

Chapter 10: A New Civilization Emerges in Europe



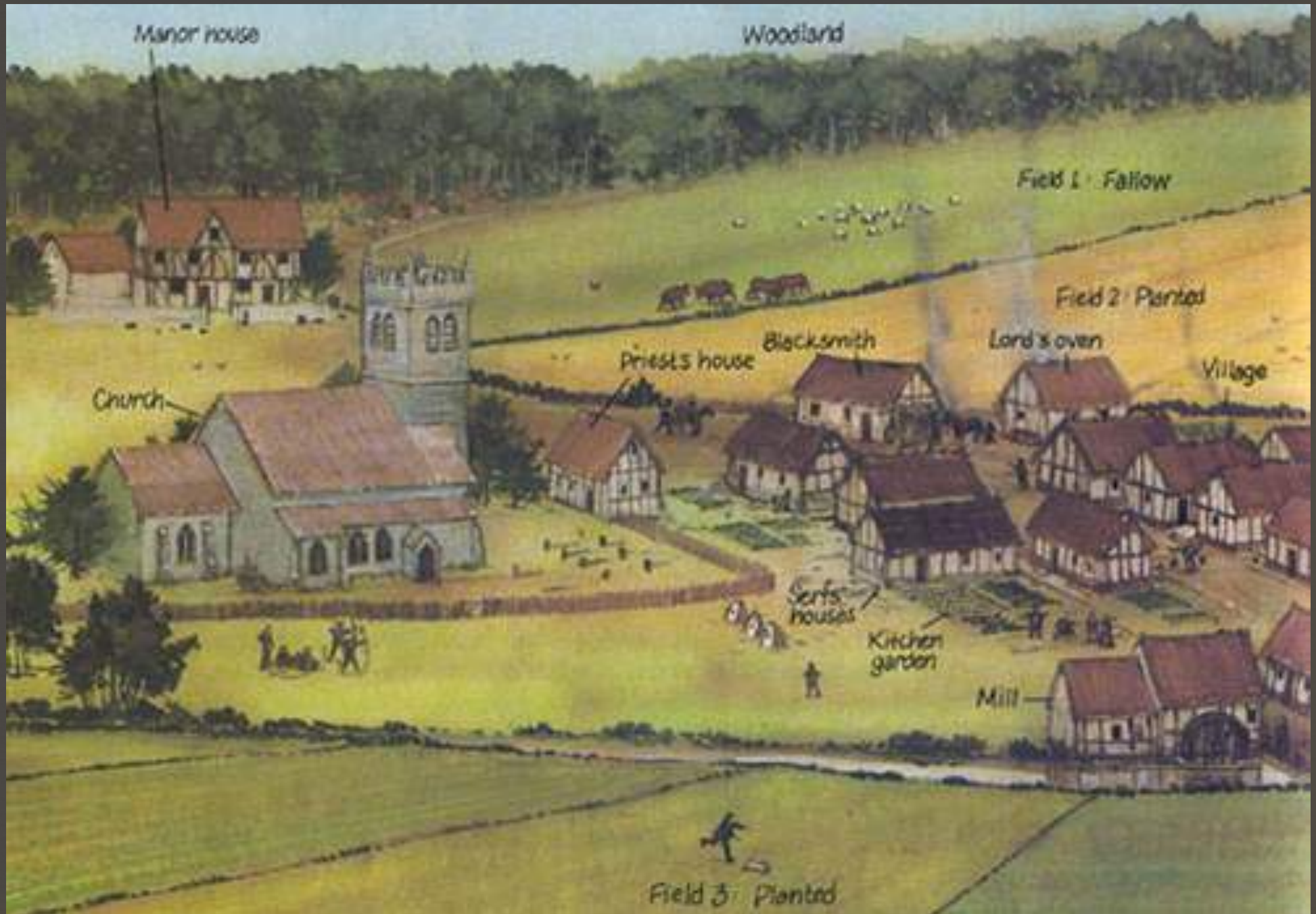
Overview of Middle Ages

- Fall of Western Rome (5th c.) - decline of Europe's feudal and religious institutions (15th c.)
 - Early Middle Ages (5th-10th): period of decline
 - High Middle Ages (10th-15th): period of slow emergence
- Age of great faith (Christianity) with strong participation, and fervent spread of beliefs by missionaries
- Increasing participation in trade with Asia and Africa.
- In High Middle Ages, contact with Byzantines and Arabs through Crusades teaches Western scholars advances in math, science, philosophy.

