

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 291–296

### FEUDALISM

#### KEY TERMS

**feudalism** a political and social system in which a powerful lord offered protection to a vassal in return for military service (page 293)

**vassal** a man who served a lord in a military capacity (page 293)

**knight** a heavily armored soldier who fought on horseback (page 293)

**fief** land given to a vassal by a lord (page 294)

**feudal contract** a set of unwritten rules that determined the relationship between a lord and his vassal (page 294)

**tournament** a contest where knights could show their fighting skills (page 295)

**chivalry** a code of ethics that knights were supposed to uphold (page 295)

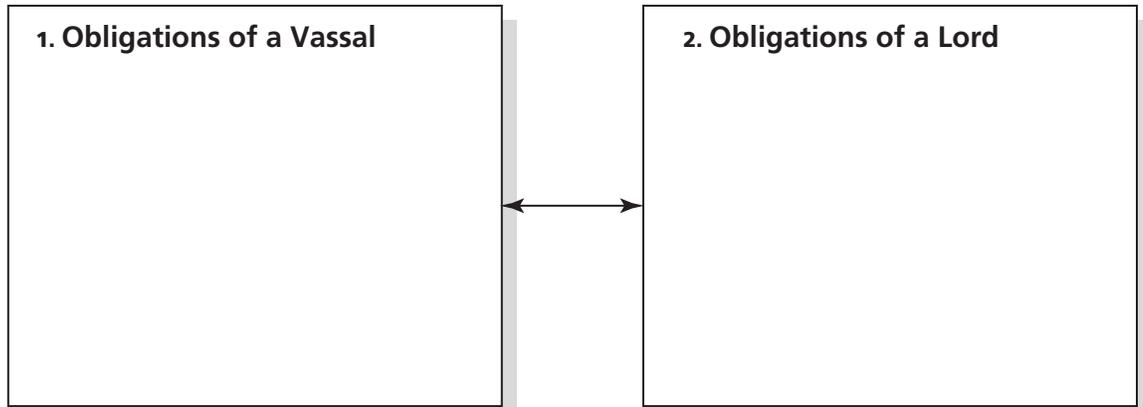
#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What do you think of when you hear the word “Vikings”? Who were they? What were their contributions to the development of North America?

In the last section, you learned about the development of German kingdoms in Europe. In this section, you will learn about the invasion of Europe by other peoples, including the Vikings. These invaders threatened the safety of people throughout Europe, which led to the development of feudalism.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Under the feudal contract, lords and vassals both had obligations to one another. Summarize some of those obligations in the boxes below.



# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 2 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

- **The Invaders** (page 291)

After Charlemagne’s death in 814, the Carolingian Empire began to fall apart. Within 30 years, it was divided into three major sections: the western Frankish lands, the eastern Frankish lands, and the Middle Kingdom. There were also many invasions in Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries. The Muslims attacked southern France. The Magyars, a people from western Asia, moved into central Europe and invaded Western Europe. The most far-reaching attacks came from the Norsemen of Scandinavia, also known as the Vikings. They were warriors, but they were also great shipbuilders and sailors. Their ships were long and narrow. This made it possible for the Vikings to sail up European rivers and attack places that were far inland.

Beginning in 911, the ruler of the west Frankish lands gave land at the mouth of the Seine to one band of the Vikings. This section of France became known as Normandy. By allowing the Vikings to settle in this land, the Frankish people were able to convert the Vikings to Christianity. The Vikings soon became a part of European civilization.

3. What peoples invaded Europe during the ninth and tenth centuries?

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- **The Development of Feudalism** (page 292)

The Vikings and other invaders threatened the safety of people throughout Europe. People began to turn to local landed aristocrats (lords) to protect them. In return for protection, people were willing to serve the lords. This led to a new political and social system called **feudalism**. In Germanic society, warriors swore an oath of loyalty to their leaders and fought for them. In return, the leaders took care of the warriors’ needs. A man who served a lord in a military capacity was known as a **vassal**. When a lord wanted men to fight for him, he gave each vassal a piece of land. The land supported the vassal and his family. By the ninth century, the gift of land to a vassal became known as a **fief**.

In feudal society, loyalty to one’s lord was the chief virtue. The lord-vassal relationship was not a master-slave relationship. It was an honorable relationship between free men. Over time, a set of unwritten rules developed that determined the relationship between a lord and a vassal. These rules were known as the **feudal contract**. A vassal had to perform military service, usually

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 2 (continued)

about 40 days a year. The vassal could also be asked to come to the lord’s court to give advice. Vassals had to make payments to the lord on certain occasions, such as the knighting of the lord’s eldest son or the marriage of his eldest daughter. The lord also had responsibilities to the vassal. The lord supported the vassal by giving him land. He also had to protect the vassal. This could mean defending him militarily, or it could mean taking his side in a court of law.

