

Feudalism and the Holy Roman Empire

► Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 60–61 in the Atlas. Read the introduction. Then read the history question, “Who were the nobles?” Use the information to answer the following questions.

a. Why did the system of feudalism develop?

b. Who created a feudal empire that became known as the Holy Roman Empire?

c. How long did the Holy Roman Empire last? _____

d. What defined someone as a noble?

► Thinking About History

2. Look at picture A and read its caption. Use the information to answer the following questions.

a. What is the monk doing in this picture?

b. Why were monks and priests often the only educated people?

★ Places, Regions, and Landscapes

3. Look at map B, “Medieval Manor and Village,” and read its caption. Use the information to answer the following questions.

a. Where did lords live? _____

b. How were the lives of the serfs and lords different?

➤ **Time and Change**

4. Use map C, "The Holy Roman Empire," to match each of the regions of the Holy Roman Empire listed below with its description. Some statements may describe more than one region.

Region

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Papal States • | • Gained by marriage |
| b. Germany • | • Inherited from a duke |
| c. Italy • | • Became part of the Empire in 952 |
| d. Burgundy • | • Were a gift from the pope |
| e. Bohemia • | • Otto became its king in 936. |
| f. Corsica and Sardinia • | • Became a separate kingdom |
| g. Kingdom of Two Sicilies • | |

➤ **People and Cultures**

5. Read the history question, "Holy? Roman? Empire?" Use the information to fill in the blanks below. Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.

- a. The Roman Catholic Church and northern Europe were united under Otto I.

- b. Otto I named the territory he had conquered the Holy Roman Empire. _____
- c. The Holy Roman emperors had tremendous power. _____
- d. The Holy Roman Empire ushered in an age of peace. _____

★ **People and their Environment**

6. Compare map D, "How Big Was the Holy Roman Empire?" with map C, "Charlemagne's Frankish Empire," on page 57. Then compare both with the map of the world today on pages 128–129. Write **C** next to each of the following statements if it describes Charlemagne's Empire, **H** if it describes the Holy Roman Empire, or **B** if it describes both.

- a. Included all of present-day Italy. _____
- b. Included all of present-day France. _____
- c. Included territory along the Loire River. _____
- d. Included islands south of mainland Europe. _____
- e. Was smaller than the United States. _____