Manorialism

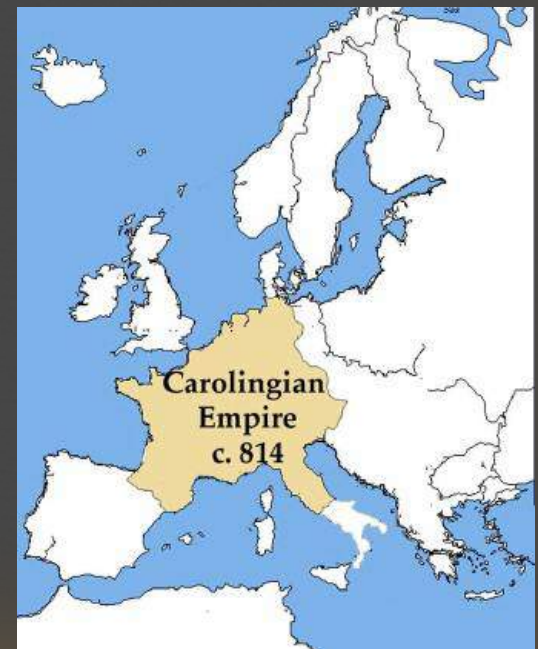
- System of economic organization between landlords and peasant laborers (serfs) who live on estates (manors)
- Reciprocal obligations
 - Serfs were obligated to give their lord a portion of their produce
 - Lords protected serfs and provide everyday needs
- Levels of production = low; technology = limited
- Local level; no involvement of military because of localized nature
- Agricultural unit of production and consumption
- Local politics with regional aristocrats is most common form of organization until Vikings invade at large in 9th century → Western Europeans turn to feudalism for greater protection but manorialism is not abandoned

Manorialism



Charlemagne and the Carolingians

- Frankish Carolingian dynasty grows in power (origins of modern France and Germany)
- 732: Charles Martel defeats Muslims in Battle of Tours
- Charlemagne
 - 800, establish empire in France and Germany
 - Pope's coronation of Charlemagne as first Holy Roman Emperor sets precedent that Church approval is necessary for Western political power
 - 843: Treaty of Verdun (empire fragments into three kingdoms)



Holy Roman Empire

962-1806

- Emerges from one kingdom (Germany, Italy) from Treaty of Verdun
 - Charlemagne is crowned HRE in 800
 - Position falls into disuse; empire falls into decline
 - Revived in 962: Otto I crowned HRE
- Merge classical and Christian claims; proclaims itself a continuation of Ancient Rome
- Provides a small amount of stability, but power of emperor was limited
- Most of Germany still run by feudal lords and most of Italy in city-states
- Dissolved in 1806 during Napoleonic Wars

