

MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Literature for further reading:

Child, John, Paul Shuter, and David Taylor. Understanding History 1.

Cootes, R. J. The Middle Ages.

Kelly, Nigel. The Medieval Realms.

Lerner, Robert, Standish Meacham and Edward McNall Burns. Western Civilizations.

Mason, James. Medieval Realms 1066-1500.

The **Middle Ages** lasted from **5th to 15th century**.

However, the most typical stage of the Middle Ages were the **High Middle Ages** (11th to 13th century).

Feudalism

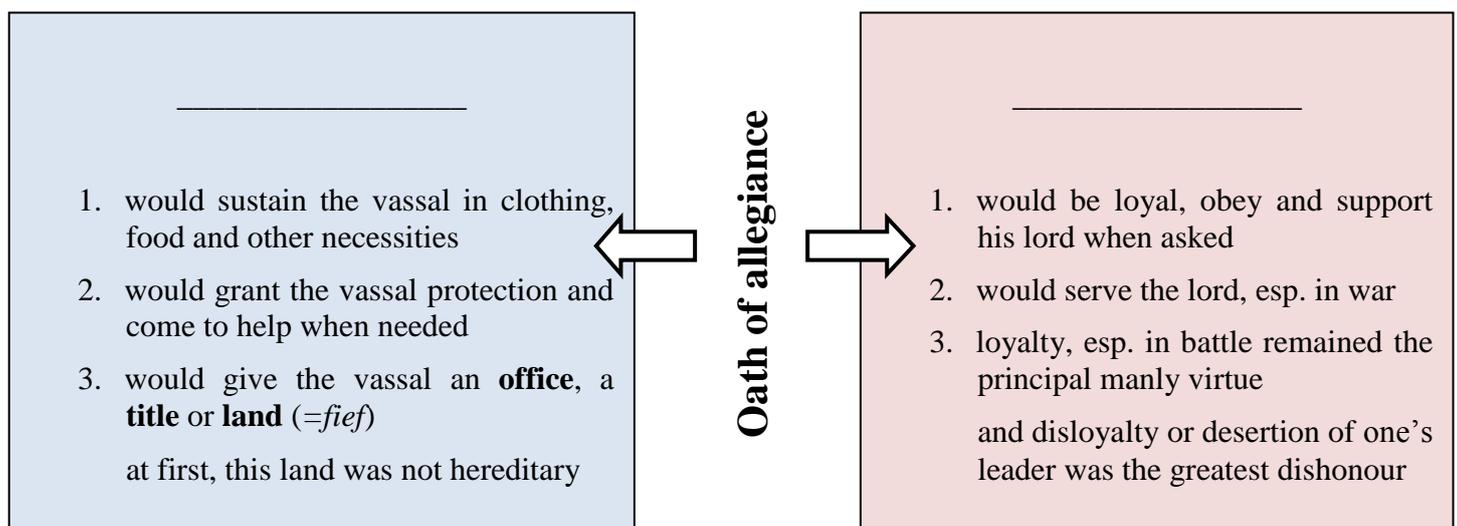
Feudalism was **not an era**. It was a **system of loyalties and protections**. It was based on a **rigid class distinction of society**.

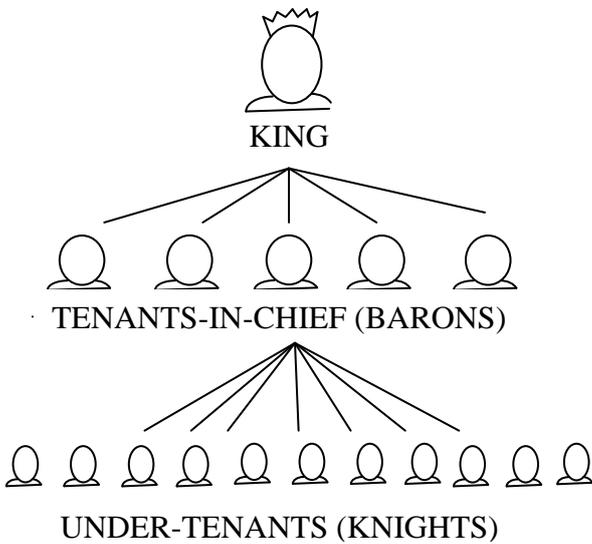
TASK 1: Fill in the gaps names of social classes according to the descriptions:

1. _____ = these people worked for themselves and for the other two social classes. They had no access to education and did not make decisions for other people or even themselves. Most of them were **serfs**. Serfdom was a social and legal condition when a person belonged to a certain place and could not leave the place or marry anyone without the permission of their master.
2. _____ = this social class ruled those who worked. They also protected them. They owned most of the wealth in the society. This wealth was based mainly on land ownership.
3. _____ = these people looked after the religious beliefs and the “fate of the souls” of the other two social classes. They prayed for them and made sure the others prayed too.

The word *feudalism* comes from the Latin word *feudum* which means a *fief*. The idea first developed in the Frankish kingdom under the Carolingians.

The feudal bond was a relationship between a **lord** and his **vassal** – based on mutual interests:





Later, the land and titles became hereditary and **hereditary aristocracy** was established.

Knighthood

Knights were warriors, members of lower aristocracy who fought for their feudal lord. To become a knight you had to pass through the stage of a **page** and then a **squire**. The knighting ceremony was usually performed by the king who touched the knight's shoulder with a sword and said: "*In the name of God and Saint George, I make thee a knight.*"

To be a knight was very expensive and the equipment was obtained from the feudal lord, tournament prizes or battles. Knights had to be very skilled riders; their horses were specially bred and trained to be strong, fast and reliable.

