

FEUDALISM

WORLD HISTORY (MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2012)

WHAT ARE THESE AND WHAT DO THEY DO??




STIRRUPS


- Because of the stirrup, the mounted horseman could now be a dominant force on the battlefield. Calvary was used by the Macedonians (especially Alexander the Great) to simply move men from one spot to another during battles. The stirrup changed all of that because it actually allowed a horseman to “mount” firmly on the horse. This invention enabled the horseman to use weapons while riding the horse. Thus, the ancestor to today’s tank was born!!!



KNIGHTS

- The men who rode “mounted” on horseback into battle were known as knights. These knights were superior on the battlefield due to the stirrup (as well as other specialized equipment).
 - The knight was very valuable to the King, so more and more knights were wanted.
 - In fact, whoever had the most knights usually had the best army, and, thus, had the most rule.
 - How do you think Kings acquired new/more knights?
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THE SYSTEM OF FEUDALISM

- Kings, who wanted more knights, would offer knights a means of supporting themselves in return for their sworn “Oath of Fidelity”.
 - Basically, the knights would serve a lord’s every demand in return for a fief, servants, towns, etc....
 - The knight would draft and sign a sort of contract in order to make this deal legit.
 - This contract would come to be known as a “feudal contract”, an agreement between a lord and a vassal (the person who would be serving the lord once the contract was signed).
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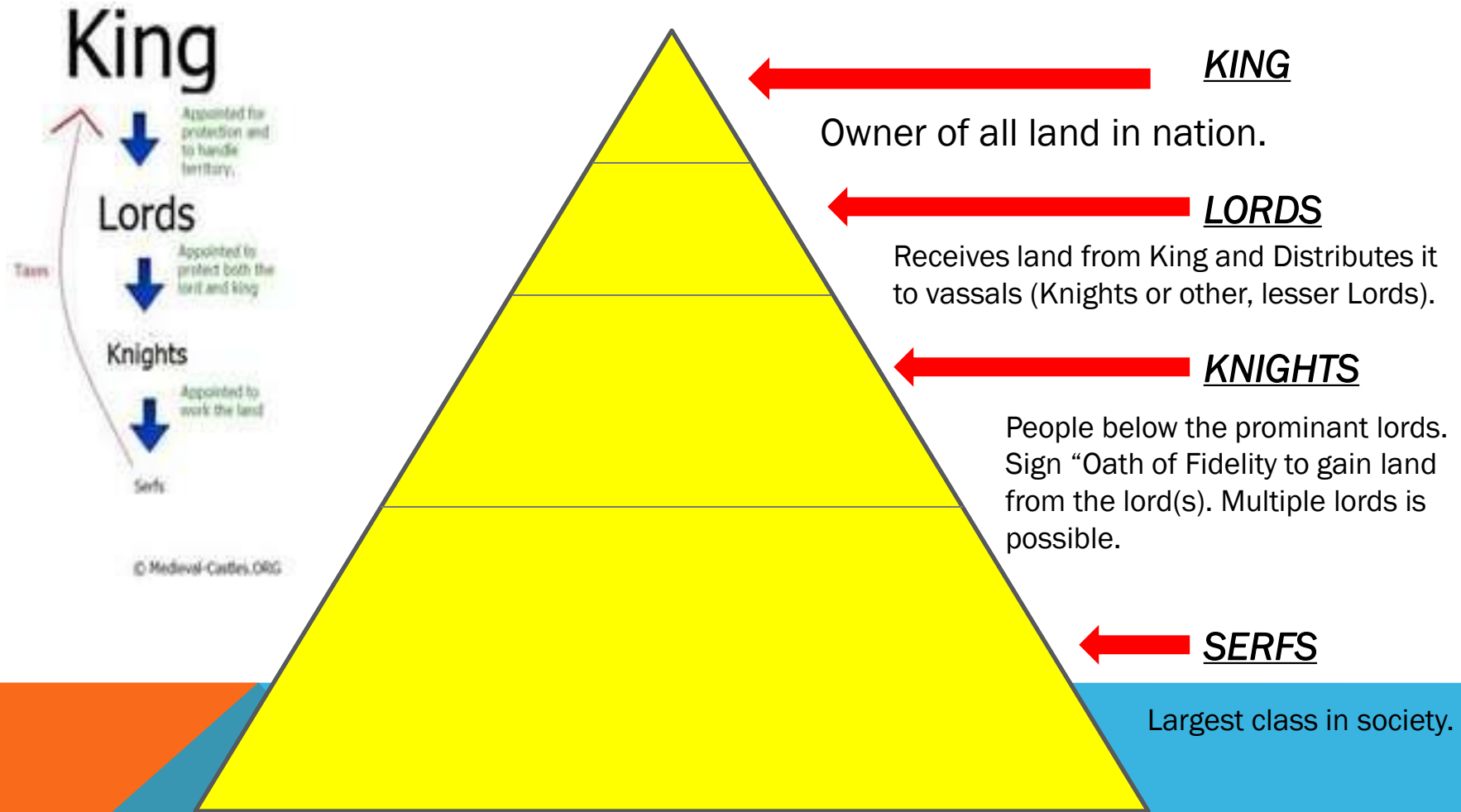
THE SYSTEM OF FEUDALISM

