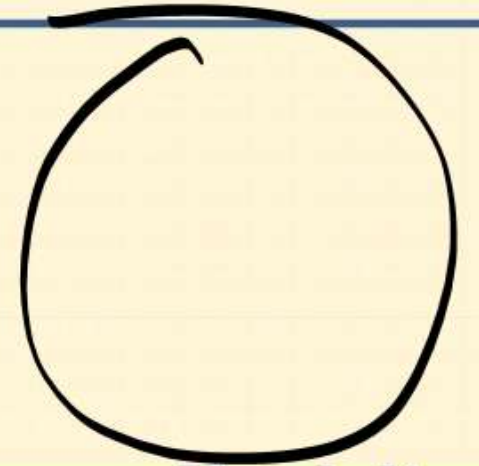


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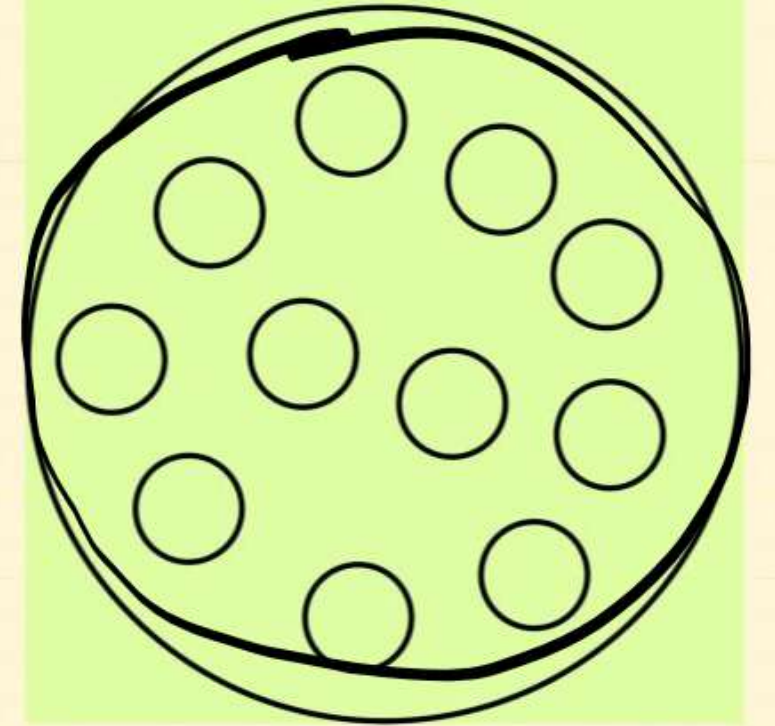
❑ Economic Structure-

Fief - 475 - 1000
Serfdom

- Feudalism was having an economic dimension too. After the fall of the Roman Empire, trade and urban economy ~~were~~ also declined. Feudalism is marked by ruralisation of economy in which trade and money economy played an insignificant role. On other side, the role of agrarian economy increased. Both feudal lords and peasants were dependent on agrarian economy. The feudal lords used to make the peasants tied to the land. Peasants or tenants could not vacate the land and had to provide free labour on certain days of the week. This was called serfdom.