The church

Although it may seem difficult to believe today, most of the medieval population truly believed in God. This granted the Church an immense influence on the people in all classes of the medieval society.

The Church was built on the foundations of the Christian organization from the Roman Empire. During the Dark Ages, it preserved the knowledge of reading and writing.

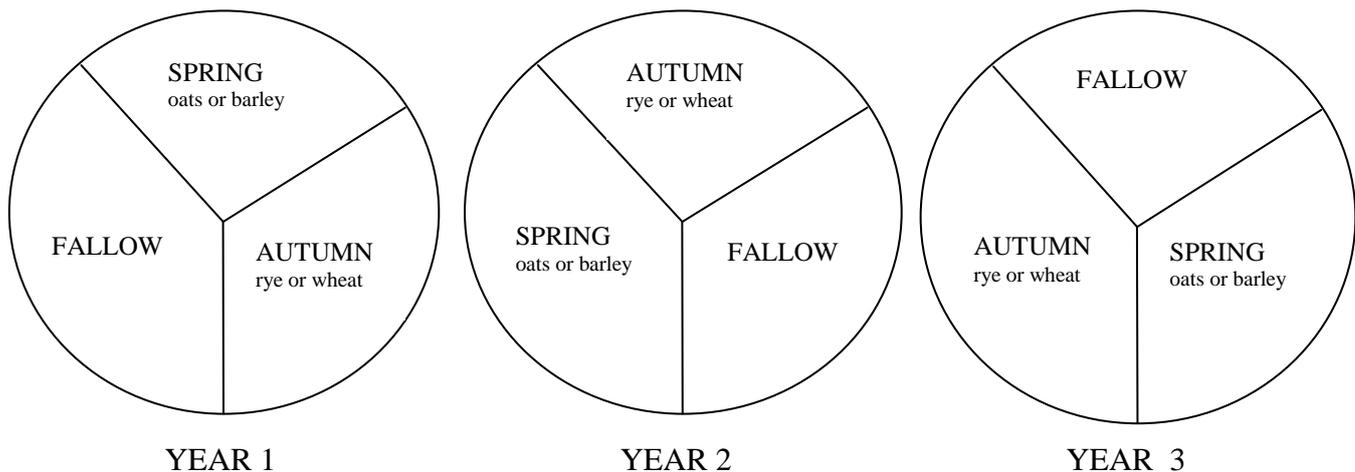
In **525 St. Benedict of Nursia** founded the first **monastery at Monte Cassino** in Italy. He also put down the **rules for monks** to live by (*Regula sancti Benedicti*). Thus, the **Benedictine Order** was created.

TASK 2: What do you know about everyday life of monks and nuns in monasteries?
(clue – obedience, prayer, poverty, chastity, labour)

Later, more orders were founded, e.g. **the Cistercians** (founded in 11th century in France, stricter than the Benedictines, very hard-working – farming), **the Carthusians** (founded in 11th century in France, lived in almost complete silence, vegetarians), **the Franciscans** (founded in 1209 by **St. Francis of Assisi** in Italy, gave up their earthly possessions, travelled and preached), **the Dominicans** (founded in 1216, in Spain, taught and preached to ordinary people more about Christianity, very educated, teachers, later took part in the Spanish Inquisition).

Revolution in agriculture

In the Middle Ages new methods of land cultivation were developed, for example the **three-field system of crop rotation** (see picture below). This meant that one third of the land would be sown with grain in the autumn, one third would be sown with oats or barley in the spring and one third would lie fallow for the whole year. This, together with **use of heavy ploughs** and then **mills**, led to more intensive use of arable land, and, thus **increase in surplus**. This then led to **faster population growth**.



Three-field crop rotation on farming land

Medieval towns

At the beginning of the Middle Ages, the towns were disappearing. However, the agricultural revolution and population growth led to the growth of towns – **urban revolution**.

Medieval towns were not like today. They were still half rural and uncivilized. The streets were unpaved, crowded, and sanitary conditions were very poor. Animals lived and died in the streets. There were no bathrooms, streets were often covered with mud but also human and animal excrement. Thanks to that, **contagious diseases** spread very quickly, often with devastating effects. The worst disease was the plague.

Despite these facts, the townspeople were very proud of living in the town. Unlike the serfs in the country, the townspeople were free. There was no forced labour.

Each town had a **charter** – a document defining its rights and liberties, e.g. to elect their mayor and council, to trade, to have a market, to brew beer, and to execute convicts.

The merchants and craftsmen were organized in **guilds** which organized their work and protected their rights.

Medieval trade

The agricultural revolution and growing sophistication of noble life led to the **revival of trade**. Locally, people traded in the **markets** in towns or bigger villages where peasants sold their surplus and craftsmen their products. Trade spread **on the rivers, seas and land**. At first, it was difficult to travel but then, gradually, construction of bridges, better roads and ships promoted long-distance trade too.

The most famous traders were the **Italian city-states (Genoa, Pisa, Venice)** which rose to power between 11th and 13th centuries. Their trade flourished in the Mediterranean, especially with the East (Orient). The most popular luxury goods were **spices, gems, perfumes and fine cloths (silk)**, which they distributed to the rest of Europe.

Later, the **Hanseatic League** was established in the Baltic Sea, esp. in northern Germany. It was a trading league of cities along the coast, e.g. **Bremen, Lübeck** or **Danzig (Gdańsk)**.

The growth of trade also promoted a **monetary economy**.



