



Medieval Europe:

c. 500 – 1500

Feudalism, Manorialism, & the Church
Rise of Kingdoms

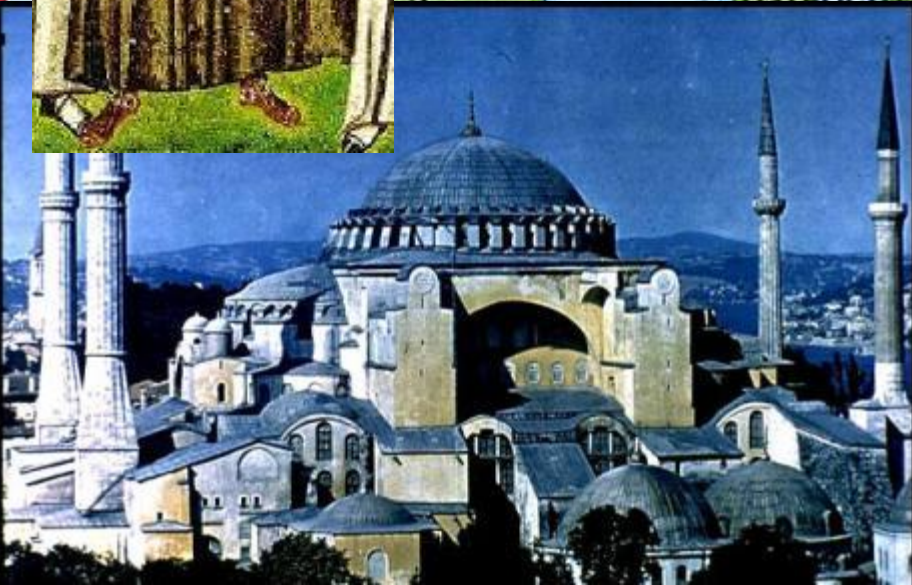
The Crusades

Black Death – Bubonic Plague

What happened to Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire?



In the East, the Byzantine Empire became a center for trade & Greco-Roman culture



Western Europe in the Middle Ages

After the fall of Rome, Western Europe had constant warfare

Medieval kingdoms lacked trade, common language, & cultural diffusion



When barbarian kingdoms conquered Rome, Europe was plagued by constant warfare

Warfare disrupted trade, destroyed Europe's cities, & forced people to rural areas

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Europe lost a common language; Latin mixed with local languages to form Spanish, French, Italian

Introduction

- Germanic tribes destroyed the W. Roman Empire
- The 1st 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)



Without the unity of the Roman Empire, Europe became divided into a series of Germanic kingdoms

Germanic people lived in small communities led by chiefs & his loyal warriors

Family ties & loyalty were more important than citizenship



Because the Middle Ages were so dangerous, people used a variety of strategies to survive



The Franks were the largest & most powerful of the Germanic kingdoms in the early Middle Ages



Frankish kings allied with the Catholic Church & expanded their power

In 771, Charlemagne ("Charles the Great") became king of the Franks

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

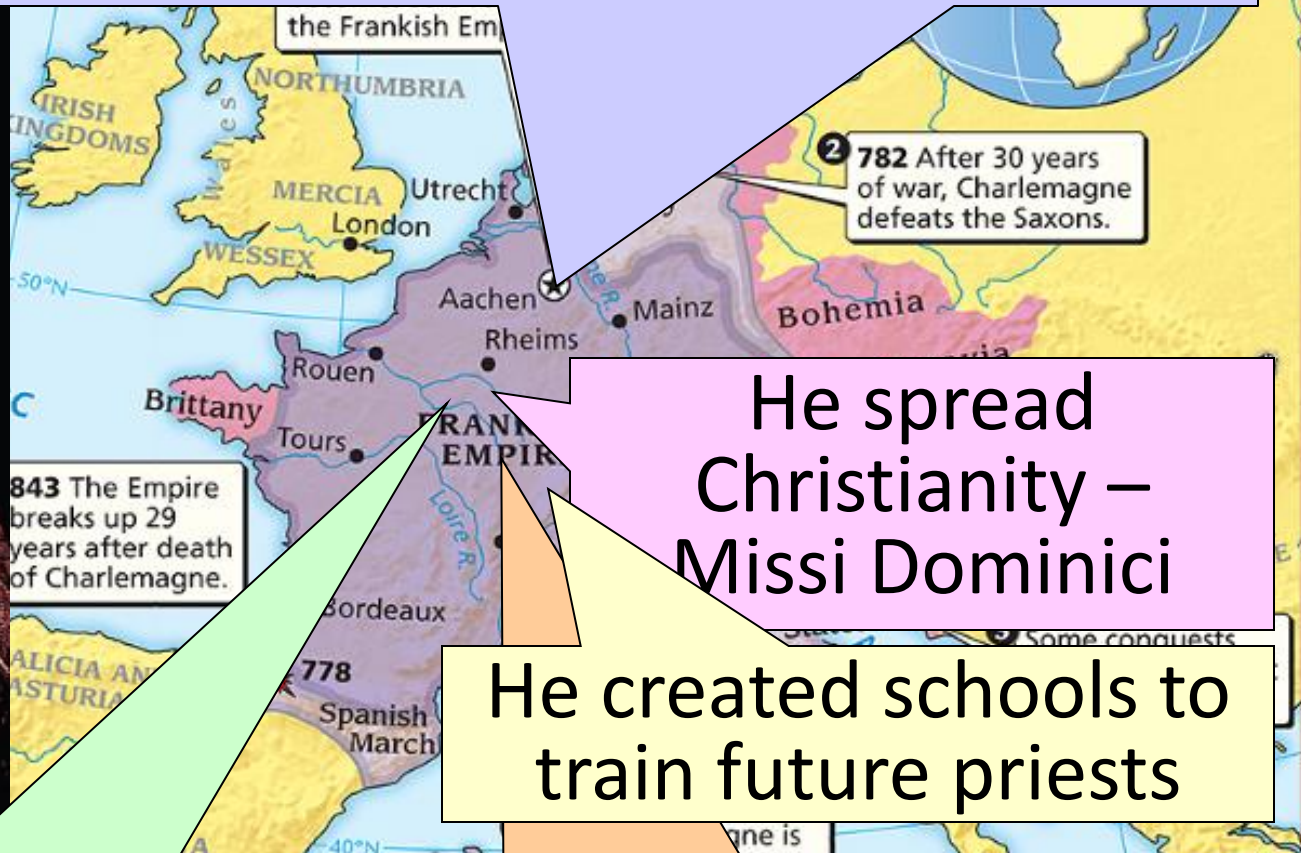


Charlemagne

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



Charlemagne was the greatest Medieval king because he did something no other king was able to do...create an organized empire – The Holy Roman Empire (First Reich)



