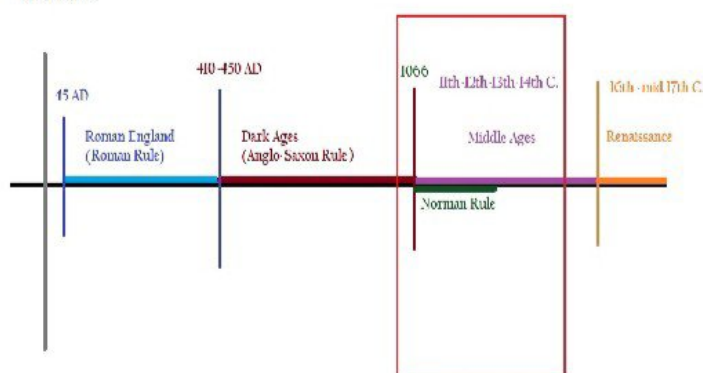


# Norman England and The Middle Ages, 1066 - 13<sup>th</sup> Century

## What period of History are we talking about?

TIMELINE



## The start of a new era

- The Battle of Hastings (**1066**) was **a turning point in English history**
- It marked the end of the Anglo-Saxon rule of England
- It marked the start of a new period: the Normans' rule of England
- **Normans** came from Normandy (north west of France)

## William the Conqueror (1<sup>st</sup> Norman king)

- William, Duke of Normandy (in France), invaded England
- He defeated Harold the Anglo-Saxon at the Battle of Hastings (in the south of England) in 1066.
- William became known as the Conqueror or King William I (1<sup>st</sup> Norman king of England)

- William became King of England.
- He brought with him his **court**
- The court was the nobles and members of the aristocracy who followed him.
- **The ruling class of England were Normans**

## The Normans bring a new social and political system: Feudalism

- Norman **feudalism** became the basis for redistributing the land among the conquerors, giving England a new **French aristocracy** and a new social and political structure.
- England turned away from Scandinavia (from which the Anglo-Saxons had come) toward France, an orientation that was to last for 400 years.

## William the Conqueror's Achievements

- William was a hard ruler
- His power and efficiency can be seen in
  - the **Domesday Survey (or Domesday Book)**, a census for tax purposes
  - the **Salisbury Oath of allegiance**, which he demanded of all tenants (barons, knights, ...)

## The Domesday Book

- The **Domesday Book** was the original record or summary of **William the Conqueror's survey of England**.
- The whole process was known as "**the Description of England**"
- It was a census **for tax purposes**
- The survey, in the scope of its detail and the speed of its execution, was **perhaps the most remarkable administrative achievement of the Middle Ages**.
- The survey was carried out, against great popular resentment, **in 1086** by seven or eight panels of commissioners, each working in a separate group of counties
- commissioners compiled elaborate accounts of the estates of the king and of his tenants in chief (those who held their land by direct services to him). From these documents the king's clerks compiled a summary, which is the Domesday Book.

## Henry I and the creation of the Exchequer

- Henry I was William's son.
- When he became king in 1100, he used his feudal court and household to organize the government.
- He established the **Royal Treasury** or **The Exchequer**.

## Henry II and the Common Law

- **Henry II**, grandson of Henry I, became king of England in 1154.
- He established the **Common Law**

## The Development of the Common Law

- The **Common Law** was (and still is) the body of customary laws
- It is based upon **judicial decisions** and embodied in **reports of decided cases**, which has been administered by the common-law courts of England since the Middle Ages.
- From this has evolved the type of legal system now found also in the United States and in most of the member states of the Commonwealth of Nations.

## King Richard

- **Richard I, the Lion-Hearted**, was in England only briefly.
- He was busy fighting in the **Crusades**
- The he was kept captive in Germany.
- So he did not effectively rule England

## King John and Magna Carta

- **John** became king after the death of his brother Richard.
- In 1204, he lost Normandy.
- In 1213, after a long fight with Pope Innocent III over the naming of Stephen Langton as archbishop of Canterbury, John capitulated and **acknowledged England to be a papal fief**.
- John was a bad king and he made bad decisions. **His barons rebelled against him.**

## 1215: Magna Carta

- **In 1215**, the barons **forced** King John to **accept the Magna Carta**, or **Great Charter**
- John admitted his errors and promised to respect English law and feudal custom.



