

Medieval Society, 950–1100

- I. Europe 1000-1100
 - a. Europe in 1000 unstable
 - b. A Catholic European world emerges
 - i. Expansion of European commerce
 - ii. Urbanization
 - iii. Economic growth
 - iv. More powerful governments
 - v. Social stratification
- II. The Medieval Agricultural Revolution
 - a. Transformations
 - i. Technological innovation
 - ii. Improved climate
 - iii. New crop-rotation system
 - iv. Investment in tools, livestock, and mills
 - v. Technological advances
 1. Heavy-wheeled plow, horse collars, and harnesses
 2. Better aeration of the soil
 3. Saved labor
 4. Iron horseshoes, the tandem harness, and iron hand tools
 - b. Mills
 - i. After 1050, a craze in northern European water mills
 - ii. Windmills introduced in the 1170s
 - iii. Greater security as Viking, Hungarian, and Muslim attacks decreased
 - iv. Growing confidence of entrepreneurial peasants and lords
 - v. A new profit motive?
 - vi. Increased European population
 - vii. Efficient market for goods
 - c. Manorialism, serfdom, and agricultural productivity
 - i. Changes in patterns of peasant settlement (England, northern Europe, and western Germany)
 - ii. The development of the manor
 - iii. Consolidation of individual peasant holdings
 - iv. The lord of the manor
 1. Dominant role
 2. Claimed largest share of peasants' production
 3. Strip farming
 4. The *demesne* (private use)
 5. Peasant labor services
 - v. The peasants
 1. Similar to slaves: worked without pay, paid humiliating fines
 2. Unlike slaves: their obligations were fixed by custom
 - vi. New crop-rotation systems
 1. Three-field system of crop rotation
 2. Adaptable to wet, fertile soils of northern Europe

Medieval Society, 950–1100

3. Produced higher yields and was insurance against disaster
 4. New types of food (for humans and horses)
 5. Helped spread labor more evenly over the course of the year
 - vii. Serfdom and the limits of manorialism
 1. Manorialism never predominant across Europe at any one time
 2. Mostly limited to England and parts of France and Germany
- III. The Growth of Towns and Commerce
- a. Agricultural revolution served as foundation for a new commercial revolution
 - b. Commerce
 - i. By the twelfth century, trade controlled by Venetian, Pisan, and Genoese naval forces
 - ii. Created an expanding market for Eastern luxury goods
 - iii. Dominance of Italian trade networks (Constantinople, Alexandria, and the West)
 - iv. The Champagne fairs
 1. Flemish merchants sold cloth to Italians
 2. Italian merchants sold Eastern spices and silks to the Flemish
 - v. Long-distance trade
 1. A risky enterprise
 2. Piracy
 - vi. Italian merchants develop new commercial methods
 1. Partnership contracts
 2. Double-entry bookkeeping
 3. New credit mechanisms
 - vii. Commerce and urbanization
 - c. Towns
 - i. Symbiotic relationship with the countryside
 - ii. Provided markets for manufactured goods
 - iii. Specialization in certain enterprises
 1. Paris and Bologna: university towns
 2. Venice, Genoa, Cologne, and London: long-distance trade
 3. Milan, Florence, Ghent, and Bruges: manufactures
- IV. Violence and Lordship
- a. New wealth fostered both social mobility and social stratification
 - b. Families begin to establish themselves as territorial lords
 - c. Protected territories and followers by building castles
 - i. Castles begin to dominate the landscape
 - ii. Serve defensive and offensive role
 - d. New lords claim descent from successful Vikings; break from Roman past
 - e. Need assistance of warriors to defend their claims of power
 - i. Knighthood
 1. A new social order of men of widely varying social rank
 2. A specialized warrior group associated with the nobility
 - f. Europe becomes a continent of faux “kingdoms”

Medieval Society, 950–1100

- i. Political and military power was in the hand of wealthy landholders
 - ii. Centralized Europe's growing wealth for themselves
 - iii. These medieval lords exercised enormous power over property rights, coinage, law, military, and taxation
 - g. The problem of feudalism
 - i. Feudalism as a highly decentralized political system
 - ii. Varieties of interpretation
 - 1. Marxist historiography
 - 2. Social historians
 - 3. Legal historians
 - 4. Military historians
 - iii. Feudalism defined
 - 1. A political system in which public powers were exercised by private lords
 - 2. First took shape in tenth- and eleventh-century France
 - 3. Justified a hierarchical legal and political order
 - iv. Vocabulary
 - 1. Fief: a contract in which something of value was exchanged for service
 - 2. Vassal: recipient of a fief
 - 3. Homage: a solemn act in which a vassal becomes "the man" of his lord
 - v. Personal relationships of service in return for landholding
- V. A New Feudal Monarchy: England
 - a. In 1066 Duke William of Normandy claims to be successor of English king
 - b. English people elected Harold king
 - i. William defeated Harold at battle of Hastings and took power
 - c. William had to subjugate all others who claimed kingship
 - i. Asserted kingship by both conquest and imperial succession
 - ii. Claimed all land of England belonged to him
 - d. William rewarded his Norman followers with fiefs taken from English land holders
 - i. William received their loyalty and share of their revenues
 - e. William exercised many important powers of the state:
 - i. Coined money
 - ii. Collected national land tax
 - iii. Supervised royal courts
 - iv. Had right to raise an army
 - v. Maintained Anglo-Saxon sheriffs to administer local law

Mullins, 3/19/13

Medieval Society, 950–1100