

Middle Ages Study Guide

- Chapters 13 & 14

The gradual decline of the Roman Empire ushered in an era of European history called the Middle Ages, or the medieval period. It spanned the years from about 500-1500.

Approximate Dates:

- Early Middle Ages: 500-1000
- High Middle Ages: 1000-1300
- Late Middle Ages: 1300-1500

Which label for the Middle Ages best describes the era between 500-1500 in Europe: Age of Faith, Dark Ages, Age of Feudalism, or Golden Age?

Series of Events

- 5th century: Germanic invaders overrun western half of Roman Empire
- 400-600: Germanic Kingdoms replace Roman provinces
- Germanic Kingdoms and the Church become partners
- Feudalism in Europe
- 800-1000 invaders attack Western Europe
- 1093-1393: Holy wars or "Crusades" to gain control of the Holy Land (Christians vs. Muslims)
- 1000-1300: Agriculture, trade and finance made significant advances as towns and cities grew
- 1215: Magna Carta (guaranteed certain basic political rights)
- 1300s: Bubonic Plague kills 1/3 of Europe's population.
- 1417: New pope is chosen ending the Great Schism (3 popes)
- 1337-1453: Hundred Year's War (series of conflicts and wars between England & France)

Mr. George

STUDY GUIDE: MIDDLE AGES

KEY TERMS:

Be able to identify and *explain the significance of:*

Terms:

feudalism
manor
excommunication
tithe
canon law
guild
Magna Carta
Parliament
Crusades
Great Schism
Inquisition
Crusade
Simony
Black Death

KEY CONCEPTS:

You should be able to answer, *in your own words:*

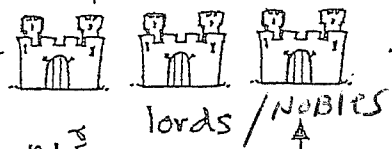
- ◆ How did the division and fall of the Roman Empire affect the development of Europe?
- ◆ Why did feudalism develop and how did it impact medieval society?
- ◆ How did the Catholic Church play a role in all areas of medieval life?
- ◆ What were some major developments of the Agricultural and Commercial Revolutions?
- ◆ How did English monarchs try to increase their own power?
- ◆ What were the causes and effects of the Crusades?
- ◆ How did the various crises of the 1300s-1400s affect Europe?
- ◆ Explain the Black Death's impact on Europe.
- ◆ What were the causes and effects of the Viking invasions on Europe?



monarch

provided land
to lords

promised to support
monarch with knights



lords / NOBLES

provided knights
with food and land

promised to
fight for lord



knights

Produced food for the kingdom

Provided serfs with land and protection



serfs

3

The Crusades

In the Crusades, both Christians and Muslims believed that God was on their side. They both felt justified in using violence to win or to keep the Holy Land. The following excerpts show their belief in the rightness of their deeds.

A PRIMARY SOURCE

Pope Urban II

In 1095, Pope Urban II issued a plea that resulted in the First Crusade. The pope assured his listeners that God was on their side.

Let the holy sepulcher of our Lord and Saviour, which is possessed by the unclean nations, especially arouse you. . . . This royal city [Jerusalem], situated at the center of the earth, is now held captive by the enemies of Christ and is subjected, by those who do not know God, to the worship of the heathen. Accordingly, undertake this journey eagerly for the remission of your sins, with the assurance of the reward of imperishable glory in the kingdom of heaven.

D PRIMARY SOURCE

Luttrell Psalter

The illustration below from a Latin text shows Richard the Lion-Hearted (left) unhorsing Saladin during the Third Crusade. However, the two men never actually met in personal combat.

B PRIMARY SOURCE

William of Tyre

A Christian bishop, William of Tyre, drew upon eyewitness accounts of the capture of Jerusalem by Crusaders.

It was impossible to look upon the vast numbers of the slain without horror; everywhere lay fragments of human bodies, and the very ground was covered with the blood of the slain. It was not alone the spectacle of headless bodies and mutilated limbs strewn in all directions that roused horror in all who looked upon them. Still more dreadful was it to gaze upon the victors themselves, dripping with blood from head to foot, an ominous sight which brought terror to all who met them. It is reported that within the Temple enclosure alone about ten thousand infidels perished, in addition to those who lay slain everywhere throughout the city in the streets and squares, the number of whom was estimated as no less.