Holy Roman Empire in 1600



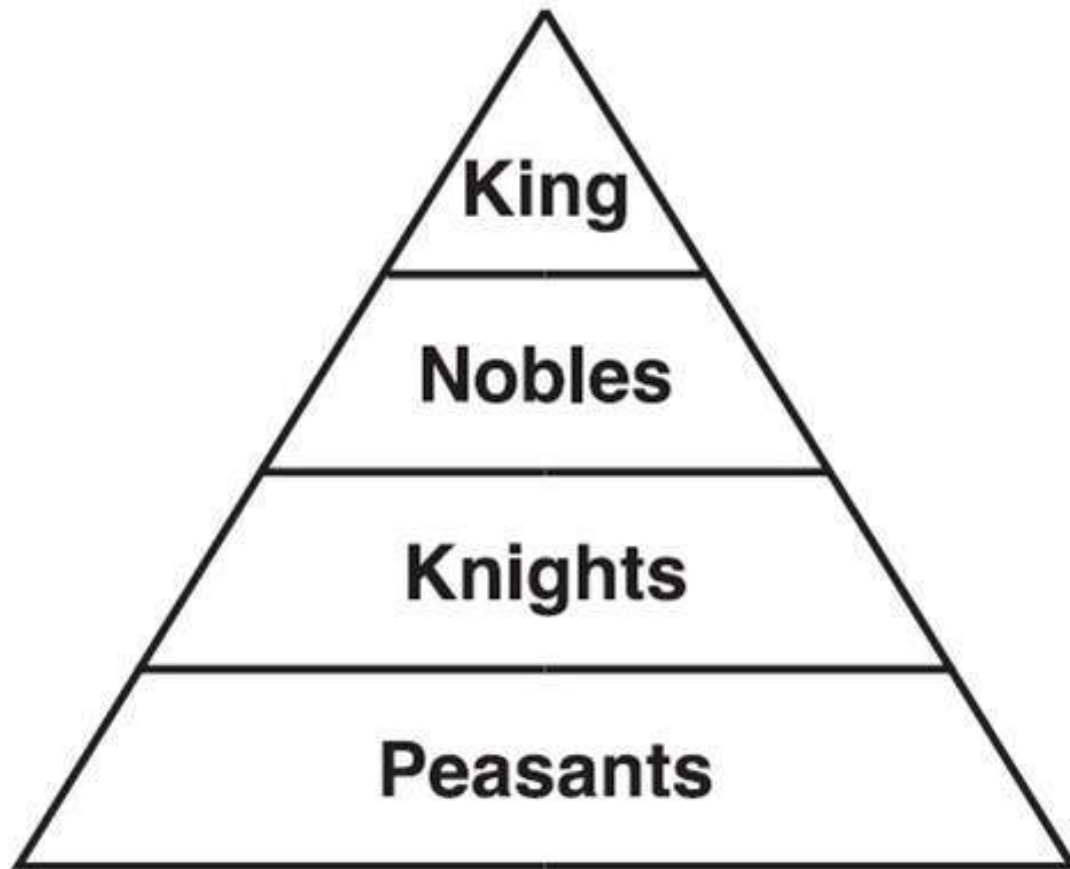
Europe: 1050 AD



Feudal Monarchies

- Military and political system
 - Rulers provided protection and aid to lesser lords (vassals)
 - Vassals owed rulers military service; goods; payments; counsel; sometimes receive land
- Growth of strong feudal monarchy in Europe took many centuries
- Absorbs manors into larger kingdoms
- Result: regional monarchies with strong aristocracies
- William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy
 - Introduced feudal monarchy to England following Norman invasion in 1066
 - Declares that vassals must swear allegiance to him, not to lords

European Feudal System



King



Appointed for protection and to handle territory.

Lords



Appointed to protect both the lord and king

Knights



Appointed to work the land

Serfs

Taxes

Limiting Government

- Growth of monarchy cut into aristocratic power, so attempts are made to limit monarchical power
- 1215: Magna Carta
 - King John recognizes supremacy of written law; was forced by noblemen to adhere to it
 - Granted basic rights to noblemen
- 1265: first English Parliament
 - Serve as check on royal authority; collaboration between king and vassals
- Three Estates (Church, Nobles, Commoners)
 - Rights according to estate in which you were born
- However, monarchs continue to increase in power
 - Large conflicts like Hundred Years War lead to early ideas of nationalism with kings are leaders that embody countries' principles



Vikings

- Danish; Norwegian; Swedish
- Raids from 8th to 11th centuries
- Lightweight boats with wide hulls; stable and easily handled in rough water
- 10th c.: Begin to cease raids, convert to Christianity, and become settled peoples in Europe.
 - Continue to explore northern Atlantic (Iceland; Greenland; North America)
 - First European steps in Americas, Hudson Bay area



