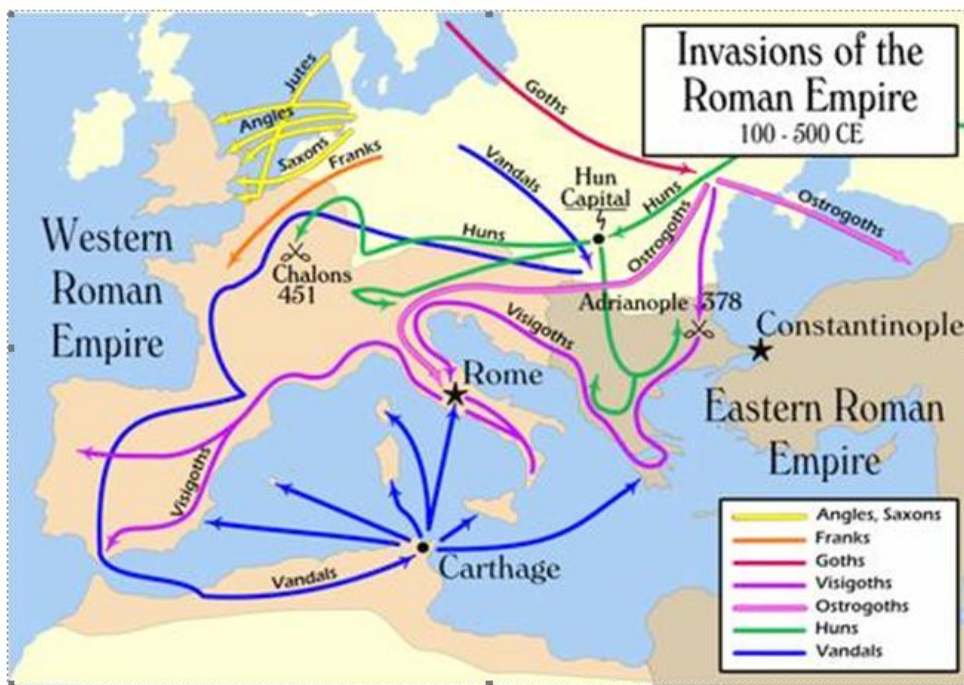


Feudalism: Governance in Medieval Europe

DBQ Analysis

By the end of this section, students should:

1. explain why feudalism emerged as a social and governance structure in Europe
2. explain how feudalism functioned
3. describe how feudalism influenced the lives and worldview of groups within society (nobility clergy, peasants)



Document 1A: The Fall of Rome

Primary Source 1B

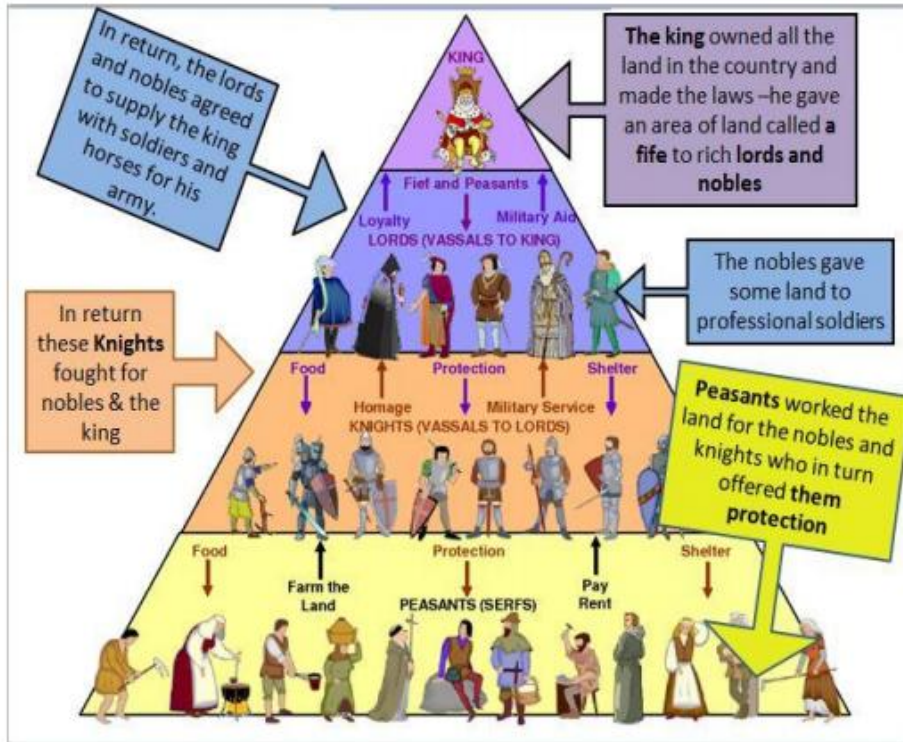
Source: Salvian, *Romans and Barbarians*, c. 440 A.D. In James Harvey Robinson, ed., *Readings in European History: Vol. I:* (Boston:: Ginn and co., 1904), 28-30

