



# European Middle Ages 500 – 1500

*A.K.A the  
DARK AGES*

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# Introduction

- ◉ Germanic tribes destroyed the W. Roman Empire
- ◉ The 1<sup>st</sup> three centuries (500 – 800) are chaotic → too many Germanic tribes try to gain power
- ◉ When the Germanic tribes began to settle down, the Franks became the dominant group (**Franks = French**)
  - ◉ Germanic customs & Roman traditions began to fuse together
  - ◉ Franks were the most powerful/important group in W. Europe during the EMA (Early Middle Ages)

# Frankish Kings

## Clovis

- **Converted to Christianity**
- Assured the success of the Roman Church in Frankish lands



## Charles Martel

- **Defeated the Muslims** at the Battle of Tours
- Stopped the Muslims advance into Europe
- Laid the foundation of feudalism



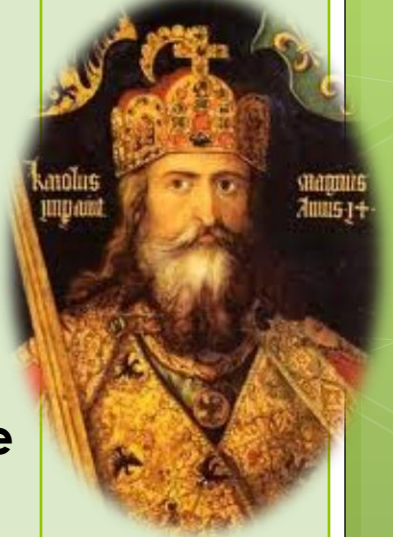
## Pepin the Short (Pippin the Younger)

- Donated land to the **Pope**
- Creating the foundations for the **Papal States**



## Charlemagne

- Was **crowned** the Emperor of the Romans in 800 A.D.
- Established the foundation of the Holy Roman Empire





# Institutions

## Feudalism

- Accounted for the law & order that existed at the local level
- Local rule in the absence of central authority