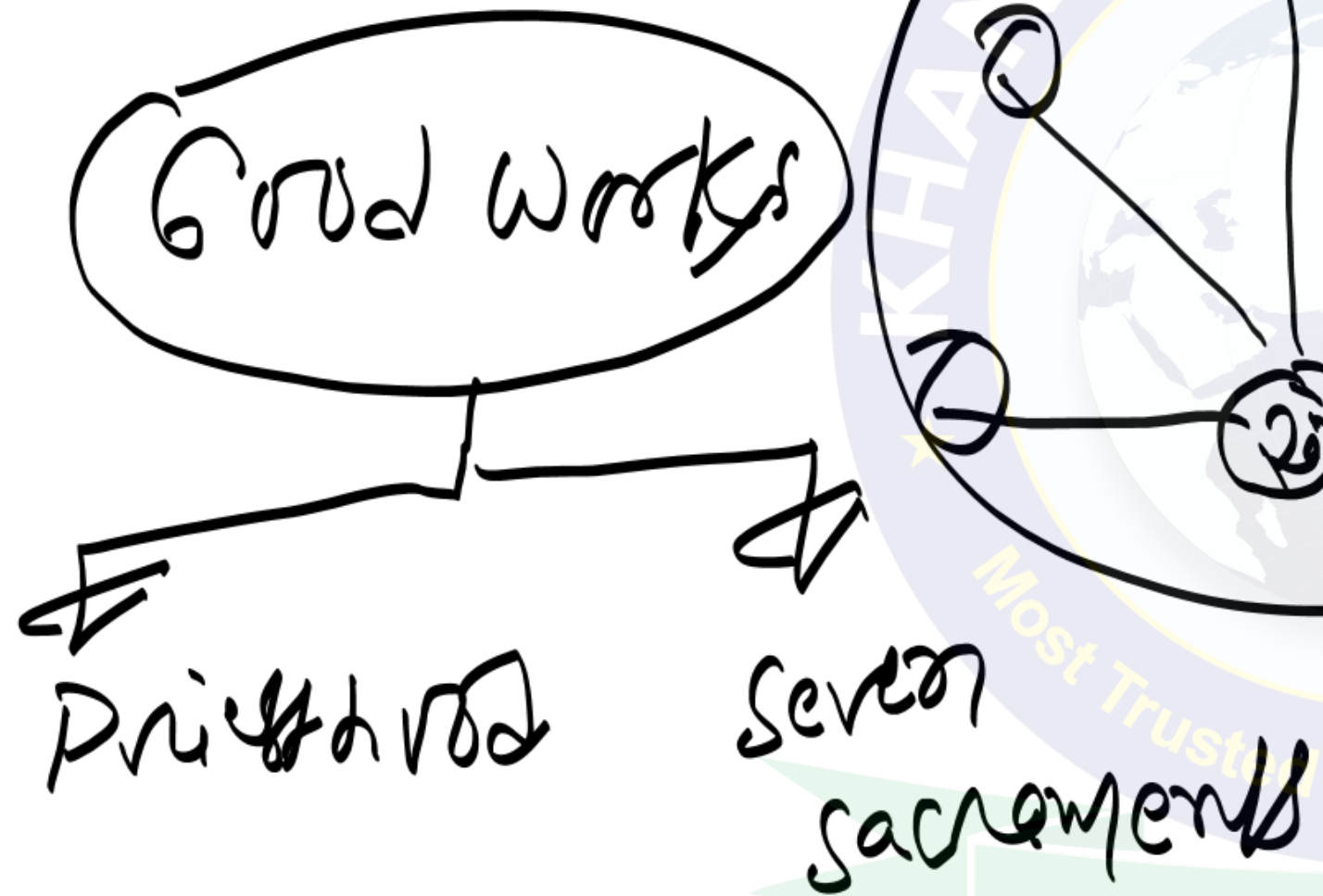
Europe- Feudalism



Peter Lombard
Thomas ACquinas

Europe
Universal
Church
System

Saint Paul
Saint Augustine
faith is the
means for
salvation



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Europe



Religious Structure

❑ Universal Church System-

- Earlier Christianity was simple and free from rituals and it was ideologically inspired by two saints, Saint Paul and Saint Augustine who emphasized on the efficacy of 'faith'. But later Christianity came to be guided by the ideas of two other saints Peter Lombard and Thomas Aquinas. These saints gave specific emphasis over 'Good works' but the term was defined in a parochial manner. It meant 'guidance by the priests and seven sacraments'.

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- Thus started Universal Church System which came to dominate socio-cultural life of European people. Apart from that, church came to own landed property as well. Under this system headquarter of Church was established at Rome while its branches were spread to different parts of Europe. It was headed by the Pope of Rome and patronized by Holy Roman Empire.
- The regional churches used to impose religious taxes on the people. They had monopoly over education and knowledge.



❑ Rise of Islam and Crusades-

- **Arabian region was a desert region. Except some green belt at Mecca there was dearth of agriculture land. This region was peopled by different tribesmen who were known as Bedouin. As an occupation they adopted trade because due to continuous military conflict between Byzantine Empire and Sasanian Empire the main trade route was disturbed. So a new route through Syria and Yaman provided these tribes new opportunity in trade. Even Prophet Muhammad associated with a tribe known as 'Quraysh'. Most of the tribes were idolater. Mecca, apart from being an economic centre, was a religious centre as well. On a wall of a structure at Mecca there was a black stone. It was known as Kaba. Different tribes placed an idol of their god in the shrine of Mecca.**

- In relations among different tribes apart from religious issue, economic issue also was involved. Due to continuous intra tribal conflict and war, trade was hampered. Islam through propagating monotheism and the concept of universal God, tried to remove tribal and religious division both. In 610 Muhammad had an intense spiritual experience, which marked the beginning of prophethood for him. Within a few years, Muhammad had a small group of Meccan followers who accepted his religious ideas. They came to be known as Muslims i.e. those who had submitted to Allah. The religion itself was called Islam, a term implying submission.

