

European Feudalism

Feudalism developed in Western Europe at around 800 C.E. from the remnants of the Western Roman Empire. As a result of central authority being unable to perform its functions and prevent the rise of local powers, this decentralized organization formed. It is believed by some historians that the system was first initiated in France by the Normans from the time they first settled there. Many remarkable things were still accomplished during this era. For example, Monk Missionaries converted the Europeans and united Europe into Christendom, giving the region a common religion. This allowed for the Pope to become a political power. Also, Charlemagne introduced the importance of education. This is significant because it provided Europe with a common language: Latin. Together, these two things began to re-civilize Europe.

The System of Feudalism

When the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 C.E., a state of chaos encompassed Western Europe for many centuries. Essentially, the people of Western Europe needed some form of a political system to defend themselves. Thus, feudalism developed. The system literally accounted for all aspects of a society, aside from religion. Firstly, the King was in complete control. He owned a large land mass and leased it to trustworthy men called Vassals. The catch was that they had to swear an oath to remain faithful to the King at all times. The Vassals were wealthy, powerful, and had complete control of their land, called a manor. They had to provide lodging and food for the King and his court when they traveled around the country. They established their own system of justice, minted their own money, and set their own taxes. However, the Vassals had to serve on the royal council, pay rent, and provide the King with military service when he demanded it. The Barons did this by leasing *their* land out to knights, who would fight for him, and thus, the king. Although not as rich as the Vassals, Knights were quite wealthy. The Knights kept as much of the land as they wished for their own personal use and distributed the rest to serfs. Serfs had to provide the Knight with free labor, food, and service whenever it was demanded. Serfs had no rights, were never allowed to leave the Manor, and had to ask their Lord's permission before they could marry. Serfs were the majority of people, and their lives were wretched. Feudalism was a social hierarchy, a political system, and an economic system, all in one. The beauty of the system is that it achieved self-sufficiency. It was the giving up of freedom in exchange for protection. However, there was absolutely no mobility, no time for learning, and no intellectual advancements. Because people constantly feared for their lives, there wasn't any leisure time; society couldn't grow.

Feudalism and the spread of Christianity

In 687 C.E., Pepin of Heristal, a Merovingian ruler, united the Frankish territories and centered his kingdom in Belgium and other Rhine regions. His son, Charles Martel, took over after he died and formed an alliance with the Church which helped the Merovingian Dynasty (and Christianity) to expand into Germany. Pepin the Short succeeded him and strengthened the alliance between Benedictine missionaries and Frankish expansion. Benedictine missionaries completed the conversion of England begun by St. Gregory the Great. Also, Irish monks established early-medieval art. The greatest surviving creation of these monks is the Book of Kells, a Gospel book of decorative art. It marks one of the lowest points in Europe's history, leading all the way up until the Renaissance in the 14th century. Its demise was triggered by the Crusades because the Crusades called for people to leave their homes and fight. Since Feudalism was based on non-movement, it collapsed. Knights, soldiers, peasants, and pilgrims left their homes and migrated along European roads and trails, bringing back with them stories of differing cultures. They began to implement their architecture and advances in medicine.

Source: <http://apworldhistory101.com/history-of-europe/feudalism/>

Timeline of Feudal Japan

The feudal Japan timeline starts in 1185, which was the year that ended the Heian period. This was when the Japanese government was operated by those in the military class. The feudal era of Japan consisted of four main periods, the Kamakura period, Muromachi period and Azuchi Momoyama period and Edo period.

Although, the Emperor was technically at the top of the chain during the feudal period of Japan, in reality, the shogun had more political power and they were the ones who really controlled the country. The military approach of running the country led to many notable events in the feudal period in Japan. For example, there were many civil wars and invasion attempts throughout the era.

1185 – Taira Clan was defeated by Minamoto Clan in the Genpei War, also known as Genpei Gassen. This marks the end of Heian period.