### POLITICAL SYSTEM

## Manorialism

- Economy based on self-sufficiency
- Local in the absence of widespread trade

### ECONOMIC SYSTEM

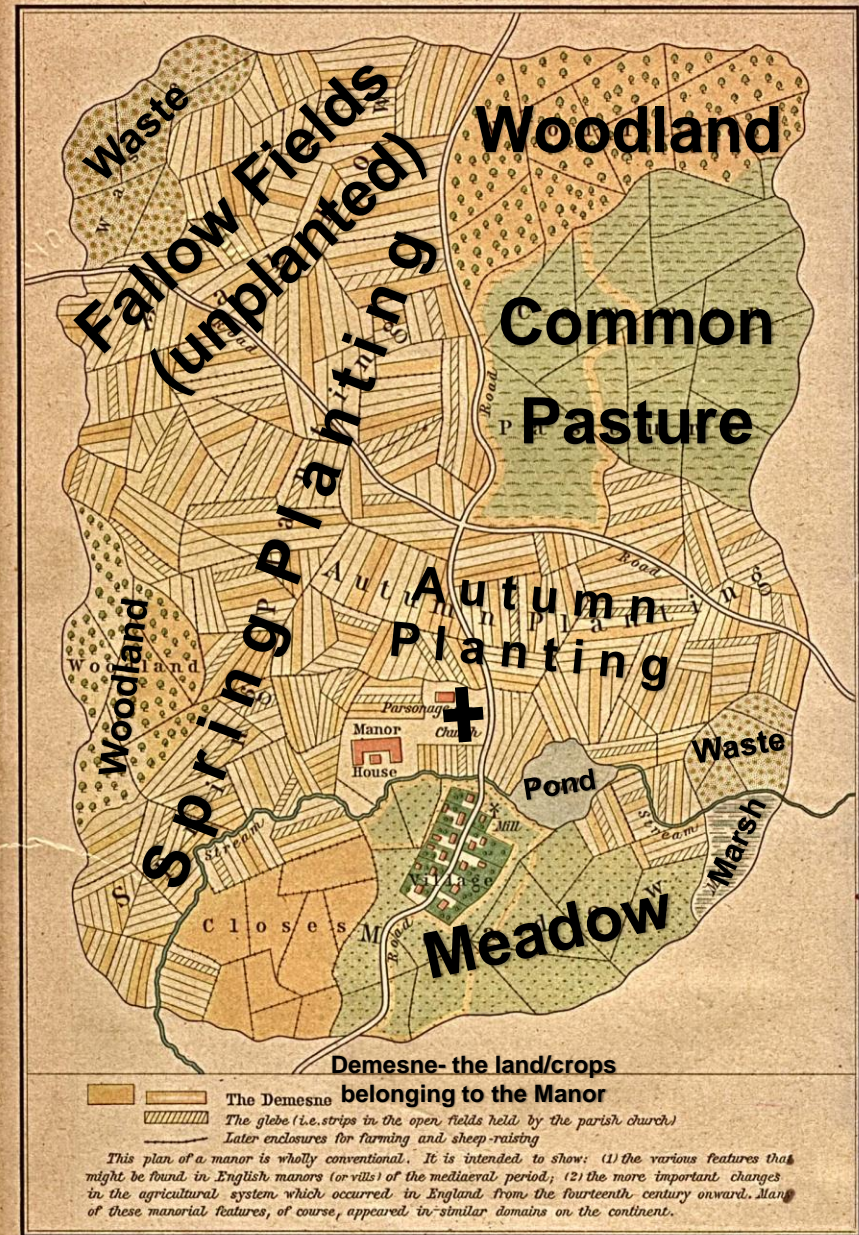
## Church

- Most important system to the people of the Middle Ages
- Established whatever unity existed
- Acted as part of the...

### SOCIAL, POLITICAL, & ECONOMIC systems of the era

104

Plan of a Mediaeval Manor.



## Feudalism

Political System

- Based on Germanic customs
- mutual obligations
- fiefs awarded to vassals
- lords minted coins & made laws
- lords headed manors
- lords protected people

## Manorialism

Economic system

- Originated from Roman estates (latifundia)
- serfs controlled the land
- property was shared
- lords headed manors
- lords protected people

# Feudal Structure

- Provided local self-defense in the absence of strong rulers with large armies
- Structure of the system was based on land.
  - For military services, rulers gave land to nobles, who earned an income from the land
  - In repayment, the nobles would arm knights and foot soldiers to fight for the ruler.
- **Fief:** a grant of land or an estate.
- **Lord:** a ruler who grants a fief in return for military service.
- **Vassal:** a person who receives a fief. The vassal, in return owes the lord:
  - Knights and foot soldiers
  - Ransom money if the lord is captured in war
  - Housing / food for the lord & his knights when they visit the vassal's fief
- **Homage:** a vassal's oath of loyalty to a lord, often in exchange for land.

# Feudal Structure

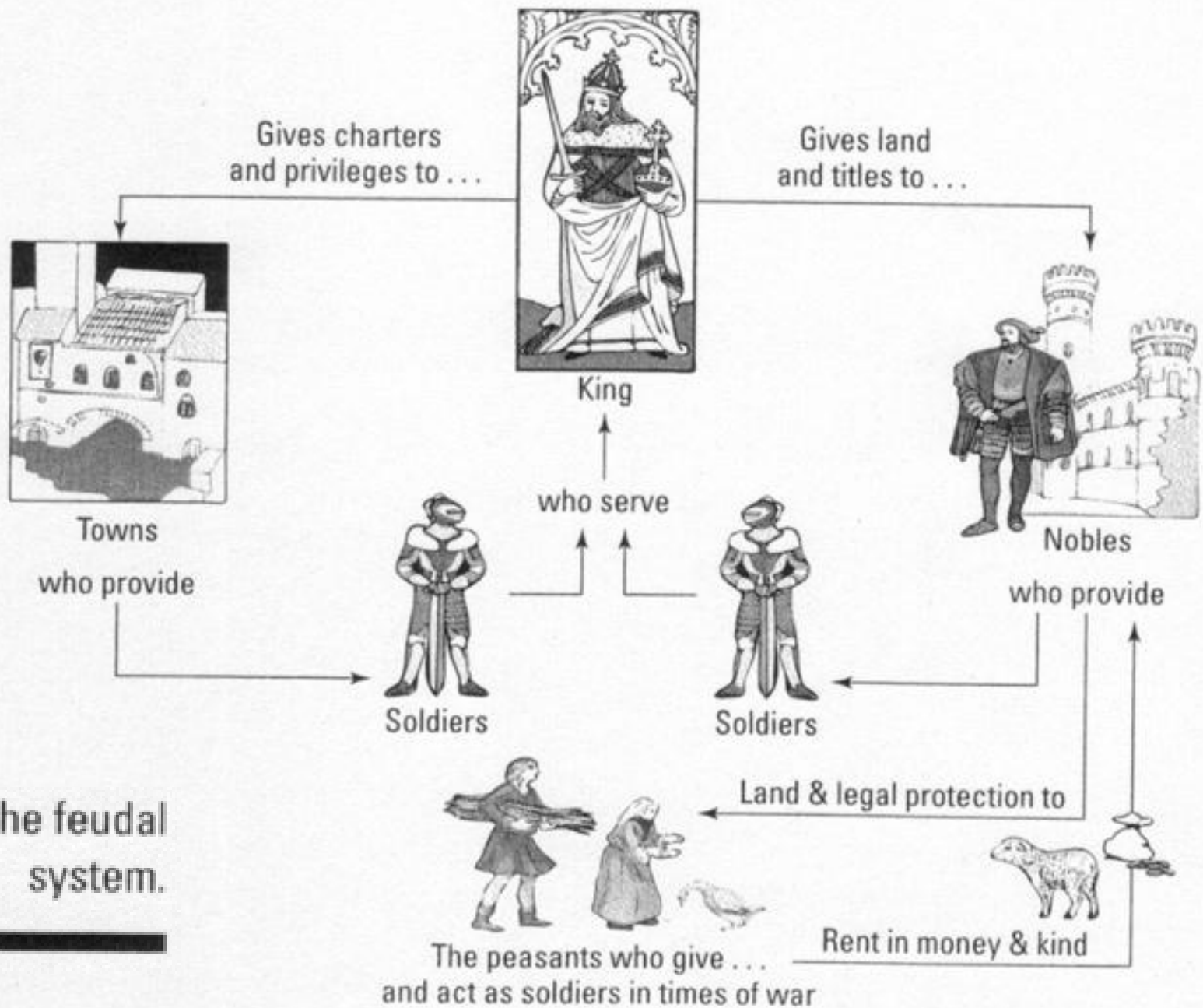
- **Knight:** a warrior who pledges loyalty to a lord, often in exchange for land. Later in the Middle Ages, a knight received training and lived by a code.