TASK 3: Discuss where from and where to the following goods travelled (use the given map or an atlas)
wine, silk, spices, timber, wool, perfumes, fine carpets, animal skins (fur coats)

TASK 4: Can you think of some negative effects of long-distance trading on the seas?

The plague

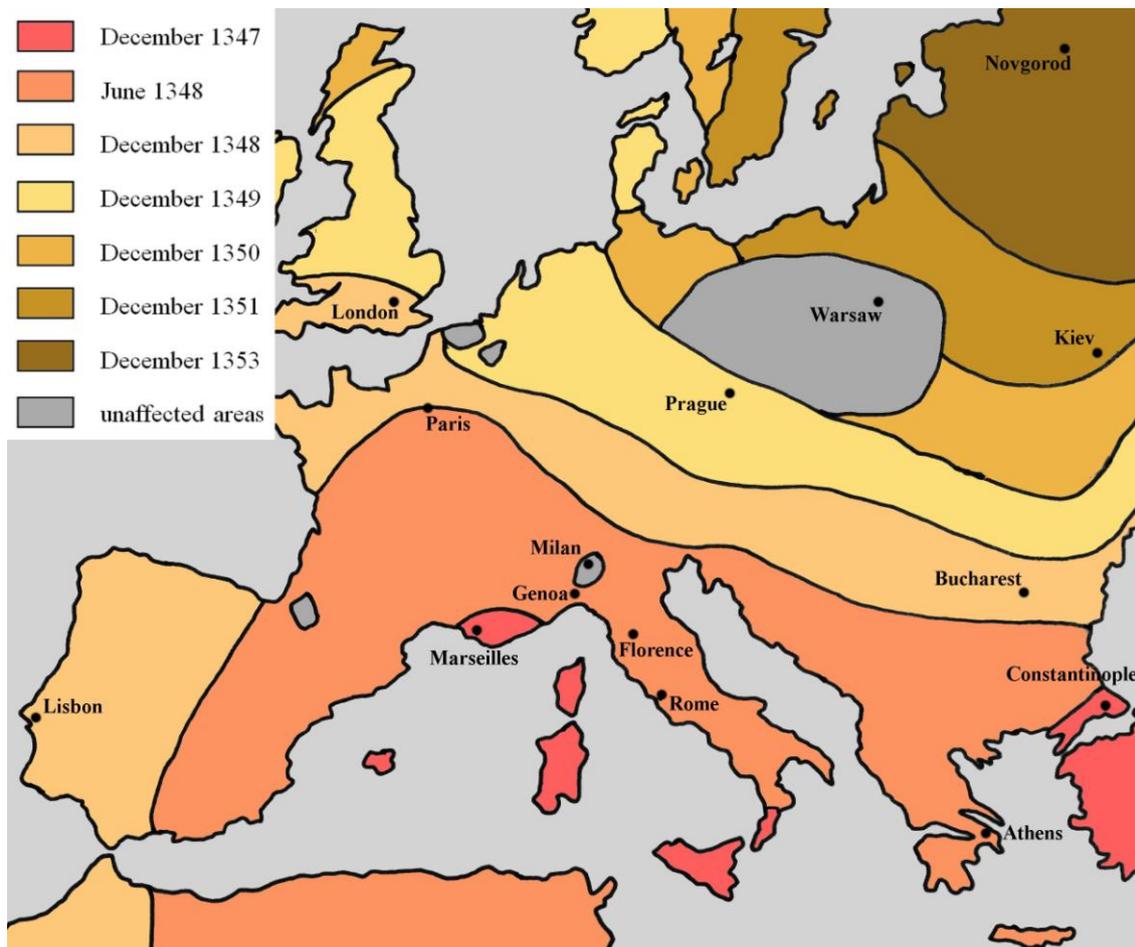
The plague was nicknamed **the Black Death**. The disease was caused by bacteria and it had two forms – bubonic (60% mortality) and pneumonic (90% mortality). The infection was spread by rats and close contact between the people, esp. in crowded medieval cities with bad hygiene. The most severe plague epidemic took place **1347 – 1348** (one quarter of the European population died). Then the plague re-appeared many times (e.g. 1360, 1391), until 18th century. The plague almost always caused panic in cities, affecting lives of all the people.

SOURCE

“Most were forced by being poor to stay at home. They fell ill by the thousand and having no servants to look after them, they almost all died. Many died in the streets and the death of those at home was usually only discovered by neighbours because of the smell of their rotting corpses. Bodies lay all over the place.”

“Not only did citizens avoid each other, neglect their neighbours and seldom visit their relations, talking to them only from a safe distance; people were so terrified of the plague that brothers abandoned each other, uncles left nephews, wives even deserted their husbands. Worse still, and almost unheard of, parents refused to nurse and look after their own children, acting as though they were nothing to do with them.”
(Boccaccio, *Introduction to the Decameron*, 1351)

TASK 5: Study the given map of how the 1347 epidemic spread. Write down where the trading ships brought the plague from and in which direction the plague spread throughout Europe:



Jews in the medieval society

The medieval society was very hostile to Jews. The main reason was that Christians blamed the Jews for the death of Jesus Christ. Also, because of their different lifestyle, they seemed strange and suspicious to Christians.

TASK 6: Do you know what these terms mean?

Hannukah =

rabbi =

kosher =

kippah =

sabbath =

ghetto =

So the Jews were on the edge of the society. They had to live separately from the Christians, in Jewish parts of town, ghettos. Also, Christians were forbidden to take part in usury (lending money to people and charging them interest) and when they needed a loan, the Jews were a good source of money for them. So the Jews often specialized in **money-lending** and other **financial services**. Some became so wealthy that even the king liked to borrow from them.