## Consolidation of the Magna Carta

- When John died in 1216, the barons accepted his nine-year-old son as **King Henry III**.
- Barons assumed control of the government and **confirmed the Magna Carta in 1225**, as did Henry when he came of age two years later.
- **Thus began the tradition of royal confirmation of the Magna Carta as the fundamental statement of English law and of limited government.**



## England in the 12th and 13th centuries

- England prospered in the 12th and 13th centuries:
- Land under cultivation increased.
- sheep raising and the sale of wool became extremely important
- London and other towns became vital centres of trade and wealth, and by royal charters they acquired the right to local self-government.
- The universities of Oxford and Cambridge were established.**
- The population probably doubled from about 1.5 million to more than 3 million.
- More than a dozen cathedrals were built, as well as abbeys and parish churches,
- In the 1220s the friars, Franciscans and Dominicans (religious people), arrived in England, improving the quality of preaching and becoming the leading scholars in the universities.

## The Barons rebel another time

- In 1258, The barons rebelled another time. The Provisions of Oxford attempted to give control of the government to a committee of barons.
- Civil war broke out in 1264, and the baronial leader **Simon de Montfort** came briefly to power. Montfort, however, was killed in the Battle of Evesham in 1265, and power returned to Henry and his son, Edward

## The Creation of Parliament

- Edward I restored royal control and made several reforms:
- He limited the barons' right to hold their own courts of law.
- He restrained the **vassals'** (who were the Barons) right to dispose of land to the detriment of their feudal lords.
- He consolidated English common law.
- Most important, **he used and developed Parliament**, which was essentially the king's feudal council with a new name and an enlarged membership. **The Model Parliament of 1295** consisted of great barons, bishops, abbots, and representatives of counties and towns.

## Feudalism 1

- The institution known as **feudalism** appeared in this atmosphere of **collapsing central authority, civil war, invasion and overall economic stagnation**. The term feudalism refers to that social, political, and economic system that emerged from the experience of 9th century Europe.
- Feudalism highlighted the fact that only the men who could guarantee immediate protection and security from a war, invasion, and famine, were the true lords. In other words, **feudal society was society dominated by warriors**.
- What people needed most was the assurance that they could depend on others when needed.
- powerful individuals were recognized as superiors by lesser men who pledged themselves to them, promising them service.

## Feudalism 2

- Feudal society, then, was a **society dominated by a vast network of mutual relationships based almost entirely on personal loyalty and service**. This practice grew out of two primary causes:
  - the tribal bonds characteristic of the invading tribes began to decline due to their Christianization.
  - the fall of Rome and its aftermath led to a general weakening of one's loyalty to the state, which had been characteristic of the later years of the Roman Empire.

## Feudalism 3

- Feudal society was thus based on **loyalty, security, protection, and services**.
- Feudalism was thus a political, economic, military, and social arrangement

## The Feudal System: The Actors

- The King
- The Nobles (higher and lesser nobles) such as the Barons, the Lords, the
- The Knights
- The peasants or also called the serfs. (Merchants and craftsmen were considered as higher than the peasants and lesser than knights)





## The King in the Feudal System

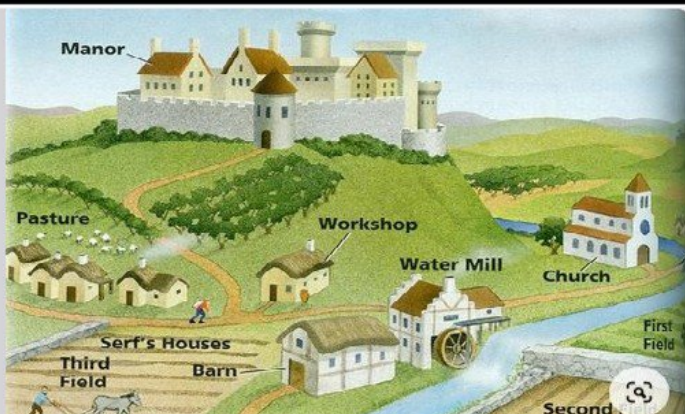
- The king was at the top of the hierarchy. He was in complete control under the Feudal System. He owned all the land in the country and decided who he would lease land to. He therefore only allowed the men he could trust to lease land from him.
- However, before they were given any land they had **to swear an oath to remain faithful to the King at all times**. The men who leased land from the King were nobles: Barons, Lords, ...

## The Nobles in the Feudal System

- **Nobles were Barons.**
- They were wealthy, powerful and had complete control of the land (**the fief**) they leased from the King.
- That land and the castle they lived in were called the **manor**. They were known as the **Lord of the Manor** and they were in complete control of this land.



## Nobles (Barons) and their fiefs



## The Nobles in the Feudal System

- Barons established **their own system of justice, minted their own money and set their own taxes**.
- In return for the land they had been given by the King, **the Barons had to serve on the royal council**, pay rent and provide the King with **Knights for military service** when he demanded it.
- They also had to provide **lodging and food** for the King and his court when they travelled around the country.
- The Barons kept as much of their land as they wished for their own use, then divided the rest among their **Knights**.

