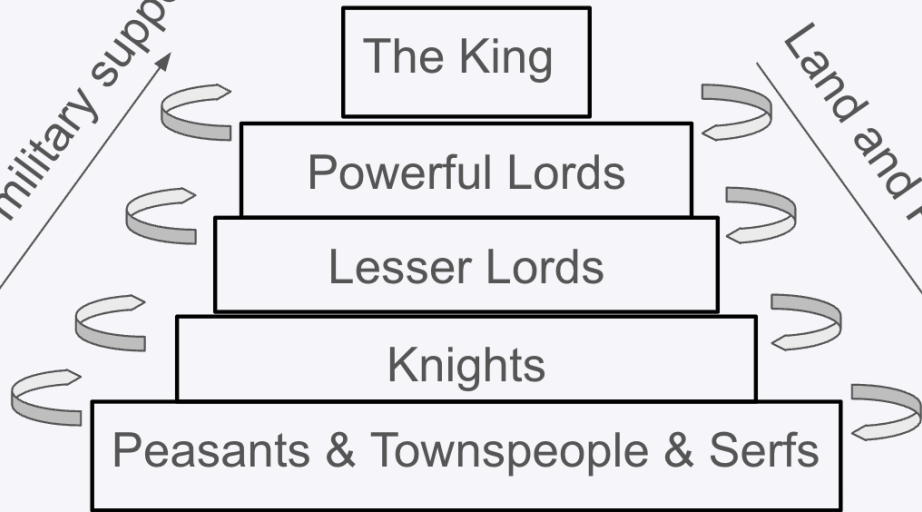


Feudalism & The Middle Ages

09/09

1. Feudalism
 - a. Social, political and economic system
 - i. Distribution of political authority
 - ii. relationships/cooperation between parties
 - iii. Service, protection and obligation
 - iv. Key Elements
 1. Heavy cavalry
 - a. Invention of the stirrup allow for heavy cavalry and upkeep of knights
 2. Vassalage
 3. Private castles
 4. Chivalry
 5. Enfeoffment
 - b. Charles Martel
 - i. Credited with introducing great horses -> helps with the Feudal Regime/known as founder of European Feudalism
2. Vassalage
 - a. Under the Carolingians Lords tied themselves to their vassals with oaths of fealty (loyalty)
 - b. Vassals tended the lord's land on terms of allegiance and homage to the lord
 - i. Invested with a banner, a lance, charter agreement and earth
 - ii. Vassal and lord had duties/obligations to the others
 1. Vassals sworn to serve, the lord to protect and maintain his vassal
3. Fiefs
 - a. Land grants in exchange for military service
 - i. Eventually includes a castle guard, judicial service in the lord's court and assistance in the lord's court
 1. 4 Kinds of aid
 - a. Lord's ransom
 - b. Knighting of the lord's eldest son
 - c. Dowry for his eldest daughter
 - d. Crusade
 - ii. In exchange for these vassals receive an income from the land and jurisdiction of its inhabitants but the lord's retain the ownership/rights of the land
4. The Feudal Order
 - a. Kings own the land "tenant-in-chief"
 - b. Enfeoffment -> grants land to others in exchange for a pledge of loyalty/service
 - i. Leads to subinfeudation -> allows tenants to enfeoff their own tenants
 - ii. Eventually becomes hereditary
 - c. Manorial Estates
 - i. Lord of manor grants land to a serf families in exchange for unpaid labor
 1. Serfdom ≠ Slavery
 - ii. Land in exchange for protection and loyalty
5. Chivalry
 - a. Feudalism leads to a rise in the Chevalerie -> knightly class
 - i. Known for code of honor and conduct
 1. Honesty, loyalty, modesty, gallantry and fortitude
 2. Protect the Church, respect women, love his country, obey his lord, fight the infidel, uphold the truth and justice, keep his word

Loyalty and military support



Land and Protection