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**IDX G9 HISTORY S+ STUDY GUIDE ISSUE 4**

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**7.1 The Early Middle Ages**

- Western Europe in Decline

- Roman Empire's Influence:

- Included large parts of Western Europe

- Spread the Latin language widely

- Made Christianity prominent

- Introduced classical ideas

- Post-Roman Situation:

- Social order deteriorated

- Political fragmentation occurred

- The economy declined severely

- Became mainly in rural areas

- Cut off from advanced regions

- Experienced waves of invaders

- Trade nearly ceased

- Towns emptied

- Classical learning faded

- Later known as the Middle Ages with blended cultures

- The Rise of the Germanic Kingdoms

- Germanic Culture Traits:

- Primarily farmers and herders

- Lacked cities and written laws

- Lived in small communities

- Governed by unwritten customs

- Kings elected by tribal councils

- Warriors pledged loyalty to weapons and loot

- Kingdom Formation Process:

- Between 400 and 700, divided Western Europe

- The Franks as a key kingdom

- Clovis as the king

- Conquered Gaul (later France)

- Ruled by Frankish customs

- Preserved Roman heritage

- Converted to Christianity

- Gained the support of locals

- Allied with the pope

- Muslim Threat and Response:

- Islam emerged as a new power

- Muslims built a large empire

- Church and Christian kingdoms feared Muslim expansion into Spain

- Charles Martel rallied Frankish warriors

- Christian victory at the Battle of Tours

- Muslims halted in Western Europe but remained a concern

- The Age of Charlemagne

- Empire Building Efforts:

- Grandson of Charles Martel

- United parts of Western Europe (France, Germany, Italy)

- Fought against Muslims in Spain

- Battled Saxons in the north

- Confronted Avars and Slavs in the east

- Opposed Lombards in Italy

- Reunited much of the Western Roman Empire

- Becoming Roman Emperor:

- Pope Leo III sought his help in Rome

- Charlemagne's delegates arrested opponents

- Crowned Emperor of the Romans in 800

- Revived the idea of Christendom

- Led to power struggles later

- Outraged the Eastern Roman Empire

- Unifying the Christian Empire:

- Aimed to create a united Christian Europe

- Sent missionaries to convert people

- Appointed nobles to rule regions

- Sent missi dominici

- To check roads

- To listen to grievances

- To ensure justice

- Revival of Learning:

- Saw education as a unifying tool

- Revived Latin learning

- Encouraged school creation

- Sought to revive Rome's glory at Aachen

- Brought scholars to the Palace School

- Europe After Charlemagne

- Succession and Division:

- Son Louis I took the throne

- Sons fought for power

- Grandsons split the empire in 843 (Treaty of Verdun)

- Charlemagne's Legacy:

- Blended Germanic, Roman, and Christian cultures

- Set examples of strong government

- Influenced later medieval rulers

- New Invasions:

- Magyars settled in Hungary around 900

- Raided Eastern Europe

- Plundered Germany, France, and Italy

- Eventually pushed back

- Vikings from Scandinavia

- Independent farmers led by chieftains

- Expert sailors

- Raided coasts and rivers from the 700s

- Also, traders and explorers

- Set up colonies in North America

- Settled in England, Ireland, etc

**7.2 Feudalism and the Manor Economy**

- Feudalism: A Political System

- Origins and Structure:

- Invasions weakened central rule

- Lords divided land (fiefs) among vassals

- Vassals pledged loyalty and service

- Varied across regions and over time

- Mutual Obligations:

- Lords granted fiefs

- Varying in size

- Included peasants, towns, and buildings

- Lords protected vassals

- Vassals provided

- 40 days of military service annually

- Money payments

- Advice

- Complex relationships due to multiple lordships

- Vassals had liege lords for primary loyalty

- The World of Knights and Nobles

- Nobles and Warfare:

- Constantly fought for power

- Trained boys as knights from age 7

- Learned riding and fighting

- Maintained armour and weapons

- Underwent strict discipline

- Knights dubbed in ceremony

- Fought on horseback with swords, axes, and lances

- Wore armour and shields

- Participated in tournaments

- Castles and Defense:

- Lords fortified homes as castles

- Monarchs and nobles had large stone castles by the 1100s

- Knights lived in castles

- Provided refuge for peasants in war

- Key in controlling strategic locations

- Captured by siege or assault methods

- Noblewomen's Role:

- Managed estates when men were away

- Supervised vassals

- Ran the household

- Did agricultural and medical tasks

- Sometimes defended estates in war

- Some involved in politics (e.g., Eleanor of Aquitaine)

- Inheritance rights restricted

- Land usually to the eldest son

- Women got land as dowry

- Widows retained land

- Daughters trained for marriage

- Learned household skills

- Some learned to read and write

- Expected to bear children and be dutiful

- Chivalry code for knights

- Required bravery, loyalty, fairness

- Protected the weak

- Troubadours sang about knights

- The Manor: An Economic System

- Manor Basics:

- Heart of the Medieval economy

- Included villages and surrounding lands

- Peasants (mostly serfs) lived and worked there

- Mutual Obligations:

