## Medieval Europe Name:

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| **Feudalism** | | |
| The defining feature of the middle ages in Europe was Feudalism. Feudalism is both a kind of government and an economic system. How it works is that a monarch (a king, prince, archduke, etc.) gives someone some land. The person, now called a Lord, gets to own that land and run it however he sees fit so long as he gives the monarch some of the grain produced by that land and also provides soldiers in times of war or other need.  Any particular king might have dozens or even hundreds of lords underneath him. In turn, those lords might empower lesser lords within their own lands to work part of that land, even further splitting up the country. | **Draw a diagram of Feudalism** | |
| **Problems with Feudalism: for Kings**  Feudalism was a huge problem for monarchs because a feudal country is really hard to run. The Kings were generally only a little more powerful than their strongest lords, which meant they needed to keep their lords happy or they could easily be overthrown. This resulted in lords having enormous legal privileges. They were basically above the law and could do more or less whatever they wanted within their own lands. During weak monarchies, lords were essentially kings. Some medieval countries were so bad at managing their lords that the kings basically had no power (the Holy Roman Emperor and Polish King were more or less honorary titles). | **To what extent did medieval kings have power over the lords of their kingdom?** | |
| **Problems with Feudalism: for Peasants**  97% of the population of medieval Europe was peasants. Unfortunately, Feudalism is really bad for peasants. Their lives were already hard—poor sanitation, medicine was basically just guesswork, and extremely long workdays (about 15 hours a day most of the year). Those problems would exist without feudalism. But wait! There’s more. Feudalism added some problems on its own. First off, most peasants were “Serfs” which were a kind of peasant that was forbidden to move from their homes. They basically belonged to the land. Whoever owned the land owned the serfs. Additionally, lords could treat their peasants horribly and never face legal trouble because lords could only be tried by other lords so peasants with grievances against their lord would have to travel dozens of miles to find anyone who could hear their grievances. | **What are 2 ways in which Feudalism worsened the lives of peasants?** | |
| **Problems with Feudalism: for Economy**  Economic growth requires that people be able to invest in new ideas. This allows new industries and inventions to grow. However, during Feudalism, there were a very small number of people who could afford to invest. Only lords had money and lords got their money from farming. Therefore, any industry or invention that did not have to do with farming would have a very hard time getting investment. | **Why would this problem slow technological growth?** | |
| **Catholic Church** | | |
| Catholicism is a kind of Christianity that says that contact with God only occurs through priests. Priests in turn get their direction from higher ranking priests. The highest ranking of all of them is the Pope, who has the closest connection with God. During the middle ages, almost everyone in Europe was Catholic. | | **Draw a diagram of Catholicism** |
| **Problems with Catholicism: science**  Catholicism today is not opposed to science but in the Middle Ages, the church was very opposed to science. The medieval church had built a view of the world based upon the bible and the writings of a few prominent saints. To question this was *blasphemy*, which could result in death, torture, or life in prison. This made scientific experimentation very dangerous if you came to any conclusions the church disagreed with.  Additionally, the Church also controlled knowledge. Books at the time were very hard to come by and very few people could read. Books had to be copied by hand and this was almost entirely done by priests and monks (another religious person). Therefore, books that didn’t agree with the church tended to not get copied. | | **How was science held back by the Medieval Church?** |
| **Problems with Catholicism: economy**  As stated in the feudalism economy section, people need lots of money to start new industries and lords tended only to invest in projects that would help farming. This problem was worsened by the church. The medieval church had forbidden money lending because it was considered immoral. However, in doing so, they created yet another obstacle for new industries and inventions. People were not able to take loans to fund their ideas. | | **How did the Medieval Church worsen problems with Feudalism?** |

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| **Last Question** |
| **Why would a modern society be unable to develop under this system?** Support your answer |