

## Unit 5 *Feudal Europe*

### 5:1a The Formation of Europe:



- The period in history between the breakup of the Roman Empire (approx. 500 AD) and the Renaissance (approx. 1400 AD) has become known as **The Middle Ages**, **The Medieval Period**, and **The Dark Ages** in Europe, especially Western Europe.

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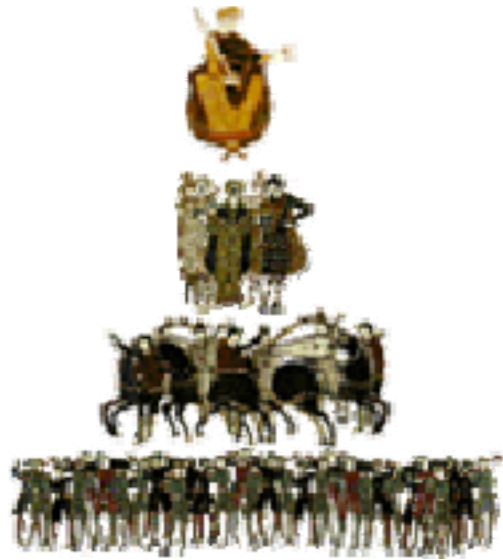
✓ **Charlemagne** (Charles the Great) was crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III on Christmas day, 800 AD. Early feudalism developed.



## 5:1b The Formation of Europe:

✓ In place of the government and order the Roman Empire had provided, a new system called **feudalism** came about.

✓ The Christian Church provided the only unifying force, during the Middle Ages, for Europe. It provided government services where no non-religious government existed. And it bound believers together.



✓ A new, lighter architecture style called **Gothic** developed in Europe, replacing the former Romanesque.

## 5:1c The Formation of Europe:



● Under feudalism, ruling power was held by **lords** who owned land.

✓ **Vassals** were granted land by a lord, called a **fief**, according to a contract.

✓ **Serfs** were not allowed to leave the land.

✓ **Villeins** were free but did not own land, rented it instead.



● **Manors** were estates (areas of land) with a lord's **manor house** (castle) and **demesne** (lord's barns, stables, etc.) at the center. Lords were assisted by:

✓ **Stewards** were legal advisers who reviewed accounts and held court.

✓ **Bailiffs** supervised peasants (serfs), farm work and collected rents, dues, and fines.

✓ **Reeves** helped bailiffs, but also reported peasant complaints (about manor officials) to the lord.

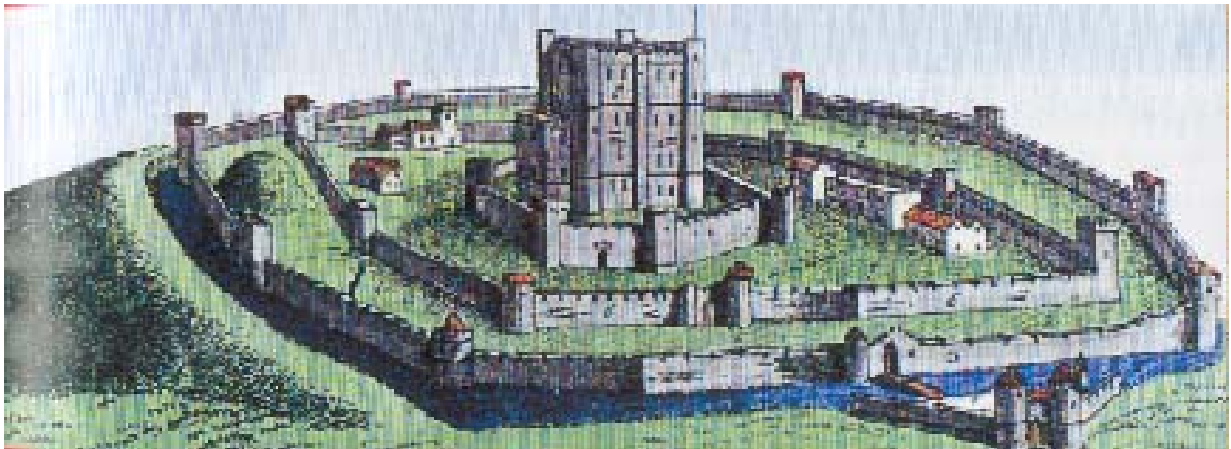
## 5:1d The Formation of Europe:

✓ Marriages were usually “arranged” and a **dowry** was expected.



✓ Feudal manor houses (castles) usually had big stone towers, called **keeps**, to provide safety during an attack.

✓ High walls with walkways near the top and **moats** that could be crossed only by using the **drawbridge** also protected the manor house.



✓ The castles were filthy, dark, and cold.