

Feudalism and the Medieval World

1. What is Feudalism?

- Feudalism was an economic, social, and political system that emerged in medieval Europe following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire.

2. What is the origin of the word 'Feudalism'?

- The word is derived from the German word 'feud', which means 'a piece of land'.

3. Name the three orders in the feudal system.

- The three orders are the Clergy, the Nobles, and the Peasants.

4. What was the role of the King in the feudal system?

- The King was the supreme owner of all the land.

5. What did the Nobles provide the King in return for land?

- The Nobles pledged loyalty and provided military assistance in times of need.

6. What were the powers held by the Nobles?

- Nobles had the power to form an army, administer justice, and mint their own currency.

7. Define a Manorial Estate.

- A manorial estate was a large area where the nobles lived, consisting of the Manor (palace), farmland, forests, and mills.

8. Who were the Slaves?

- Slaves were peasants who were bound to the land and had no freedom to leave the land without the lord's permission.

9. Who was the founder of the Holy Roman Empire?

- Charlemagne.

10. Who unified the Arab tribes?

- Prophet Muhammad.

11. Which city was the center of the Arab Empire?

- Medina.

12. Who were the 'Caliphs'?

- The Caliphs were the successors of Prophet Muhammad who ruled the Arab Empire.

13. Which dynasty shifted the capital of the Arab Empire to Baghdad?

- The Abbasid dynasty.

14. Name the famous poet and scholar of the Abbasid dynasty.

- Harun-al-Rashid.

15. Name the three major civilizations of pre-colonial America.

- The Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations.

16. What was the major achievement of the Maya civilization in science?

- They used pictographic alphabet. They used bark of trees and paper made from a special plant for writing. They made significant progress in mathematics and astronomy and had an almanac

17. What was the capital of the Aztec Empire?

- Tenochtitlan.

18. What was 'Chinampas' in Aztec culture?

- Chinampas were artificial islands built for cultivation in lakes.

19. Where was the Inca civilization located?

- Peru in South America.

20. What was 'Quipu'?

- Quipu was a system of recording numbers used by the Incas.

21. What is Machu Picchu?

- Machu Picchu is an ancient city located at an altitude of 3,500 meters in Peru, showcasing Inca construction skills.

22. Which animals were used by the Incas for wool?

- Llamas and Alpacas.

23. What led to the destruction of the American civilizations?

- The Spanish colonization of America.

24. Describe the structure and facilities of a Manorial Estate.

Answer:

- A manorial estate was a large area where the nobles lived during the medieval period.
- It consisted of the Manor (the Lord's palace) as the central hub.
- The estate included vast farmlands, pastures for cattle, and thick forests.
- Additionally, it featured essential facilities like a place of worship, a mill for grinding grain, and a village where the workers resided.

25. Explain the "Three Orders" of the feudal system.

- Answer: The feudal system was divided into three distinct social orders:
 1. The Clergy: The first order, consisting of church officials.
 2. The Nobles: The second order, who received land from the king and provided military service.
 3. The Peasants: The third order, who supported the other two through their labor on the land.

26. What were the rights and powers held by the Nobles in the feudal system?

Answer:

- In exchange for their loyalty and military assistance to the King, the Nobles were granted significant powers.
- They had the authority to form and maintain their own private armies.
- They also administered justice within their territories and had the unique right to mint their own currency.

27. Who were the 'Slaves' and what was their condition?

- Answer: Slaves were the lowest class of peasants who were legally bound to the land of the manorial estate.
- They did not have the freedom to leave the manor or move to another place.
- They did not have their own land

28. Explain the social and political structure of the Feudal System in Europe.

- Feudalism was a comprehensive economic, social, and political system that emerged in medieval Europe following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire.
- The term itself is derived from the German word 'feud', which means 'a piece of land'.
- In this system, the King was considered the supreme owner of all the land.

- He distributed this land to the Nobles, who in return pledged their absolute loyalty and promised to provide military assistance to the King whenever it was required.
- The society was strictly organized into three orders. The first order was the Clergy (church officials), the second was the Nobles, and the third order consisted of the Peasants who provided the labor to support the classes above them.
- The Nobles held significant powers within their territories. They had the legal authority to maintain their own private armies, administer justice through their own courts, and even mint their own currency.

29. Discuss the emergence and administration of the Arab Empire.

- The Arab Empire originated with the unification of various Arab tribes under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad, who established Medina as the central hub of the new state.
- After the passing of the Prophet, the empire was governed by his successors known as Caliphs.
- The administration passed through the Abd al-Malik Caliphate to the Umayyad dynasty, and later to the Abbasid dynasty.
- The Abbasid dynasty shifted the capital of the empire to Baghdad. Under the rule of the famous Caliph Abul Abbas, Baghdad became a world-renowned center for culture, trade, and learning.
- The administration focused heavily on the development of trade and agriculture.
- The rulers promoted the pursuit of knowledge, which led to significant advancements in science, medicine, and philosophy within the empire.

30. Compare the achievements of the Maya and Aztec civilizations.

- The Maya civilization was located in Central America and was highly advanced in science.
- They developed a unique script for communication and a sophisticated calendar based on the movements of the sun.
- The Mayas were also exceptional architects and builders, which is evidenced by the massive and intricate ceremonial centers they constructed across their territory.
- The Aztec civilization established its capital at Tenochtitlan, an island city.
- They were famous for their agricultural innovation called 'Chinampas', which were artificial islands built in lakes for growing crops.

- In addition to their farming skills, the Aztecs were highly proficient in weaving and the production of beautiful textiles, as well as various other handicrafts.
- While both civilizations were highly organized with powerful rulers and advanced engineering, their progress was halted and their cultures were eventually destroyed by Spanish colonization.

31. Detail the characteristics and lifestyle of the Inca Civilization.

- The Inca civilization flourished along the Andes mountain ranges in South America.
- It was a highly organized empire where the King was the supreme ruler and the capital was located at Cuzco.
- The Incas were master builders whose skills are still visible today in sites like Machu Picchu.
- This city, built at an altitude of 3,500 meters, features temples and palaces made of precisely cut stone.
- To manage their vast empire, the Incas built an extensive network of roads that connected the capital city to the most distant parts of the country.
- The economy was centered on agriculture; the government provided farmers with enough land to cultivate main crops like corn and potatoes.
- They also used the wool of animals like Llamas and Alpacas to weave clothes.
- The Incas were skilled in metallurgy, creating jewelry from gold, silver, and copper.
- They also developed a unique system for recording numbers and data using knotted strings called 'Quipu'

32. Write a note about Mongol Empire ?

- The Mongols were a nomadic tribe that lived in the eastern part of Central Asia.
- Genghis Khan united the various Mongol tribes and laid the foundation of the Mongol Empire.
- His real name was Temujin. The name Genghis Khan was given to him by the Mongol tribal council.
- The capital of the Mongols was Karakoram.
- Genghis Khan started a postal system to connect different parts of the country known as 'Yam.'
- He introduced a code of law called 'Yasa.'

33. Write a note about Mali Empire ?

- The Mali Empire was a famous empire that flourished in the western part of Africa.
- The most powerful ruler of this empire was Mansa Kangan Musa.
- Mansa Kangan Musa encouraged education, arts and crafts.
- The southern part of the country was famous for its gold deposits and the northern part for its salt deposits.
- Gao, Jenne, and Timbuktu were famous cities in the empire.
- Timbuktu was a centre of trade as well as education.
- The Great Mosque in Timbuktu was a centre of Islamic learning.