## ***Levels of Knighthood***

- **Page** ~ (age 7-14) Serve the women of the manor; learn manners; religion, reading and writing
  - **Squire** ~ (age 14-21) Serve the men and the knights; learn hunting, hawking, chess, poetry, lute playing, care of horses & equipment.
  - **Knight** ~ Serve God and the feudal lord (and/or king); demonstrate skill with weapons; follow the chivalric code of politeness, courage, honor, truthfulness, respect for women and defeated enemies.
- 
- **Peasant:** a person who works the land.
  - **Serf:** a peasant of the lowest class, who is bound to the land and cannot leave it.



## The feudal system.







# **Development of Europe during the Middle Ages**

# England

## **Alfred the Great: (871-899)**

- Conquered the Danish and re-established Anglo-Saxon law
- Part of England was his kingdom → his learned ways spread throughout the island
  - Great scholar forced to become a soldier
  - After Danes were forced out, Alfred began...
    - re-educated priests & monks who had forgotten Latin
    - The "Anglo-Saxon Chronicles" → great historical source
- Sons & grandson continued to fight w/Danes until Edward the Confessor seceded Canute the Dane (last of the Danes in England)

## **William the Conqueror: (Norman - cousin to Edward the Confessor)(1066-1087)**

- Claimed right to English throne, Edward had no sons
- Named himself king after defeating the Anglo-Saxons → Battle of Hastings in 1066
  - Nobles chose Edward another nephew instead of William
- Altered feudal system in England
  - Made all nobles swear allegiance to him → going around all lesser kings & nobles

# England Cont.

## **Henry I: (4<sup>th</sup> son of William the Conqueror)**

- Created Office of Exchequer → handles kingdom's finances
- Sent traveling judges to try cases.
  - Judges superceded the Lord's law
  - Made enforcement of the law more universal & consistent
  - Undermined the power of the Lords

## **Henry II: (Sons were Geoffrey (died early), John & Richard the Lionhart)**

- Married to Eleanor of Aquitaine (France) → doubling size of his territory
- Allowed nobles to pay him \$\$\$ instead of sending knights
  - Hired knights himself
  - Knights owed allegiance/homage to Henry instead of lords
  - Later created a national army by requiring every freeman to serve
- Expanded power of circuit judges
  - Created juries to determine whether or not a case was tried
- Sought to decrease church's authority → failed
- 3 son's fought over kingdom after his death

# England Cont.

## **Eleanor of Aquitaine:**

- Bridged France & England's history → Married & divorced king of France
- Controlled Gascony, Aquitaine & other holdings on continent of Europe
- Married Henry II of England
- territory could be inherited by sons → fought over these territories & English holdings