1192 – Minamoto Yoritomo established Kamakura Shogunate in the city of Kamakura, and marks the beginning of the Kamakura Period, which was the true beginning of feudalism in Japan.

1193 – Yorimoto gets his brother Noriyori assassinated as he becomes suspicious. Noriyori was the Heian period general and fought in Genpei War along with his brothers.

1199 – The Kamakura bakufu's first shogun, Minamoto Yoritomo dies.

1274 – The Mongols' first attempt to invade Japan, also known as Bunei War. The invasion attempt fails due to the storm. Following the event, the Mongols escaped to Korea.

1281 – The Mongols' second Japanese invasion attempt. Again, due to the bad weather condition, this was unsuccessful.

1293 – Kamakura is hit by a large earthquake and tsunami, leading to the death of over 20,000 people.

1333 – Kamakura Shogunate is destroyed by Nitta Yoshisada, and this ends the Kamakura period.

1334 – Kemmu Restoration – this was when the Emperor regained political power, which was short lived.

1336 – Ashikaga Takauji captures the city of Kyoto and ends the Emperor Go-Daigo's attempt to restore imperial rule.

1337 – The Emperor flees to Kyushu.

1338 – Ashikaga Takauji becomes the first Muromachi shogun. This was the establishment of Muromachi Shogunate, also known as Ashikaga Shogunate.

1392 – Southern and Northern courts are reunited.

1450 – Hosokawa Katsumoto builds Ryoanji, a zen temple in Kyoto. Ryoanji is famous for its traditional Japanese zen dry garden.

1467 – The Onin War (Onin no Ran) begins. This was a civil war between Yamana Sozen and Hosokawa Katsumoto, which involved a large number of daimyos and samurais in all parts of Japan.

1477 – The Onin War ends.

1542 – Firearms are introduced to Japan by the Portuguese traders.

1546 – Ashikaga Yoshiteru becomes the shogun.

1549 – Saint Francis Xavier arrives in Kyushu in order to introduce Christianity to Japan.

1555 – Battle of Miyajima. A civil war that took place on the island of Miyajima.

1560 – Battle of Okehazama. Oda Nobunaga defeats Imagawa Yoshimoto.

1568 – Nobunaga occupies Kyoto. Furthermore, Christianity is permitted by Oda Nobunaga.

1568 – The beginning of Azuchi Momoyama period.

1569 – Oda Nobunaga improves vicil administration by issuing regulations governing currency.

1570 – Battle of Anegawa – where the teamed up Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Ieyasu defeat Azai and Asakura Clans.

1573 – The end of the Muromachi Bakufu. After this event, there was no shogun for 30 years.

1575 – Battle of Nagashino.

1582 – Honno-ji incident – Oda Nobunaga is forced to commit suicide following Akechi Mitsuhide turned on him. Mitsuhide was believed to have said "The enemy awaits at Honno-ji", where Oda Nobunaga was based.

1582 – Oda Nobunaga's oldest son, Oda Nobutada is also attacked by Akechi Mitsuhide, which leads to Nobutada's suicide.

1582 – Battle of Yamazaki – , Toyotomi Hideyoshi allied with the Mori clan to defeat Akechi Mitsuhide, revenging his lord, Oda Nobunaga.

1584 – Battle of Komaki and Nagakute – a series of battles between Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu.

1586 – Toyotomi Hideyoshi builds Osaka Castle.

