

# The Middle Ages?

## Sounds kind of Medieval to me!

Prehistory

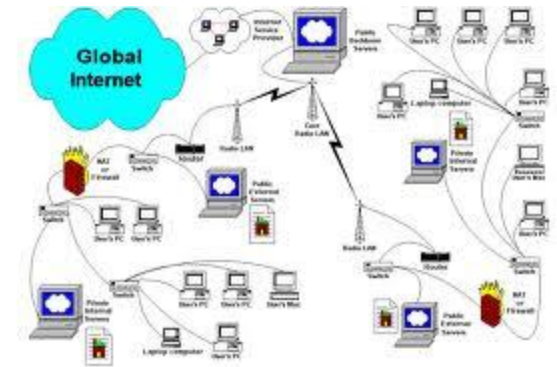
Ancient Civilizations



Medieval

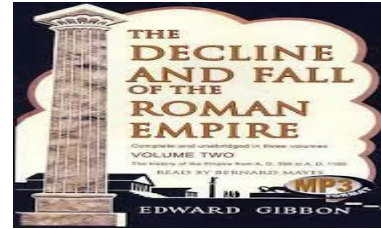


Modern Era/Today



# What is the Medieval period?

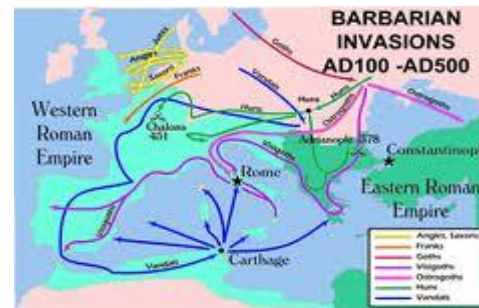
- After the collapse of Rome, Western Europe entered a period of **political, social, and economic decline.**



- From about **500 ce to 1000 ce**, it was **politically divided, rural, and largely cut off from advanced civilizations** in the Middle East, China, and India.



- Waves of **invaders swept across** the region, **trade slowed** to a trickle, **towns emptied**, and classical **learning virtually ceased.**

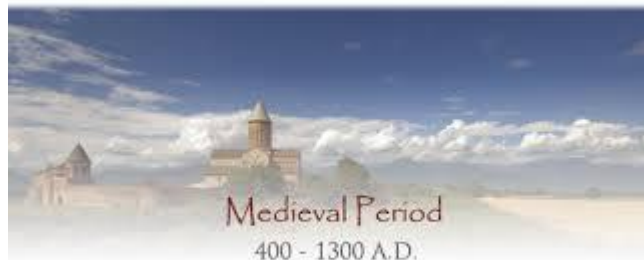


# What is the Medieval period?

- For those reasons, this period in Europe has sometimes been called the **Dark Ages**.



- **Greco-Roman, Germanic, and Christian traditions slowly blended, creating a Medieval Culture.**



# What are some characteristics of the Middle Ages culture?

- They were mostly **farmers and herders**, so they had **no cities or written laws**.



- Instead, they lived in **small communities governed by unwritten customs**. (Manorialism)



- **Warriors swore loyalty to the king in exchange for weapons and a share in the plunder** taken from conquered people. (Feudalism ) Many small **Feudal armies** – constant warfare



# Characteristics continued...

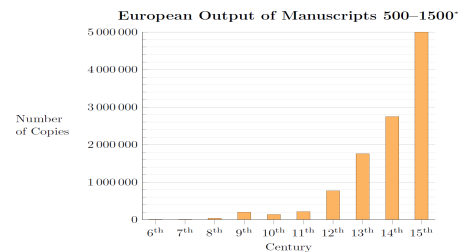
- Feudal Kingdoms (small decentralized /Totalitarian)
- Arbitrary Law (Trial by ordeal)



- Rural Life (isolated, conservative, homogenous country living)



- Education not valued –Germanic societies were illiterate – no written language



\*without Southeast Europe (Byzantine realm) and Russia

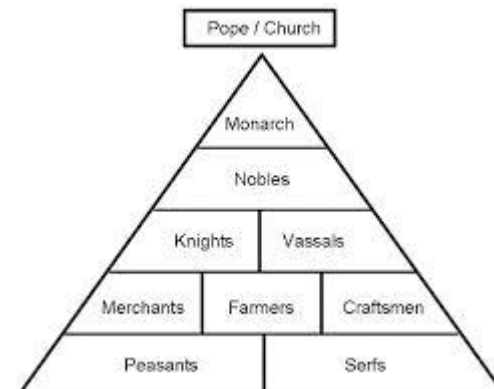
# Characteristics continued...