## **John:**

- Forced nobles to pay high taxes → they considered unjust.
- Forced him to sign Magna Carta (1215), a document that reduced the power of the king

## **Great Council & Parliament:**

- Great Council was created when the nobles revolted against Henry III in 1260
  - Knights & burgesses were represented
- Later divided into 2 houses
  - House of Lords & House of Commons
- Key power → refusing to agree to new and special taxes
- Later called Parliament



## Clovis:

- Last of the Merovian rulers
- Converted to Christianity ensuring the spread of the religion in Frankish lands

## Charles Martel: (Charles "the Hammer")

- Defeated the Moors at the Battle of Tours → Halted the spread of Islam into Europe
  - Moors were Muslims on the Iberian Peninsula

## Pepin the Younger: (often known under the mistranslation Pippin the Short)

- Crowned by the Pope
- Gave land to the Church (Pope) which later became part of the Papal States

## **Charlemagne: (Charles the Great)**

- ◉ Renewer of the W. Empire
- ◉ United much of Europe by forcing out the Avars & controlling the Bavarians
  - ◉ Brought some stability to Europe
- ◉ Strengthened the hold of the church
- ◉ Crowned the Emperor on Christmas day 800 AD.
  - ◉ Begins the Holy Roman Empire → never uses the title "Holy Roman Emperor"
- ◉ Built learning centers thru out Europe & encouraged learning
- ◉ Ordered 4500 Saxon's beheaded after a Saxon uprising.
- ◉ Grandson's -:- his empire after Charlemagne's son's death

## **Hugh Capet (1<sup>st</sup> of the Capetain Kings of France):**

- ◉ Chosen king after the last of the Carolingian kings die in 987.
- ◉ Begins the Capetain dynasty in France (ends in the 14<sup>th</sup> cen.)
- ◉ Capetain kings set up 2 new gov't depts → Chamber of Accounts & Parliament of Paris

# Holy Roman Empire

## **Otto I the Great :**

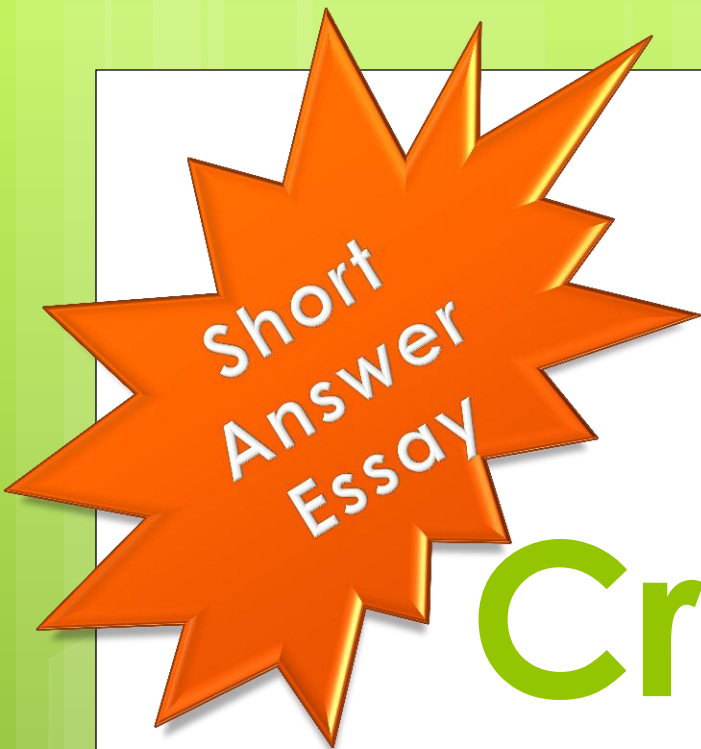
- 1<sup>st</sup> Emperor of the New Holy Roman Empire, called himself Holy Roman Emperor.
- HRE's were protectors of the church & controlled the selection of the Pope
- sets up a struggle b/tw Henry IV & Pope Gregory VII
  - whether or not a layman, someone outside the church, could appoint a Bishop → called lay investiture
  - later settled with the Concordat (binding agreement) of Worms (city)

## **Frederick I:**

- Tried to take the rich city-states in northern Italy → caused the formation of Lombard League
  - Defensive league of N. Italian city-states → organized to defeat Frederick

