

The Rise of Europe

500 - 1300



Chapter 8 ~ Western Civilizations I - G

The Early Middle Ages



Chapter 8, Section 1

Geography of Western Europe

- Much was frontier land – small population, undeveloped land
- Large forests
- Plentiful farmland
- Close to the sea for fishing and trade
- Rivers good for travel and trade



The Germanic Kingdoms

- Most groups were farmers and herders
- Had no cities or law codes
- Lived in small communities with strong customs
- Warriors swore loyalty to their kings in return for weapons and money

The Franks

- The strongest Germanic kingdom
- Located in Gaul - modern-day France
- In 500, King Clovis converted to Christianity
 - Earned support of people living in Gaul
 - Became strong ally of the Church



The Franks vs. The Muslims

- Muslim warriors had expanded across Africa and into Spain
- Battle of Tours (622)
 - Franks and Muslims fought for control of Europe
 - The Franks won, led by Charles Martel
 - This preserved Christianity across Europe

The Age of Charlemagne

- Ruled the Franks from 768-814
- Tried to unite Europe under one ruler, linked closely with the Church
- Appointed loyal nobles to govern regions, but spied on them to make sure justice was served
- Emphasis on education – built a school to teach many subjects and preserve Classical writings

Charlemagne's Legacy

- His empire was divided into 3 parts after his death and did not last for long
- Expanded Christianity to Northern Europe
- Blended Germanic, Roman, Christian traditions
- Established strong, efficient governments

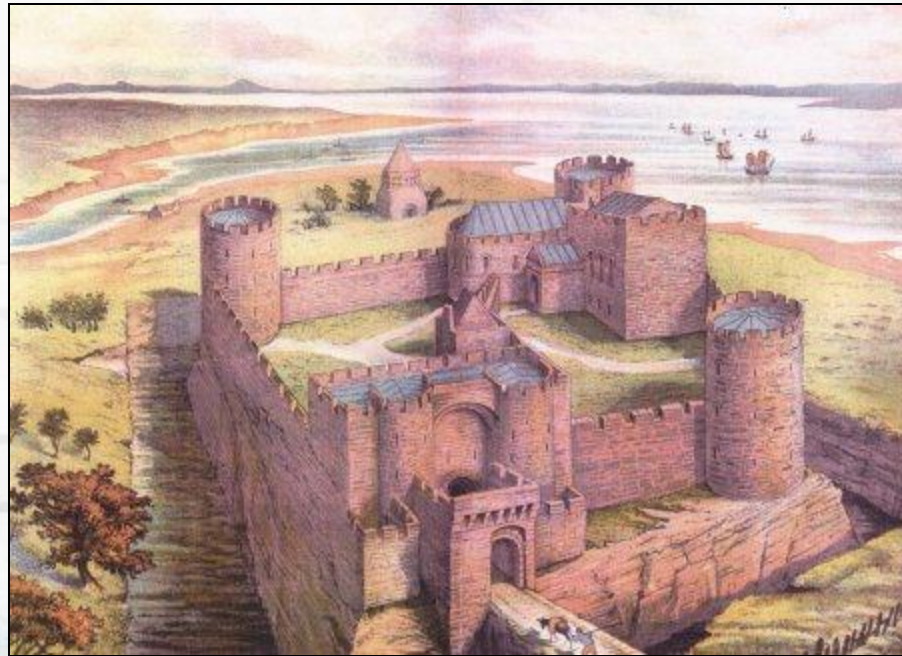


New Invasions

- The Vikings in Northern Europe were becoming powerful
 - Good sailors
 - Raided and stole to obtain goods
 - Explored much of Europe and North Atlantic
 - Set up many trade routes



Feudalism & the Manor Economy



Chapter 8, Section 2

Emergence of Feudalism

- A system of government that began as a way to offer protection to the powerless
- Feudalism – powerful lords divide land among lesser lords who pledge service and loyalty in return
- Vassals – lesser lords who promise to fight for and protect nobles they have pledged loyalty to

Mutual Obligations

- Feudal Contracts established the relationship between lords and vassals
- Fief - the land that was granted to a vassal, included peasants (serfs) who worked the land
- Lord promised to protect vassal and give him land
- Vassal promised to be loyal, provide 40 days of military service each year, and pay taxes