- Tribal relationships- Individually different yet they share - Common values, languages, customs –



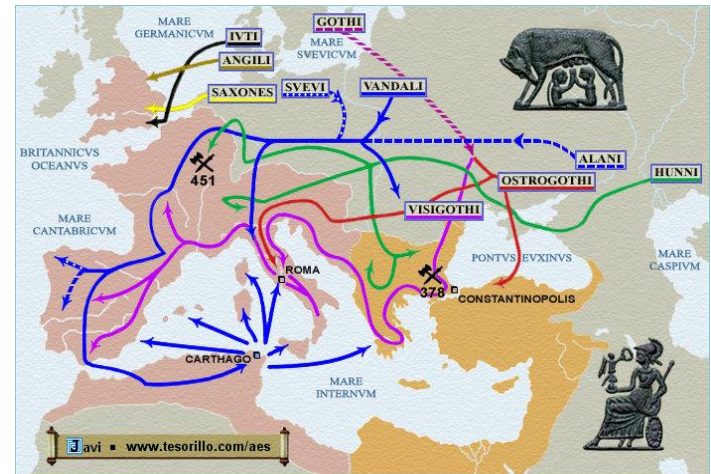
- Believe they share a mythical or common ancestor) Warrior tradition – social order was to develop Kingships/Kingdoms –
- The “Church” remains as the one constant from the Roman Empire into and throughout the Medieval Period.

- Church authority grew more powerful



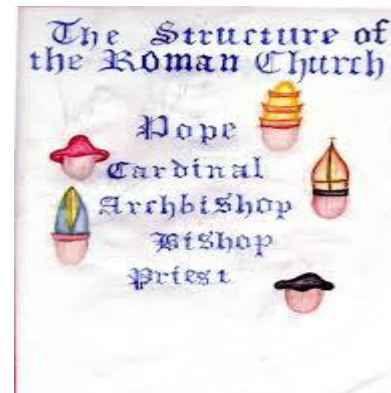
# Who caused the fall of the Roman Empire that created the Medieval culture?

## Germanic Tribes, Barbarians, Northern Invaders (Vandals, Visigoths, Vikings, Saxons, Franks, Ostrogoths)



# Who were the people that made up Medieval culture?

**Church Officials/Clergy:** Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Monks, Nuns, Priests, Friars



**Upper class/Nobility/Landowners:** Monarchs, Kings, Prince, Princess, Dukes, Earls, Duchesses, Knights





# Who were the people that made up Medieval culture?

- **Middle Class:** Merchants, Educators, Traders, Artisans

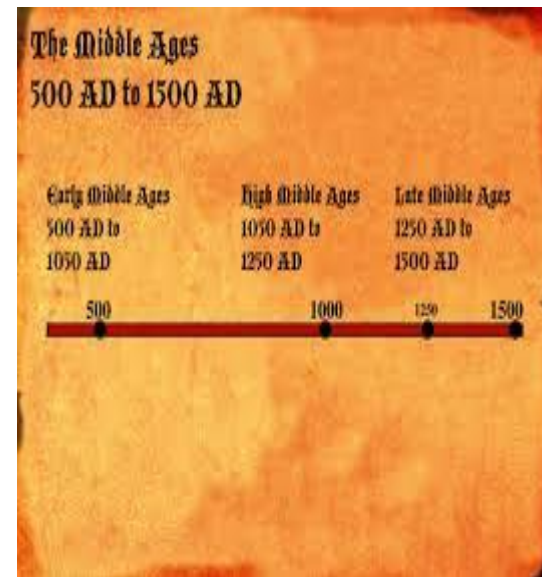
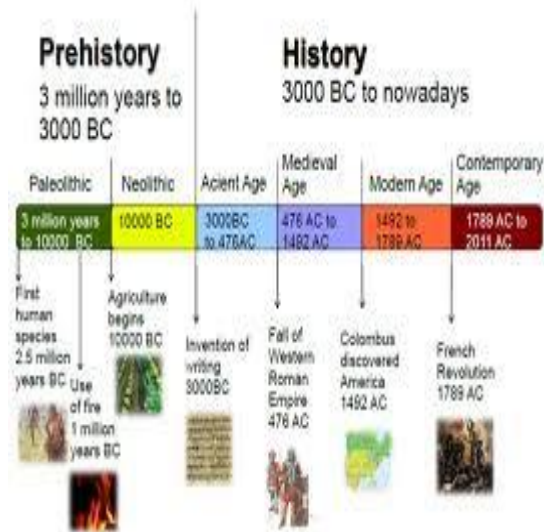


- **Lower Class:** Peasants and Serfs made up about 80% of the population.