- Peasants worked on the lord's land

- Several days a week

- Repaired infrastructure

- Asked the lord's permission for marriage

- Paid fees for inheritance and using the mill

- Paid at Christmas and Easter

- Paid with products due to lack of money

- Lords protected peasants

- Self-Sufficient World:

- Peasants produced most necessities

- Rarely travelled far from the village

- Lacked schooling and knowledge of the outside

- Peasant Life:

- Harsh living conditions

- Long working hours

- Simple diet

- Faced punishments for poaching

- Celebrated occasions like marriages and births

- Had breaks at Christmas and Easter

**7.3 The Medieval Church**

- The Church Dominates Medieval Life

- Conversion and Parish Life:

- Spread Christianity across Europe

- Parish priests were the main contact

- Celebrated mass

- Administered sacraments

- Preached teachings

- Explained the Bible

- Guided morally

- Assisted the sick

- Ran schools later

- Church in Society:

- Social centre of villages

- Marked life events (baptism, marriage, burial)

- Required tithes

- Bishops-managed cathedrals

- Views on women were mixed

- Equal before God but seen as weak

- Mary as an ideal

- Set marriage age

- Protected women but punished them harshly, too

- Monasteries and Convents

- Monastic Life Under Benedictine Rule:

- Organized by Benedict

- Monks and nuns took vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity

- Days divided into worship, work, and study

- Worked in fields, workshops, scriptoria

- Produced food and goods

- Copied manuscripts

- Service and Scholarship:

- Provided health and educational services

- Looked after the poor and sick

- Set up schools

- Housed pilgrims

- Sent missionaries

- Preserved learning

- Copied Greek and Roman works

- Taught Latin

- Opportunities for Women:

- Entered convents

- Escaped societal limits

- Some like Hildegard, achieved

- Later rights restricted

- Church Power Grows

- Secular and Religious Authority:

- Pope claimed supremacy

- Clergy-held land and influenced politics

- Had religious and legal power

- Administered sacraments

- Developed canon law

- Had courts

- Excommunication and interdict as penalties

- Corruption and Reform:

- Wealth led to abuse

- Cluny reform revived the Benedictine Rule

- Gregory VII’s reforms targeted secular influence

- Friars (Franciscans, Dominicans) preached reform

- Jews in Medieval Europe

- Early Status:

- Flourished in Spain under Muslim rule

- Coexisted with Christians elsewhere

- Valued by rulers and taxed

- Later Changes:

- Prejudice increased

- Faced restrictions on land and occupations

- Some migrated to Eastern Europe

**7.4 Economic Recovery Sparks Change**

- An Agricultural Revolution

- Technological Advancements:

- Iron ploughs were used in the 800s for northern European soils

- New harness-enabled horse ploughing

- Production and Population Growth:

- Lords cleared land for more farming

- Three-field system adopted

- Population nearly tripled from 1000 - 1300

- The Revival of Trade and Travel

- Trade Routes Expansion:

- Merchant companies formed

- Routes connected Europe, the Middle East, and Asia

- The Hanseatic League protected trade in Northern Europe

- Growth of Towns and Cities:

- Trade fairs led to town growth

- Charter granted rights to towns

- Lords allowed peasants to move to towns

- A Commercial Revolution

- Banking and Credit:

- Banking houses grew

- Credit and insurance systems developed

- Letters of credit and bills of exchange used

- Social and Economic Changes:

- Serfdom undermined

- Middle class emerged

- Jews played a role in lending

- The Rise of the Middle Class

- Guild Formation:

- Merchant and craft guilds appeared

- Guilds protected members' interests

- Role of Guilds:

- Limited membership

- Set quality standards

- Provided social services

- Town and City Life

- Urban Characteristics:

- Surrounded by walls

- Crowded and dirty

- Had markets and guild halls

- Daily Life:

- Streets were busy

- Fire was a risk

- Lacked sanitation

**83 The Crusades and the Wider World**

- The World in 1050

- Islamic Civilization:

- Thrived from Spain to India

- Traders and scholars spread ideas

- Other Advanced Regions:

- India had prosperous cities

- China's culture flourished under Tang and Song

- Ghana was a trading empire in West Africa

- Maya and other Native American empires in the Americas

- The Byzantine Empire faced the Turkish threat

- The Crusades

- Causes:

- Byzantine emperor's plea

- Pope Urban II's call

- Knights' motives: wealth, land, adventure

- Pope's motives: power, heal the schism, stop internal fighting

- Campaigns:

- 1096 - 1291

- The First Crusade captured Jerusalem

- Later crusades had mixed results

- The Fourth Crusade diverted to Constantinople

- Impacts:

- Religious hatred and atrocities

- Trade expansion

- Growth of the money economy

- Monarchs' power increased

- Papal power rose and then declined

- A wider worldview emerged

- The Reconquista

- In Iberia:

- Christians fought the Moors

- Captured Toledo in 1085

- Portugal established

- By 1300, they controlled most of Iberia

- Granada fell in 1492

- Aftermath:

- Ferdinand and Isabella expelled non-Christians

- Many skilled people left

- Achieved religious unity at a cost