Knights

- Knights are mounted warriors and nobles
- Training is difficult and lasts many years
- Once knighted, he pledges loyalty to a lord
- When warfare declined, knights practiced their skills in tournaments (pretend battles and jousting)



Castles

- Large, well defended buildings meant to protect the land
- Most fighting during this period was one group trying to seize someone else's castle
- Food and water was stored in case of a long siege



Noblewomen

- Often ran the fief when her husband was away
- Limited rights but sometimes received land
- Received training on how to run the household and be a noblewoman



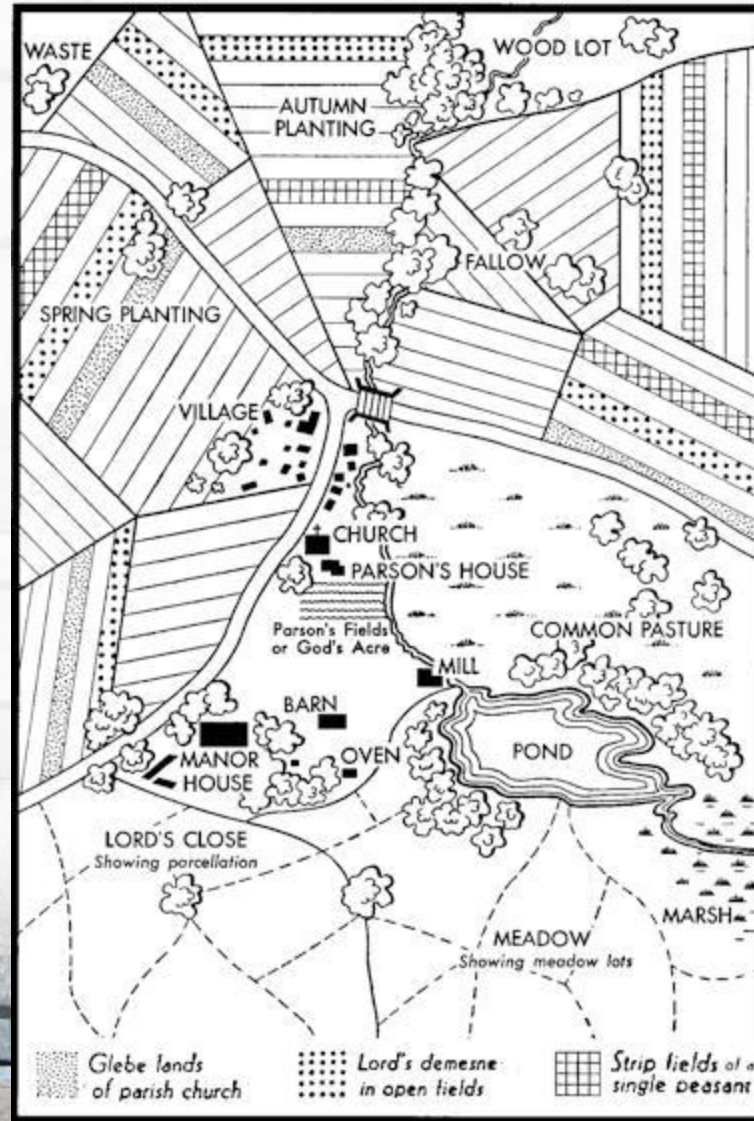
Chivalry

- Code of Chivalry demanded that all knights be:
 - Brave, loyal, and true
 - Fight fairly in war
 - Treat captured knights well
 - Protect and cherish women
- Applied only to nobles
- Was the basis for idea of Romantic Love

Peasant & Manor Life

- Manor (or Fief) – the estate controlled by the lord
- Manors had a village and surrounding lands
- Peasants made up the majority of the people on a manor
- Serfs – peasants bound to the land, couldn't leave
- Manors were self-sufficient – they produced everything they needed to live

A Fief



More Mutual Obligations

- Peasants had to work for their lord several days a week (farming, maintaining equipment, etc.), pay special fees to use facilities, pay taxes
- Could farm land for themselves
- Lords had to protect peasants during wartime, make sure they had food and housing
- Payment was usually in grain, animals, etc.