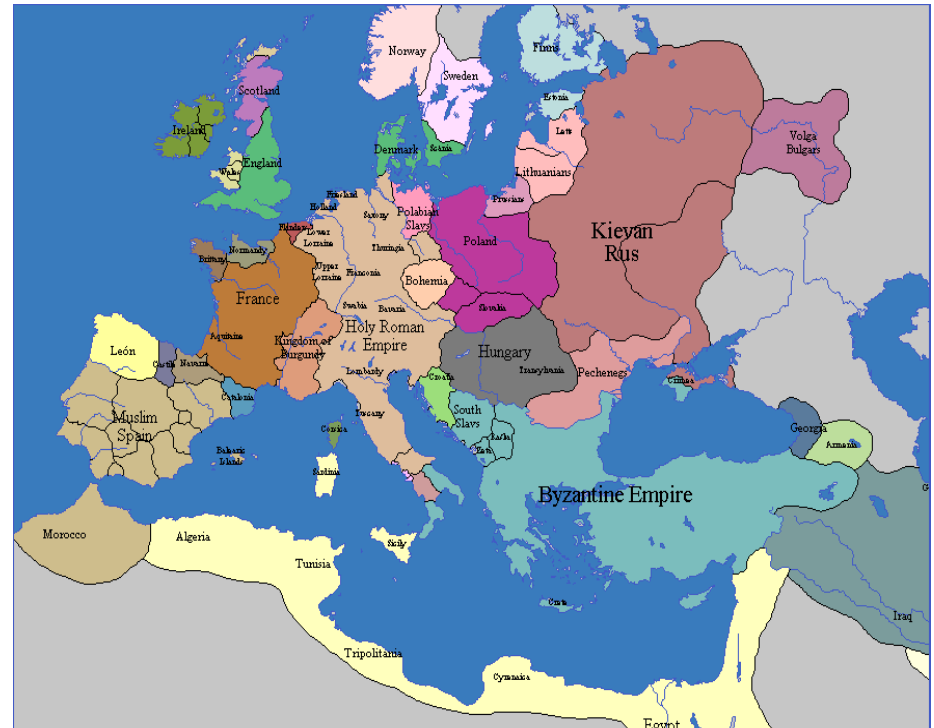
# When were the Middle Ages?

- The period between ancient times and modern times...roughly from **500 ce to 1500 ce**—is called the **Middle Ages**.
- It is also called the **Medieval** period... from the Latin words for “middle age.”



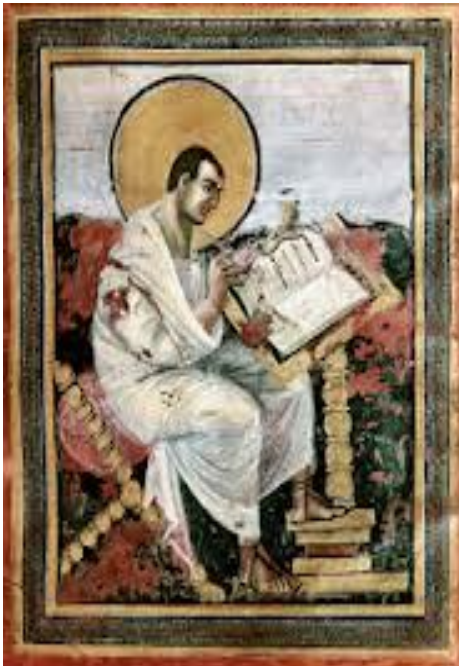
# Where did the “Middle Ages” take place?

- Europe...Northern Africa ...Middle East
- The Former Roman Empire (Eastern and Western Empire) and the territories on its fringes.