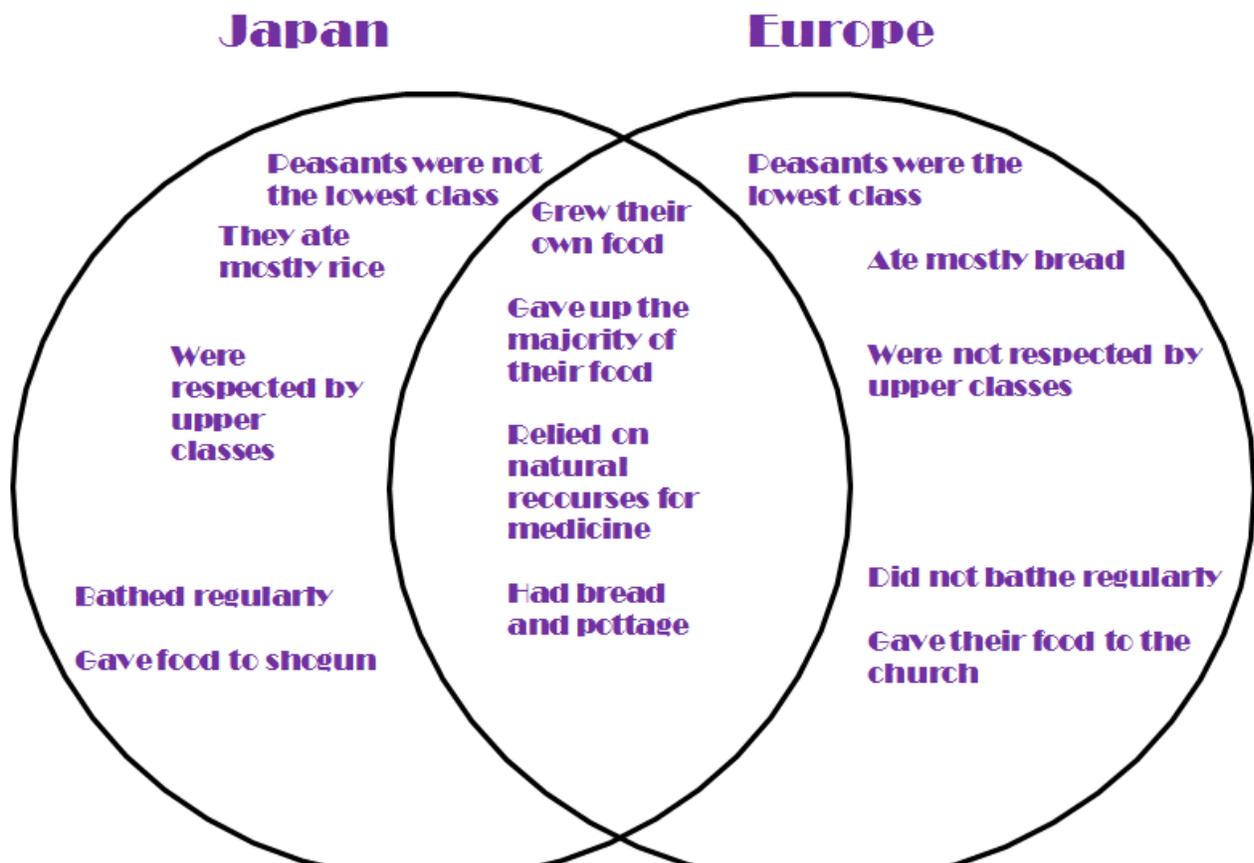
1592 – Toyotomi Hideyoshi's first Korean invasion attempts, which failed.

1597 – Toyotomi Hideyoshi's second attempt to invade Korea, which was also unsuccessful.