During peaceful times Christians and Jews co-existed next to each other quite well, mostly ignoring each other. However, during the impassioned times of the Crusades or when the plague came the Christians turned on the Jews as the cause of all the problems. In such cases, Christians then attacked ghettos and massacred the Jews there. We call such events **pogroms**.

History of medieval Europe in outline

SPAIN

- **Kingdom of the Visigoths (419- 711)**
- **711 – Arab conquest** of the Iberian Peninsula started, establishment of the **Caliphate of Cordoba** under the Umayyads
- **718 – 1492 – the Reconquista** (= reconquest) of the Iberian Peninsula by Spanish states, step by step
 - Charlemagne – the **Spanish Mark (Song of Roland)**
 - Alfonso VI of Castile – conquered Toledo in 1085 – **El Cid** and his private army conquered Valencia
 - Muslims fought back – the Almoravids, Almohads (radicals from North Africa)
 - **1212 battle of Las Navas de Tolosa** → only Granada remained under Muslim control
 - 1469 – **Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon**
 - **1492 – Castile and Aragon conquered Granada** → **Spain unified**

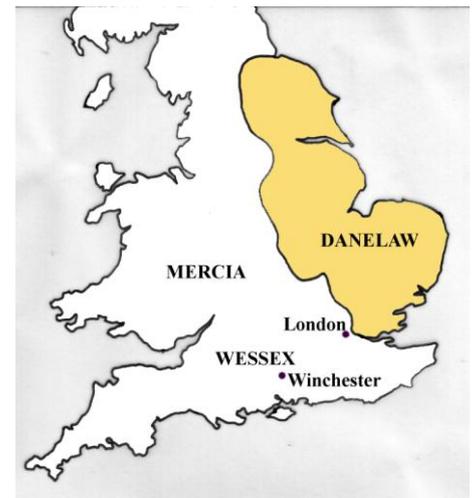
FRANCE

- part of the **Frankish Empire** → **843 Treaty of Verdun** → **Western Frankish Empire**
- under **Norman attack** → **911 Norman chief Rollo** gained **Normandy as a fief**
- **987 Carolingians died out** → new dynasty **Capetians (987-1328)** set up by **Hugh Capet**
- **1066 – William the Conqueror** (duke of Normandy) became also King of England
- **English kings controlled more than half of France** (Henry II of England controlled two thirds of France, esp. thanks to his marriage to **Eleanor of Aquitaine**)
- **wars between England and France**
Richard I of England (1189-1199) x **Philip II “August” of France (1180-1223)**

- **crusade against the Albigensians 1208-1229**
- France got most of the territories back from **John Lackland** (English)
- **Philip IV “the Fair”** (1285-1314) centralized the monarchy and strengthened the power of king and brought the **papacy to Avignon** (1309-1377) → papacy under French influence
- in **1337 the Hundred Years’ War** started

ENGLAND

- **Seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms**
- **Danish invasions** – **Alfred the Great** of Wessex (871-899) fought the Danes, after his victory at Edington they signed a treaty
- **Danelaw** – Danish part of England
- **Canute the Great** of Denmark (995-1035) **conquered England**
- after his death there were Anglo-Saxon kings again



- **1066 – William I of Normandy (William the Conqueror)** (1066-1085) **invaded England** → he fought another candidate **Harold II Godwinson** (a Saxon) → **battle of Hastings 1066** (Harold was killed and the Normans won) → **William became William I. the King of England**

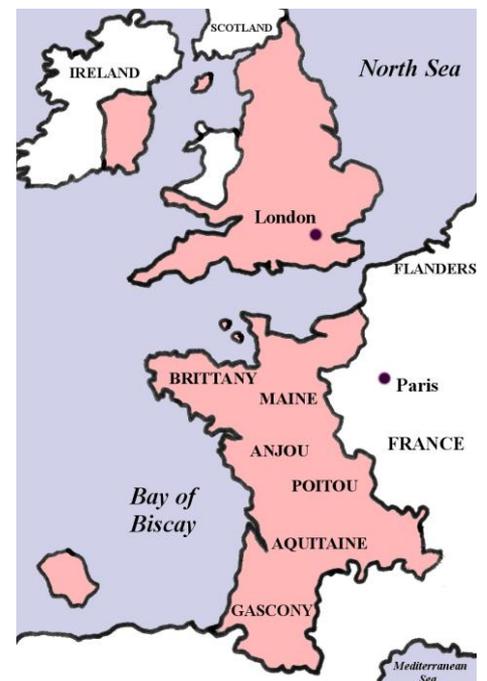
- **William I** – an illegitimate son of Duke of Normandy, he was also a vassal of the French king, he was wise and fond of culture, he created a strong national monarchy
- **TASK 7: Explain why the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says about him:**
“He was a very stern and violent man, so that no one dared to do anything contrary to his will...” and ...“he was stronger than any predecessor of his had been.”
- **Norman rule in England** (French language, French courtly manners, French feudal system adopted, sheriffs, *the Domesday Book*)

- **Henry II Plantagenet** (1154-1189), marriage to **Eleanor of Aquitaine** (she was believed to be the most beautiful woman of the time), ruled **two thirds of France** (see the map on the right)

- **Richard I “the Lionheart”** (1189-1199) – a great warrior and crusader, spent a lot of time out of England

- **John “Lackland”** (1199 – 1216)

- Richard I’s younger brother, ruled England when Richard was on crusades and later became his heir



- because he refused to obey his feudal lord (for the French territories) the French King Philip II and because of a suspicion of having his nephew murdered, John **lost most of the English territories in France**
- his rule caused many rebellions in England
- **1215** – English nobles forced King John to sign the **Magna Carta** which guaranteed privileges of the nobles and undermined the power of the king

TASK 8:

Study the excerpts from the Magna Carta and write down what the problems between the king and the barons were. Did the peasants get any rights?