## **Pope Innocent III:**

- Led the papacy to the height of its power, dominating almost all of Europe



Short  
Answer  
Essay

# The Crusades

Successful Failures  
1096 – 1290



## Background Info

- Crusade = Latin for cross & describes a holy war
- “Good Christians” in the Medieval times often showed their love for the Church by going on journeys to holy places.
  - Pilgrimages to Rome (Pope) or the Holy Land (Middle East)
  - Believers wanted spiritual blessings for making the trip.
- During the EMA, Arabs were in control of the Holy Land. (present-day Israel and Jordan)
  - Arabs were not Christian → allowed Christians on pilgrimages to visit holy places
- (Late 11<sup>th</sup> century) Seljuk Turks captured Jerusalem
  - Refused to give pilgrims access to religious sites
- (**1095**) Pope Urban II asked Christians to do more than travel.
  - Christians - fight for their faith - start a “crusade.” (**holy war**)
- Series of crusades were organized from **1096 – 1290**
- Goal → capture the land from the Seljuk Turks

# The Crusades

- Travel to the holy land was very difficult.
  - Many crusaders died before engaging in a battle.
- The Crusaders were not successful in permanently capturing the territory, but they spent almost 200 years trying.
- By the year 1300 the Turks still controlled the holy land → Crusades had important effects on Europe:
  1. Crusaders returned w/luxury products from the East → selling them was profitable **(Trade promoted)**
  2. A merchant class developed to carry on trade. **(not part of the feudal system)**
  3. Towns & cities grew out of trading fairs & centers
  4. Merchants bought goods from traders → sold the products to the growing # of townspeople

## Crusades Cont.

5. Bankers exchanged money from one currency to another.
6. Shipbuilders were needed to create cargo ships for the trade industry.
7. Europeans were exposed to new ideas.
  - They used Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3), which were more efficient for calculation than Roman numerals (I, II, III).
8. Many nobles died.
  - Created the chance for serfs to escape to the growing towns.
  - Stronger nobles began to seize land from the weaker nobles or nobles that never returned from the Crusades.
- The **original purpose** of the Crusades was **not fulfilled**, but the holy wars **did create great change**.
- **Europe changed more during the 200 years of the Crusades than it had changed during the 600 years before they began.**

## Successful Failures

### Successes

- Military advances:
  - Crossbow & new siege tactics
- Trade began w/East
  - Spices & cotton
- Towns & cities grew

### Failures

- "Crusaders" lost
- Muslims kept control of the Holy Land
- Many people died

### BOTH

\*Feudal system was weakened  
(Good for some, Bad for others)

