Characteristics of feudalism

1.-During the feudal period the economy was autarkic, ie, was produced only what is necessary for the consumption of the fief

.2.-the basis of wealth was the property of the land as it was richer who had the largest extent of land and the basis of production was agriculture.

3.-Since no surplus was produced there was no trade. The feudal lord's emissaries collected the taxes in kind and left the peasants scarce the products necessary to survive.

4.-As a consequence of the non-existence of trade there was no monetary circulation between feud and stronghold.

1. Social classes The society was divided into three well-differentiated strata:

• Nobility: The members of the nobility, owners of large tracts of land, generally received in payment to their military efforts

• Clergy: dealt with matters Religious, which by then dominated the general human behavior

• Serfs: lower stratum and responsible for cultivating the lands and making them produce.Above all of them was the king.

2. Castles and forts

to be able to have control over the works of the servants, but more than anything to be alert against possible attacks of enemies, during the feudalism were built in Europe a lot of castles.It was typical that these castles-fortifications had double a wall (an exterior and an interior), and one or several towers, with interior patios and sometimes a peripheral moat. The castle was the base of military operations, as well as housing.

3. Economy the generation

of wealth basically came from agriculture and animal husbandry, by the servants of the gleba. In feudal society there was still no trade or industry, it was not a monetized system.

4. Payment of taxes

the servants were to pay "in kind" (sacks of grain, wine casks, jars of oil, breeding animals) the right to live in these lands, and the vassals, in turn, should pay large income, also generally in kind. These rents can be considered tributes. Another kind of tribute was tithing, originally a contribution to guarantee the maintenance of the clergy.

5. Closed system feudalism

was a closed economic and social system, with no possibility of class mobility (who was born servant would die servant). Since the main supporter of the feudal system was the need to protect each other in a time of continuous invasions for the conquest of lands, once those became less frequent, many stopped feeling the need to be under the protection of a Feudal lord.The ' Burgos ' were gradually emerging, small villages where artisans and traders practiced a free economy. And so the feudal system was yielding its place, allowing the birth of a new concept: that of the bourgeoisie.