...No constable or other royal official shall take corn or other moveable goods from any man without immediate payment...

...In future no official shall place a man on trial unless he can produce believable witnesses to support his accusation...

...no free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land...

...to no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice...

...the barons shall elect twenty-five of their number to keep, and cause to be observed with all their might, the peace and liberties granted and confirmed to them by this charter. Any man may take an oath to obey the commands of the twenty-five barons for the achievement of these ends...

- 1265 – **Simon de Montfort** called the **first “parliament”** (a council of barons) based on the Magna Carta
- **Edward I** (1272-1307) - **conquered Wales**
 - **conquered Scotland** (rebellion led by **William Wallace**)
 - regular meeting of the “parliament”
- **Edward II** – lost Scotland in **1314 at the battle of Bannockburn** → **Scotland independent** (King **Robert the Bruce**)
- **Edward III** (1337-1377) – **beginning of the Hundred Years’ War**

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

- part of the Frankish Empire → **843 Treaty of Verdun** → **Eastern Frankish Empire**
- 911 – Carolingians died out
- 919 – **Henry “the Fowler”** (919-936) founded the **Saxon dynasty**
- **Otto the Great** (936-973)
 - **955** - defeated the **Magyars at Lechfeld** (with the aid of Czech **Boleslav II**)
 - **962** – crowned Emperor in Rome → **Holy Roman Empire (HRE) was founded – renovatio imperii**

TASK 9: Write down what you had to do to become

a. Holy Roman King

b. Holy Roman Emperor

- **Otto III** (983-1002) – cooperated with Pope **Sylvester II** to establish a “Universal Christian Europe,” he used and supported culture in the Holy Roman Empire – **Ottonian Renaissance**
- **Henry IV** (1056-1106) had a **dispute with Pope Gregory VII** (1073-1085) – the **Investiture Controversy**
- **1122 – Concordat of Worms** – a compromise, end of the Investiture Controversy
- **Frederick I “Barbarossa”** (1152-1190) – aimed to centralize the imperial power (succeeded in German lands)

- 1197-1215 – dispute between Philip of Swabia (**Stauf**) and Otto IV Brunswick (**Welf**) → Přemysl I was granted royal title for his help
- **Frederick II** (1215-1250) King of Sicily, well-educated, could speak Arabic and tried to rule more like an oriental despot
- **feudal particulation** – kings weak, didn't interfere, nobles were strong

ITALY

- not united, divided into three parts:
- **Northern Italy – City States**
 - in theory part of the HRE but in practice strong, prosperous city states (**Venice, Genoa, Milan, Florence**)
 - conflicts with kings of the HRE (Henry IV, Frederick I)
 - trading centre of Europe – trade with Far East
 - towns getting very rich → change of lifestyle → cradle of Renaissance
- **Central Italy – the Papal State**
 - in theory part of the HRE but due to the lack of protection by the emperors turning into independent papal domain
 - idea of supreme power of the popes over the kings – “Universal Christian Europe”
 - **Gregory VII** (1073-1085) – Investiture Controversy
 - **Urban II** (1088-1099) – the first crusade
 - **Innocent III** (1198-1216) – zenith of papal power
 - **1215 the fourth Lateran Council** (the Church independent, kings cannot interfere in the Church matters)
 - Innocent III's candidate Frederick II became King of HRE
 - **Boniface VIII** (1294-1303) attempted to rule as an absolute overlord of all kings, dispute with Philip IV of France
- **Southern Italy – Kingdom of Two Sicilies**
 - part of the Arab Empire since 9th century
 - Normans supported by the popes to conquer this territory in the second half of 11th century
 - Norman Kingdom of the Two Sicilies = Sicily + Southern Italy
 - three official languages (Latin, Greek, Arabic)
 - Arab advisors for government, cultural inspiration
 - probably the richest kingdom in Europe – **Roger II** (1101-1154)
 - **Frederick II** King of Sicily
 - since 14th century under Aragon (**Spain**)

KIEVAN RUS'

- 9th century – **Swedish Vikings (Varangians)** established first trade bases **Novgorod** and **Kiev**
- **Oleg** (882-912) unified the two territories
- **Vladimir the Saint** (978-1015) accepted Christianity
- **Jaroslav the Wise** (1019-1054) the largest area but it was divided among his sons
- **1223-1241 the Mongol conquest** → **Khanate of the Golden Horde**

NORTHERN EUROPE

- **Viking** raids on Europe → kingdoms of **Norway, Denmark** and **Sweden**
- **Canute the Great** (995-1035) united all three kingdoms → independent kingdoms again
- 1397 – 1514 **Union of Calmar** united again
- but **Sweden then dropped out** and set to conquer the eastern Baltic area
- 1226 – **Teutonic Knights** established their crusader state in Prussia

TASK 10:

