

## Early Industrialism

The industrial development of mankind has been broadly divided into the following stages:-

- i) The Hunting stage :- The main concern of man during this stage was food and physical protection. The means which were adopted by him to meet these ends were symbolic of the industrial efforts. For food, the Primitive man hunted animals and gathered wild fruits and vegetables. He used bow & arrow and certain sharp tools/stones for hunting. Making of fire by friction of stones was an industrial miracle of that time.
- ii) The Pastoral Stage :- At this stage, the families were self sufficient as their needs were limited. Domestication of animals took place during this period. Division of labour was restricted to the family level. Men devoted their time to activities like hunting, fishing and making weapons, while women engaged themselves in cooking, bringing up the children, domestication of animals etc. The domesticated animals were treated as form of wealth.

which could be exchanged for other products required by the family. This gave birth to barter economy.

Agricultural Stage :- With the passage of time, many tribes settled down permanently at some place and began to cultivate land and rear cattle on the land which they shared in common. The invention of plough marked the beginning of agrarian society. Combining irrigation technique with the use of the plough increased the productivity and crop yield.

Handicrafts Stage :- Under this stage, artisans living in village produced products for the local population. The craftsmen used simple hand tools and manual skills for producing the goods. There was no division of labour in this stage.

The medieval Industrial age was characterized by three industrial systems. They are -

- The manorial or the Feudal System.
- The Guild System
- The Domestic or the Putting-out System.



# The Manorial or Feudal System

Manorialism means a political, economic, and social system by which the peasants of medieval Europe were tied to their land and their lord through serfdom.

The centre of the feudal system in medieval Europe was the king. Four primary elements characterized feudalism. — king, Nobles, knights & Peasants.

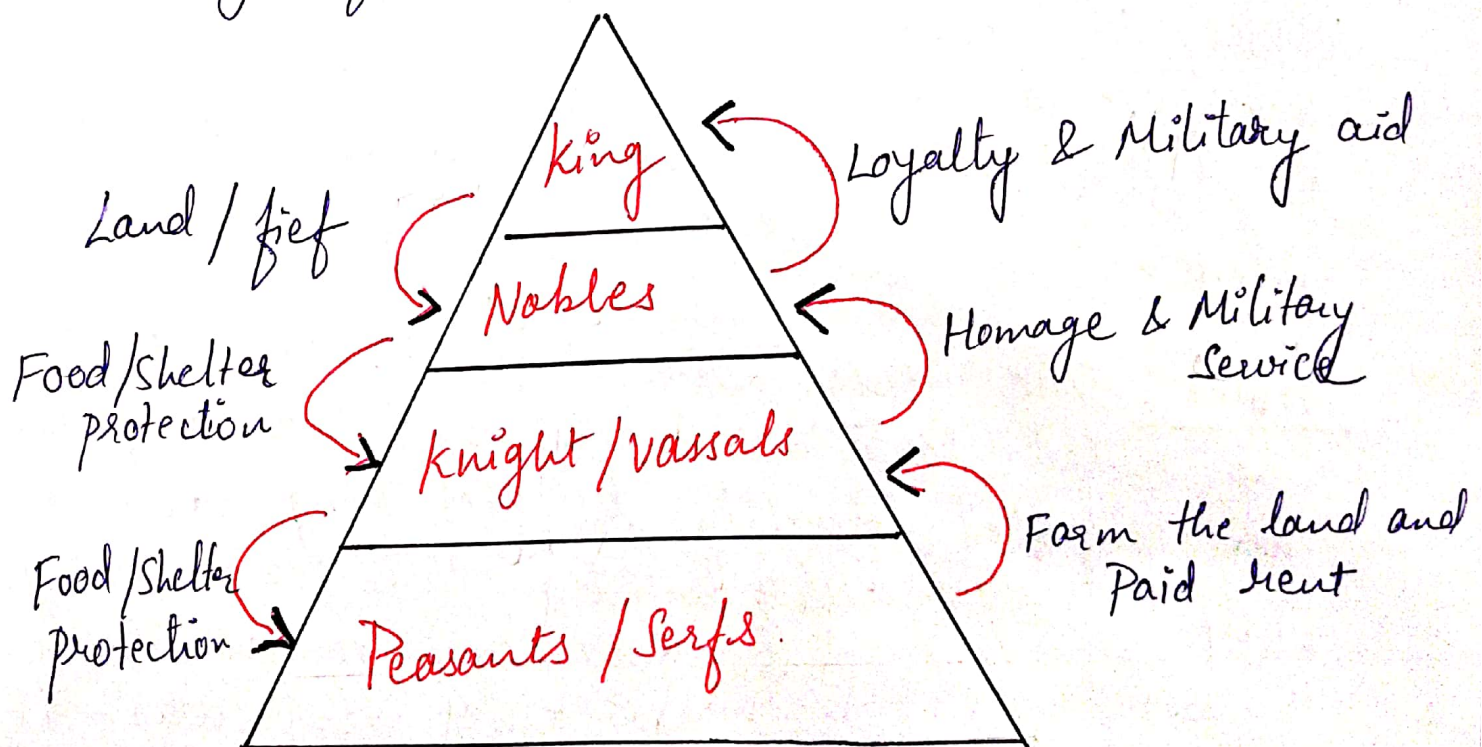
## Hierarchy of rule :-

- i) king : The top leader in the land was the king. The king could not control all of the land by himself, so he divided it among the Nobles. In return the nobles promised their loyalty and soldiers to the king. When the king died, his first born son inherited the throne.
- ii) Nobles : The nobles were high ranking officials who ruled large areas of land called 'fiefs'. They reported directly to the king and were very powerful. They divided their land among the Lords who ran individual manors. Their job was to maintain an army that was at

the king's service. If they did not have an army, sometimes they would pay the tax to the king.

iii) knights - The lords ran local manors. They also were king's knight and could be called into battle at any moment by their noble. The lord/knight owned everything on their land including the peasants, crops and village.

iv) Peasants or Serfs - Most of the people living in the middle ages were peasants. They had a rough life. They owned nothing and were pledged to their local lord. They barely had enough food to survive.





## Features of Feudal System :-

- i) Feudalism or Manorialism was the social & economic system which characterized most European societies in the middle ages.
- ii) Feudalism was the expression of a society in which every man was bound to another by mutual ties of loyalty and service.
- iii) Feudal society was characterized by military landholders and working peasants.
- iv) The basic essence of the system was the granting of land in return for military service.
- v) Hierarchy of rank in the society was well-defined.
- vi) The employer-employee relationship was that of master-slave type. Only death of the serf terminated this relationship.

## Reason for decline of Feudal system:-

- i) Urbanisation - Workers started moving towards cities for better growth.
- ii) Dependency - Other professions like pottery, weaving, carpentry emerged, which did not depend on the feudal lords.
- iii) Slavery - Traditional slavery & exploitation of workers motivated them towards other options.
- iv) Learning new trade & skills - With growth & development, new trade other than agriculture emerged.

## Terms used Under Manorial/Feudal System

- i) Feudal Lord : Landlord who also acted as employer.
- ii) Manor : A vast cultivable land owned by the lord.
- iii) Fief : Agreement to keep land for cultivation.