- Example of the “Oath of Fidelity”
 - By the Lord before whom this sanctuary is holy, I will to be true and faithful, and I love all which he loves and shun all which he shuns, according to the laws of God and the order of the world. Nor will I ever with will or action, through word or deed, do anything which is displeasing to him, on condition that he will hold to me as I shall deserve it, and that he will perform everything as it was in our agreement when I submitted myself to him and chose his will.

QUESTIONS....

1. What role does religion play in this feudal contract?
 2. What does the vassal pledge to the lord?
 3. What does the lord pledge to the vassal?
 4. How is this similar and different from contracts created today?
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FEUDALISM SOCIAL/POLITICAL HIERARCHY



TO BECOME A KNIGHT....

- People were not born as knights. Knights were created from men of noble heritage. There was a training process that a young man would have to go through in order to become a knight.
- What follows this slide is a series of steps that a young man would have to go through before he could become a knight...


PAGE

- At the ripe old age of 6-7, boys who were of noble birth were sent to live with the lord of their father.
 - The boy would work for the lord as their servant.
 - The lord and lady of the castle were supposed to teach this young boy the rudiments and expectations of Knighthood.
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SQUIRE

- After several years serving the lord and lady as a Page, the young man would advance to become a squire.
- At this point, the boy would be apprenticed to a knight.
- He was to learn the art of warfare and chivalry from this knight.


KNIGHT

- After his training is complete, there would be a “dubbing” ceremony where he would formally be made a knight and given a lance, sword, and golden stirrups.
 - The young man is now a full-fledged knight with all the rights and responsibilities thereof.
 - Now the knight would be held to a higher standard than the common man.
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MILITARY SERVICE

- For defensive purposes, the knight would be on call to the lord at all times.
 - For offensive purposes, the knight was obligated to serve his lord for 40 days (generally) as the lord attempted to expand his territory and influence.
 - The knight was given a fief from the lord in order to sustain himself (As we covered last time).
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CHIVALRY

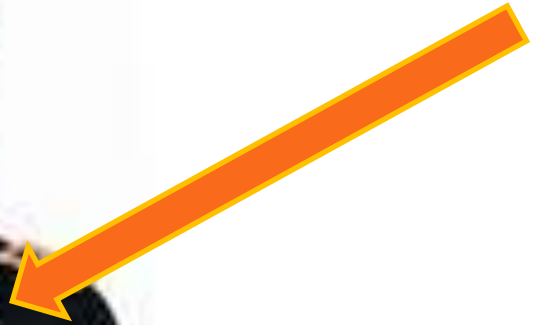
- Code of Ethics that bound feudalism together.
 - Loyalty is the key that keeps the system and all the institutions it creates in place and working.
 - A knight's Christianity was important in his "Code of Fidelity" or "Feudal Contract".
 - The lord could expect the knight to keep his word and perform his duties as written in his contract because of the values associated with their religious faith.
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COURTLY LOVE

- The relationship between knights and ladies is a major part of a knight's life.
 - It is generally accepted that it was not based on the physical, but on the platonic (spiritual) relations between noble men and women, and not necessarily husband and wife.
 - Basically, being a knight held a man to high standards and they were expected to act as gentlemen.
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WHAT IS A COAT OF ARMS???

- A knight's coat of arms was used to symbolize many things in a knight's life.
 1. Of course, the knight's surname (last name).
 2. His lord.
 3. His important achievement(s).
 4. Basically, it is an arrangement of bearing, usually depicted on and around a shield that indicates ancestry and distinctions.



TODAY'S CLASS ACTIVITY....

- Get out a sheet of paper and something to write with.
- You are going to create a “Coat of Arms” that represents you.
- You will need to draw a shield on your paper **BEFORE** you start on your Coat of Arms (Since these were often found ON a shield).
- Make it look nice.
- This is due at the end of this class!!!