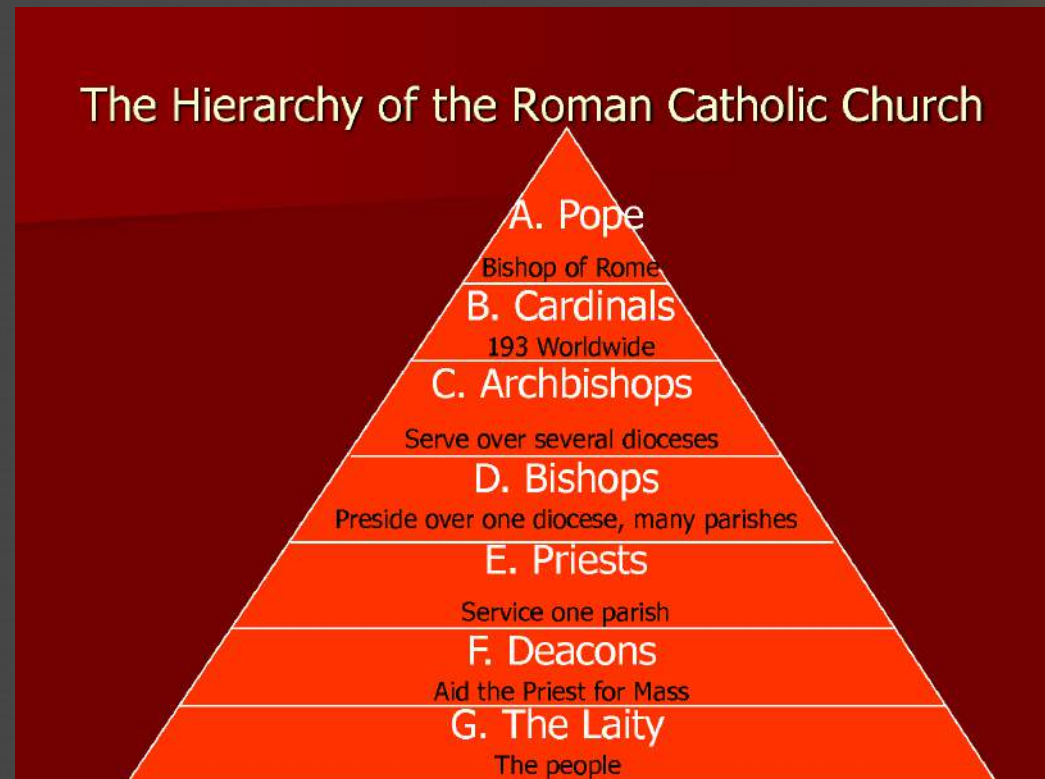
Crusades

- Crusades (8 total)
 - Called by Urban II, 1095; end Muslim (Seljuk Turk) control of Holy Land
 - Initial success but ultimately end with defeat
 - Pass through Byzantine Empire (architectural achievements)
 - New contact with Islam and open western Europe's eyes to new possibilities, especially trade
 - Sugarcane, spices, porcelain, glassware, carpets from East
 - Unbalanced trade: West wants Eastern goods
 - Show aggressive spirit of Western Europe



The Catholic Church

- Catholic Church becomes most powerful and wealthy institution in West
 - Opportunities for abuse and corruption
 - Church sometimes owned large landholdings
- Clear hierarchy of Church power like Roman government
- Popes regulated doctrine
- Just like “Royal Cult” of Islam, early Germanic kings were interested in Christianity



Religious Reform

- 1073-1085: Gregorian Reform with Gregory VII
 - Separation of secular and religious spheres
 - Try to free church from interference from states
 - Prove Church is superior to state
 - Quarrels with HRE Henry IV over investiture (whose right is it to appoint bishops? King or Pope?)
- Several reform movements created to combat perceived corruption in Church
 - Mendicants, 13th century
 - St. Francis (Franciscans)
 - St. Dominic (Dominicans)



Monasticism

- Aide in discipline of intense spirituality of devout Christians through celibacy and extreme piety
- Example of holy life to ordinary people
- Monasteries were pilgrimage centers
- Intellectual life and literacy declines except among churchman in monasteries
- Benedict of Nursia, 6th c.
 - Creates Benedictine rule for monks
 - Founder of Western monasticism



The High Middle Ages

- 11th - 15th centuries: emergence from the Dark Ages
 - Increased urbanization and declining manorialism
 - Increased social mobility
 - Increased trade with Asia
 - Increased economic activity and banking
 - Increased universities
 - Declining feudal political structures and emerging centralized monarchies
 - Strengthening of nation-states (Hundred Years' War)
 - New warfare technology