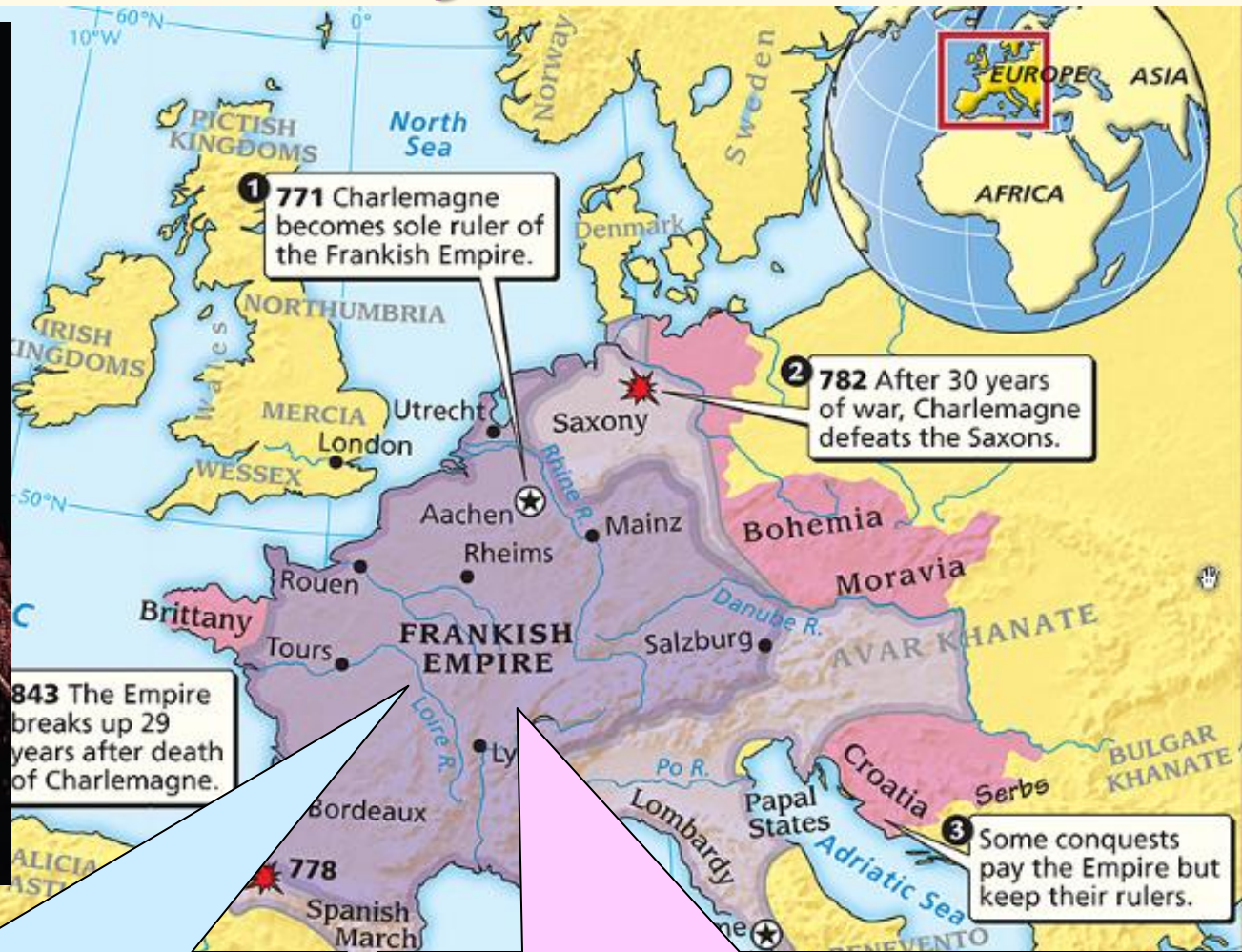
He spread Christianity – Missi Dominici

He created schools to train future priests

He valued learning & built schools in his empire

Charlemagne expanded the Frankish empire

Charlemagne & The Holy Roman Empire



After Charlemagne's death in 814, his Frankish Empire was divided & lost power...

...This was the last opportunity to provide unity in medieval Europe

From 800 to 1000, a 2nd major wave of invasions struck Europe led by Vikings, Muslims & Magyars



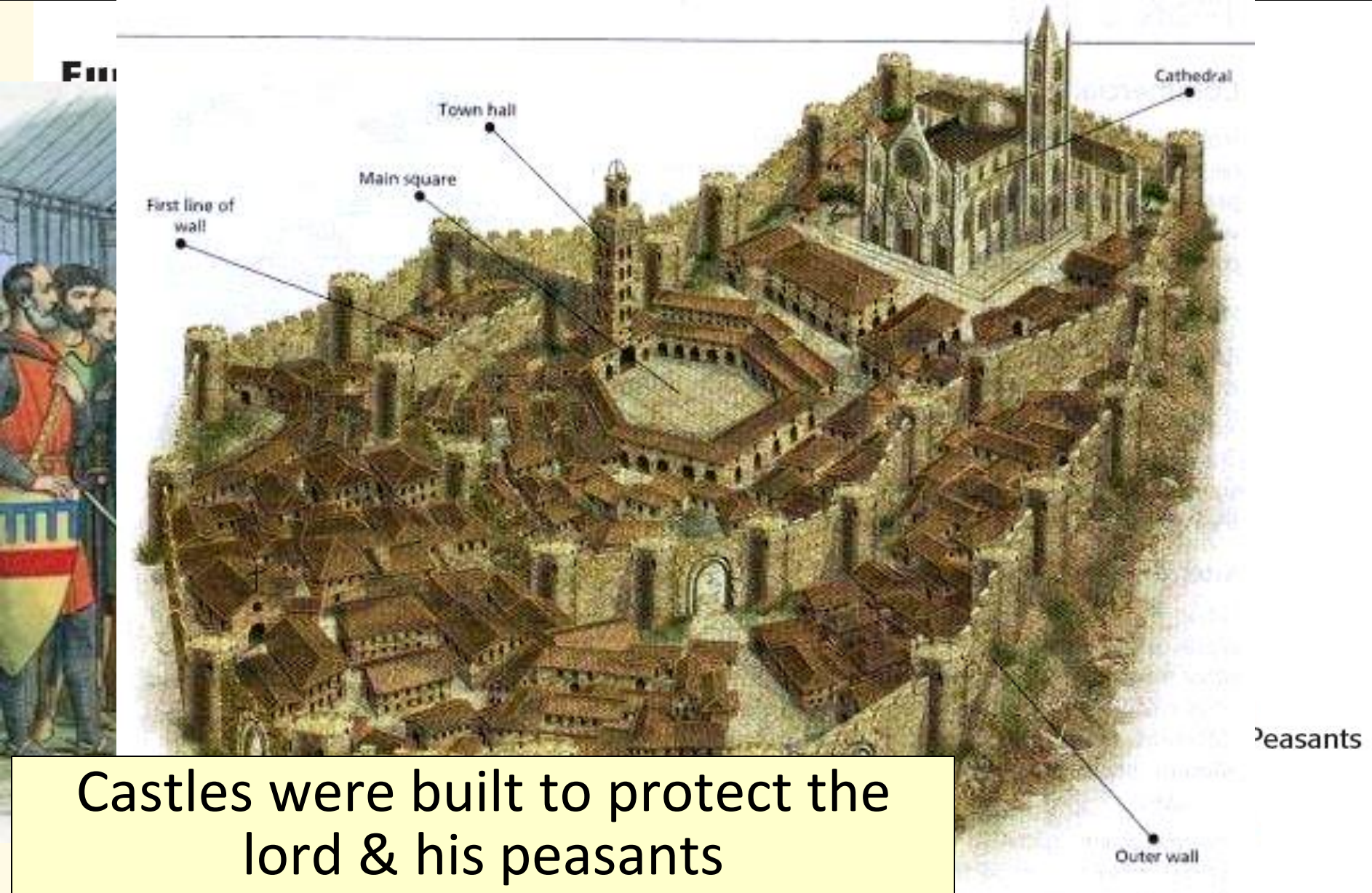
These invasions caused widespread fear & suffering