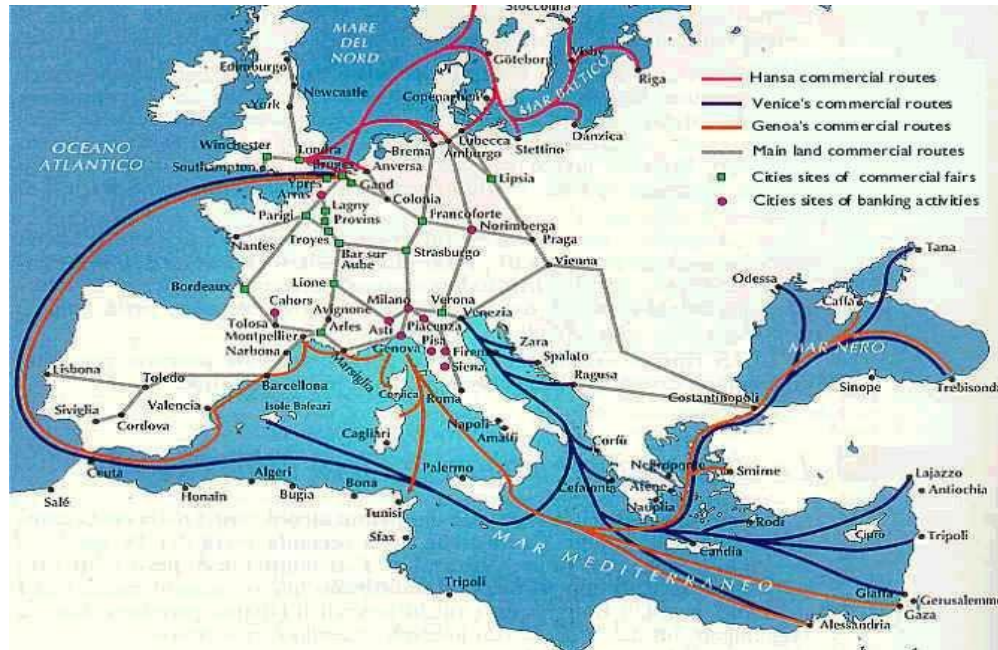
# Why did Medieval culture evolve after the fall of the Roman Empire?

**Greco-Roman, Germanic, and Christian traditions slowly blended (assimilation/acculturation), creating a Medieval Culture.**



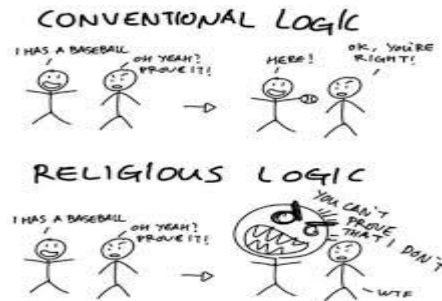
# How did Europe begin to grow out of the “Dark Ages”?

- **Increase in Trade** both internally (within Europe) and externally (outside Europe: Africa, Middle East and India).

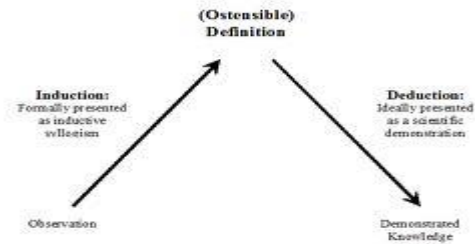


- Returning Crusaders brought **ideas, goods and knowledge** from the **Middle East (Arabic)** and **India**.

- Church Influence began to decline...allowing for more freedom of thought.



- Rebirth of **Greco-Roman values** (individualism, logic) and Traditions.



- Creation of a “**Middle Class**” who **valued education** and lived in **cities**.



# Why was the middle class growing?

Changes in Europe from 1000 ce to 1500 ce set the foundation for individual and economic prosperity.

- Increase in trade.
- Rise in population leads to less need for serfs
- More people moving to cities
- Increase in Education
- Increase in Individualism

## INDIVIDUALISM

Individualism is the salient characteristic of Western Civilization and democracy. In an individualist system of governance, the individual is valued more than a group and enjoys human and economic liberty that ruling authorities are obligated to protect and defend.

Practically, individualism is understood to mean the individual's right to direct her own life, to own property, to enter into contracts with others, to enjoy the fruits of her labors and to bear responsibility for her actions.

Democracy and free-market capitalism are inextricably linked. Both are rooted in individual liberty, and each acts as a guarantor of the other.

# Why did the Church lose power near the end of the Middle Ages?

**Failure of Crusades** weakened belief in the church as decision makers and leaders. **Loss of many devout nobles left less devout (more political) nobles in power.** The strength of these Nobles increased and the creation of **Nation states** began under their leadership

**New ideas** from around the region (increase in trade) and increase in **education** (middle class value) lead to people questioning church teachings.

- The world is round not flat
- The Sun is the center of the Universe not the Earth
- Logic and reason replace church dogma

**Church corruption** (selling of indulgences, torture and suppression of new ideas) lead to divisions within the church eventually leading to the Reformation in 1512. (division of Christian church into Catholic and Protestant)



# Wisdom: Results/Solutions

Events of The Middle Ages such as the **rise of the middle class and the decline in church authority** lead to a western world that would see:

The Division of the Christian church into Protestant and Catholic (**Protestant Revolution**)

A renewed interest in Science, Mathematics, Logic and Reason that will lead to a new consciousness for Europeans (**Renaissance/The Scientific Revolution**)

The rise of Individualism and more freedoms and liberties across the socioeconomic spectrum (**Renaissance**)

**Any guesses about what Unit 3 will cover?**