Feudalism and the Manor Economy

Chapter 7 Section 2
Lesson Objectives

103. Explain **feudalism** and how it shaped medieval life.

104. List some advantages and disadvantages to using a castle as a defense.

105. Define **chivalry**.

106. Explain how the **manor system** worked.
103. Explain feudalism and how it shaped medieval life.

- Invasions (Magyars, Muslims, and Vikings) caused people to need to protect themselves, their homes, and their lands.

- This need for protection led to a political structure called feudalism.

- Feudalism was a loosely organized system of rule in which powerful local lords divided their landholdings among lesser lords.
Mutual Obligations

- Land was exchanged for loyalty and military service. (Feudal Contract)

- A powerful lord granted a fief or estate to a vassal, lesser lord. This included land, peasants, and any towns on the land.

- The lord promised to protect the vassal. In return, the vassal pledged loyalty to his lord.
Feudalism

Upper Lord

- Vassal
  - Vassal
    - Knight
    - Knight
  - Vassal
    - Knight
    - Knight
  - Vassal
    - Knight
    - Knight
  - Vassal
    - Knight
    - Knight
104. List some advantages and disadvantages to using a castle as a defense.
Castle Defense

**Advantages**

1. Protected army and people from invaders.
2. Held supplies inside the castle.

**Disadvantages**

1. Siege - run out of supplies. (Starvation)
2. Disease - close proximity leads to sickness being easily spread.
3. No reinforcements - once fighters die they cannot be replaced.
105. Define chivalry.

- **Chivalry** - a code of conduct that knights were expected to follow. It required knights to be brave, loyal, and true to their word.
- The code applied only to nobles, not commoners.
- When not fighting in battles knights participated in tournaments which provided entertainment for the people.

Knight's Tale
106. Explain how the manor system worked.

- Little to no trade.
- The heart of the medieval economy was the manor, or lord’s estate.
- Serfs, or peasants, worked on the manor and were bound to the land.
- Mutual Obligations: Peasants had to work for and make payments to the lord. In return peasants received protection, food, and a place to live.
A Self-Sufficient World

- Manors were generally self-sufficient.
- **Self-Sufficient** - the peasants/serfs produced almost everything they needed. They never had to leave the manor.
Peasant life was harsh.  
Born poor- stayed poor.  
No education- worked the fields as children.  
Life-expectancy was no more than 35.