Feudalism and the Holy Roman Empire

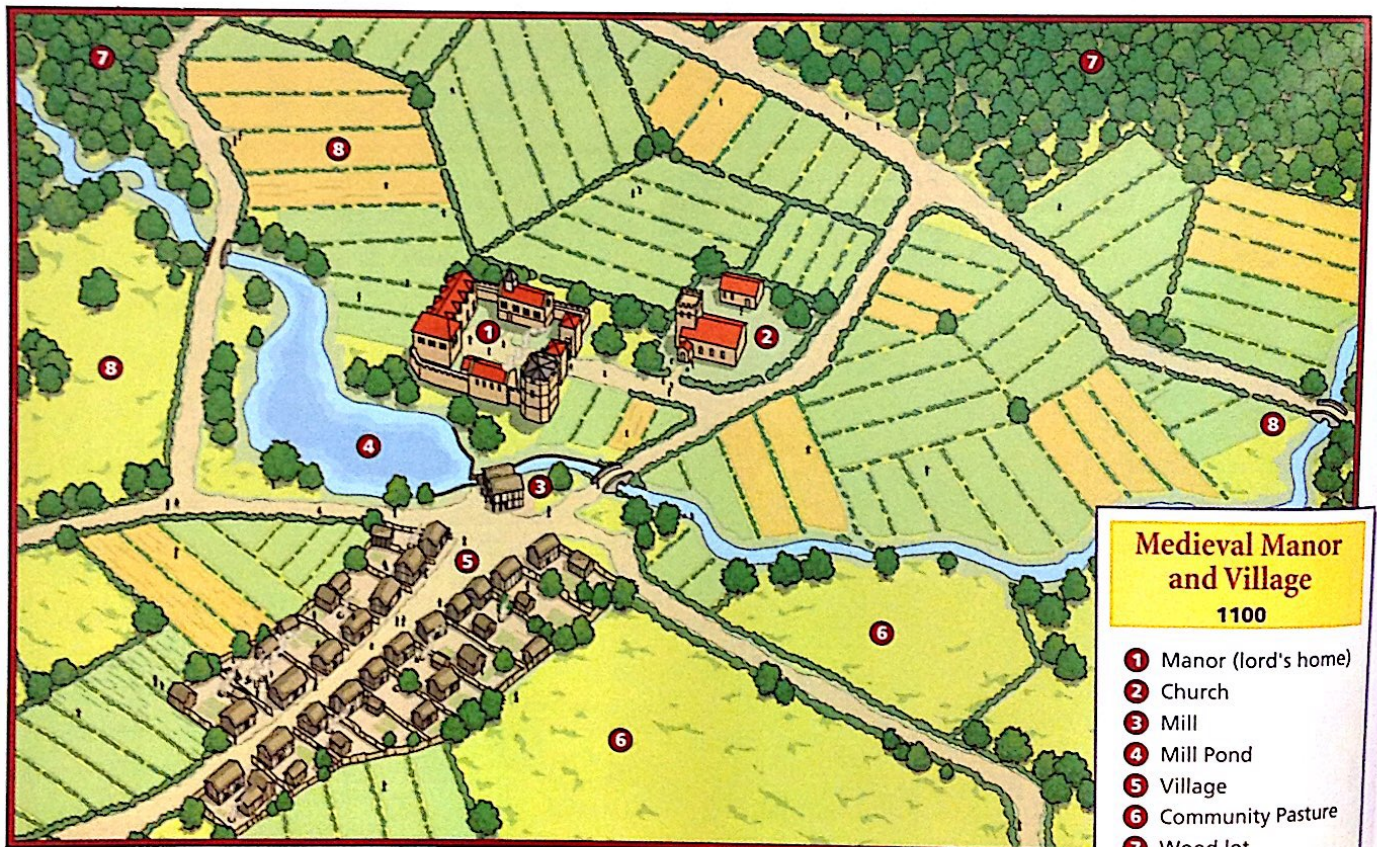
Although there were kings during the Middle Ages, power was held by local leaders.

- To govern his land and protect it from invaders, each local leader—usually a noble—needed his own soldiers, supplies, and fortified castles. The result was a system known as **feudalism**.
- One leader, Otto I, created a feudal empire later called the Holy Roman Empire. In the Empire, local leaders held the real power.
- The Holy Roman Empire survived over 800 years.

Who were the nobles?

During the middle ages, all the people born into certain families were **nobles**. In theory, they owned land and provided the king with military service. But some nobles lost their lands, and others fought against the king.

A Monks and priests were often the only educated people in a region, because Roman Catholic monasteries often had the only schools and libraries.