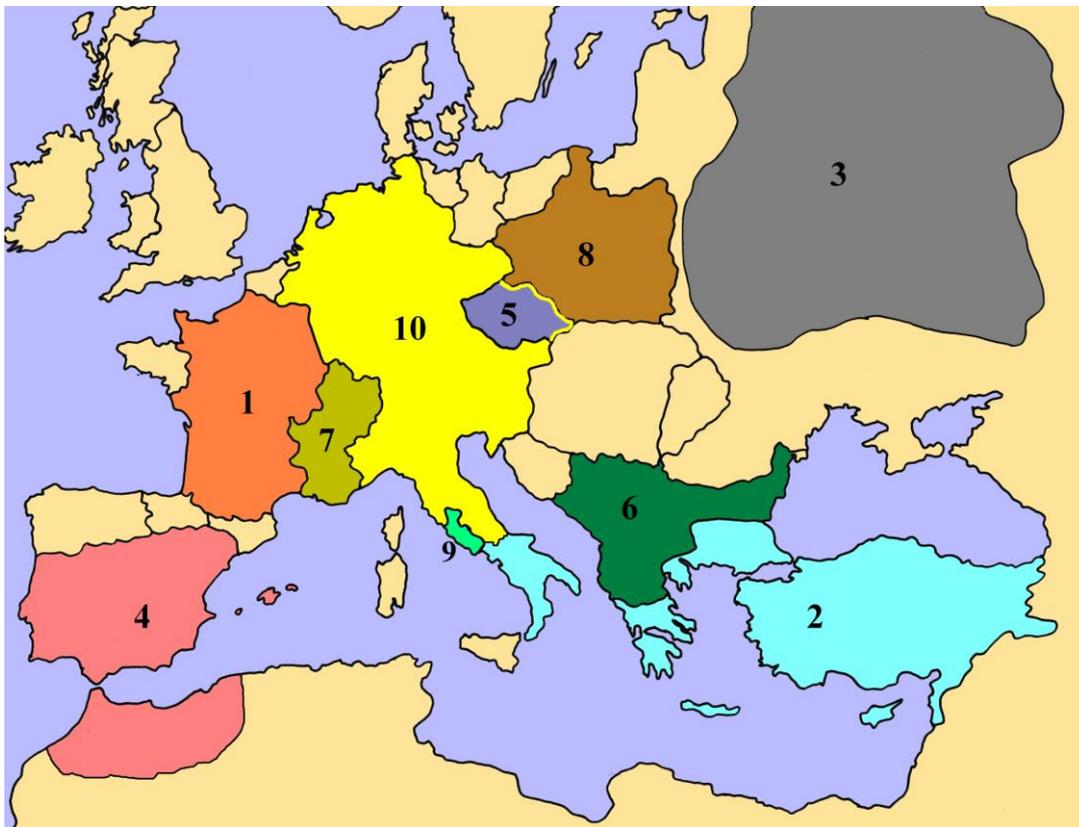
Write down which territories were conquered by the:

Norwegian Vikings: _____

Swedish Vikings: _____

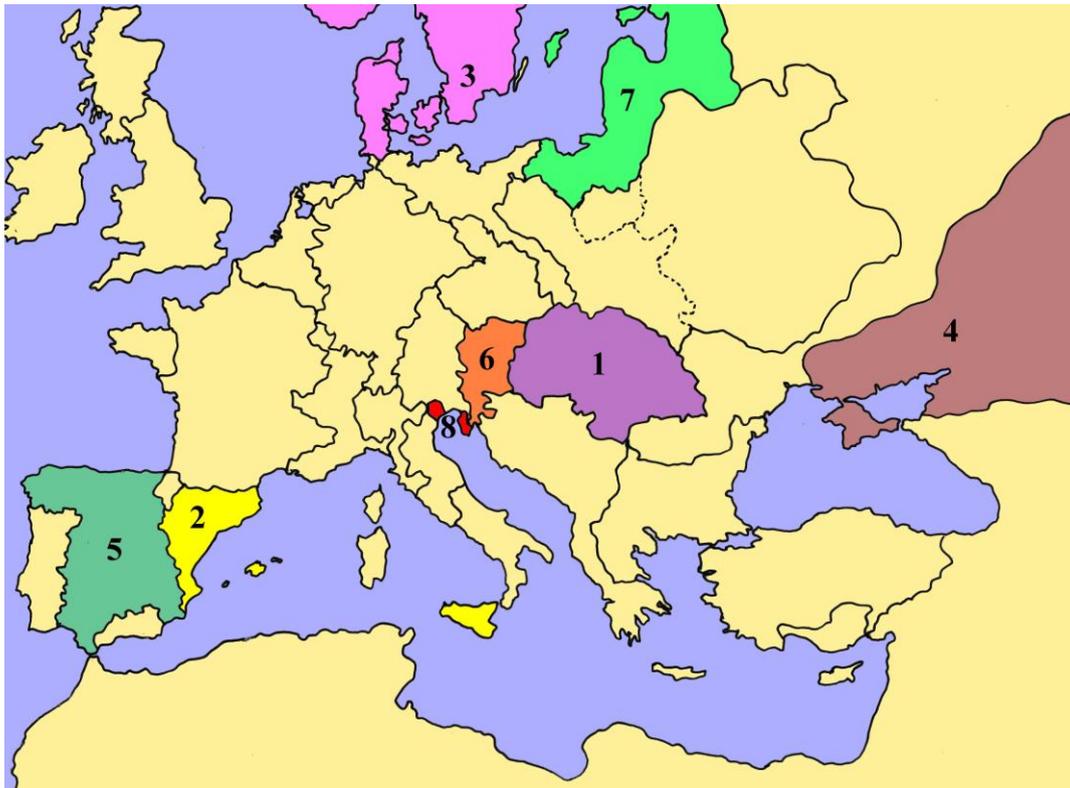
Danish Vikings: _____

TASK 11: Label the states or territories in the outline maps below.