Urbanization and Education

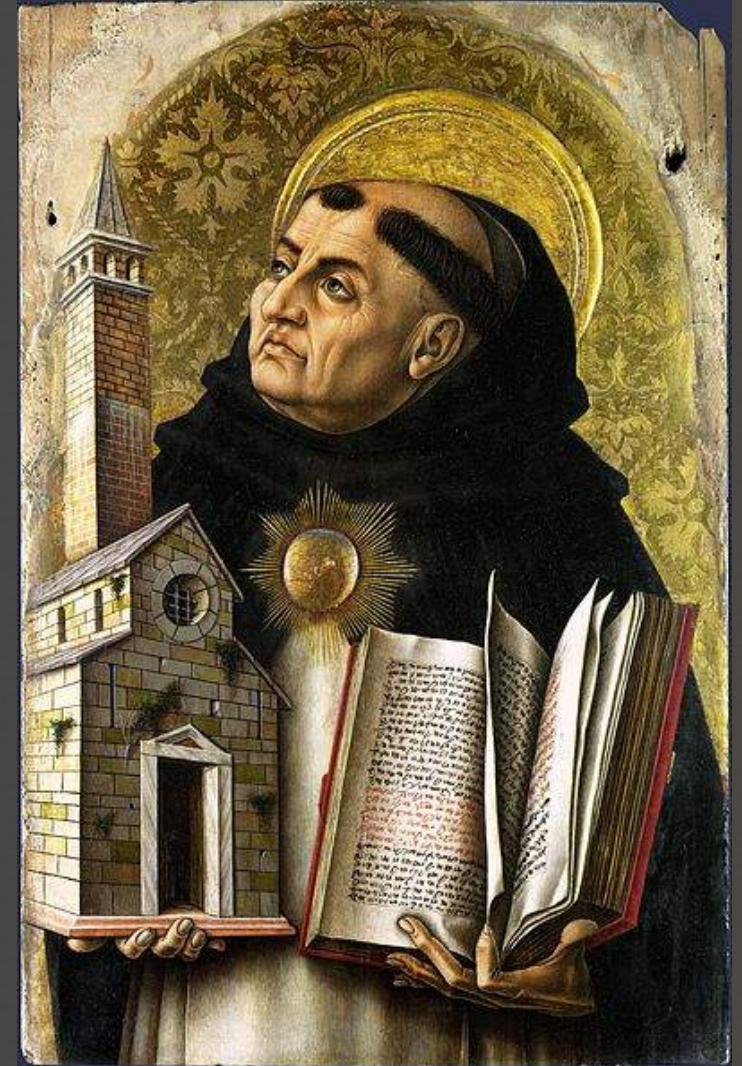
- Population increase, towns grow
 - Growing economy and markets
 - Literacy expands in urban centers
 - Decreasing Viking raids
- Emphasis on education
 - From 11th c: Cathedral schools trained children to be future clergy members
 - From 13th c: Universities trained students in theology, medicine, law
- Help to create economic and cultural vitality in Europe after 1000



Theology

(Assimilating Faith and Reason)

- Exploration of Greek philosophy and assimilation into Catholic religious tradition
- Debate in universities: how to combine rational philosophy with Christian faith?
- Bernard of Clairvaux, monk
 - Opposed to approach of integration of Greek philosophy into Catholic tradition
 - Supports mysticism (receive truth through faith and union with God)
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summas*
 - faith is primary, but reason leads to understanding; therefore, one can reconcile Greek philosophy with Catholic theology
 - Scholasticism, 13th c., logic to resolve theological problems



Religion in Art and Literature

- Architecture, literature, and art reflect religious themes
- Painting: wood panels, religious scenes, no perspective
- Romanesque architecture: for pilgrimages, blocky, “Roman”-like
- Gothic architecture: 11th c., verticality, light, intricacy, growing technical skills, expensive
- Literature
 - Latin: law, education
 - Vernacular: secular literature (Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*; *Beowulf*)
 - Court poetry and chivalry





