



FEUDAL SOCIETY

EUROPE BETWEEN THE 9TH AND 15TH CENTURIES



Feudal society was a system based on land ownership, loyalty, and protection.

WHAT WAS FEUDALISM?

Feudalism was the political, economic, and social system of medieval Europe. People lived in the countryside and depended on the land for food and protection.



THE RELATIONSHIP

Feudalism was based on mutual obligations between lords and vassals.



THE FEUDAL HIERARCHY



KING

Owned all the land in the kingdom. He was at the top of the society.



NOBLES

Owned large areas of land given by the king. They helped the king and controlled the land.



KNIGHTS (VASSALS)

Loyal warriors who received land (fiefs) from nobles. They protected the land and served in the lords' armies.



PEASANTS (SERFS)

Worked on the land owned by nobles. They paid rent or gave part of their harvest in exchange for protection and the right to live on the land.

DAILY LIFE

LIFE IN THE MANOR



- The manor was at the center of feudal life.
- It included the lord's land, peasants' houses, fields, and barns.

PEASANTS' LIFE



- Peasants worked in the fields, raised animals, and produced most of what they needed.
- They had few rights and could not leave the land.

NOBLES AND KNIGHTS



- Nobles lived in castles and enjoyed privileges.
- Knights trained for battle and followed a code of honor.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



- The Church had great influence on people's lives.
- It provided spiritual guidance, education, and helped the poor.

KEY FEATURES



LANDOWNERSHIP

Land was the most important source of wealth and power.



LOYALTY

People swore loyalty to their lord in exchange for land and protection.



DECENTRALIZED POWER

Local lords had more power than the central king in many areas.



AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Farming was the base of the economy. Most people were self-sufficient.

WHERE DID FEUDALISM EXIST?



Feudalism was common in medieval Europe, but it varied from place to place.

QUICK FACTS



TIME PERIOD:

From the 9th to the 15th century.



POPULATION:

About 90% of people were peasants.



MAIN IDEAS:

Land, loyalty, protection, and tradition.



DECLINE:

Feudalism declined with the growth of towns, trade, and stronger kings.



FEUDALISM SHAPED MEDIEVAL EUROPE

It influenced government, the economy, and everyday life for hundreds of years.

