Chapter 8 - The Rise of Europe. (500-1300).

(1) Early Middle Ages.
(2) Feudalism and Manor Economy.
(3) Medieval Church.
(4) Economic Expansion and Change.

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476. 732. 800. 900s.

(1) Early Middle Ages. (AD 500-1000).

Vocabulary:
medieval - L. ‘medius’=middle, ‘aevuum’=age.
frontier - forest outskirts of civilization.
missi dominici - (L.) lord’s messengers.
curriculum - formal course of study.

Setting the Scene.
The ‘early’ Middle Ages are between AD 500 and 1000. Invasions in Europe.
The ‘Middle Ages’ now refers to period AD 500 to 1450 - which is the time frame between the fall of Rome (476) and the fall of Constantinople (1453).

Geography of Western Europe.
Rome (that fell in 476) was Mediterranean power. Germanic people who ended Rome rule in the West shifted focus of European history to north.
Location.
Europe is second smallest land area among the seven continents. Despite its relatively small size its impact on the modern world has been very big.
Resources.
From 500 to 1000 Europe was ‘frontier’ land or forest area outside of cities.
Large rivers were ideal for trade. Mountain streams turned water wheels.

Germanic Kingdoms.
Germanic tribes differed from Romans. No cities. No written laws. Warriors swore loyalty to king (elected) in exchange for weapons and loot.
The Franks.
Between 400 and 700 the Franks emerged as strongest kingdom of many.
486. Clovis, king of Franks, conquers former Roman province of Gaul.
   Clovis rules with Franks custom but preserves much of Rome legacy.
   Clovis becomes ‘Catholic’ Christian versus other Christian kings who
   were followers of Ariad heresy (founded by Arius, 256-336).
   After Clovis dies (466-511) his lands are divided among four sons.
   His family rules until 751.

Europe and Muslim World.
AD 622. Date is AH 1 (anno hijra) or the first year of Muslim calendar.
AD 632. Muslims start to spread out territorially.
AD 732. Muslim push in Europe halts.
   Battle of Tours. Charles Martel (688-741). Christian God!
   Muslims retreat from France. But stay in Spain (700 years).
(Note: Chapter 11 is new addition to text. A comprehensive look at Islam.)
*Written Arabic has only three vowels, a, i, u.
   Muhammad, not Mohammed. Muslim, not Moslem.
   Written Arabic has 28 consonants but no consonant c.
   So holiest city in Islam is Makka, not Mecca.

Age of Charlemagne.
A Christian Emperor.
Charles Martel founds Carolingian dynasty.
   Has son Pepin the Short (715-768) who rules from 751.
   Has grandson called Charlemagne (742-814): Charles the Great!
   Charlemagne was king of Franks for 46 years. But HRE special.
AD 800. German coronated on Christmas Day in 800 as emperor of Romans. Pope Leo
XIII kept alive ideal of unified empire like that of ancient Rome. New ‘medieval’
civilization blended Roman, Christian, Germanic traditions.

Government.
Royal officials were called missi dominici or lord’s messengers.
   Uniform laws. Appointed local judges to uphold the laws.
   Supported Church to set parishes, rural districts, each with own priest.
   Required all Christians to pay a tithe, one tenth of their income to Church.
Revival of Learning.
Charlemagne wanted to make his court at Aachen s ‘second Rome.’
Charlemagne himself could not read or write. But he saw need for records.
   He founded a palace school under Alcuin (735-804) who created curriculum.
After Charlemagne.
814. Charlemagne dies. Empire collapses. Heirs battle for power for 30 years.
Lasting Legacy.
Charlemagne extended Christian civilization into northern Europe and furthered blending
of German, Roman, and Christian traditions.
New Wave of Invasions.
c. 896. Magyars settle in Hungary. Then overrun eastern Europe, Germany.
   900s. Other invaders: Slavs, Muslims (Sicily), Vikings (men from north).
(2) Feudalism and the Manor Economy.

Vocabulary.
feudalism - pledge of service for land.
vassal - lesser lord.
feudal contract - exchange of pledges.
fief - estate.
knight - warrior on horse.
tournament - mock battle.
chivalry - code of conduct.
troubadour - wandering poet.
manor - lord’s estate.
serf - peasant bound to land.

Setting the Scene.
In response to need for protection a new system of rule develops called feudalism - lords divide land among lesser lords;
lesser lords pledge service and loyalty to greater lord.

Emergence of Feudalism.
Feudalism grew out of Germanic customs of warriors swearing oath to chief. Lesser nobles would serve as knights (mounted warriors) for greater lord.
In 700s, stirrup was invented that kept knight on horse, reinforced feudalism.
Most knights did not have the money to buy armor and horses and training.
Powerful lords divided large tracts of land among vassals or lesser lords.

Mutual Obligations.
Feudal contract: unwritten rules governing relationship of lord with vassal.
Under contract, the lord provides vassal a fief or estate (few acres).
Lord still owns the land but vassal has right to use it, pass it on to his heirs.
Vassal in return gives his lord military service, usually about 40 days a year.
Vassal kneels in front of lord - public ceremony to confirm feudal contract.

