**What is Feudalism?**

* Political and economic system in Medieval Western Europe, Zhou China, and Shogunate Japan whereby a lord grants lands and protection to a vassal in exchange for loyalty, military service.

**Feudalism:**

* Political system in which lords, landowners, grant land (fief) to vassals– vassals gave their loyalty and military services
* Feudal pyramid (pg 361)
  + Top: King
  + 2nd: powerful landowners– nobles, bishops
  + 3rd: Knights
  + Bottom: peasants

**Social Classes:**

* Well-defined
* Those who fought (nobles and knights)
* Those who prayed (Church men/women)
* Those who worked (peasants)
  + Majority
  + Some were serfs– peasants bound to land

**Economics of Feudalism:**

* Manors– lord’s estate
* Economic arrangement between a lord and his serfs
  + Lords provide serfs with housing, land, and protection
  + Serfs tended lords’ lands, animals, and maintain the estate
    - Paid taxes– tithe (church tax)

**PAST INFLUENCES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FEUDAL EUROPE**  Christianity  Classical Rome  German Heritage | **JAPAN**  Imperial China  Confucianism |

**RISE OF FEUDALISM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In Europe:**  External invasions; ineffectiveness,  lack of national, centralized authority;  arose prior to 1000 CE; dead by 1500 CE | **In Japan:**  Isolation of emperor, his family in capital;  Rivalries between Court nobility, provincial  lords and clans; arose around 1100 CE,  died with Meiji Restoration in 1867 CE |

**POLITICAL STRUCTURES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In Europe:**  Multiple states, fragmented;  decentralized, competing  political entities; multiple loyalties | **In Japan:**  Centralized, military dictatorship;  no overlapping, multiple loyalties |

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**FEUDAL SOCIETY:**

* Social hierarchy based on noble aristocracy, land ownership, birth; social divisions based on types of labor, gender; society largely rural with few cities; 3 major classes

**THOSE WHO FIGHT:**

* Feudalism was a local military solution to a national political reality. Warriors had to furnish weapons, horses
  + ***Lord - Daimyo***
  + ***Knights – Samurai***
  + ***Fief - Shugo***

**GREAT LORDS**

**DAIMYO:**

* Hereditary nobles
* Independent realms
* Local administration
* Local justice, taxes
* Feudal armies, castles
* Constant warfare

**CODES OF CONDUCT:** Bushido and Chivalry

* Samurai means servant;
* bushido means Way of
* the Warrior; be loyal, fight, die for lord; koku payment
* Chivalry derived
* from Cheval (horse)
* - knights furnished own
* horse, armor; paid; defend women,
* church, poor, fight as last resort

**THOSE WHO PRAY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JAPAN**  Numerous faiths: Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism  Zen Buddhism became samurai favorite  Clergy, faith only had limited influence | **FEUDAL EUROPE**  Age of Faith: Church, Pope paramount  Church owns land, part of government  Church administers education, social welfare  Church leadership open to all classes, women |

**THOSE WHO WORK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JAPAN**  Peasants produce food  Possessed some rights to land  Villages self-governing  Protected by daimyo, samurai | **FEUDAL EUROPE**  Serfs = lowest class 1/3 to 1/5 of produce to lord  Few rights, often did not own land  Often used as soldiers |

**GENDER ROLES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FEUDAL EUROPE**  Aristocratic women isolated,  marginalize in roles. If woman  managed land, became nun, acquired rights. | **JAPAN**  Aristocratic women were more equal  to husbands; owned land without male  interference; could inherit, sue;  samurai women encouraged to fight. |

**ECONOMICS:**

**BOTH**

* Agriculture dominant
* Not monetarized economies

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Manorialism**  Self-sufficient  Serfs  Wheat | **Shoen**  Shoen traded  Peasants  Rice |

**THOSE OUTSIDE:**

* ***Towns, Merchant, Artisans*:**
* In Europe, became wealthy and influential - defied the system. In Japan, considered lowest class - gained some influence under Tokugawa Shoguns

**DIFFERENCES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JAPAN**  Emperor, Shogun  Centralized feudalism  Religion not in government  Group loyalty | **FEUDAL EUROPE**  The Pope, the Papacy  Shared common faith  Feudal contract(s) |

**DIFFERENT ENDS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EUROPE**  Monarchs asserted authority: taxes, weapons  Commerce, middle class ended feudalism  Fratricidal warfare decimated aristocracy  Charters, advisory parliaments expanded | **JAPAN**  Feudalism ended voluntarily  Feudalism remained strong throughout  Ended as a result of West, Meiji Restoration  Samurai, culture absorbed into mainstream |