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- But very soon prophet was opposed by vested interest in Mecca. Its interest was threatened by undiluted monotheism propagated by prophet. So Mecca turned to be a hot bed for prophet who departed to Medina with his followers due to safety reasons. This incident took place in 622 and in the history of Islam this incident was marked by the beginning of Hijri era. It was at Medina that prophet laid the foundation of Islamic state. Islam was different in nature from of other sects, as under Islam religious and temporal power both were combined into a single person that was Prophet Muhammad. After him a series of caliphs continued his line of succession. Prophet captured Mecca in 630 dint of military force. So, Mecca and Medina became twin centres of Islam. He died in 632 and he was succeeded by some four caliphs – Abu Bakra, Umar, Usman and Ali.

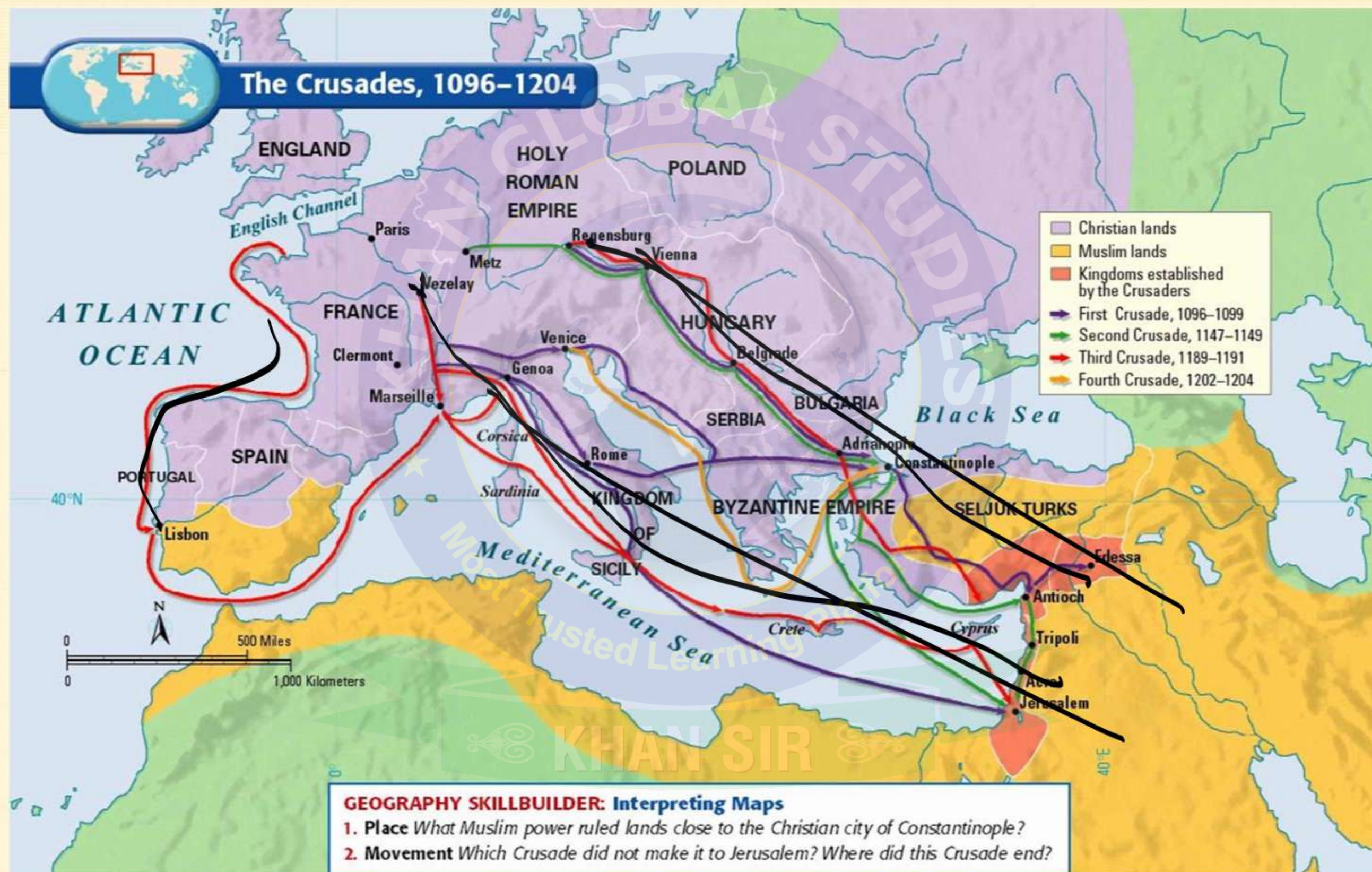
- Islam apart from being a religious movement proved to be the biggest political movement in the history of medieval age. The fight which prophet had started for capturing Mecca was soon converted into a fight for expansion. Following factors made a contribution to expansionist policy under Islam. Firstly, Prophet Muhammad was declared to be the last one in a series of prophets which started with Abraham (prophet of Jews and he was followed by Jesus Christ). But difference lies in the fact that Islam claimed that prophet Muhammad's message was the latest and most authentic version. This made other religious sects incompatible with Islam.