Peasant Life

- Difficult life – long hours of work, all members of the family worked
- Very basic diet, little meat
- Animals often stayed in the hut at night to stay warm
- Different jobs depending on the season
- Most died by age 35



The Medieval Church



Chapter 8, Section 3

The Parish Priest

- The link between Christianity and the villagers
- Conducted church services and celebrations
- Taught the teachings of the Church and Bible
- Provided advice to villagers
- Helped the poor and the needy



The Village Church

- Center of worship for the community
- A social center and meeting place
- Served as the village school
- Christians paid a tithe – 10% income tax to the Church to help support it



Church Views of Women

- Men and women were equal before God
- On Earth, women were weak and needed the guidance of men
- Women should behave like Mary – modest and pure
- Protections for women – minimum age to marry, fined men who seriously injured wives

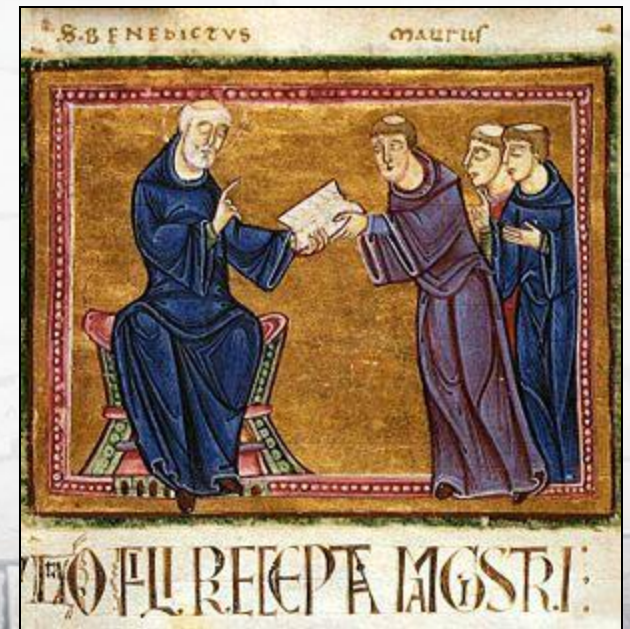
Monks and Nuns

- Men (monks) and women (nuns) who devoted their lives to spiritual goals
- Monasteries and Convents provided medical care and schooling, provided lodging for travelers
- Preserved the writings from ancient times by copying them over



Benedictine Rule

- Rules that regulated life in a monastery:
 - Obedience to the abbot (monk in charge)
 - Vows of poverty
 - Vows of chastity or purity
 - Days were filled with prayer, work, and study



Growing Power of the Church

- Most powerful religious and non-religious organization in Europe
- Pope (leader of the Church) claimed papal supremacy – authority over all other rulers
- Controlled large amounts of land
- Peace of God – periods of peace when feudal kingdoms stopped fighting with each other

Religious Law

- The Church had its own laws and courts
- Canon Law – applied to religious teachings, clergy, marriages, and morals
- Penalties for breaking laws included excommunication (being kicked out of the Church)