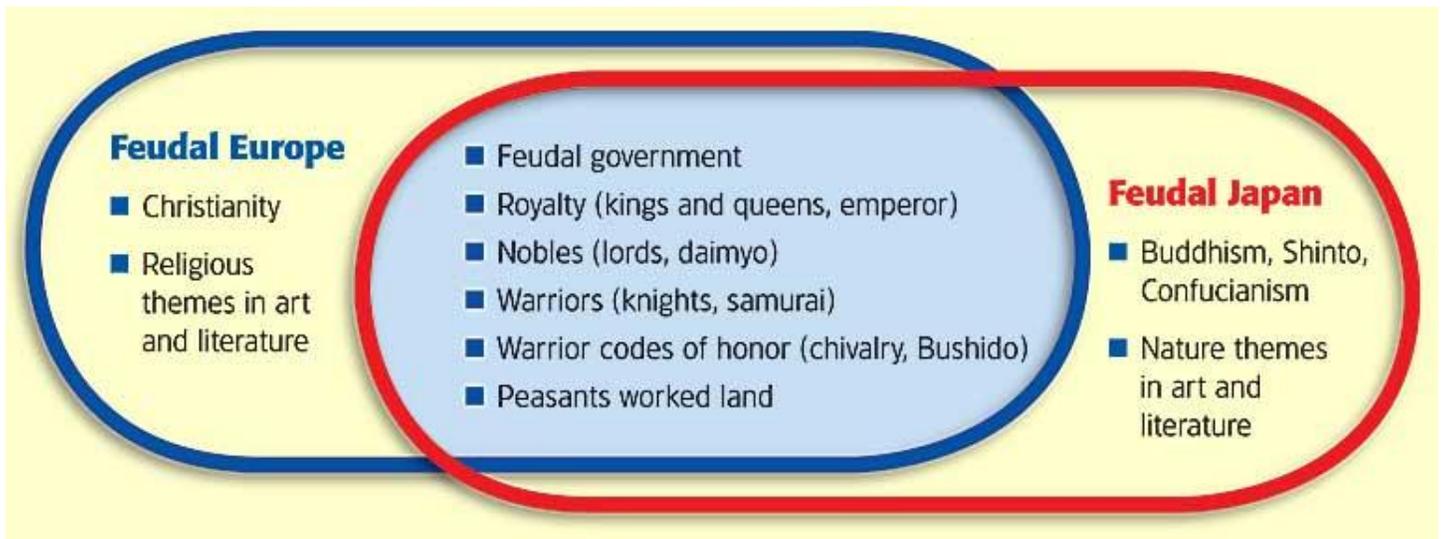
1598 – Toyotomi Hideyoshi dies.

- 1600 – Battle of Sekigahara – Tokugawa Ieyasu wins the battle and establishes Tokugawa bakufu, ending the Azuchi Momoyama period.
- 1603 – The beginning of the Edo period – Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes the first Edo shogun.
- 1614 – Tokugawa Ieyasu bans Christianity in Japan, leading churches in Japan to be destroyed and missionaries were imprisoned.
- 1615 – Tokugawa Ieyasu defeats the Toyotomo clan in Osaka Castle.
- 1616 – The death of Tokugawa Ieyasu.
- 1623 – Tokugawa Iemitsu becomes the shogun.
- 1638 – Tokugawa Iemitsu bans Portuguese traders.
- 1641 – Tokugawa Iemitsu bans all foreigners from Japan, apart from Chinese and Dutch who were restricted to Deshima.
- 1701 – 47 Ronin Incident – a daimyo is killed by 47 ronins in revenge of their master daimyo.
- 1792 – Adam Laxman, a Russian envoy arrives in Japan.
- 1804 – The Russians' attempt to establish trade relations with Japan fails.
- 1854 – The USA commander Matthew Perry arrives in Edo and signs a trade agreement.
- 1860 – The first Japanese embassy opens in the USA.
- 1868 – Meiji Restoration – Tokugawa Yoshinobu resigns, and the Emperor regains power. This was the end of the Edo period and the beginning of the Meiji Period.