## Knights in the Feudal System



- **Knights were warriors.**
- **Knights** were given land by a Baron in return for **military service** when demanded by the King.
- They had to **protect the Baron and his family, as well as the Manor, from attack**.
- The Knights kept as much of the land as they wished for their own personal use and distributed the rest to villeins (serfs).

## Villeins in the Feudal System

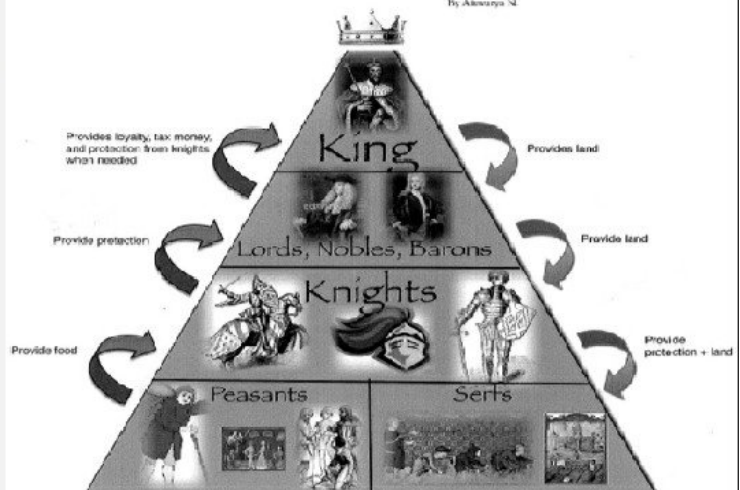
- **Villeins** were also known as **serfs**. They were peasants. They worked for Knights and Barons.
- They had to provide the Knight with **free labour, food and services**.
- Villeins **had no rights**. They were not allowed to leave the Manor and had to ask their Lord's permission before they could marry.
- **Villeins were poor and had no property.**

## Villeins in the Feudal System



## FEUDAL PYRAMID

By Akshaya N.





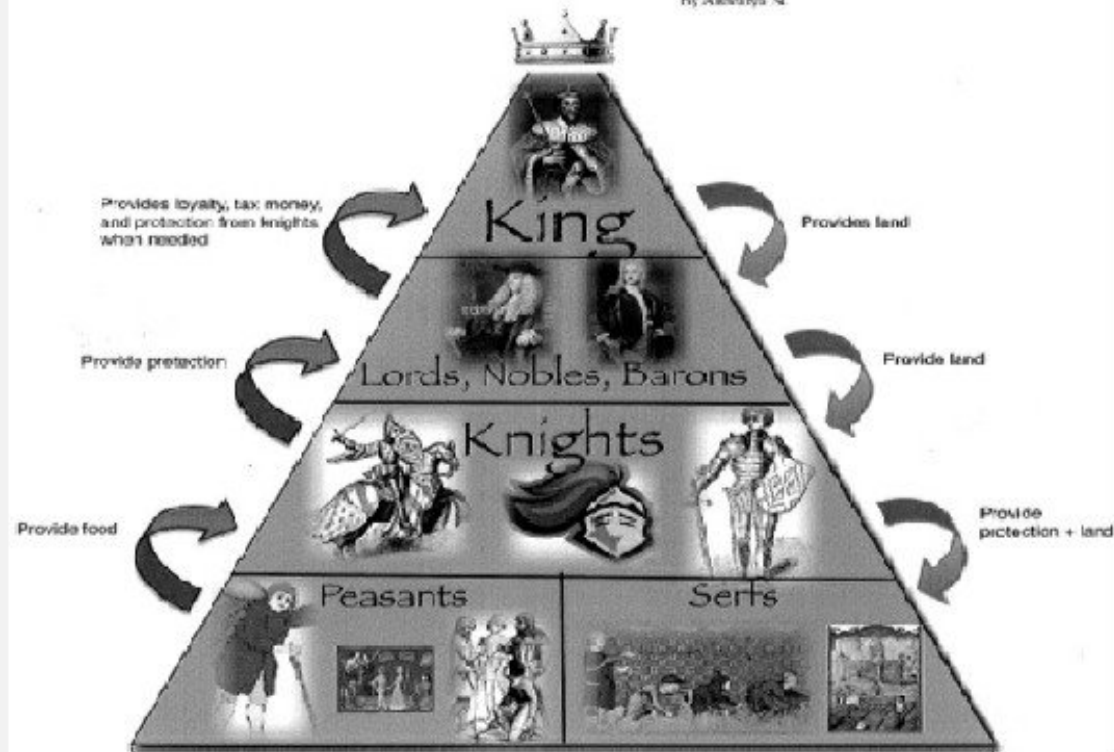
## Villeins in the Feudal System



- The Feudal System started to decline in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- Some of its practices remained for some centuries.

## FEUDAL PYRAMID

By Akshaya N.



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