- **Secondly, Arabian society was a tribal society and there were many war mongering tribes which even after converting to Islam could not be turned into a peace loving community suddenly. Thus through the slogan of 'Jihad' internal conflict was channelized outside. Lastly, Islamic state was in need of more and more resources which could have been managed through war booties. This started unrestricted expansion of Islamic power conquering the region of Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Persia, Central Asia and Sind in India. It also reached the door step of Europe. That resulted into Crusades.**

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❑ **Crusades-** Three Crusades were fought ~~between~~ Christian state of Europe and Islamic power in the period between 1095 and 1291 in order to capture the region of Jerusalem. This was caused due to the expansionist policy of Islam on one hand and changing political-economic condition of Europe on the other. In Europe, clergy and aristocratic class were seeking peace for promoting prosperity in Europe. So, internal conflict was consciously exported outside and at the initiative of Byzantine emperor Alexious I and Pope Urban II Christian army moved to Syria and Jerusalem which had remained to be sacred place for Jews, Christian and Islam all.

- One creative impact of this destructive incident was opening of new routes to the east.



➤ **Society of Medieval Europe-** The society of Medieval Europe was divided into three sections-

1. **Aristocratic class-** The feudal elites were at the top of the society. They had landed property and belonged to the privileged section of society.
2. **Clergy class-** After the establishment of Universal Church System, a clergy class came into existence. It also had privileges. Since the churches had landed property, therefore they themselves became a landowner in the name of the Church.
3. **Commoners-** Rest of the population such as peasants, craftsmen and artisans etc belonged to the category of commoners. They fell in the category of non-privileged section of the society and so they were supposed to pay all kinds of taxes.

❑ Holy Roman Empire-

- **Holy Roman Empire originated out of Roman Empire. After disintegration of Western Roman Empire German tribesmen got settled in different regions. Among German tribes, Franco tribe played very significant role in history. It occupied the region of Gaul and created a powerful dynasty known as Carolingian dynasty under Charles Martin who earned a big name and fame after defeating Islamic army in the battle of Tours in 732. His successor, Pepin, created a big empire. Then most powerful and prestigious ruler in this dynasty was Charlemang on whose head, the Pope of Rome put the crown with his own hand and declared him to be the Holy Roman emperor.**

- Till Crusades continued between Christian and Muslim power, Holy Roman Empire played a significant role in it and after Crusades it continued to work as a protector of the Roman Catholic Church system. After the decline of Carolingian dynasty, the Habsburg dynasty came to play the same role.
- During medieval period of Europe three institutions- Feudalism, Universal Church System and Holy Roman Empire existed and they worked as bulwark against change. Therefore, for the rise of modern west the demise of these institutions was imperative.