[The Romans oppress each other with fees and exactions]...for the many are oppressed by the few, who regard public exactions as their own peculiar right, who carry on private [money making] under the guise of collecting the taxes.

[the state has fallen upon such evil days that a man cannot be safe unless he is wicked]. Even those in a position to protest against the [unfairness] which they see about them dare not speak lest they make matters worse than before. So the poor are despoiled, the widows sigh, the orphans are oppressed, until many of them, born of families not obscure, and liberally educated, flee to our enemies that they may no longer suffer the oppression of public persecution...And although they differ from the people to whom they flee in manner and in language; although they are unlike as regards the fetid odor of the barbarians' bodies and garments, yet they would rather endure a foreign civilization among the barbarians than cruel injustice among the Romans.

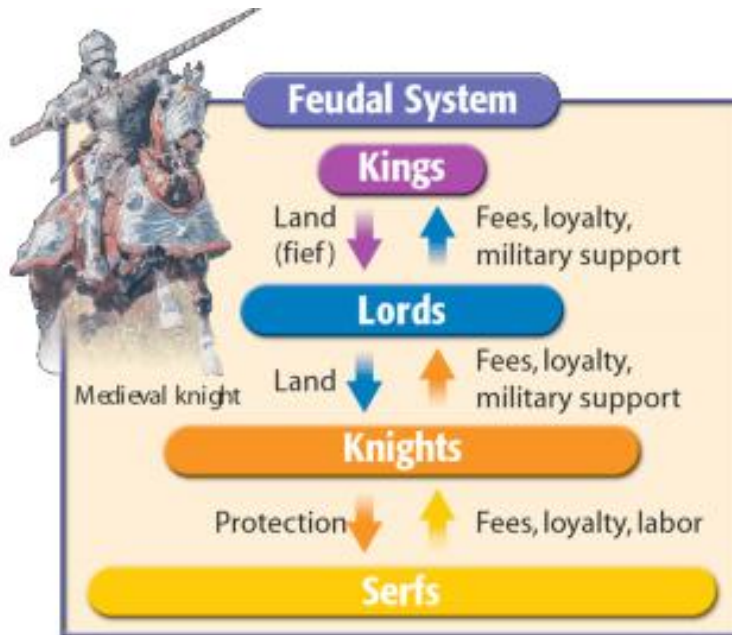
Feudalism was a political, economic, and social system in which nobles were granted the use of land that legally belonged to the king. In return, the nobles agreed to give their loyalty and military service to the king. The peasants, or serfs, worked the land for the knights and the higher nobles and in return they received protection and a portion of the harvest to feed their families.

Document 3: The structure of feudal society - a social, political, and economic hierarchy