Agricultural Innovations

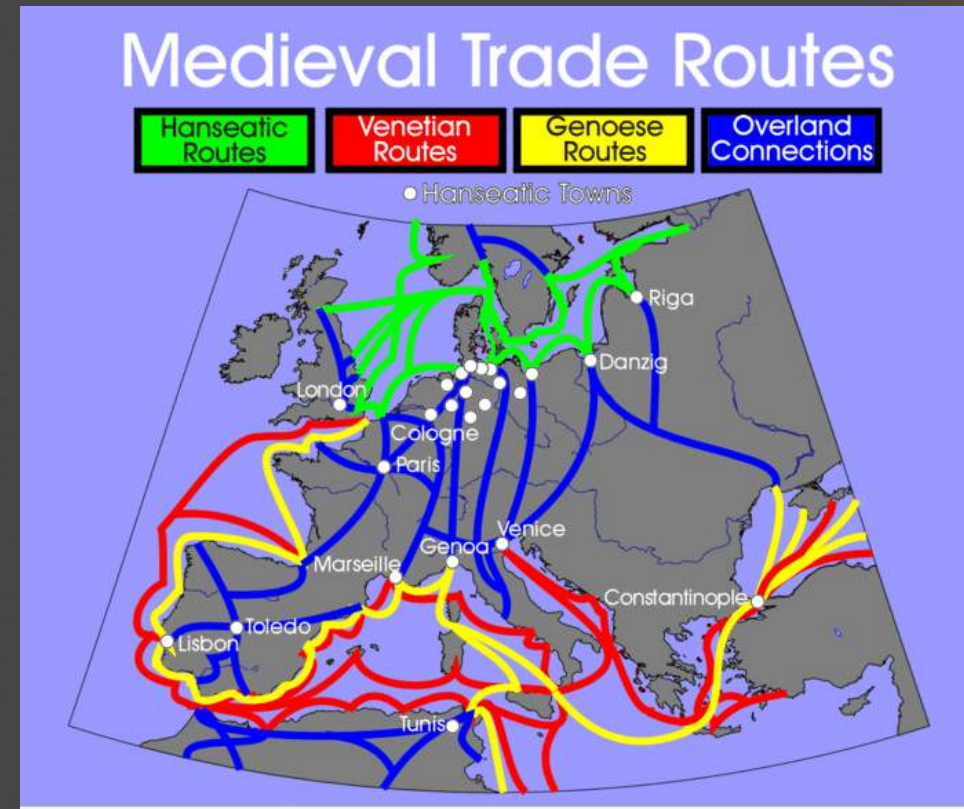
- Moldboard: curved iron plate, allowed deeper turning of heavy soil
- Crop rotation: leave half of land uncultivated each year to restore soil, but limits productivity
- Three-field system: Only 1/3 of land left unplanted
- Agricultural improvements → increased production → population growth → increased size of urban areas
- Peasants gain financial freedom with agricultural advances, some become free farmers with no landlord and move to cities



