

The Feudal Monarchs & the Church



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Learn how monarchs gained power over nobles and the Christian Church, and how English kings strengthened their power.
- Describe how traditions of government evolved under King John and later English monarchs.
- Explain how strong monarchs unified France.
- Describe the formation of the Holy Roman Empire and how some emperors struggled with the papacy to control specific religious and secular issues.
- Analyze how the Church reached the height of its power under Pope Innocent III.

Feudal Monarchs Begin to Centralize Power

From 1000-1300 Feudal monarchs began to exert royal authority over nobles & the Church.

Monarchs began to set up courts & governments to administer taxes.

Towns & money economy also strengthened royal rulers

English Kings Expand Power

William the Conqueror wins at the Battle of Hastings
& becomes the King of England in 1066

William grants fiefs to the Church & his lords,
watched castle construction, & ordered vassals
to swear first allegiance to him

The Domesday Book- a census of England that
allowed William to build tax systems.

Common law- legal systems based on custom &
court rulings that was for all people

New Traditions of Government

King John- Clever, cruel, & untrustworthy ruler who lost many conflicts & weakened the Church

Magna Carta- The great charter that affirmed feudal rights to the people & barons

It said that rights went to citizens, & the monarch **MUST** follow the law.

It also allowed **due process of law**, protection for fair legal process & decided by peers.

Habeas Corpus- No person can be held in prison without first being charged with a crime

Parliament Develops

England creates a “great council” for advice, this becomes **Parliament**- England’s legislature

This became a representative government to work with the king. “What touches all should be approved by all.”

Eventually it would split as the House of Lords & the House of Commons.

French Monarchy

France was ruled by a number of powerful feudal lords

Hugh Capet, begins to expand royal power & government over France

Philip II sets forth on a conquest to control most of France & becomes the most powerful ruler in Europe

Louis IX- The Saint King, was beloved & improved the royal government & created patriotism.

Clashes in the church would lead to the election of 2 popes claiming to be the head of the church.

The Holy Roman Empire

Germany & the Church begin to fight over the lands known as the **Holy Roman Empire**.

Otto I becomes the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire declared by the Pope.

Conflicts between the appointment of powers would lead to struggles in the region.

Pope Vs. Emperor

Pope **Gregory VII** & German Emperor **Henry IV** would fight for claims of power

Gregory seeks to end **lay investiture**- the appointment of bishops by those who are not clergy

Henry fights back, but German princes support the Pope & he is excommunicated.

Henry begs forgiveness, only to force the Pope into exile later on.

The **Concordat of Worms**- Church has the sole power to elect & invest bishops with spiritual authority

Battle for Italy

Frederick Barbarossa (Red Beard)- sought to build a vast empire across Europe.

His descendants try, & fail, to conquer Italy & grow this empire of his dreams

Church Power Peaks

The church expands unity in Europe &
Gregory VII claims the right to depose
kings

Pope Innocent III- claims supremacy over all
rulers & grows the power of the church.

He extends the Papal States, reforms the courts, &
changes the way the Church officials are
chosen