

CHAPTER
8

The Rise of Europe (500-1300)

SECTION I

THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

TEXT SUMMARY

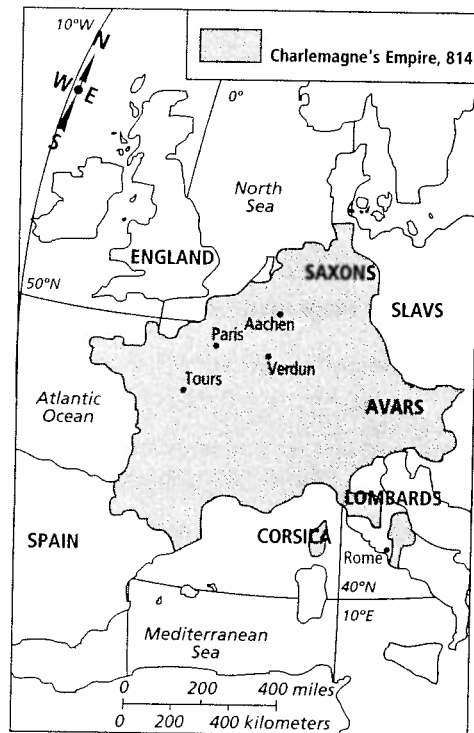
The Middle Ages, or **medieval** period, lasted from about 500 to 1500. During this time, Europe was cut off from the world. Population decreased and towns emptied. Trade almost ended. Learning stopped. Still, Europe did have fertile soil and many resources. Seas and rivers provided fish and transportation.

The years between 400 and 700 were frightening. Invaders such as the Huns, the Avars, and the Germanic tribes destroyed communities in Europe. (See Chapter 6, Section 5.) The Germanic people were warriors, farmers, and herders. They had no cities and no written laws. The strongest tribe, the Franks, formed an alliance with the Roman Catholic Church. A new force, Islam, swept out of the Middle East and into the Mediterranean region. Muslims captured Spain and Sicily. Many Christians feared the Muslims. However, Europeans did learn about science and mathematics from the Muslims.

Around 800, a Frankish king, Charlemagne, built a large empire. The pope crowned Charlemagne emperor. (See diagram at right.) Charlemagne wanted his capital to be like Rome. He encouraged Latin learning throughout his empire. He set up schools, even though he himself could not write. He helped the

Church spread Christianity. Charlemagne blended Germanic, Roman, and Christian ideas.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Charlemagne's Empire



Charlemagne's conquests nearly doubled Frankish territory.

THE BIG IDEA

The early Middle Ages was a time of conflict in Europe.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are two ways that Charlemagne blended Germanic, Christian, and Roman cultures?
2. **Map Skills** Name three bodies of water that bordered Charlemagne's empire.

FEUDALISM AND THE MANOR ECONOMY

TEXT SUMMARY

During the Middle Ages, kings were not strong enough to stop invasions by outsiders. People needed protection. A new system, called **feudalism**, developed. In feudal society, powerful lords owned large pieces of land. They divided their land into estates called **fiefs**. Fiefs were given to less powerful lords, called **vassals**. The vassal promised loyalty and service to his lord. The lord promised to protect his vassal.

The noblewoman had an important place in medieval society. She was trained to run a household. Although she probably could not read, she might serve as doctor. When her husband or father was away fighting, the noblewoman took over his duties. Sometimes she even went to

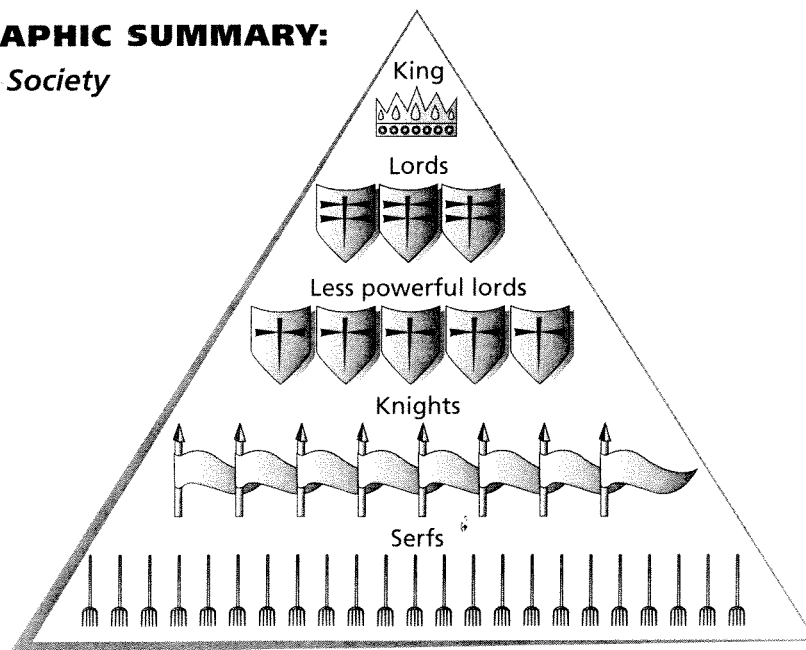
war to protect her home. Some noble women got involved in politics. Eleanor of Aquitaine became queen of both France and England.