### BIG WINNERS & LOSERS

#### WINNERS

- Kings gained power
- Merchants got rich

#### LOSERS

- Church lost power
- People lost faith

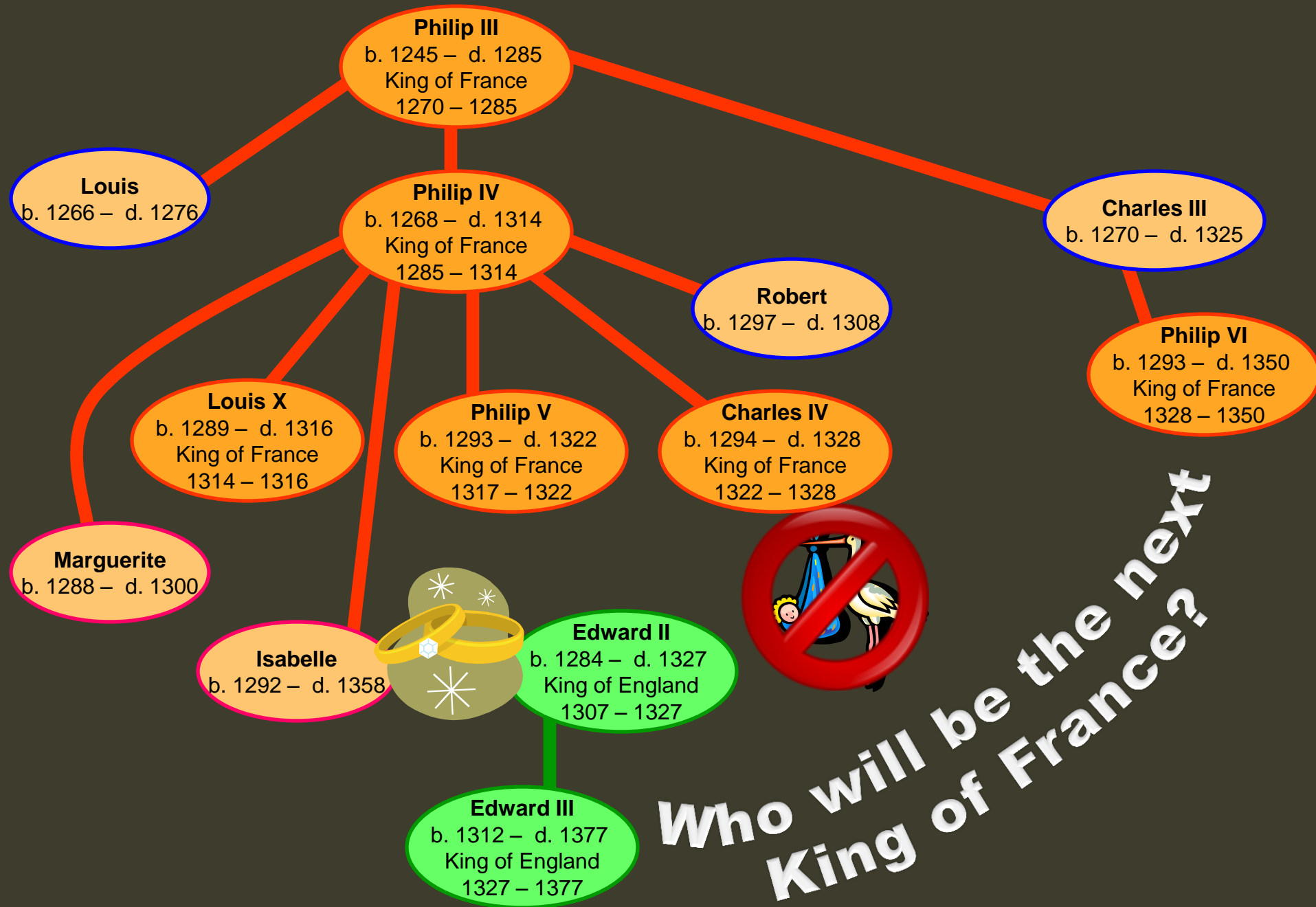




# 100 Years War

## France & England

### 1337 - 1453



## The Hundred Years War

(1337 → 1453) between **England** & **France**

- The Hundred Years War were a series of...
  - Plundering raids, sieges & naval battles interspersed w/truces & uneasy peace.
- 2 main causes of the Hundred Years War...
  1. Centered on the relationship b/tw the Kings of **France** & **England** regarding the duchy of Aquitaine located in SW France.
  2. 1259, Treaty of Paris → **Henry III** held the duchy as a fief of the **French King**
    - **Henry** was a vassal of the **King of France**
    - Required to pay liege homage to the king
      - **King of England** was required to pay homage whenever the kingship of **England** or **France** changed hands

**Henry → King of England; how could a king be a vassal?**

# Irritations

## English were irritated by...

- **French** trading interests
- **French** support of the Scots against **England**
- **French** attempts to control Flanders & its wool trade w/**England**

**Provocation was not a one-way street.**

## **French** were angered by the **English**...

- Due to **King Edward III**'s claim to the **French throne**
- 1328, **Charles IV, King of France**, died w/out a male heir
- **Edward III (King of England)** held claim to the throne via his mother (Isabelle) who was **Charles**' sister
- Other claimant was **Philip VI**, grandson of **Philip III, King of France** 1270-1285
- **Philip VI** gained the throne
  - Moved to confiscate Aquitaine in order to consolidate his power.



# Battles

**Started in May 1337**

- **King Philip VI of France** attempted to confiscate the **English territories** in the duchy of Aquitaine (located SW France)
- **Edward** led a raid into **French territory** (1338) to defend his claim
- 2 years later declared himself the true king of France

**From the beginning of the war (1337) until the battle of Orleans (1428-29)...**

- **English** won many victories
- Used new methods of warfare
- Combining forces of long bowmen w/dismounted men-at-arms w/success

# Conclusion

## 1429- Siege of Orleans

- **French** finally gained the upper hand
- **Joan of Arc** led a relief force & successfully defeated **English**
- Next 25 years → **French defeated** the **English** at many engagements



## Ended in July 1453



- **French expelled** the **English** from the continent (except for Calais) by force
- Wars had become the consuming interests for 5 **English** & 5 **French** monarchs
  - Drained the treasuries of both countries