Moldboard and Crop Rotation

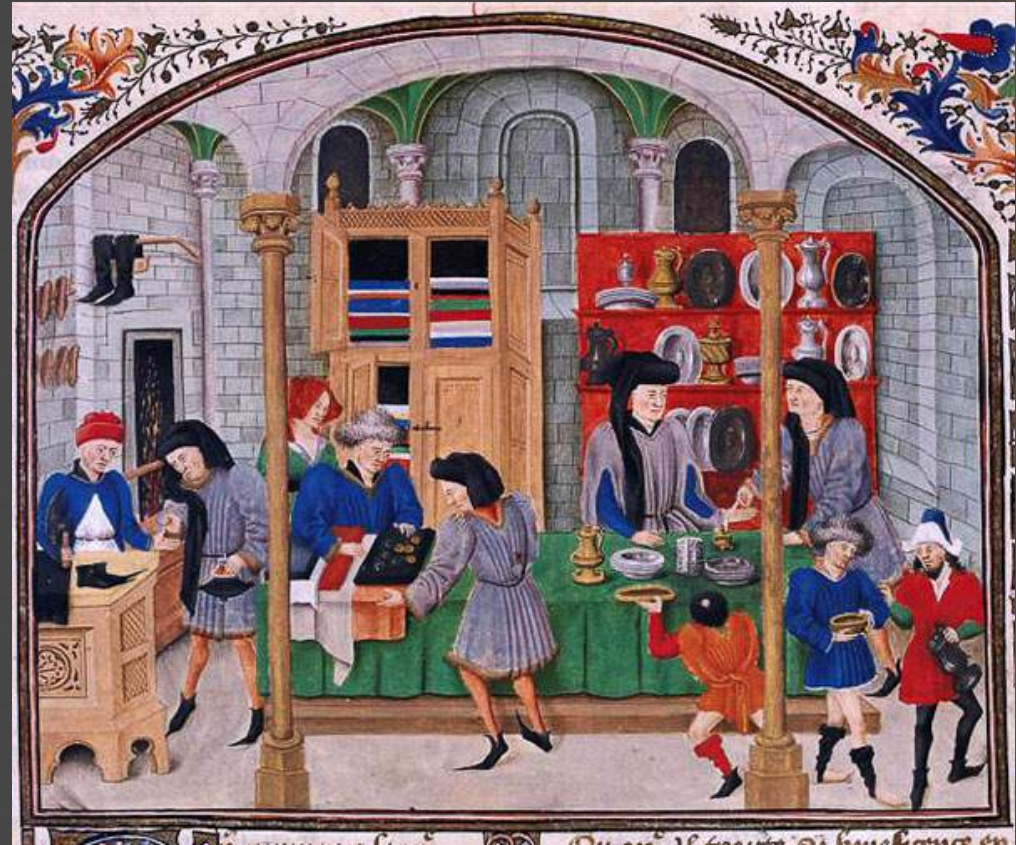
Growth of Trade and Banking

- Low Countries: cloth; England: wool; France: wine; Scandinavia: timber; fish; fur
- Money replaces barter system, and banking and insurance emerge
- Hanseatic League
 - Confederation of merchant guilds and cities in Northern Europe working together for mutual economic benefit
- Merchants asserted considerable power in trading cities as weak governments failed to regulate merchants
- Merchants have low social status however; Christians raised concerns about capitalism and greed



Guilds

- Organizations that grouped people in the same business or trade in a single city
- Stress financial security
- Craft associations
- Protect markets, set prices
- Ensure standards, regulate apprenticeships, provide training and materials



The Role of Women

- Traditional roles: wife and childcare provider, patriarchal
- Code of Chivalry: reinforced ideas that women were weak and subordinate
- Nun: alternative to marriage
- Two attitudes:
 - Veneration of Mary and female saints give women cultural and religious prestige
 - Emphasis on Eve as source of sin
- No property rights but could trade and belong to some craft guilds
- Growing literature discussing women's roles as comforters to men, list docile virtues