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800 CE

only

Frano Co

Carolingian
~~dynasty~~

Charlemagne



Charles Martin

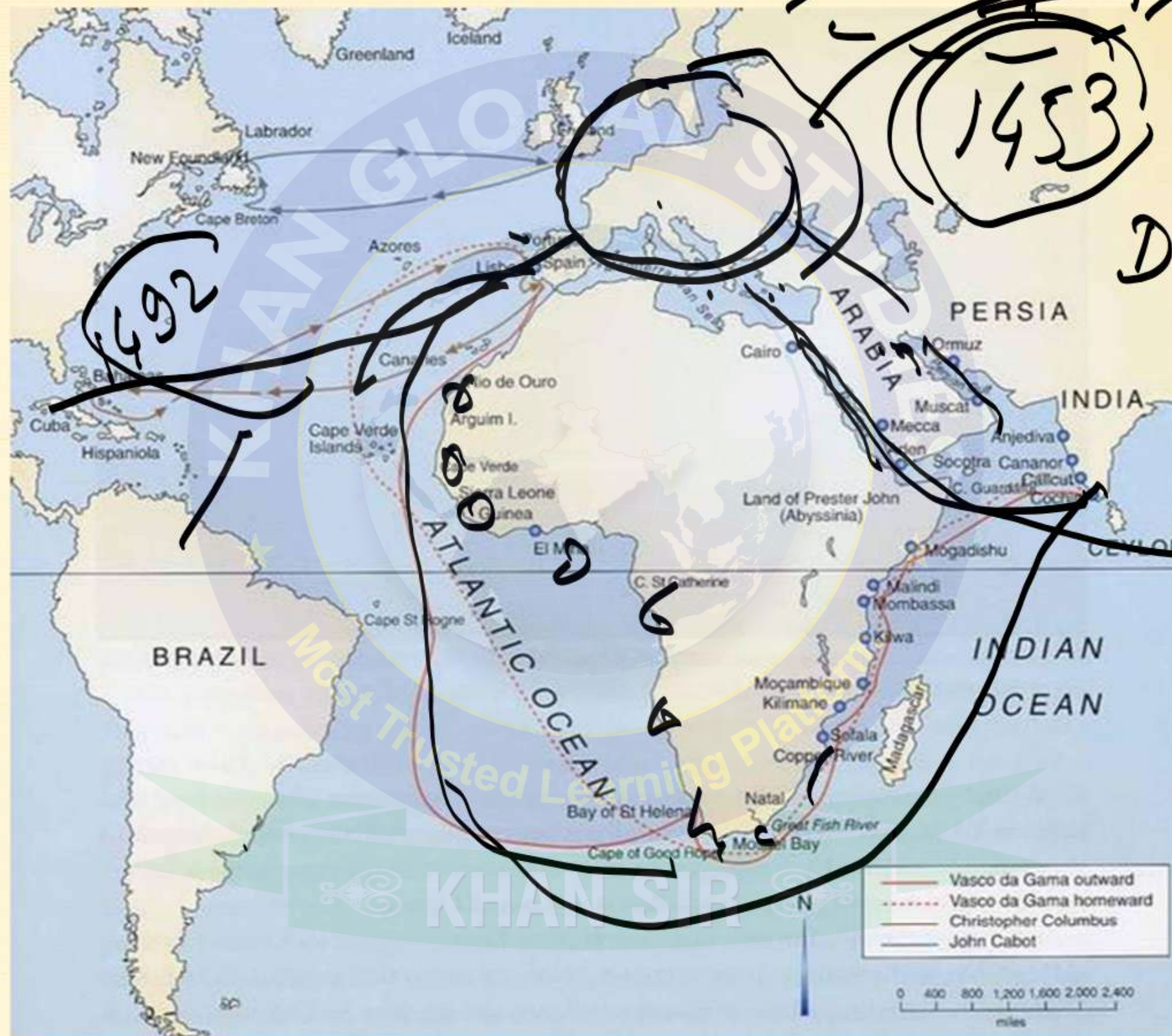
732 CE
Battle of
Fouad
Pebin





❑ Decline of Constantinople (1453)-

- **The decline of Constantinople proved the game changer from the view point of the rise of overseas trade. In fact in 1453 Seljuk Turks defeated Byzantine Empire and captured its capital Constantinople. Constantinople was situated on a prime geographical location or at intersection of routes going to India. So almost all the routes leading to the East, were blocked by Islamic power. This incident encouraged sea voyages leading to the discovery of America, India and other regions. Actually, the introduction of new technologies like compass and astrolabes made sea-fering a bit safe.**



1453

Portugal
1453
Cristóvão Colombo
Decline of Constantinople

1492

1498

- The basic motive was the economic gain from Oriental trade but even lofty ideals like national prestige as well as spread of Christianity were added to it. Thus was given the slogan 'Gold, Glory and God'.
- As the result of sea voyages, up to the 17th century except Australia and interior region of Africa almost all the regions came to light. So, European coloniser started to subjugate indigenous people in Latin America and northern America popularly known as Red Indians, likewise the indigenous people of Africa. On the other hand Asian States were too powerful to be subdued. Hence, in Asia, European merchants came initially with folded hands seeking permission for trade. These incidents heralded the advent of modern age in Europe.

Integrated Approach

Ancient - political

• Economic

• cultural

Medieval

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