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World History AP Essay

Between 800-1300 CE the fragmentation of Charlemagne's empire impacted Northern and Western Europe by causing a rise in city states and a feudal society, a slave to cultural based economy, and the growth of Catholicism.

Northern and Western Europe has evolved from an empire to feudalistic states since the beginning of Charlemagne's empire all the way to the crusades. In the beginning to the end of Charlemagne's empire, it was ruled only by Emperor Charlemagne. The noblemen under him and himself created the warrior class. This class would constantly fight wars with neighboring countries. After the fall of Charlemagne's empire, the empire was split into rival city-states. These city states were ruled by the warrior class. However, there was less time conquering foreign lands, thus states began to become more land locked. This forced the nobles to begin relying on the peasantry class to support them. Soon, the nobles began forcing the peasantry class to provide them with food in return for protection. This started a feudalistic government, however, the nobles were still in charge. Finally, once the Crusades started. The armies were again led by the European nobleman. Because of the absence of leaders in North and West Europe, there was a mass migration of 200,000 farmers that left for Eastern Europe. They brought Feudalistic societies with them. All in all, as time increased, Northern Europe and Western Europe began to become a Feudalistic society while maintaining a leadership run by the warrior class.

Northern and Western Europe had evolved from a slave based economy during Charlemagne's era to an agrarian economy and mixing of different cultures. In the beginning to the end of Charlemagne's empire, economic activity was based on the trade of slaves. Because Charlemagne was constantly at war, he was able to capture many prisoners and used them as slaves. Most of these slaves came from Slavic speaking people. After the fall of the empire and the birth of Feudalism, trade became localized. The nobles were busy fighting amongst each other, thus the slave trade stopped. In fact, most outside trade stopped. These states rather began to rely solely amongst themselves and began to become independent. This independence caused the peasants of individual states to farm and provide all the food for their nobles and themselves. However, once the Crusades began, the nobles began to go to war outside of their lands, thus the borders opened. The Crusades resulted in trade and ideas with the Middle East and Europe. While slaves were not traded nor was food, technology, culture and ideas were traded instead. Ideas such as Algebra and other scientific and mathematical discoveries reached Europe because of the Crusades. In all, as time progresses, Europe began to become more technologically advanced as their economy changed from a slave trade to a culture trade, however war is always present with these trades and trade is just the by product of these wars.

Northern and Western Europe had evolved from a paganism as the dominant religion during the early portions of Charlemagne's life eventually becoming a dominant religion that starts wars amongst Europe and Israel. Paganism was prominent during the early stages of Charlemagne's empire. Once establishing his dominance, Charlemagne waged war on these religions and instead replaced them with Christianity. Eventually, Charlemagne aligned himself with the Roman Catholic Church and was appointed the emperor of the west by Pope Leo III.

After the fall of Charlemagne, the state's split. The only thing that united the states was Catholicism. All the states practiced Catholicism. These states granted the Church many land grants and thus the Church expanded. There was a rise in monasteries because these monasteries provided sanctuary for those in need. They also offered a place in Europe for learned men and women. Once the Crusades started, Catholicism served as a united front to fight the Middle East. It was the Catholic Pope Urban II that initiated and ordered the holy war. Once again, the Church was able to unite power hungry and violent men into an organized fighting machine. The first Crusade led to the capture of the Holy Land's thus the Church once again expanded its land. However at the end, they lost the land at the Holy Land, but they were able to gain control of more parts of Europe. Overall, since the beginning of Charlemagne's empire and as time progressed, the Catholic Church had expanded and become bigger every year, however, it has always been an uniting force for Europe.