Europe in 1000

- ___ Caliphate of Cordoba
- ___ Kingdom of the Franks
- ___ Kingdom of Burgundy
- ___ Holy Roman Empire
- ___ Papal States
- ___ Kievan Rus'
- ___ Duchy of Bohemia
- ___ Bulgarian Empire
- ___ Byzantine Empire
- ___ Duchy of Poland



Europe in 1400

- ___ Kingdom of Castile
- ___ Austria
- ___ Kingdom of Hungary
- ___ Kingdom of Aragon
- ___ Territories of the Golden Horde
- ___ Dominion of the Teutonic Order
- ___ Venice
- ___ Union of Kalmar

(Please note that this is only a basic outline of the political map of Europe, with selected states.)

The struggle between kings and popes

- **The Donations of Constantine** - an 8th century forgery by Pope Sylvester I, claimed to be signed by Emperor Constantine. It supported the theoretical claims of all the medieval popes to judge kings and emperors and even to be the supreme temporal rulers of the West. Through this the popes claimed the sole right to crown western emperors and tried to exact obedience from the whole western Church.
- **Charlemagne** - supported the popes with money, but within the Frankish kingdom, kings kept authority over the Church.
- **Rostislav** - in Great Moravia, desired to appoint his own bishops. Why?
- **Otto the Great and Otto III** - placed the new ecclesiastical organizations of the newly founded kingdoms of Hungary, Bohemia and Poland under direct control of the pope. What advantage did that give them?
- 12th century - the H.R.E. **Henry III** appointed a reformist pope, **Leo IX**. The pope wanted control over ecclesiastical appointments, but bishops, abbots and parish priests were vassals of feudal lords who endowed them with land and property and so they exercised an effective right of appointment to ecclesiastical positions.
- H.R.E. **Henry IV** (against **Gregory VII**) - the **INVESTITURE CRISIS (1073 – 1077)**:

- **1122 - Concordat of Worms** - H.R.E. Henry V - emperors gave up the right to invest bishops (with staff and ring) but for all their lands they had to do homage to the king.
- **1170** - English King **Henry II** had just set up his own system of laws and especially royal jurisdiction (king's courts) and he was not going to allow the pope any higher judicial authority. The Pope's representative in England, **Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket** was murdered because he quarrelled with the king, Henry II, over the Church's right to excommunicate royal officials, have the income from vacant dioceses, have the sole right to punish clergymen if they had committed a crime, and noblemen could appeal to Rome over the king's head.



The murder of Thomas Becket

- 1159-1181 - Emperor **Frederick Barbarossa** fought continually with **Pope Alexander III** over his position. Alexander claimed that the imperial crown was a benefice bestowed by the pope on the Holy Roman King. The implication of this was that: Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) the pope lower than God but higher than man and the royal power derives its splendour from the pontifical authority.
- **Alexander III** used his power to make the Kings of Sicily, Aragon and Portugal - the King of Poland and the king of England for a time - all recognized him as their feudal lord. He interfered in the internal politics of France and claimed the right to be a judge in a dispute between the King of England and King of France. Finally, he intervened in a dispute over who should become the King of Germany.
- **Philip IV** of France and Edward I of England both quarrelled with **Boniface VIII** over the right to impose taxes on the Church (they were both involved in costly wars). Finally, Philip again quarrelled with Boniface over the arrest and trial of a French bishop. Boniface issued a **bull Unam Sanctam** in 1302:

...therefore we declare, state define and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff..

Philip reacted by sending a force to capture, insult and humiliate him.

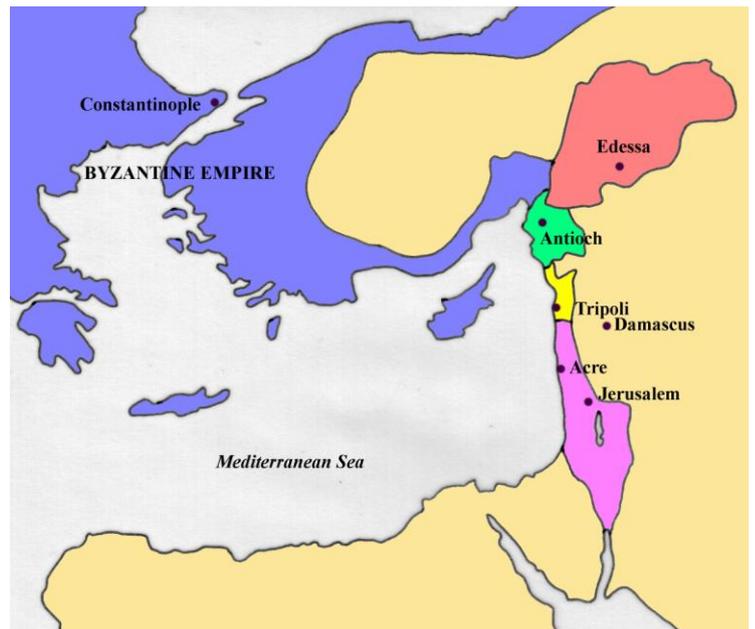
In 1309 Clement V, a French pope moved to Avignon, which remained the seat of popes until 1376 – and all of them were French, under the influence of the French kings. = **Avignon Papacy (1309-1376)**

The crusades

TASK 12: What is a crusade? Create and write down a proper definition.