A Structured Society.
Everyone had a place in feudal society:

Vassal to Lord above.  Lord to Vassal below.
The problem was that a vassal might owe loyalty to more than one lord who might fight each other. So - then - which lord is vassal to stay loyal to!?

The World of Nobles.
Many nobles trained from boyhood to become a knight or mounted warrior.
Achieving Knighthood.
Nobles fought over boundaries and over inheritance rights. Greed, honor, family feuds.
Most battles were small: few hundred or thousand knights.
Knights were more likely captured (for ransom) than killed in 30lb. armor. Feudal warfare declines in 1100s. Tournaments (mock battles) emerge.
Castles.

Noblewomen.
Noblewomen were active in society. In wartime ‘Lady of Manor’ took over duties while male was off fighting. Supervised vassals. Managed household. *Example: Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204) was a leading force for 50 years.

Chivalry.
In ‘later’ Middle Ages (11th century) knights adopt code of conduct called chivalry for nobles only and not anything pertinent for the ordinary people. Be brave. Generous. Loyal. Respect noblewomen. Defend family honor.

Feudal Justice.
During Middle Ages the lords preserved order on their own lands. Feudal justice was based largely on custom since there were few written laws. One custom recognized the right of an individual to be tried by his peers or equals. Another custom prevented a lord taking away a vassal’s fief unless vassal’s peers agree. Trial by ordeal: If accused survived physical harm like having an arm put in boiling water he won (like knight in battle) and was considered innocent. Thus, people believed that God decided guilt or innocence of the accused.

Peasants and Manor Life.
During 9th-10th centuries nobles were busy fighting or training for battle. They relied on peasants to farm the land. In 500s to 600s peasants produced just enough crops to support nobles and themselves. But by 1050 advances in agriculture resulted in crop surpluses. The manor was the lord’s estate - the heart of the medieval economy. The manor might include a village or several villages and the surrounding lands. Peasants were serfs bound to the land, not slaves, but not free! Serfs tied to the land were by 1100s considered part of fief the lord gave to vassal. Lord kept part of manor land himself. Demesne (‘mansio’=mansion, domain). Peasants paid fees (sans coined money) to lords. Grain. Cloth Chickens. Eggs.

A Self-Sufficient World.
The manor was a small self-sufficient world with few items imported. Peasants produced everything that they needed: food, clothing. Nobody traveled more than a few miles from village. No schooling. No knowledge of an outside world. *a lord with several manors used a bailiff (OF. ‘bail’) or agent to manage his smaller estates.

Peasant life.
For most peasants, life was harsh. Few peasants lived beyond age of 35. Peasants ate simple diet: black bread with vegetables (rarely any meat). Peasants lived with their livestock (cows, pigs) in a one-room hut. Peasants had rare times to celebrate events on the Christian calendar.
(3) The Medieval Church.

Vocabulary.
tithe - one tenth income.
secular - worldly.
papal supremacy - pope rule over secular rule.
canon law - Church law.
excommunication - denial of sacraments.
interdict - order against entire town.
simony - selling of Church office.
friar - monk not isolated.
anti-Semitism - prejudice against Jews.

Setting the Scene.
In time the medieval Church emerged as the most powerful force in Europe.
The Church became a power with its own laws, courts, system of taxation.
Church teachings influenced everyone in feudal society, from king to peasant.

The Church and Medieval Life.
In early Middle Ages the main achievement of the Church was to make Christians out of
diverse peoples (converts). Converters were monks:
In 400s. Patrick (385-461). Ireland.
In 500s. Augustine (d. 604). England.
in 700s. Boniface (680-754). SE Germany, called Saxony.
In Roman Empire, Christianity was hit in the cities and not the countryside.
But in the Middle Ages, most Christians lived in the scattered rural villages.

The Parish Priest.
Charlemagne (742-814) set up rural parishes: a priest in every manor!
Charlemagne reforms ensured parish priests could read and write Latin.
Priest was usually the only contact people had with the Church:
- He administered sacraments, sacred rites of Church.
- (Participation in sacraments meant salvation or eternal life.)
- He preached Gospels.
- He guided people on morality.
- He offered assistance to the sick and needy.
- He officiated at marriage, baptism, and burial.

The Village Church.
The church was a social center (gossip, dance) as well as a place of worship.
Church required a tithe (tax) or one tenth of parishioner’s income. (Mormon.)

Views of Women.
Church taught women on earth were ‘daughters of Eve,’ weak, apt to sin.

Monks and Nuns.
Monks and nuns had tradition of withdrawing from world to serve God.

Benedictines.
530. Monk Benedict (480-543) organized monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy.
Benedictine rule had three vows: Obedience. Poverty. Chastity.
Centers of Learning.
Educated monks kept learning alive. Carefully copied Greek, Roman works.
Abbot Cassidorous (490-580) was a retired Roman historian and statesman who wrote useful summaries of Greek and Latin works for his monks.
Venerable Bede (673-735) was a monk who wrote the earliest known history of England and introduced the use of BC and AD to date historical events.
Irish monks produced "Book of Kells."
Abbess Hildeseg (614-680 ) was Anglo-Saxon nun who composed religious music and wrote books on many subjects. Also known as St. Hilda.