Kings could not defend against invasion

People stopped looking to kings for protection

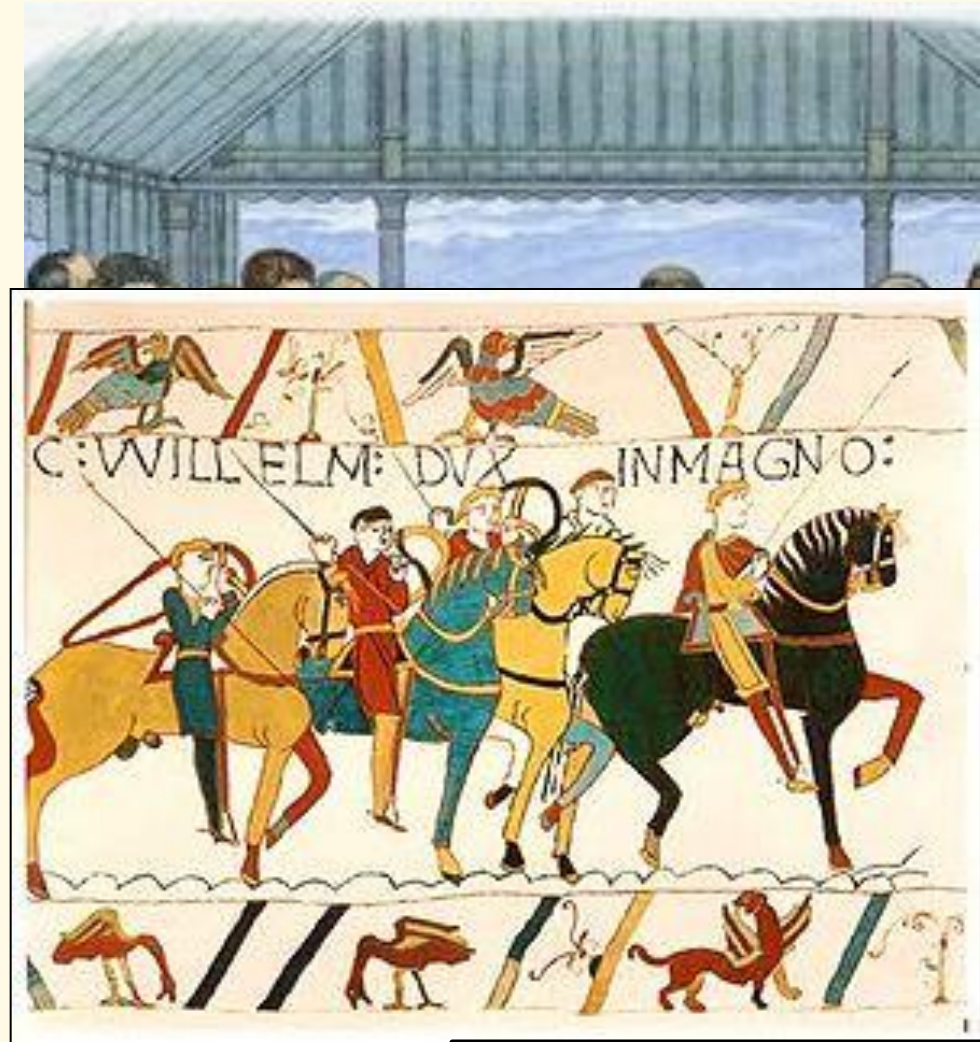


Feudalism offered protection when land-owning lords gave fiefs to knights who swore to protect the manor



Feudalism

- Feudalism began in Europe as a way to offer protection
- Feudalism is based on land & loyalty
- Land-owning lords offer land (a fief) to knights in exchange for their loyalty & promise to protect the lord's land
- Feudalism changed in England with the Norman Invasion in 1066 (will discuss later in the notes)



Bayeux Tapestry

Feudal Structure

Knights were specially trained soldiers who protected the lords & peasants – vassals took an oath of fealty (loyalty)

Some peasants were serfs & could not leave the lord's estate

Kings had land but very little power

Lords (also called Nobles) were the upper-class landowners; they had inherited titles ("Duke," "Earl," "Sir")

Knights

Peasants

Peasants

Lords b
from o

Castles and Siege Weapons

Interactive Feature

Attacking armies carefully planned how to capture a castle. Engineers would inspect the castle walls for weak points in the stone. Then, enemy soldiers would try to ram the walls, causing them to collapse. At the battle site, attackers often constructed the heavy and clumsy weapons shown here.

Siege Tower

- had a platform on top that lowered like a drawbridge
- could support weapons and soldiers

Mantlet

- shielded soldiers

Battering Ram

- made of heavy timber with a sharp metal tip
- swung like a pendulum to crack castle walls or to knock down drawbridge

Trebuchet

- worked like a giant slingshot
- propelled objects up to a distance of 980 feet

Tortoise

- moved slowly on wheels
- sheltered soldiers from falling arrows

An Array of High-Flying Missiles

Using the trebuchet, enemy soldiers launched a wide variety of missiles over the castle walls:

- pots of burning lime
- captured soldiers
- boulders
- diseased cows
- severed human heads
- dead horses

Connect to Today

1. Making Inferences How do these siege weapons show that their designers knew the architecture of a castle well?

See Skillbuilder Handbook, Page R16.

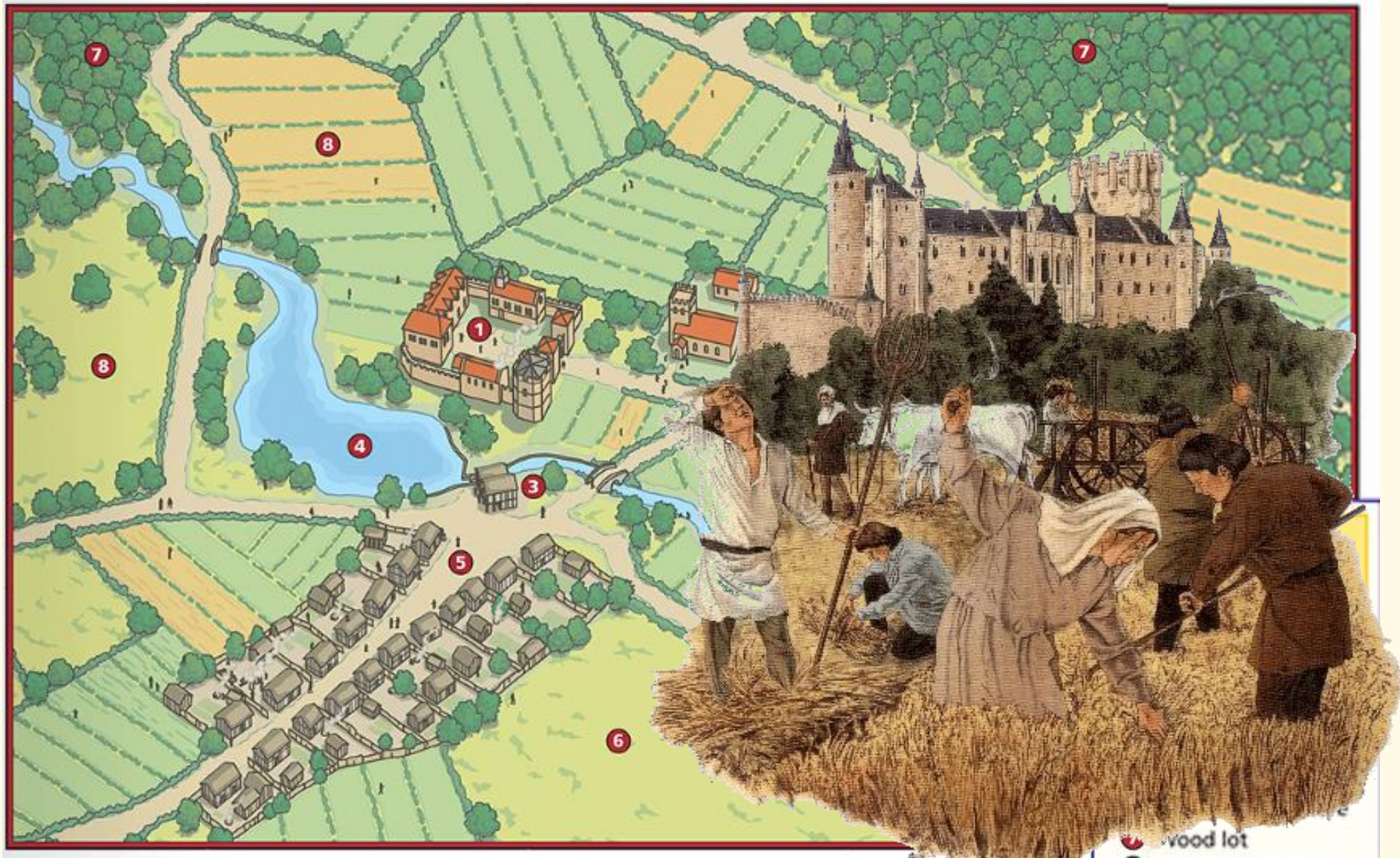
2. Drawing Conclusions What are some examples of modern weapons of war? What do they indicate about the way war is conducted today?

