Quang Huynh

**Rural Life –** In the medieval ages, most Europeans lived as serfs on manors. They would owe their landlord a share of their harvests and labor services. Scenes of the rural life showed men and women doing field work. Furthermore, even though both men and women did the same work, women were lower ranking than the men. The rapid population growth in rural areas would result in poverty.

**Technology –** A new farming technique called the three-field system replaced leaving half of the field uncultivated every year to regain its fertility. It is a rotational system for farming in which two fields would grow food crops and the other field is uncultivated. The three-field system replaced the two-field system. Moreover, farmers would use oxen to plow their fields because they were much cheaper than horses.

**Black Death –** The Black Death in medieval Europe would reverse the population growth. The Black Death was the breakout of bubonic plague that had spread across Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The disease was spread through fleas. It would impact people’s psychology, making some more religious or chose reckless enjoyment.

**Industry –** Demand would prompt iron mining in many parts of Europe. Metal mines such as silver, copper, and silver would make products such as coins, cannons, statues and church bells. In addition, due to a growth in industry, towns would grow outward and new ones would be founded.

**Marco Polo –** Marco Polo was a young merchant from Venice. He would reach the Mongol court in China across Central Asia. He would serve the emperor, Khubilai Khan as an ambassador and governor of a Chinese province. Marco Polo would have an impact on Europe’s rival because of trading goods like spices, silks, and also voyages, along with new trade routes.

**Hanseatic League –** An association of trading cities in northern Europe that traded exclusively in the Baltic. They were an economic and defensive alliance of towns in Germany. Their merchants would have ranged eastward to Novgorod and westward to London.

**Trade Fairs –**Important trade fairs would develop in the Champagne region of Burgundy. At first, the Champagne fairs began as regional markets, exchanging manufactured goods, livestock, and farm produce once or twice a year. The king of France would gain control over Champagne over the 12th century. After some time, the Champagne trade fairs lost some international trade, but remained important as regional markets.

**Italian Cities and Trade –** Venice would excel its European competitors in the amount of trade in the Mediterranean and across the Alps. Venice would become Europe’s center of trade and its craftspeople made very luxurious goods such as silk, cotton textiles, glassware, jewelry, and paper. Then, western European cities had used eastern trade to increase their prosperity and reduce their dependence on eastern goods.

**Jews in Europe –** The European Jews mostly lived in cities. In addition, commercial cities would welcome Jews with manufacturing and business skills. But even though Jews had official protection by Christian Princes and Kings, Jews were still persecuted during the Black Death. This is because The Jews were blamed for the cause of disease.

**Guilds –** Guilds were a union of artisan men, merchants and professors who worked in trades and grouped up together to promote their economic and political interests. Guilds were important in other societies too, like the Ottoman and Safavid Empires.

**Banking –** Wealthy merchant-bankers were operating on a big scale, specializing in money changing, loans and making investments. Great and small merchants would use their services, and some merchant-bankers even started news services getting information on any topic that could affect business.

**Medici Family –** The Medici family would start opening in Flanders, Italy, and London. They were a very powerful family, controlling the Florence government, and commissioned art works. Although they were powerful, they were less wealthy than the Fugger family.