Power of the Church Grows.
The Church controlled both spiritual and secular (worldly) matters.

Church and Feudal Society.
Medieval popes ‘eventually claimed’ papal supremacy or authority over all secular rulers.
The pope in Rome owned vast lands in central Italy, the ‘Papal States.’
The bishops and archbishops were usually nobles with their own lands.
The priests in contrast were commoners.
Kings and great feudal lords depended on educated clergy to fill positions in their courts.
So the clergy gained great influence in political matters
Clergy had to decide between loyalty to feudal lord and loyalty to the Church!

Religious Authority.
Church develops its own body of laws called canon law, and its own courts.
Disobedience led to excommunication or denial of sacraments needed to get everlasting salvation or eternal life. An interdict was excommunication of an entire town of say a powerful noble who opposed the Church.

Christians believed that life in heaven was more important than life on earth and that salvation was achieved through sacraments (seven rites). People under excommunication could not receive the sacraments (lost property/outcasts).

Force for Peace.
The Church used its power to reduce feudal warfare with Peace of God periods.
The Church accordingly may have helped in decline of feudal warfare in 1100s.

Reform Movements.
Clergy lived in luxury. Priests could marry. Voices called out for reform.

Cluniac Reforms.
900s. Abbot Berno of Cluny (eastern France) revived Benedictine rule.
He concentrated on the monasteries and convents.
1073. Pope Gregory VII, a former monk, extended Cluniac reforms to entire Church. Outlawed marriage for priests. Prohibited simony or the selling of religious offices. Simon Magus, biblical magician who offered money for instructions in rite of Holy Ghost.

Preaching Orders.
1200s. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) Italian; Dominic (1170-1221), Spanish.
(4) Economic Expansion.

**Vocabulary.**
- charter - written rights for town.
- capital - money for investment.
- partnership - united merchants.
- bill of exchange - de facto check.
- tenant farmer - farmer who paid rent.
- middle class - merchants, traders, artisans.
- usury - (excessive) interest on money loan.
- guild - artisan association.
- apprentice - intern.
- journeyman - salaried worker.

**Setting the Scene.**
The appearance of new towns was a symbol of Europe’s economic recovery. That revival lasting between 1000 and 1300 is called the **High Middle Ages**.

**An Agricultural Revolution.**
By 1000 peasants adapted to new farming techniques that made their fields more productive. This development is called an ‘Agricultural Revolution.’

**New Technologies.**
By 800s. New **iron plows** (instead of wood) that cut deep into heavy soil of northern Europe. The wood plow was designed for the light soils of the Mediterranean region. New **harness** allowed peasants replace oxen with horses who were faster in pulling the plow, and able to plow more a day. **Enlarged** fields to plant more crops. Use of windmill as an energy device to use the power of the wind to grind grain into flour.

**Expanding Production.**
Use of the **three-field system**:
1. One field with grain.
2. Another field with legumes (peas and beans).
3. Third field left fallow or unplanted (to regenerate).

**Trade Revives.**

**New Trade Routes.**
Goods in **Constantinople** (Chinese silk, Byzantine gold, jewelry, spices) were sent to **Venice** by boat from which were sent to Flanders by mule (over Alps) in exchange goods from north Europe (honey, furs, cloth, tin, lead). New fleets from cities of north Italy ousted Muslims from **control of Med.** Crumbling roads of Roman Empire were repaired and increased traffic.

**Trade Fairs.**
At first, traders and customers did their business at local trade fairs that took place every year near navigable river or where busy trade routes met.
New Towns.
The small centers of trade and handicraft turn into the first medieval cities. The richest cities were in northern Italy and Flanders - the two ends of the profitable north-south trade route. To protect their interest, merchants who set up the towns took out charters from the local lord or king that documented on paper rights and privileges.

A Commercial Revolution.
Trade revived. So money reappeared. Which in turn led to more changes. Merchants needed money to buy goods so they got capital or investment money from banking houses.

New Business Practices.
Merchants joined together (pooling their money) in legal partnerships. Merchants developed system of insurance to reduce business risk. Merchants adopted the bill of exchange (check) Arabs had used. Merchants stopped carrying gold coins on business trips.

Social Changes.
By 1300 money significantly undermined serfdom. Feudal lords needed money to buy fine goods from the East. Peasants some farm products to townspeople for cash. Peasants became tenant farmers by paying cash for the use of land. Feudal lords accepted cash from peasant farmers to buy their goods.

Role of Guilds.
Merchants and artisans formed associations called guilds. Guilds made rules:
- to protect quality of their goods.
- to regulate hours of labor.
- to set ‘just’ prices.

Guild Membership.
To become a guild member meant many years of hard work.
- Age 7. Child becomes apprentice (intern).
- Age 14. Seven years taken to learn trade. Journeyman is salaried employee. Guild Master is employer in end.

Town and City Life.

Looking Ahead.
The economic revival of Europe in the High Middle Ages was bringing Europeans in contact with civilizations much more advanced than theirs. From the East came ideas, technologies that changed Europe even more.