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LINKS For more on medieval weapons go to classzone.com

territory

Medieval Europeans lived on self-sufficient manors; The manorial system allowed peasants to farm the lord's land in exchange for part of the food harvested.



The Manorial System

During the Middle Ages, the manorial system was the way in which people survived

The lord's land was called a manor

The lord provided peasants with housing, farmland, & protection

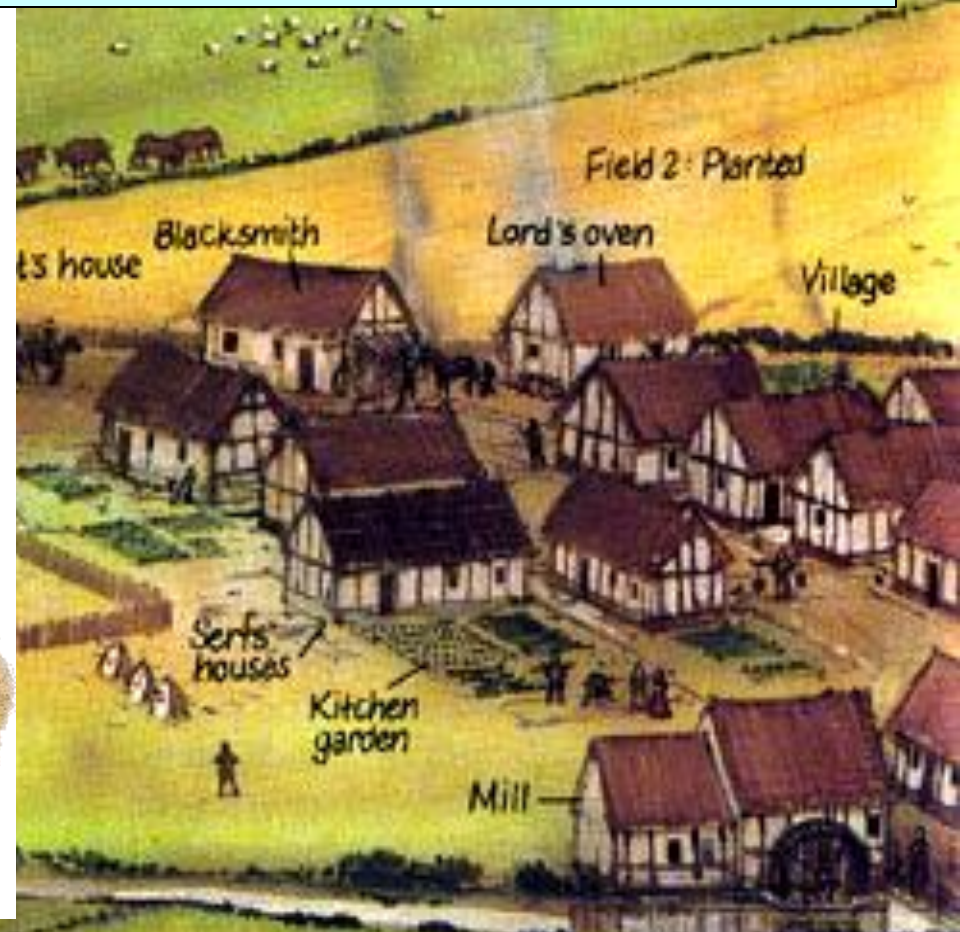
In exchange, peasants repaid the lord by working his land & providing a portion of the food they produced



