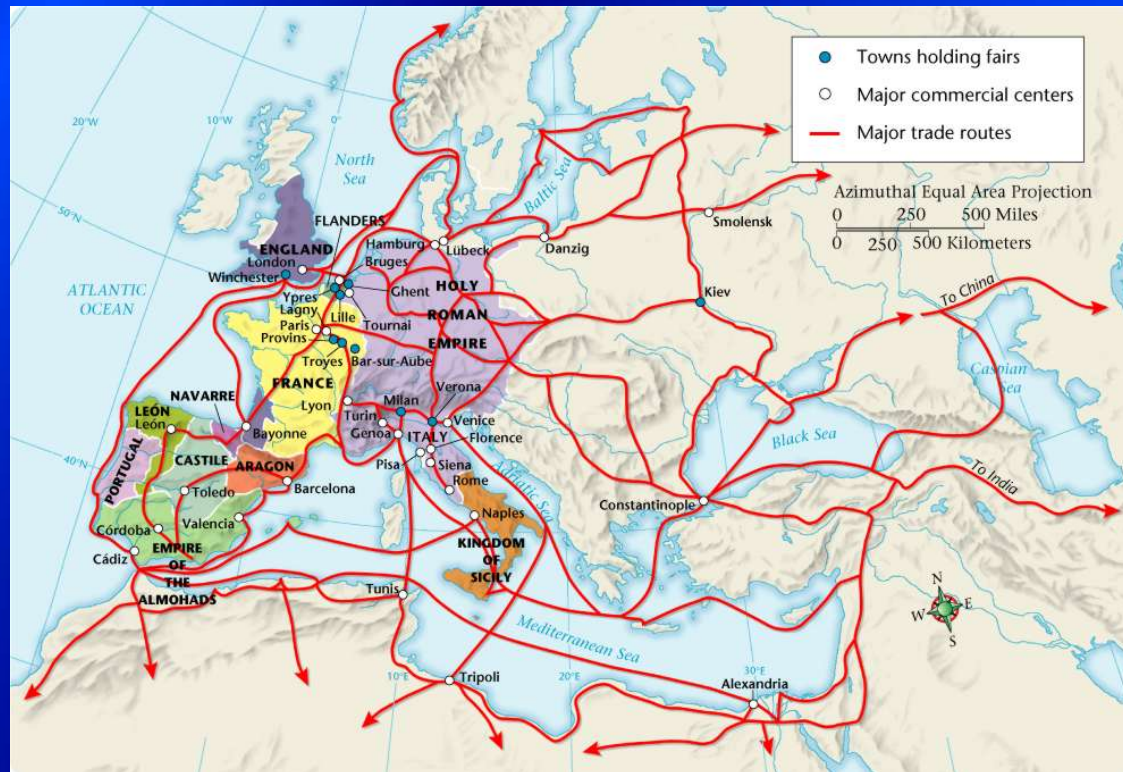


# Trade in Medieval Europe, 1000–1300



Europe's growing population needed goods that were not available to them.

As foreign invasions and feudal warfare declined, trade increased.



1

2

3

4



# A Commercial Revolution

The revival of trade led to a revolution in commerce.

As trade revived, merchants needed money to buy goods. The reintroduction of money led European merchants to develop new business practices, such as

- setting up banks
- joining together to set up **partnerships**
- developing insurance
- adopting the **bill of exchange**

# Social Changes



The commercial revolution not only transformed the medieval economy, it also reshaped medieval society.

The use of money undermined serfdom. Most peasants became tenant farmers or hired farm laborers.

In towns, a new middle class of merchants, traders, and artisans emerged. Trade became most important economic activity.

The Church forbade Christians from becoming moneylenders. Since Jews were barred from other professions, many took on this role.



# Guilds



In medieval towns, merchants and artisans formed associations called **guilds**.

Merchant guilds appeared first. They dominated town life, passing laws, levying taxes, and making other important decisions.

A craft guild was made up of workers in a particular occupation. To prevent competition, only a certain number of people could work in any trade.

Becoming a guild member involved many years of hard work.

**Apprentice** – learns trade from master





# Section 4 Assessment



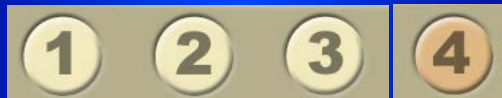
One effect of the agricultural revolution was that

- a) the population of Europe decreased.
- b) the population of Europe doubled.
- c) the population of Europe remained the same.
- d) the population of Europe tripled.

Which of the following was *not* part of the medieval commercial revolution?

- a) banking
- b) Partnerships
- c) Insurance
- d) three-field system

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