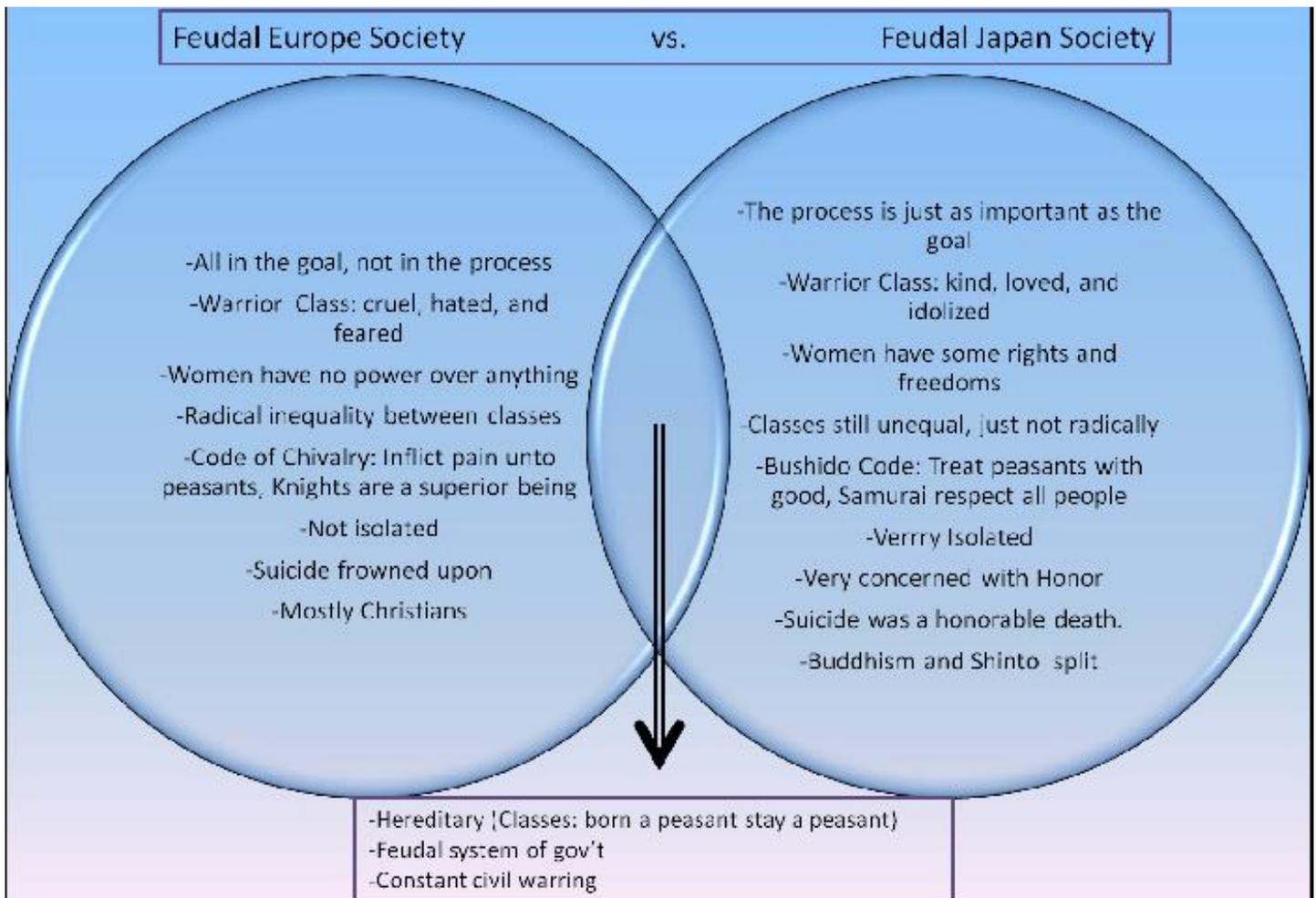
Source: <http://www.legendsandchronicles.com/ancient-civilizations/feudal-japan/timeline-of-feudal-japan/>



Source: <http://peasantsinshogunatejapan.weebly.com/overall-comparison-to-europe.html>



Source: <https://www.tes.com/lessons/firEbMUUCKMtIQ/europe-vs-japan-feudal-societies>