Peasants who were the
and both for their lords, who

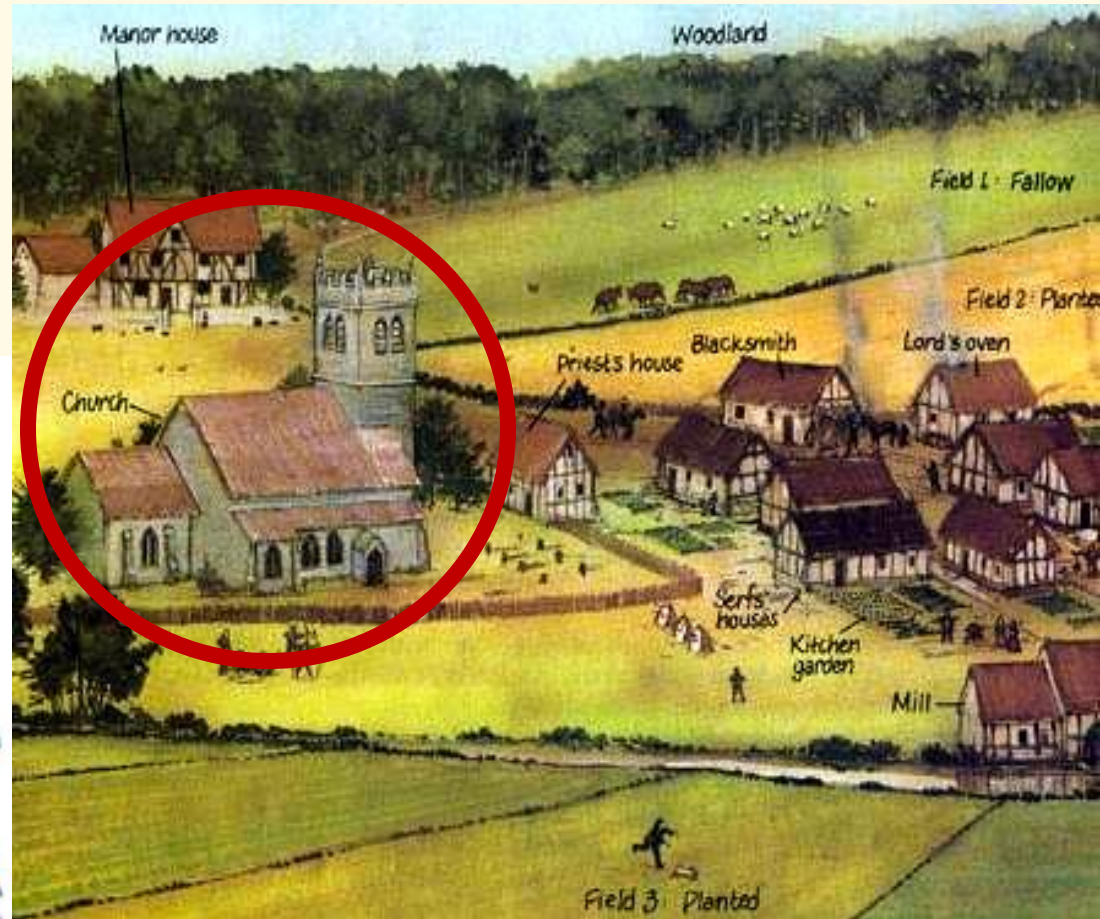
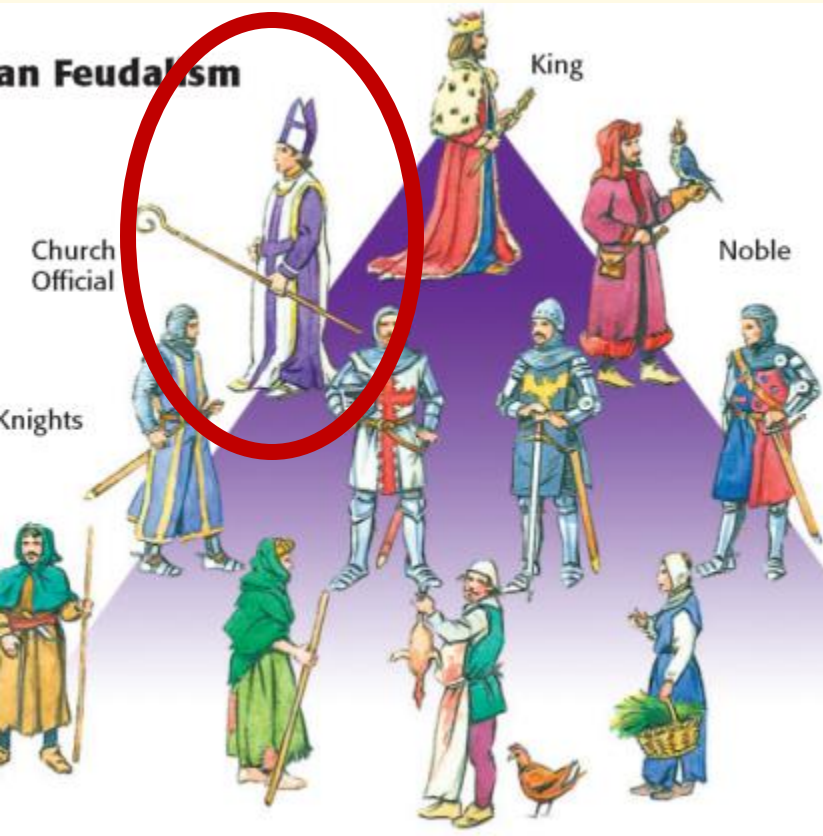
- 7 Wood lot
- 8 Lands for lord's personal use

Peasant life was hard: They paid taxes to use the lord's mill, had to get permission to get married, & life expectancy was about 35 years old



Manors were self-sufficient communities; Everything that was needed was produced on the manor

Besides feudalism & the manorial system, what else was important in the Middle Ages?



During the early Middle Ages, the Germanic kingdoms were slowly converted to Christianity



The Catholic Pope became involved in secular (non-religious) issues like road repair, aiding the poor, & helping Christian kings expand their power

The Role of the Medieval Church



Feudalism & the manor system divided people, but the shared belief in Christianity unified medieval people.

The Role of the Medieval Church

■ Roman Catholicism was the dominant religion in Western Europe during the Middle Ages:

- Without a common government to hold everyone together, the Catholic Church filled an important role in peoples' lives
- The Catholic Pope became the strongest political leader in Western Europe



The Catholic Church conducted spiritual rituals (called sacraments) & created a system of rules called Canon Law that all Christians had to follow.



Christians who violated Canon Law could be excommunicated. (banished from the church)

Kings or lords who violated Canon Law could face interdiction. (ban on religious services in a king's lands)

One clash between a pope and a king took place between Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV. Henry moved to increase his power over clergy in the Holy Roman Empire. Pope Gregory VII worked to increase the power and authority of the popes. He believed that the church was the supreme authority on earth. He used excommunication to resolve conflicts of church and state.

Henry thought he had the right to appoint the bishops of the German church. This was known as lay investiture. Pope Gregory, on the other hand, angrily opposed this idea because he wanted the power for himself. Gregory responded to Henry's attempts to name new bishops by excommunicating him and used an interdict to release Henry's subjects from their feudal obligations of loyalty.



Fearing a vassal rebellion, Henry sought the Pope's mercy. Henry and his servants made a long and dangerous journey through the snowy mountains of northern Italy to meet the Pope (1077). They met in a small town in the mountains of northern Italy. When he arrived, the Pope made the humiliated Henry wait in the bitter cold for three days before finally agreeing to see him. When Henry was permitted to enter the gates, he walked barefoot through the snow and knelt at the feet of the pope to beg forgiveness. The Pope revoked Henry's excommunication.

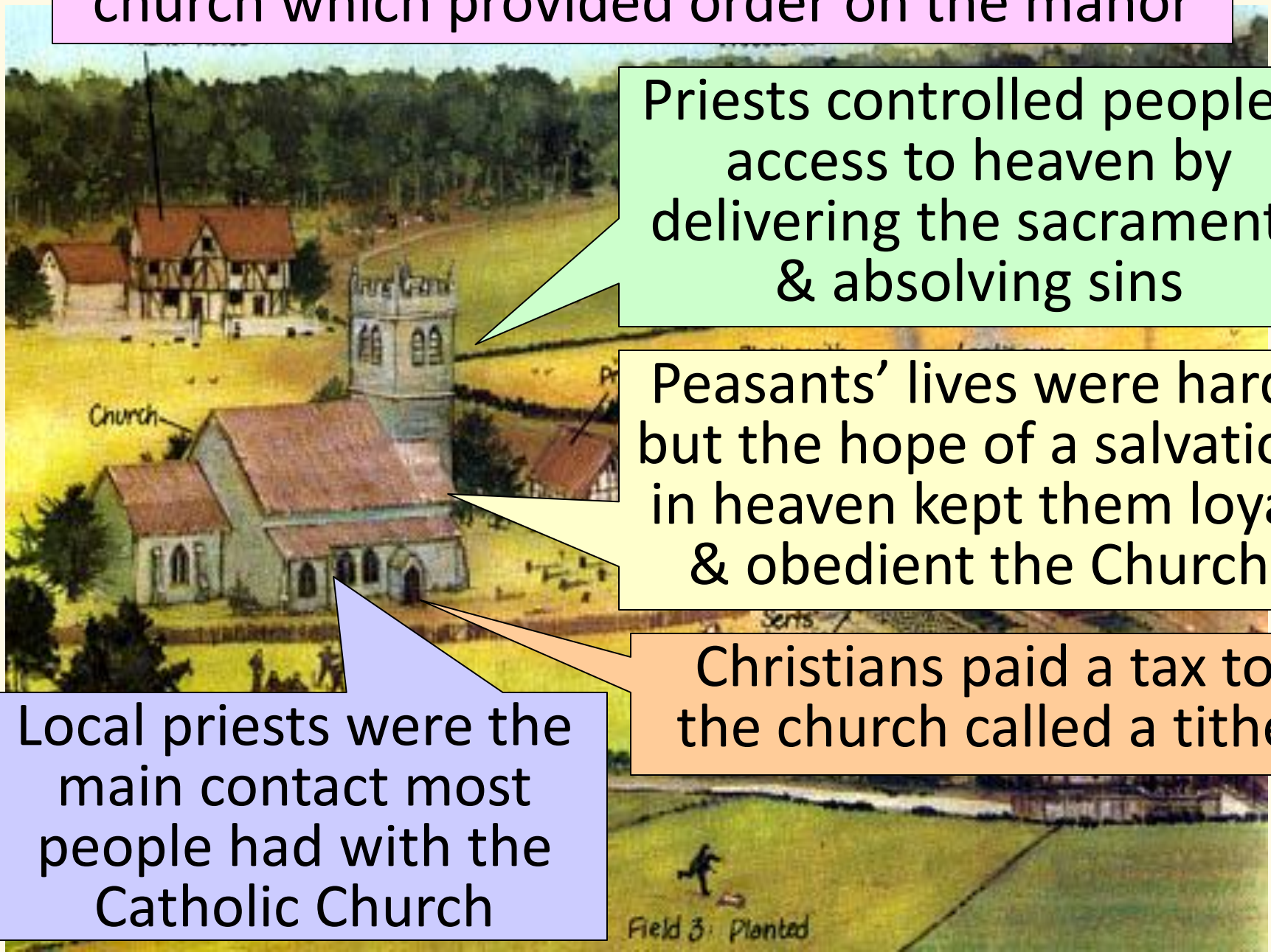
Each territory in medieval Europe had a church which provided order on the manor