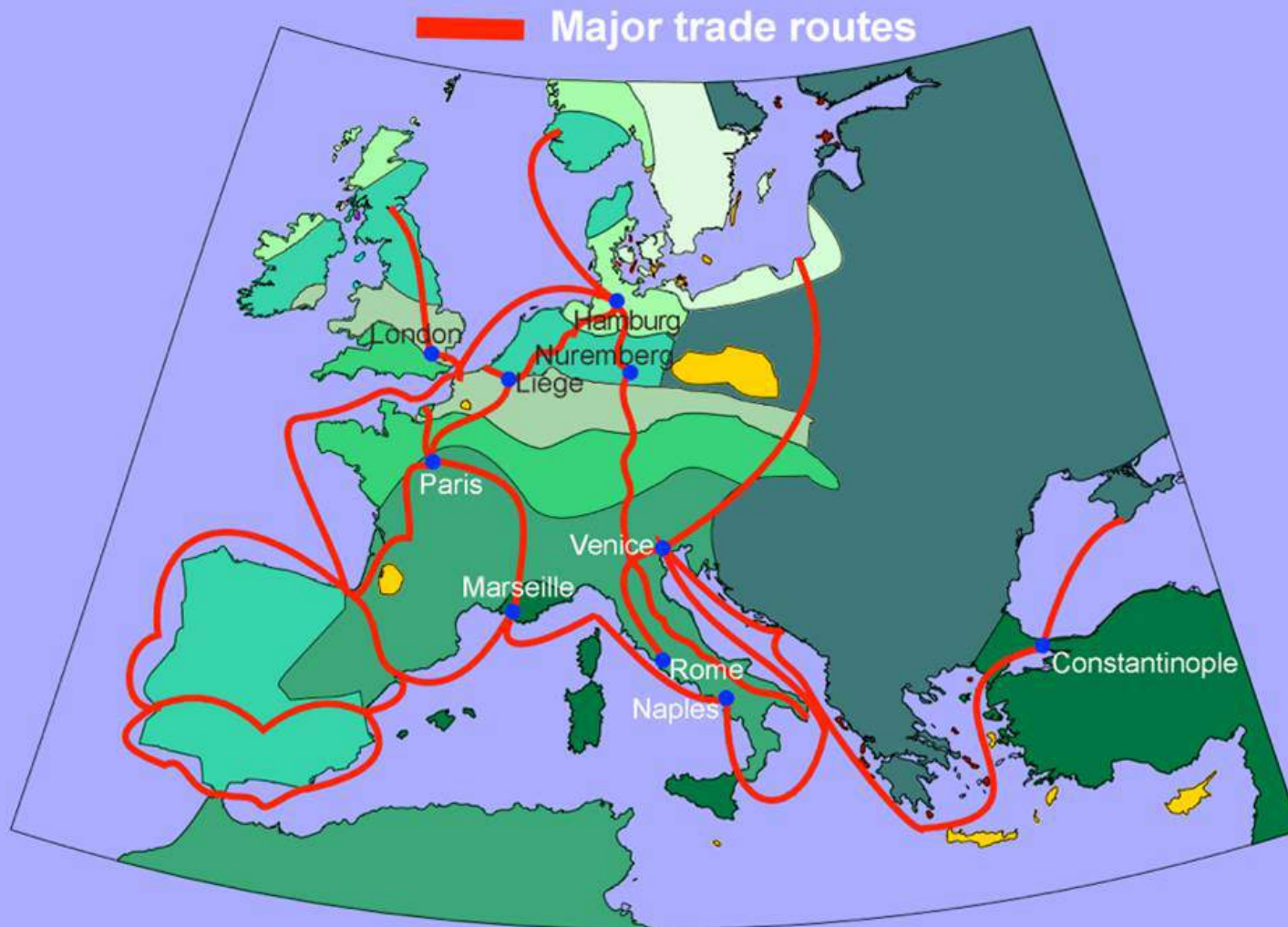
The Decline of the Medieval World

- After 1300: overpopulation, severe famine; warfare, and disease
- 1348: Bubonic Plague (Black Death)
 - Kills $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ European population
 - Started in China; travels along Silk Road
- Knights lose military purpose; become decorative
 - Foot soldiers more important and practical
 - Growth of professional armies; shook authority of feudal lords who used to supply armies
 - New weaponry (cannons, gunpowder); traditional methods (fortified castles) irrelevant
 - Example: Hundred Years War (1337-1453)
- Aristocracy do not disappear; choose to live in rich ceremonial style that exhibits court life and chivalry



The Spread of the Black Death

December 1347	June 1349	December 1350
June 1348	December 1349	After 1351
December 1348	June 1350	Areas partially or totally spared



Changing Culture

- Church increasingly rigid
 - Series of controversies over papal authority distance Church from everyday devotion (rival claimants to papacy)
 - Reformers and mystics emerge (no longer need Church to have direct experience with God)
- Proto-Renaissance: Intellectual and artistic life develop
 - Art: realistic portrayals of space and nature, growing interest in the body



The Postclassical West and Its Heritage

- “Middle Ages” implies lull between glory of Rome and glitter of Renaissance
- Formative period
 - Backwardness and vulnerability
 - Dynamic change (trade, intellectual activity, Gothic)
- Marked change in relationship between West and regions around it (Crusades and trade)
 - Europe originally at mercy of invasions (Vikings, nomadic groups from central Asia)
- Nervous about power of Islam (false religion, deep threat to Christians and Holy Land)
 - Yet, actively copy Islam (law, science, art)