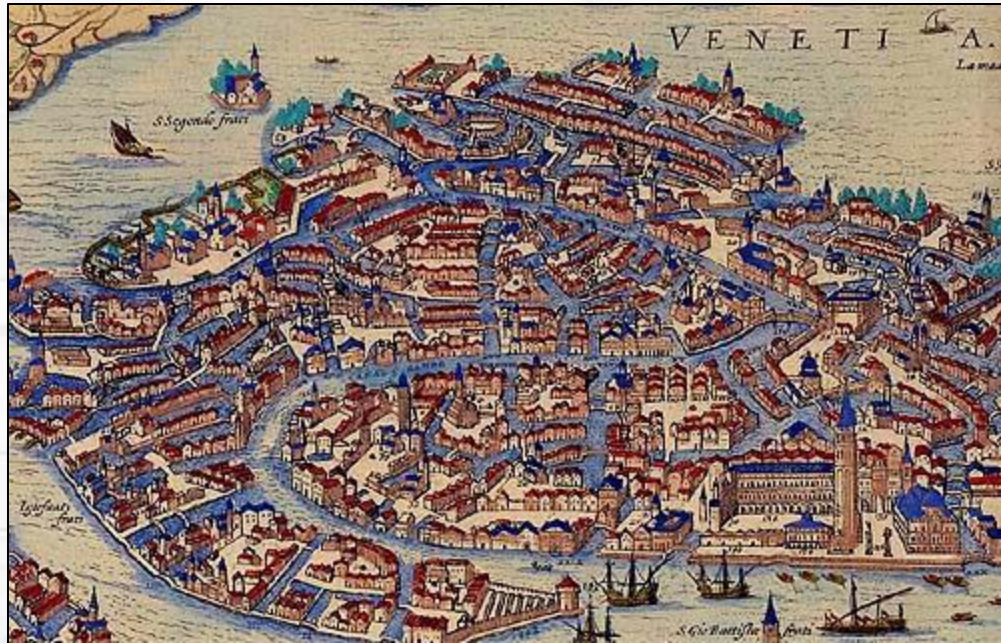
Reform Movements

- As the Church grew larger and wealthier, some clergy became less disciplined
- Cluniac Reforms – Made stricter rules for clergy to live by to re-devote themselves to the Church
 - Clergy could not get married
 - Church offices could be bought/sold
- Friars – monks who traveled around to preach to the poor

Jews in Europe

- Judaism flourished in Spain, where Muslim rulers allowed them to practice their religion
- Persecution against Jews in Western Europe increased around 1000
 - Forbidden from owning land and holding many jobs
 - Anti-Semitism increased – Jews were blamed when the economy was bad, famine and disease killed people, natural disasters occurred, etc.
 - Many moved to Eastern Europe

Economic Expansion and Change



Chapter 8, Section 4

Agricultural Revolution

New Technology:

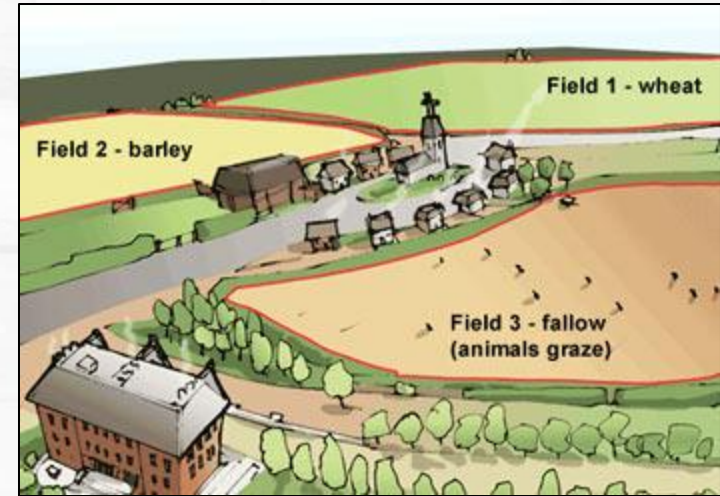
- Iron plows made farming easier
- Harnesses allowed fast-moving horses to be used to pull plows, which led to larger amounts of land being farmed
- Windmills and watermills were used to grind grain into flour