Priests controlled peoples' access to heaven by delivering the sacraments & absolving sins

Peasants' lives were hard, but the hope of a salvation in heaven kept them loyal & obedient the Church

Christians paid a tax to the church called a tithe

Local priests were the main contact most people had with the Catholic Church



Early medieval cathedrals were built with
Romanesque architecture

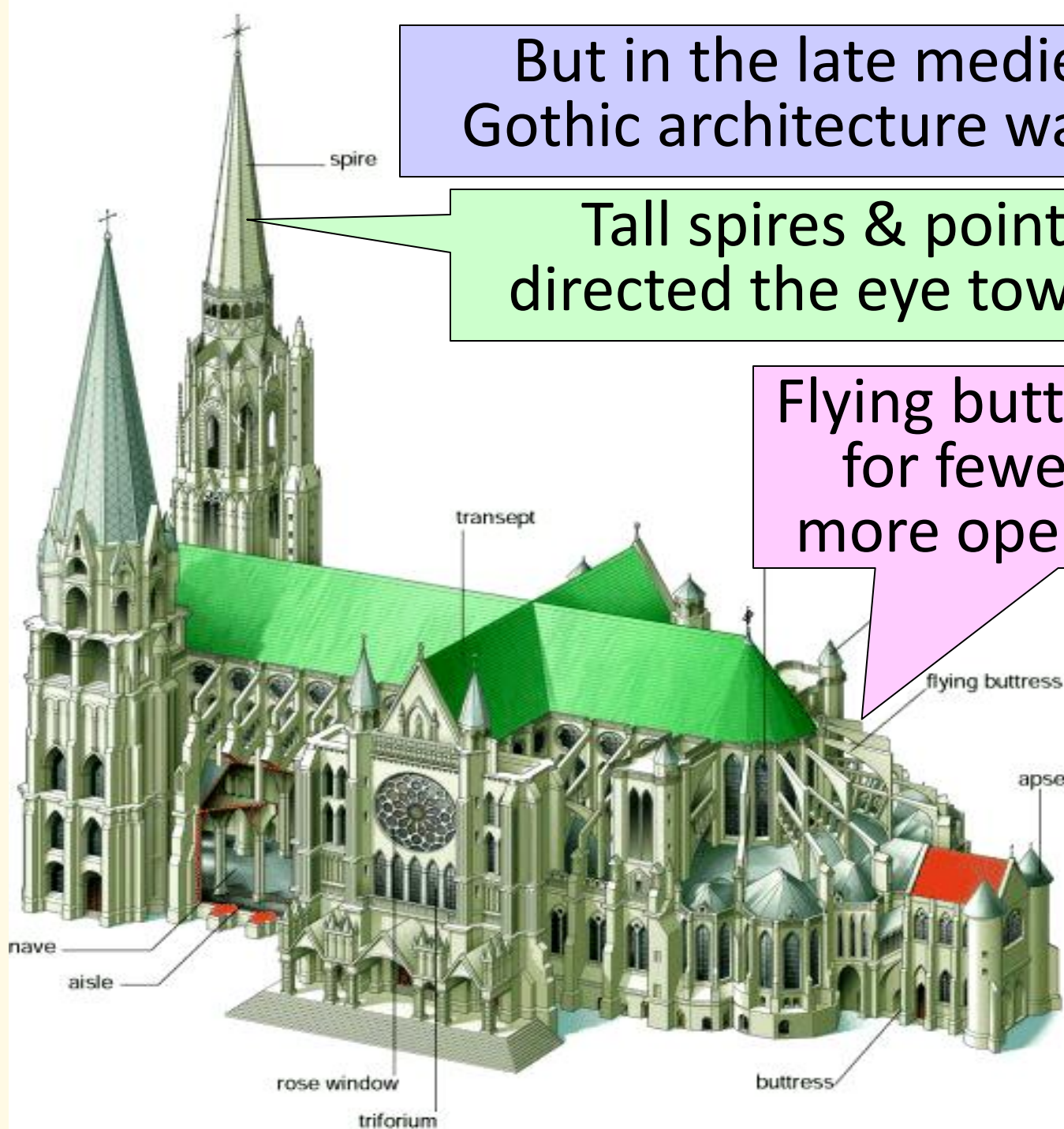
but large cathedrals were built in cities



But in the late medieval period,
Gothic architecture was introduced

Tall spires & pointed arches
directed the eye towards heaven

Flying buttresses allowed
for fewer columns &
more open space inside





Two Christian Thinkers



■ St. Thomas Aquinas

- Summa Theologica – provided a summary of Christian beliefs
- Showed how the writings of Greek philosophers were compatible with Christian teachings (Scholasticism)
- We should trust reason as well as faith
- Believed in “natural” or “universal laws”
- Beginning of civil disobedience



Political Development of Europe during the Middle Ages

D non essent registrantes
et futuri ministrantes que
vident et que audiunt .
que non viderunt nec sciunt .
per scripturas edocemur
si nos bene recordemur . que sunt .

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 another nephew, Harold, instead of William
- Altered feudal system in England
 - Made all nobles swear allegiance to him → going around all lesser kings & nobles

Feudalism changed in England with the Norman Invasion in 1066



England Cont.

Henry I: (4th 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 sons 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

King 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

France Cont.