- **Jerusalem**
 - important to **Jews, Christians, Muslims**; **pilgrims** from these religions travelled there to worship, Arab Muslims let Christians visit the city
 - but - in 11th century Seljuk **Turks** moved westwards from central Asia westwards and took Persia, Syria and Egypt
 - in 1071 they defeated the Byzantine Empire at **Manzikert** and in 1076 they **captured Jerusalem** - and these Muslims did not agree with Christian pilgrims visiting the Holy Land
- Pope **Urban II** made a speech at **Clermont**, France, in **1095** → mainly from Western Europe, people started volunteering. They wore red crosses on their clothes (~fighting for Christ) - **crusaders**
- Why would people go on a crusade?
- **1096 - the People's Crusade** –

- **1096 - the First Crusade** - Raymond of Toulouse, Godfrey de Bouillon and Robert of Normandy, reached and **captured Jerusalem in 1099**, massacring everyone, including the Jews. The First Crusade ended with the establishment of four Christian kingdoms: (see the map on the right)



TASK 13: Read the following accounts on the siege and fall of Jerusalem and decide whether their authors are Christians or Muslims:

SOURCE A

“Godfrey de Bouillon and his brother Baldwin were fighting bravely in the siege tower. Then, one of our knights, Lethold by name, climbed up on the wall of the city. All the defenders fled along the walls, and our men chased after them, killing them as far as the Temple of Solomon. There was such slaughter that we were up to our ankles in their blood.”

SOURCE B

When the Jews sought refuge in their synagogue, *“the Franks burned it over their heads,”* killing everyone inside.

SOURCE C

“...when the pagans had been overcome, our men seized great numbers, both men and women, either killing them or keeping them captive, as they wished... [Our leaders] also ordered all the Saracens dead to be cast outside because of the great stench, since the whole city was filled with their corpses; and so the living Saracens dragged the dead before the exits of the gates and arranged them in heaps, as if they were houses. No one ever saw or heard of such slaughter of pagan people, for funeral pyres were formed from them like pyramids, and no one knows their number except God alone...”

SOURCE D

“In this temple [Temple Mount area] 10,000 were killed. Indeed, if you had been there you would have seen our feet coloured to our ankles with the blood of the slain. But what more shall I relate? None of them were left alive; neither women nor children were spared.”

- During 12th century Syria was reconquered by Muslims and in 1144 **Edessa fell**.
- 1146 - 1150 - **the Second Crusade** - Louis VII conquered Damascus
- **1187 - battle of Hattin** - legendary **Sultan Saladin recaptured Jerusalem**, which led to:
- 1189 - 1192 - **the Third Crusade** - H.R.E. **Frederick Barbarossa, Philip II of France, Richard I** of England → Frederick drowned on the way, Philip returned to France, Richard reached Jerusalem but failed to capture it → signed peace treaty with Saladin (Christian pilgrims allowed to Jerusalem)
- 1202 - 1204 - **the Fourth Crusade** - sponsored by the Venetians (rivals of Constantinople), turned on Constantinople and sacked it and also attacked Egypt
- **1212 - Children’s Crusade** - based on the belief that children would be helped by God because:
 - 12-year-olds, about 30,000 children, died or sold into slavery in Egypt
- 1218 - 1221 - **the Fifth Crusade** - by HRE **Frededrick II** (atheist), reached Egypt but did not succeed
- 1228 - 1229 - **the Sixth Crusade** - Frederick II, negotiated with Muslims and regained Jerusalem (but the Turks took the city again in 1244)
- 1248 - 1254 - **the Seventh Crusade** - led by Louis IX, but they were defeated in Egypt
- meanwhile: 1258 - Baghdad sacked by **Mongols**
- 1260 - Mongol invaders defeated by the Mamelukes of Egypt, **the Abbasids fell**
→ **rise of the Ottoman Empire** by 1400
- 1270 - **the Eighth Crusade** - **Louis IX**, landed in Tunis but the army was struck by plague → Louis died
- 1271 - **the Ninth Crusade** - **Prince Edward** (later Edward I) negotiated a treaty and withdrew

- 1291 - Muslims captured **Acre** (the last Christian outpost in the Holy Land) which meant the official **end of the Crusades**
- Crusade fighting - few big battles but many sieges and massacres
- **TASK 14: Can you think of any results of the Crusades? Use different materials to find which useful things the Europeans learnt and brought to Europe:**

trade –

military -

science -

medicine -

architecture -

literature -

rise of trading cities _____ and _____

many nobles killed

- **Later “crusades:”**
 - 1204 - the pope launched a crusade against the **Albigenses** (Cathars - French heretics)
 - 1420 - 1437 - five Catholic **“crusades” against the Hussites**
 - frequent crusades against **Turks in Europe**, e.g. when Vienna was under threat in 1534 and 1683
 - the **Reconquista** - 1492 - the fall of Granada - the Reconquista completed by Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile
 - German “crusades” against non-Christians in **Lithuania and Prussia** (13th - 14th centuries)
 - 1917 - British and Arabs drove Turks out of **Palestine** and after WWI it became a British Mandate (now Israel and Palestine - source of today’s tension)

THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES

When defining the end of the Middle Ages, we can use more than just one kind of reference. We can use dates (years, centuries), cultural references (styles) or important events.

TASK 15: Can you think of at least three particular ways to mark the end of the Middle Ages and start of early modern history?



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

REVISION TASKS:

TASK 16: Describe the class division of the medieval society.

TASK 17: Living in the Middle Ages was hard and dangerous. Discuss the various hardships of the medieval people and choose which were the most difficult or threatening.

TASK 18: What were the powers and weaknesses of the medieval Church?

TASK 19: A topic for class discussion – did the Christian crusaders have justified reasons for their invasions?