The Frankish army began to change during this time. It had originally consisted of foot soldiers dressed in coats of mail (armor made of metal links or plates). In the eighth century, larger horses and the use of stirrups made it possible for horsemen to wear coats of mail, too. Armies now consisted mainly of armored cavalry (soldiers on horseback). These soldiers became known as **knights**.

4. Why did men choose to become vassals?

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- **The Nobility of the Middle Ages** (page 295)

In the Middle Ages, the nobles were the kings, dukes, counts, barons, and even bishops who had large landed estates. They formed an aristocracy, or nobility, that had most of the political, economic, and social power. Knights also had social prestige. In the twelfth century, knights began to take part in tournaments. **Tournaments** were contests where knights could show their fighting skills. The joust became the main part of the tournament. The joust was an individual contest between two knights.

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the idea of chivalry evolved. **Chivalry** was a code of ethics that knights were supposed to follow. Knights were expected to defend the Church and defenseless people. They were also supposed to treat captives as honored guests instead of putting them in dungeons. Chivalry also implied that knights should fight for glory and not for material rewards.

5. What kinds of behavior did the code of chivalry expect from knights?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 2 *(continued)*

- **Aristocratic Women** *(page 296)*

During this time, women could own property, but most remained under the control of their fathers or husbands. Some aristocratic women had opportunities to play important roles, however. The lady of the castle often had to manage the estate while the lord was away at war or court. This could involve supervising many servants, taking care of the financial accounts, and overseeing the supplies, including food, for the entire household. Women were expected to be subservient to their husbands, but some strong women advised or even dominated their husbands.

6. In what ways did aristocratic women play important roles?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 297–301

### THE GROWTH OF EUROPEAN KINGDOMS

#### KEY TERMS

**common law** laws that are common to a whole kingdom, as opposed to laws that vary from place to place (page 298)

**Magna Carta** (the Great Charter) a document of rights that limited the king's power signed by King John in 1215 (page 299)

**estate** each of the three social classes in France (page 299)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What rights are people in the United States guaranteed by the Constitution? Which of these rights do you think is the most important? Why?

In the last two sections, you learned about the rise of German kingdoms in Europe and the development of feudalism. In this section, you will learn about the growth of kingdoms in Europe during the High Middle Ages. You will also learn how representative government and the protection of rights developed in some of these countries.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Indicate what contributions the following rulers made to the growth of kingdoms in their countries.

Ruler	Country	Contributions
William of Normandy	1.	2.
Henry II	3.	4.
John	5.	6.
Edward I	7.	8.
Philip II Augustus	9.	10.
Philip IV	11.	12.

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 3 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

- **England in the High Middle Ages** (page 297)

In the late ninth century, King Alfred the Great united the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England. After that time, Anglo-Saxons ruled England. On October 14, 1066, an army of knights under William of Normandy landed on the coast of England and defeated King Harold, the Anglo-Saxon king, at the Battle of Hastings. William was then crowned king of England. He took a census, known as the Domesday Book. This was the first census taken in Europe since Roman times. William also developed more fully the system of taxation and royal courts begun by the Anglo-Saxon kings. As the Norman ruling class married the Anglo-Saxon nobility, a new English culture began to develop. This culture merged Anglo-Saxon and French language and customs.

The power of the English monarchy was enlarged during the reign of Henry II. He ruled from 1154 to 1189. He increased the number of criminal cases tried in the king's court. He also made it possible for property cases to be tried in the royal courts. This expanded the power of the royal courts, as well as the king's power. Because the royal courts were now found throughout all of England, a body of **common law** (law that was common to the whole kingdom) began to replace laws that varied from place to place. Henry also believed that he had the right to try clergymen in royal courts. When Thomas à Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury, claimed that only Roman Catholic Church courts could try clerics, knights who supported the king murdered the archbishop.

Many English nobles resented the growing power of the kings. During the reign of King John, they rebelled. In 1215, they forced King John to sign a document of rights called the **Magna Carta** (Great Charter). The Magna Carta put in writing that the relationship between the king and vassals was based on mutual rights and obligations. In later years, it was used to support the idea that a king's power was limited, not absolute.

During the reign of Edward I in the thirteenth century, the English Parliament emerged. The parliament played an important role in the development of representative government. It was composed of two knights from every county, two people from every town, and all of the nobles and bishops throughout England. Eventually, the nobles and bishops formed the House of Lords, and the knights and townspeople formed the House of Commons. During the time of Edward I, the parliament passed laws and taxes.

