**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**ChristianityClassical RomeGerman Heritage | **JAPAN**Imperial ChinaConfucianism |

**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, provinciallords 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, ConfucianismZen Buddhism became samurai favoriteClergy, faith only had limited influence | **FEUDAL EUROPE**Age of Faith: Church, Pope paramountChurch owns land, part of governmentChurch administers education, social welfareChurch leadership open to all classes, women |

**THOSE WHO WORK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JAPAN** Peasants produce foodPossessed 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 landOften 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 equalto husbands; owned land without maleinterference; could inherit, sue; samurai women encouraged to fight. |

**ECONOMICS:**

**BOTH**

* Agriculture dominant
* Not monetarized economies

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Manorialism**Self-sufficient Serfs Wheat  | **Shoen**Shoen tradedPeasantsRice |

**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 PapacyShared common faithFeudal contract(s)  |

**DIFFERENT ENDS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EUROPE**Monarchs asserted authority: taxes, weaponsCommerce, middle class ended feudalismFratricidal warfare decimated aristocracyCharters, advisory parliaments expanded | **JAPAN**Feudalism ended voluntarilyFeudalism remained strong throughoutEnded as a result of West, Meiji RestorationSamurai, culture absorbed into mainstream |