# War of the Roses

English Throne

1455 - 1485

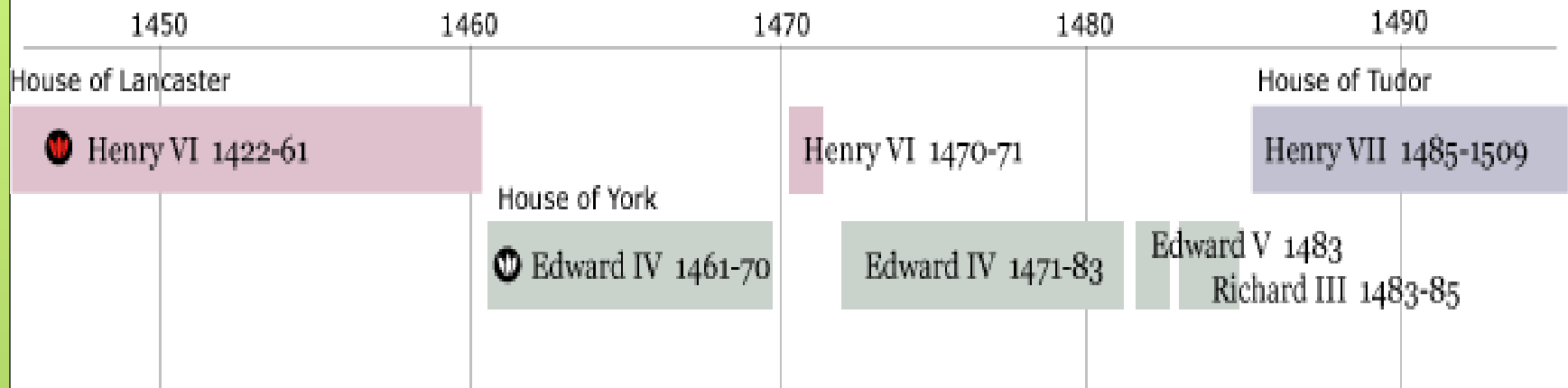
# Introduction

- Quarrel b/tw the families of **York** & **Lancaster**
  - Over the right to occupy the English throne
  - Series of cruel civil wars in England (1455 to 1485)
- The emblem of...
  - House of **York** → **white rose** 
  - House of **Lancaster** → **red rose** 

## Major causes of the conflict include:

1. Both houses were direct descendants of king **Edward III**
2. The ruling Lancastrian king, **Henry VI**, surrounded himself w/unpopular nobles
3. Civil unrest of much of the population
4. Availability of many powerful lords with their own private armies
5. Episodes of mental illness by king **Henry VI**

## Background Info



Families of **York** & **Lancaster** descended from **Edward III**

- ◉ **Yorks**- better claim to the throne than the **Lancastrians**
- ◉ Passed over (1399) when **Richard II** was deposed (removed from office or position of power)

**Yorks** would not have won backing later if it had not been for...

- ◉ the failure of the English armies in the 100 Years War
- ◉ the mental and physical weakness of **King Henry VI**
- ◉ the excessive taxation and misrule at home

## Richard of York ...

- ◉ Planned to take the gov't from incapable persons & secure it for himself.
- ◉ Later his ambition was to seize the crown.

Real head of the kingdom - **Queen Margaret (Lancastrian)**

- ◉ Young & beautiful French woman who resisted attempts to...
- ◉ Dethrone her husband, **Henry VI**
- ◉ Disinherit her son, **Edward**


# Struggle Begins

- **Richard of York** won at St. Albans in 1455 & secured control of the govt.
- **Richard** was killed by the forces of **Queen Margaret** at Wakefield in 1460.
  - **Richard's son Edward**, w/the **Earl of Warwick's** ("Kingmaker") help became king as **Edward IV**
- **Henry VI** was imprisoned.

Here is where it all changes...



TRAITOR

- 
- **Warwick** (Kingmaker/Richard Neville) quarreled w/**Edward IV**
    - Helped **Queen Margaret** drive **Edward** from England
    - Restored **Henry VI** to the throne in 1470



## Struggle Cont.

**Edward** returned to England

- **Warwick** was killed in battle
- **King Henry's son** was murdered
- **Queen Margaret's** forces were destroyed & she was captured
  - Several **Lancastrians** were executed

**Edward IV** reentered London

- Seized the throne again
- **Henry VI** was assassinated

**Ends the 1<sup>st</sup> period of the struggle**

# Conclusion

14 years later war broke out again...

- **Henry Tudor (last Lancastrian)** defeated & killed **Richard III (last Yorkist king)**
- Became **King Henry VII** → ending the Wars of the Roses
- The following year **Henry** married **Elizabeth of York**, the daughter of **Edward IV**.
- **White** & **red** roses united in the rose of the Tudors, emblem of a new line of English kings.