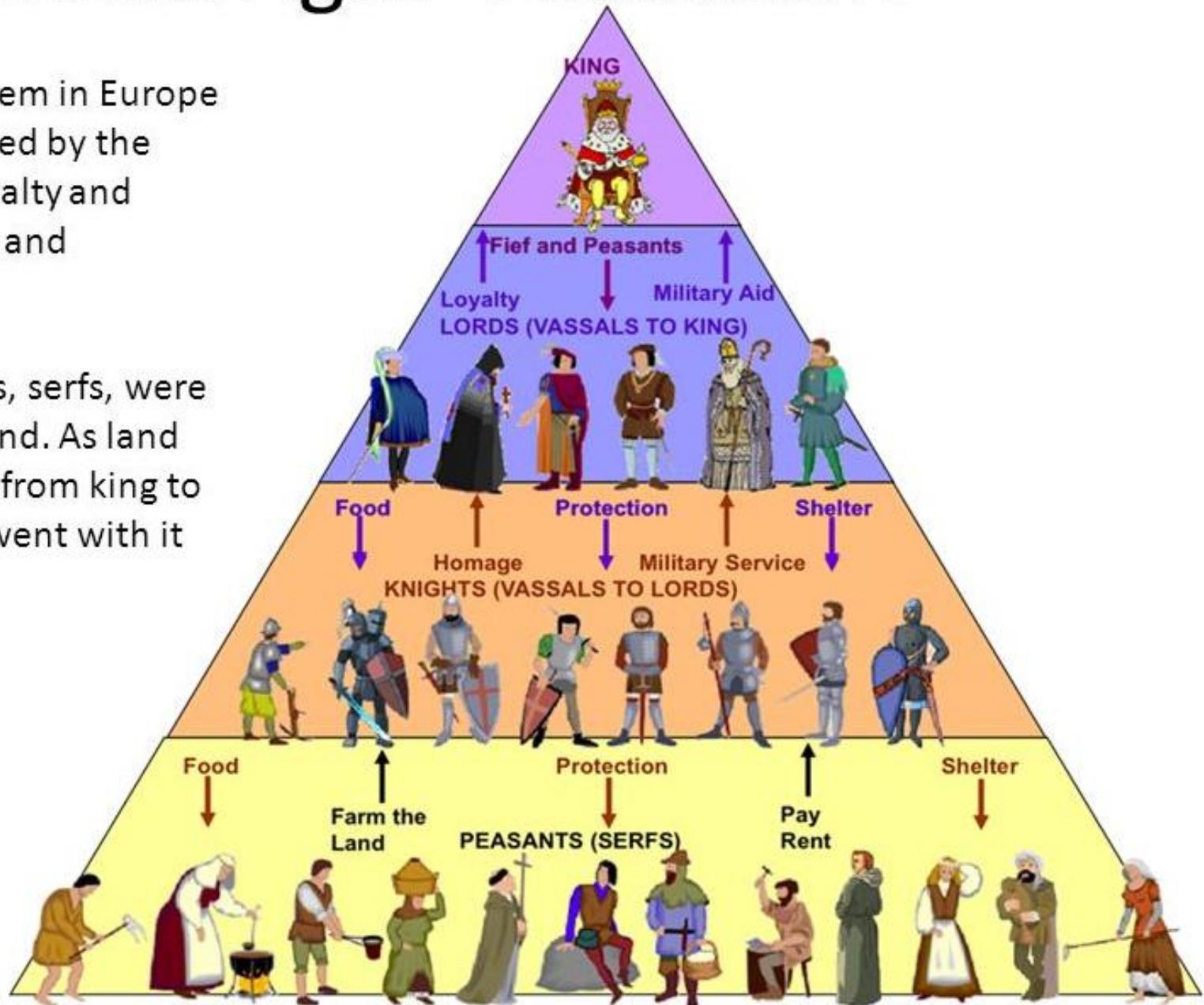


Source: <https://infogr.am/japanese-vs-european-feudalism1>

Middle Ages- Feudalism

The Feudal System in Europe was characterized by the exchange of loyalty and service for land and protection

The lowest class, serfs, were bound to the land. As land changed hands from king to king, the Serfs went with it



Japanese Society

INTERACTIVE

SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING VISUALS

What activities do you see being performed? At what level does production of goods take place?