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 (1st 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 14th cen.)
- Capetain kings set up 2 new gov't depts → Chamber of Accounts & Parliament of Paris

Holy Roman Empire

Otto I the Great :

- 1st 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)

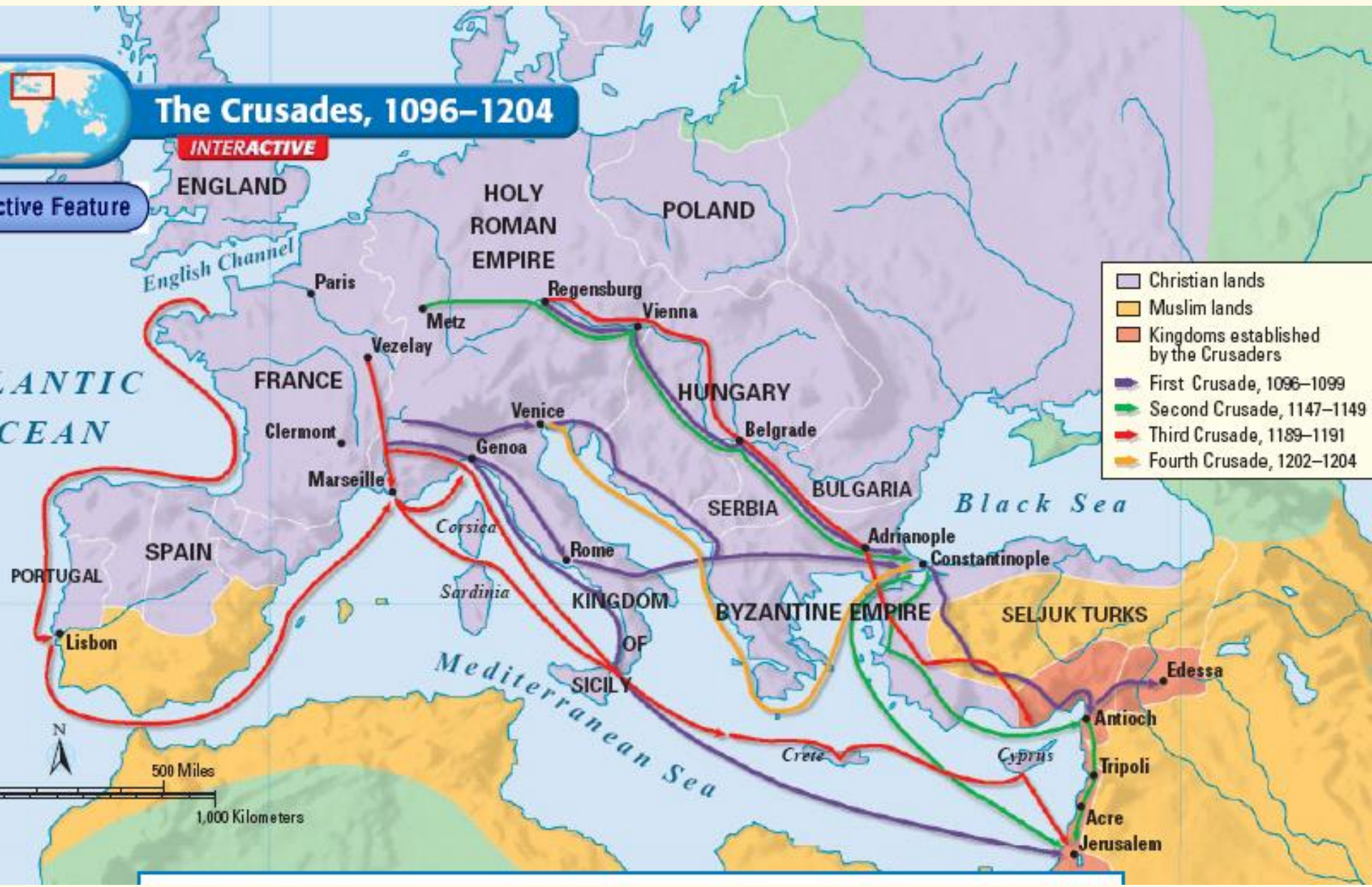
Frederick I:

- 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

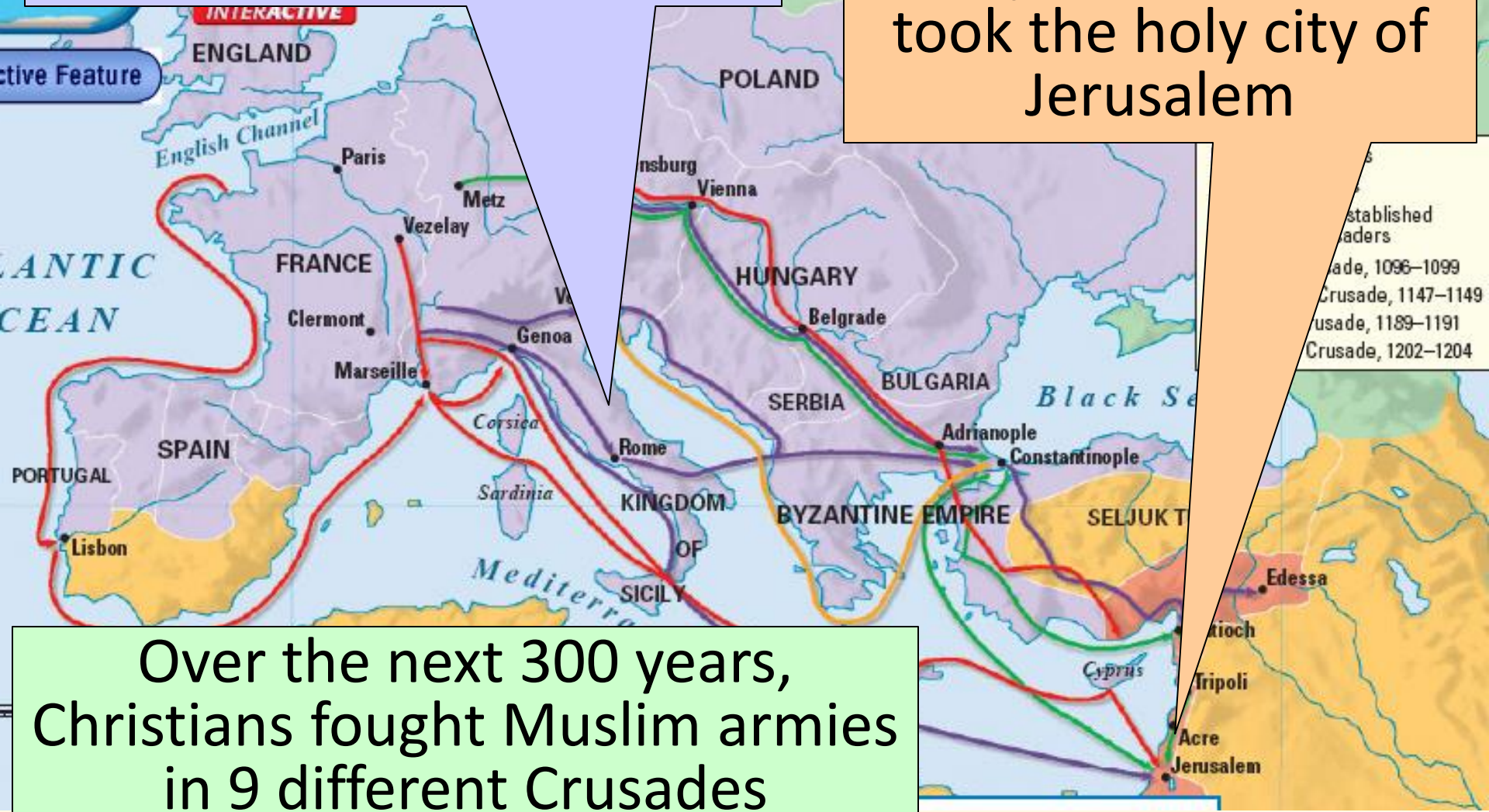
Why did Christians go to Jerusalem during the Middle Ages?