## The Wars of the Roses

- Broke the feudal power of the nobles
- **Marked the end of the Middle Ages in England.**
- Many of the ruling nobles had been slain during the wars & their estates → by the Crown

## Results of the War of the Roses

- Lawlessness had torn England since the 100 Yrs War
  - Grew worse during the Wars of the Roses
  - Not enough able leaders remained to maintain law and order
- People longed for a strong gov't (**peace & prosperity**)
- Henry VII seized the opportunity to
  - Reestablish the royal power
  - Launch policies that marked the beginning of modern England



# Politics of the Late Middle Ages

Look in your packet for the printed notes.

During the LMA, the monarchs of England, France and Spain began to create centralized nation-states. As unified states, these 3 nations dominated the politics of the early modern era. They were the dominant players in the warfare of the continent and they were the leaders in the Age of Exploration.

**Spain:** Ended the Middle Ages by concluding the successful Reconquista. The Catholic Spanish crusade against the Moors who had ruled Spain throughout most of the Middle Ages. This was completed by Ferdinand and Isabella, the rulers of the 2 Spanish kingdoms. Their marriage in 1469 had brought the 2 kingdoms together. The completion of the Reconquista in 1492 allowed the Spanish to turn their attention to the idea of overseas expansion. (Columbus)

#1

**Power**

Using marriages arranged for their children, the Spanish monarchies tied their family to the other royals of Europe. In 1516, their grandson became King Charles I of Spain. Three years later, this young man inherited the title Holy Roman Emperor from his paternal grandfather. Spain opened the early modern era as the greatest power in Europe as well as the first threat to the "balance of power".

France:

#2

Power

The Capétian dynasty (987 – 1328) and the Valois dynasty (1328 – 1589) began the centralization of the French state. Their work made France Europe's #2 power at the beginning of the early modern era. France felt obliged to limit the expansion of the Hapsburg (Spain & HRE) power. This led to the French wars in Italy to drive a wedge b/tw the Hapsburg lands. This is led to the expansion of the Renaissance.

England:

#3

Power

Following their failure in the 100 Years War (1337 – 1453), the English monarchy was plagued by thirty years of civil war in the War of the Roses (1455 – 1485). The Tudor dynasty emerged from this conflict and began the English rise to power. Beginning with Henry VII and continuing with the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, England established itself as a great power and laid the foundation for England's colonial empire in North America.

A. Became Nation States

B. King consolidated power = Nations

C. Dominated Europe for 100's of years

## Unified Feudal States

Germany & Italy: These 2 great nationality groups of central Europe did not succeed in uniting as nation-states. Instead, both were embroiled in a huge feudal empire, known as the HRE. Led by German Hapsburgs from Austria, this large political unit was really a feudal pyramid with 100's of German and Italian states within its boundaries. Each prince fought to retain his independence from the Emperor's power. The Hapsburg emperor's often was involved in so many different political areas at one time that he could never concentrate on centralization. As a result, Germany and Italy fail to become great nations until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Instead, Austria played the role of great power, while being unable to unite Germany. The Italian states of the Renaissance played political chess between the competing interests of Austria, Spain, France, and the Pope.

- A. Did NOT Unify
- B. HRE
- C. 100's of years behind in politics
- D. Anger led to the World Wars



# EMA vs. LMA

**Classification Chart**

# S o c i a l

## EMA

Most people lived on manors

Manor life & the Church controlled social life

Only 2 classes – nobles & peasants

## LMA

More & more people became town dwellers & developed a social life NOT controlled by the Church or lord

Middle class developed

# Political

## EMA

Control by local nobles – was the form of gov't and the Church provided the central authority

**FEUDALISM**

## LMA

Towns had self-rule

Kings became dominant

Beginning of Nation-states

# Economic

## EMA

The Church dominated the economy, which was based in self-sufficient manors & agriculture

**MANORIALISM**

## LMA

**TRADE** grew & became important

**Money** economy developed

**Guilds** became dominant

# Military

## EMA

Knights & castles  
provided military  
defense

## LMA

National armies  
controlled by  
kings provided  
defense

Knights & castles  
became obsolete  
w/the advent of  
gunpowder

# Religious

## EMA

Catholic Church dominated all aspects of life

Inspired the Crusades

## LMA

Some of the Church's non-religious functions were assumed by other organizations

# Architecture

## EMA

**Romanesque** –  
inspired by the  
Romans

Simple NOT  
ornate

## LMA

**Gothic** – inspired  
by new ideas &  
trade

VERY ornate