The medieval economy was based on the **manor**, or lord's estate. Peasants lived and worked on the manor. Most people were peasants or **serfs**. Serfs were not slaves, but they had to stay and work on the land. They farmed for the lord and repaired roads. The lord charged them fees for grinding wheat, inheriting land, or marrying. In exchange, they received a small amount of land to farm. They also received their lord's protection from Viking raids or feudal warfare.

THE BIG IDEA

A new political and social system, feudalism, controlled medieval life.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Feudal Society



Under feudalism, the roles of people were determined by their places in society.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why was the noblewoman important in medieval society?
2. **Diagram Skills** Which group was at the bottom of feudal society?

TEXT SUMMARY

After the fall of Rome, the Christian Church split into eastern and western churches. The western church became the Roman Catholic Church. It was headed by the pope. The pope also claimed to have authority over **secular**, or nonreligious, rulers.

important role in daily life for peasants. Besides providing religious services, it was a social center.

Some Christians became nuns or monks. They spent their lives serving God. Nuns and monks did important work. They cared for sick and poor people. They preserved learning and set up schools for children. These religious people provided food and shelter to travelers. Some were missionaries.

As the Church became rich and powerful, it began to have problems. Some church leaders ignored their vows. Priests paid less attention to religion. Growing corruption caused people such as Abbot Berno and St. Dominic to work to reform the Church.

THE BIG IDEA

The Roman Catholic Church played a vital role in medieval life.

Religion was an important part of medieval life. The Church had absolute power over Christians. A person who did not obey the rules of the Church could be **excommunicated**, or cut off from the Church. People shunned an excommunicated person. Church officials were the only educated people. Rulers often needed them as advisors. The church played an

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *The Medieval Church*

Everyday Life

- Christians attend village churches.
- Some priests run schools in village churches.
- All Christians pay taxes to the Church.

Power of Church

- Pope leads Roman Catholic Church.
- Church has its own laws and courts.
- Church excommunicates those who do not obey rules.

Nuns and Monks

- Some set up housing, hospitals, and schools for the sick and poor.
- Some become missionaries.
- Some preserve learning.

Reform

- Church becomes rich and powerful.
- Some clergy become corrupt.
- Reformers try to make changes.

The Church had both spiritual and secular power.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What happened to a person who did not obey Church rules?

2. **Diagram Skills** What important work did nuns and monks do?

ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND CHANGE

TEXT SUMMARY

Around 1000, life began to improve in Europe. The period from 1000 to 1300 is called the High Middle Ages.

By 800, farmers started using new inventions. Among these were the iron plow, the harness, and the windmill. Peasants began to use the three-field system to keep the soil fertile. These changes contributed to an agricultural revolution. Farmers were able to produce more food. With more food available, the population of Europe doubled.

During the High Middle Ages, the economy of Europe grew stronger. As the population grew, people began to trade again. Merchants set up fairs. These meeting places grew into towns and cities. As trade

increased, people developed new ways of doing business. They began using money.

They developed banks for lending. These and other changes were part of a **commercial**, or business, revolution.

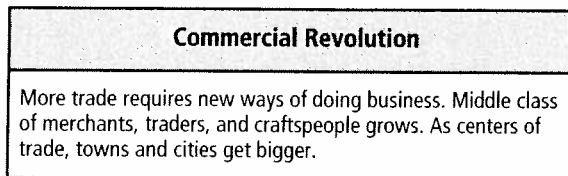
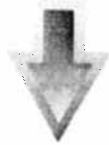
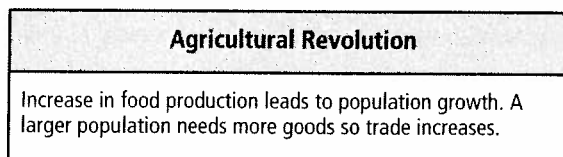
Medieval society also changed. A new middle class emerged. It included traders, merchants, and artisans. Artists formed **guilds**, or associations, to keep the quality of work high. Fewer people were serfs.

Instead, peasants rented the land they farmed. As cities grew bigger, they became noisy, crowded, and filthy. Still, cities continued to attract new people.

THE BIG IDEA

During the High Middle Ages, Europe's economy grew. Cities and towns expanded, and a middle class arose.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *Changes During the High Middle Ages*



The growth of towns and the agricultural revolution transformed the way that people lived.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were two ways in which medieval society changed?

2. **Chart Skills** Which revolution directly caused the growth of the middle class?