Pope Urban II issued a call to Christians for a Crusade (a holy war) to regain control of the Holy Land

Crusades

In 1095, the Islamic Empire invaded & took the holy city of Jerusalem



Over the next 300 years, Christians fought Muslim armies in 9 different Crusades

Why did Christians go on the Crusades?



Merchants wanted access to trade routes

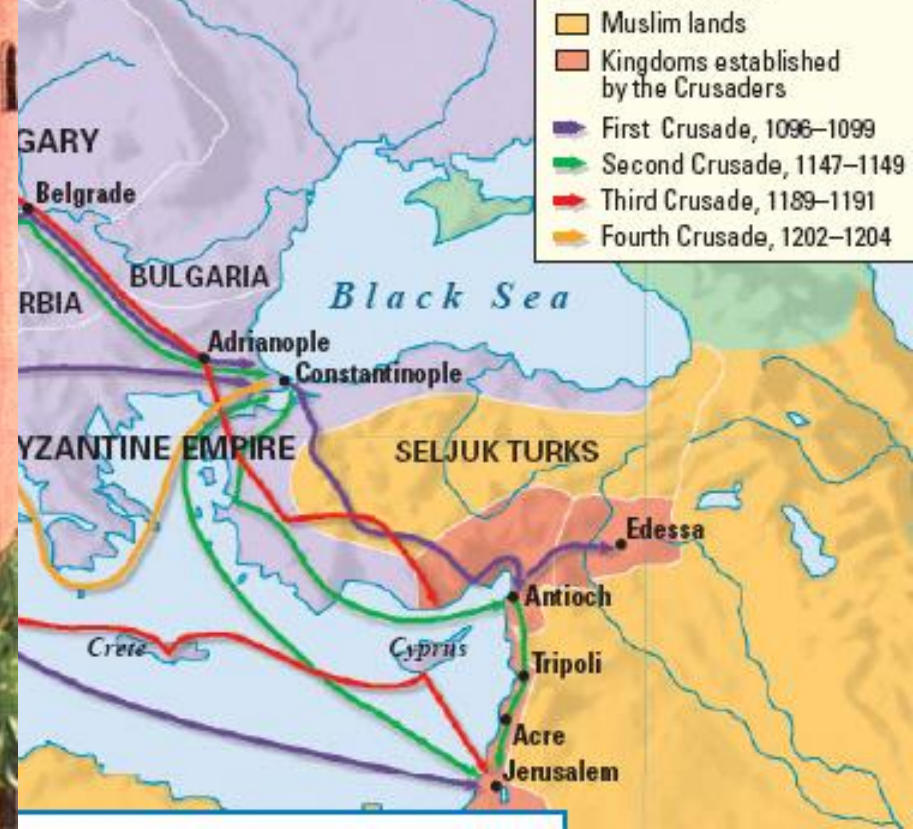
The Pope wanted to unite Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox Christians & regain holy lands from Muslims

Knights wanted to support the Church; Many hoped to gain land & wealth

Christian soldiers took back Jerusalem during the First Crusade

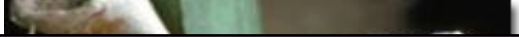
But, Muslims took back Jerusalem & kept it during the Second & Third Crusades

More Crusades were fought, but Christians never regained the Holy Lands





Effects of the Crusades



The Crusades brought cultural diffusion & introduced new ideas into Western Europe




Increased desires for luxury goods like silk, cotton, sugar, & spices



Introduced technologies like compass, astrolabe, ship designs, & gunpowder



Introduced ideas like Arabic numbers, chemistry, algebra, telescope



A detailed illustration of a medieval manuscript room. Several scholars in period clothing are seated at long wooden desks, working on large parchment scrolls. The room has stone walls and a tiled floor. Callout boxes with colored backgrounds and pointers identify various influences: Greek ideas (purple), Roman ideas (pink), Islamic ideas (light blue), Chinese ideas (orange), and Ideas about the Bible (green). A yellow box on the left contains text about the Crusades.

Greek ideas

After the
Crusades,
learning
increased
& more
people
were
educated

Roman ideas

Islamic ideas

Ideas about
the Bible

Chinese ideas

Trade led to the growth of cities



The Black Death



1347 - 1351



Bring out your dead!

One reason for the decline of the manorial system was the plague, known as the Black Death

Route of the Plague



In 1347, a trade ship arrived in Italy carrying plague-infested rats

The plague swept quickly throughout Europe along trade routes

The Black Death





Symptoms of Bubonic plague

Systemic:

-Fever

Central:

-Headache

-Malaise

Lymph nodes:

-Swelling (buboes)

-Pus exudation

-Bleeding

Gastric:

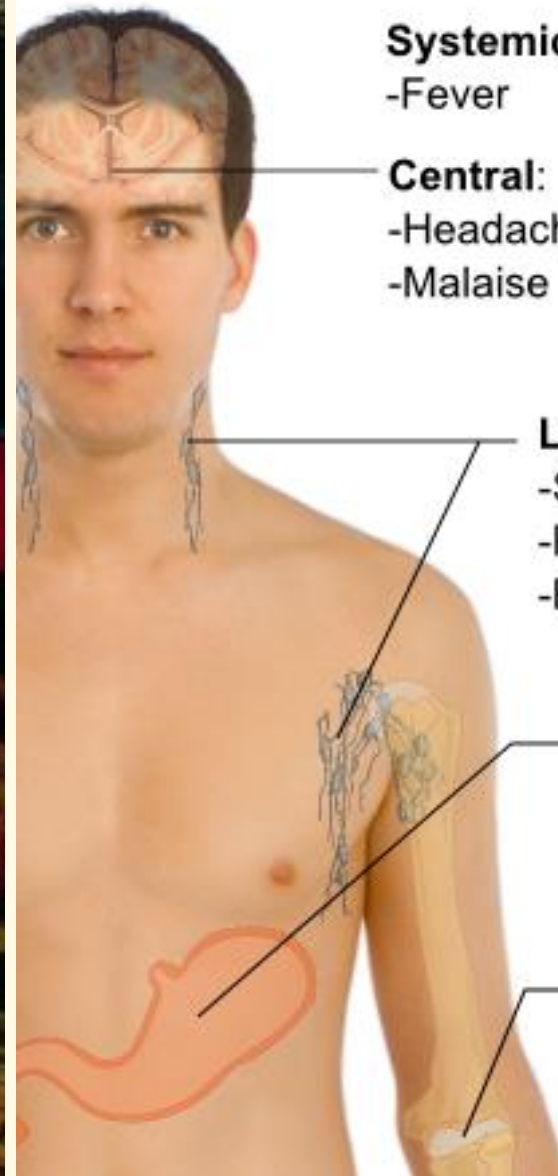
-Nausea

-Vomiting

Joints:

-Pain

-Ache



Attempted “cures” for the plague

Prayer

Bathing in
urine

Leaches

Isolation

Placing dead
animals in
the home



Pomanders

from French pomme d'ambre, i.e., apple of amber, is a ball made for perfumes. Was worn or carried in a vase, also known by the same name, as a protection against infection in times of pestilence or merely as a useful article to modify bad smells.

The plague killed 25 million people in 5 years



The plague caused a labor shortage; those that survived could demand higher wages & more rights



Ooh, Fleas on rats

Conclusions

- The role of religion in the Middle Ages:
 - The Roman Catholic Church played an important role in the lives of Europeans both before & after the Middle Ages
 - The Crusades failed to secure Jerusalem from the Islamic Empire, but these holy wars increased cultural diffusion & helped bring an end to the Middle Ages