C PRIMARY SOURCE

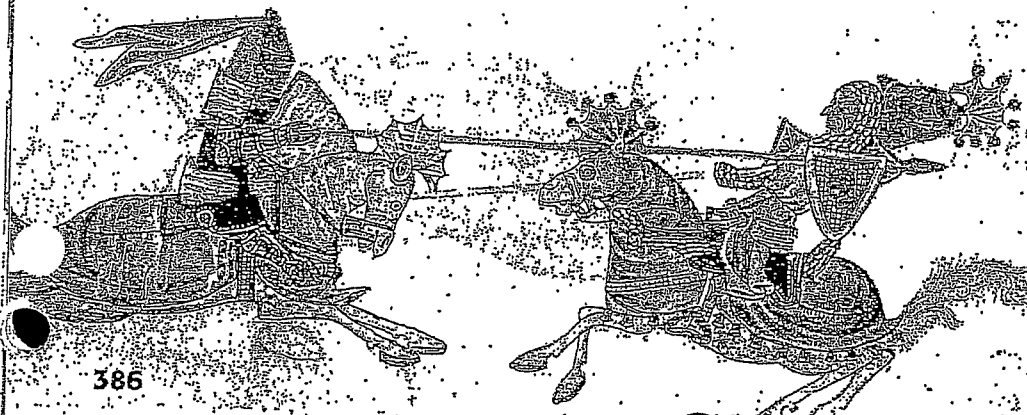
Saladin

This is an excerpt of Saladin's reply to a letter from Frederick I (Barbarossa) threatening Saladin. Saladin wrote the letter after he recaptured Jerusalem.

Whenever your armies are assembled . . . we will meet you in the power of God. We will not be satisfied with the land on the seacoast, but we will cross over with God's good pleasure and take from you all your lands in the strength of the Lord. . . . And when the Lord, by His power, shall have given us victory over you, nothing will remain for us to do but freely to take your lands by His power and with His good pleasure. . . . By the virtue and power of God we have taken possession of Jerusalem and its territories; and of the three cities that still remain in the hands of the Christians . . . we shall occupy them also.

Document-Based QUESTIONS

- Using specific phrases or passages from Source A and Source C, demonstrate how their attitudes were similar.
- What directive in Source A might have been at the root of the action described in Source B?
- What evidence in Source D reveals the artist's bias about the confrontation between Islam and Christianity?



4

3

6

(1215)

Primary Source: from the Magna Carta

1. What rights does the Magna Carta secure for the people of England? In your own words, summarize the rights this excerpt explains.
2. Why is the Magna Carta, in essence, a feudal document?
3. What is the relationship between Church and state in England at this time? How do you know? Provide specific examples.
4. The Magna Carta was written in response to a specific chain of events. What happened to prompt the writing of this document?
5. Why do you think the authors of the Magna Carta were so concerned with the rights of the Church?
6. Why is the Magna Carta considered to be such a milestone in civil rights?

CHAPTER
14

Section 3

PRIMARY SOURCE *from the* Magna Carta

On June 15, 1215, English nobles forced King John to agree to a Magna Carta (Great Charter). The 63-clause document guaranteed certain political rights such as no taxation without representation and trial by jury. The nobles wanted to protect their feudal rights and also to limit the powers of the king. As you read the following clauses, consider which of these political rights you currently enjoy.

John, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justiciars, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants, and to all his bailiffs and faithful subjects, greeting. Know that we, out of reverence for God and for the salvation of our soul and those of all our ancestors and heirs, for the honour of God and the exaltation of holy church, and for the reform of our realm, on the advice of our venerable fathers. . . .

[1] In the first place have granted to God, and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs for ever that the English church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished and its liberties unimpaired; and it is our will that it be thus observed. . . . We have also granted to all free men of our kingdom, for ourselves and our heirs for ever, all the liberties written below, to be had and held by them and their heirs of us and our heirs. . . .

[12] No scutage [special tax] or aid shall be imposed in our kingdom unless by common counsel of our kingdom, except for ransoming our person, for making our eldest son a knight, and for once marrying our eldest daughter, and for these only a reasonable aid shall be levied. Be it done in like manner concerning aids from the city of London.

[13] And the city of London shall have all its ancient liberties and free customs as well by land as by water. Furthermore, we will and grant that all other cities, boroughs, towns, and ports shall have all their liberties and free customs. . . .

[38] No bailiff shall in future put anyone to trial upon his own bare word, without reliable witnesses produced for this purpose.

[39] No free man shall be arrested or imprisoned . . . , except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.

[40] To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay right or justice.

[41] All merchants shall be able to go out of and come into England safely and securely and stay and travel throughout England; . . . for buying and selling by the ancient and right customs free from all evil tolls. . . .

[42] It shall be lawful in future for anyone, without prejudicing the allegiance due to us, to leave our kingdom and return safely and securely by land and water, save, in the public interest, for a short period in time of war—except for those imprisoned or outlawed in accordance with the law of the kingdom and natives of a land that is at war with us. . . .

[63] Wherefore we wish and firmly enjoin that the English church shall be free, and that the men in our kingdom shall have and hold all the aforesaid liberties, rights and concessions well and peacefully, freely and quietly, fully and completely, for themselves and their heirs from us and our heirs, in all matters and in all places for ever, as is aforesaid. An oath, moreover, has been taken, as well on our part as on the part of the barons, that all these things aforesaid shall be observed in good faith and without evil disposition.

from Magna Carta. Reprinted in Mort Gerberg and Jerome Agel, eds., Twelve Documents That Shaped the World (New York: Putnam, 1992), 6–10.

Research Option

Perceiving Relationships Read the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution. Then make a Venn diagram in which you compare the Magna Carta with the Bill of Rights. Share your chart with classmates.