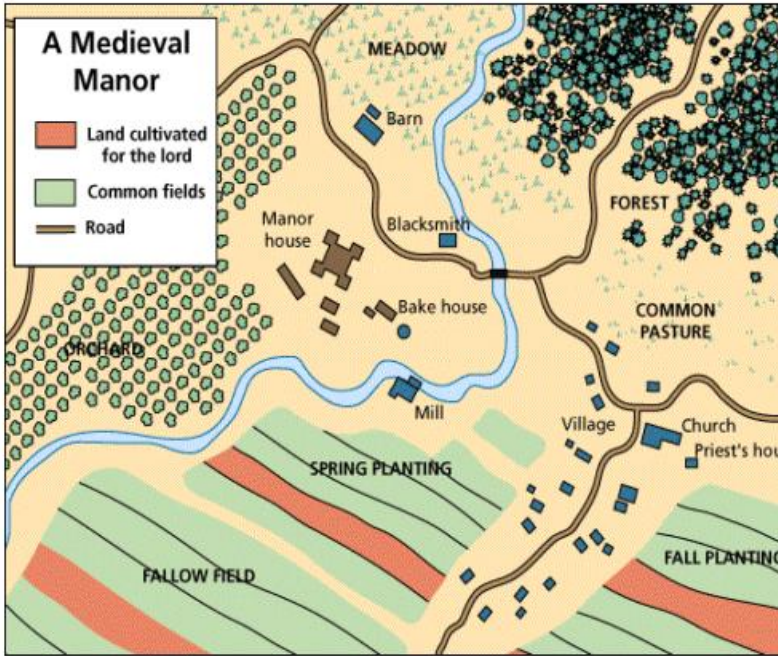
How did feudalism provide for the security of the people of medieval Europe?

Document 4: The Feudal System



Explain the mutual obligations as illustrated in this diagram

Document 5: Manorialism



The Manor was the economic side of feudalism. The manor was a mostly self-sufficient system in which the lord's land (granted by the king) was farmed by his serfs (bound to the land). The manor included not just farmers, but also artisans who provided for the needs of the manor, a chapel, forests for hunting, and pasture land for farm animals.

For the majority of Europeans, life was hard. Serfs, or peasants obligated to work the lord's land, had very few freedoms. In return for labouring 6 days a week, they were granted only one day a week to farm to feed their own family. They often also had to pay high rents to use the lord's land. There was no alternative, since peasant's needed the lord's protection from raiding invaders

How was manorialism different from feudalism?

Based on this diagram, state one economic characteristic of the medieval manor. What is being done for trade, or to make money?

Document 6: Tenants on a manor owed services to their lord. Some of these services are listed:

. . . To carry manure for two days, with a cart and two oxen, receiving food as before [3 meals each day];
To find a man to mow for two days receiving food as above; it is estimated that he can mow 1 1/2 acres in the two days;
To gather and lift the hay so mown, receiving 2 meals for one man;
To carry the lord's hay for one day with a cart and three of the tenant's own beasts, receiving 3 meals as before;
To carry beans or oats for two days in the autumn, and wood for two days in the summer, in the same manner and with the same food as before; . . .

Source: S. R. Scargill-Bird, ed., Customs of Battle Abbey in the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II (1283-1312), The Camden Society (adapted)

Based on the source, state one benefit the lord received under manorialism.

Based on the source, state one benefit the peasant received under manorialism

Document 7: The Medieval Church

The role of the Church was very large in Medieval Europe. More than any other institution, it unified Europeans and gave every person a sense of how the world worked. Since political leaders only had local power, the Church was the most powerful institution. This source

The Roman Catholic Church was the single, largest unifying structure in medieval Europe. It touched everyone's life, no matter what their rank or class or where they lived. With the exception of a small number of Jews, everyone in Europe was a Christian during the Middle Ages from the richest king down to the lowest serf.

From the moment of its baptism a few days after birth, a child entered into a life of service to God and God's Church. As a child grew, it would be taught basic prayers, would go to church every week barring illness, and would learn of its responsibilities to the Church. Every person was required to live by the Church's laws and to pay heavy taxes to support the Church. In return for this, they were shown the way to everlasting life and happiness after lives that were often short and hard.

In addition to collecting taxes, the Church also accepted gifts of all kinds from individuals who wanted special favors or wanted to be certain of a place in heaven. These gifts included land, flocks, crops, and even serfs. This allowed the Church to become very powerful, and it often used this power to influence kings to do as it wanted.

describes the multiple roles the Church played in the Middle Ages.

What is the role of the Church during the Middle Ages?

Document 8: Medieval Social Classes....Cleric, Knight, and Peasant



What does this painting tell us about the three predominant social classes of the Medieval Ages?

What does this painting tell us about the three predominant social classes of the Middle Ages?