Agricultural Revolution

Expanding Production

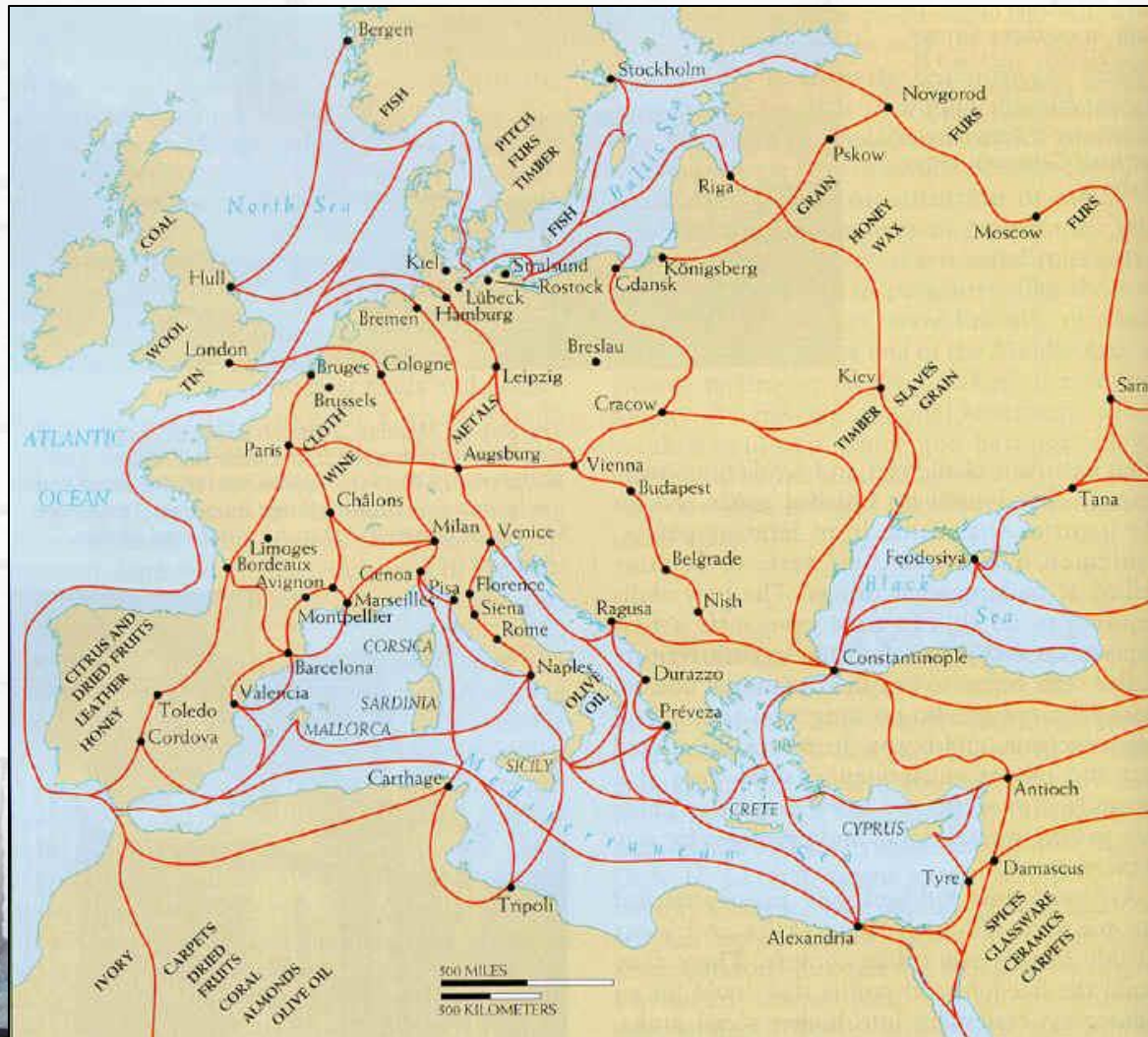
- Farmland was created by draining swamps and clearing forests
- Three-Field System
 - Two fields were planted and one was left unplanted
 - This allowed for more types of crops and allowed the soil to be replenished
- Improvements led to larger food supply, which led to increased population



New Trade Routes

- As the population grew and warfare declined, trade increased
- Europeans traded with people in Asia and the Middle East
- Constantinople, Venice, and Flanders were important trade centers

New Trade Routes



Trade Fairs & Towns

- People came to yearly trade fairs to buy and sell goods
- Towns grew around large trade fairs
- Towns were granted charters from the king – this gave them some independence in exchange for large payments
 - Towns could choose their leaders and make their own rules



Commercial Revolution

- With the return of trade, money was reintroduced to the economy
- Merchants came together to form business partnerships
- Insurance protected businesses from loss
- Banking protected merchants from thieves

Social Changes

- Peasants began to pay rent in money and were no longer tied to the manor – feudalism begins to end
- A Middle Class of merchants, traders, and artisans formed
- Nobles and Clergy resented the middle class
- Christians were forbidden from working as bankers so Jews held this job, which led to increased persecution

Guilds

- An association of merchants or craftspeople who do the same jobs
- Worked to protect themselves
 - Regulated prices
 - Set rules to ensure good quality of work
 - Provided services to its members – medical, education, etc
- Similar to modern unions



Becoming a Guild Member

- Apprentice
 - Worked with a craftsman to learn the basics of the trade, began as a child, received no pay
- Journeyman
 - Salaried worker who was employed by a master craftsman
- Master Craftsman
 - A guild member who has mastered his craft and can open his own shop

Women and Guilds

- Women usually worked in the same craft as her husband or father
- Could inherit shop
- Rarely became guild members except in industries dominated by women (silk, papermaking, ribbon-making)



Town and City Life

- Cities had narrow streets with tall houses
- A large cathedral might be in the center
- Cities were dangerous at night
- Fire was a common threat
- There was no sewer system or garbage collection, so they were very dirty and smelly