**13.** What two cultures merged to form a new English culture?

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# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 3 (continued)

### • The French Kingdom (page 299)

After the death of the last Carolingian king in 987, the west Frankish nobles chose Hugh Capet as the new king. This established the Capetian dynasty of French kings. The Capetians had the title of king, but they had little real power. The land that they controlled only included the area around Paris.

The reign of King Philip II Augustus was a turning point in the growth of the French monarchy. He ruled from 1180 to 1223. He waged war with England, and gained control of the French territories of Normandy, Maine, Anjou, and Aquitaine. These territories had been under English control. Adding these territories increased the income of the French monarchy and expanded its power.

Philip IV, called Philip the Fair, ruled from 1285 to 1314. He strengthened the monarchy by expanding the royal bureaucracy. He also brought a French parliament into existence by meeting with representatives of the three estates (classes). These **estates** were the clergy (first estate), the nobles (second estate), and townspeople (third estate). The meeting was held in 1302 and began the Estates-General, the first French parliament.

#### 14. What were the three estates in France?

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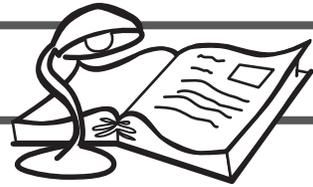
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### • The Holy Roman Empire (page 300)

In the tenth century, Saxon dukes became kings of the eastern Frankish kingdom. This kingdom became known as Germany. The best-known Saxon king of Germany was Otto I. In return for protecting the pope, Otto I was crowned emperor of the Romans in 962. This title had not been used since Charlemagne. The German kings tried to rule both German and Italian lands. Frederick I considered Italy the center of a “holy empire.” This was the origin of the name Holy Roman Empire. Frederick’s attempt to conquer northern Italy failed. The pope opposed him, because he was afraid that Frederick wanted to include Rome and the Papal States in his empire. The cities of northern Italy also opposed him. Together, the pope and the northern Italian cities defeated the army of Frederick I in 1176.

The struggle between popes and emperors weakened the Holy Roman Empire. The German emperors spent their time fighting in Italy. Back in Germany, powerful German lords ignored the emperors and created their own independent kingdoms. In the end, the Holy Roman Empire had no real power over either Germany or Italy. Germany and Italy continued to be made up of small, independent states. They did not develop national monarchies in the Middle Ages, like France and England did.

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 3 (continued)

15. What was the origin of the name Holy Roman Empire?

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### • Central and Eastern Europe (page 300)

The Slavic people were originally a single group of people in central Europe. Over time, they divided into three major groups: the western, southern, and eastern Slavs. The western Slavs formed the Polish and Bohemian kingdoms. German monks converted the Czechs in Bohemia and the Slavs in Poland to Christianity. The kingdom of Hungary was also converted. Czechs, Poles, and Hungarians all became part of the Roman Catholic Church.

The eastern and southern Slavs took a different path. Byzantine missionaries converted the eastern Slavs of Moravia to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Most of the southern Slavs also converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. These peoples included the Croats, the Serbs, and the Bulgarians. By accepting Eastern Orthodox Christianity, the southern and eastern Slavs were linked to the Byzantine culture.

16. In what way did the eastern and southern Slavs take a different path from the western Slavs?

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### • The Development of Russia (page 301)

Eastern Slavic peoples had also settled in what is now Ukraine and Russia. Beginning in the eighth century, Swedish Vikings moved into their lands. The native peoples called the Viking rulers the Rus. This is the origin of the name Russia. One Viking leader, Oleg, settled in Kiev at the beginning of the tenth century. He created a Rus state known as the principality of Kiev. His successors extended their control over the eastern Slavs and expanded the principality of Kiev. The Rus married Slavic wives, and they were gradually assimilated into the Slavic population. Byzantine missionaries began to come to the principality of Kiev. One Rus ruler, Vladimir, married the Byzantine emperor's sister and accepted Eastern Orthodox Christianity in 988. Orthodox Christianity became the official religion of the state. The principality of Kiev prospered and reached its high point in the first half of the eleventh century. But civil wars and invasions brought an end to this first Russian state in 1169.

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide



## Chapter 9, Section 3 (continued)

In the thirteenth century, the Mongols conquered Russia. They occupied Russian lands and made the Russian princes pay tribute to them. One of the Russian princes, Alexander Nevsky, defeated a German army in northwestern Russia in 1242. The leader of the western Mongol Empire gave Nevsky the title of grand-prince. His descendants became princes of Moscow and eventually leaders of all Russia.

17. What is the origin of the name Russia?

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