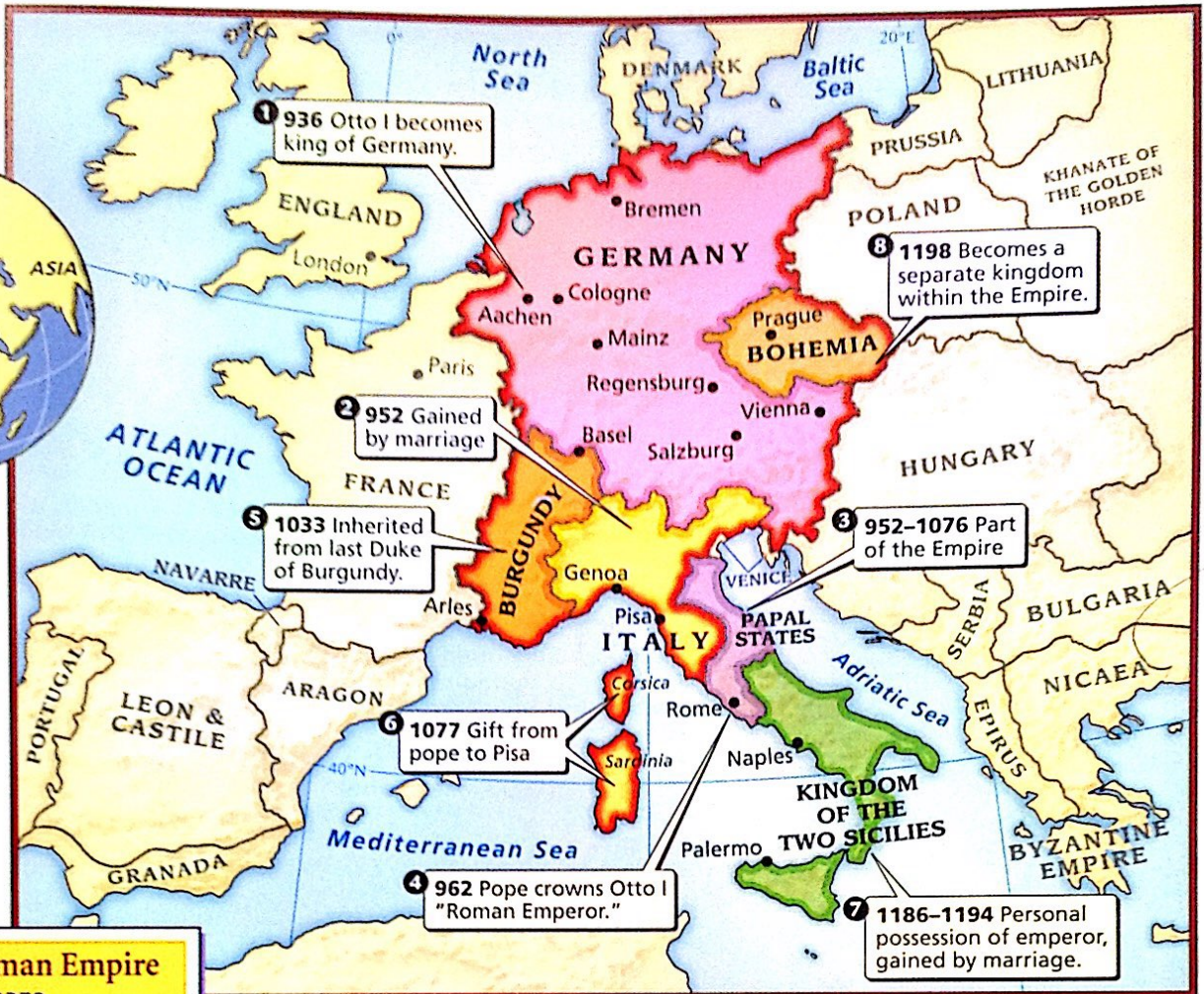
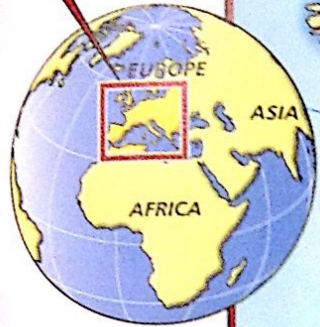
Medieval Manor and Village

1100

- 1 Manor (lord's home)
- 2 Church
- 3 Mill
- 4 Mill Pond
- 5 Village
- 6 Community Pasture
- 7 Wood lot
- 8 Lands for lord's personal use

B In much of Europe, lords owned manors like this one. Peasants who were the property of their lords were called **serfs**. Serfs farmed land both for their lords, who were usually nobles, and for themselves.

Area shown in map C



The Holy Roman Empire
936-1250

— Boundary of the Empire, 1250

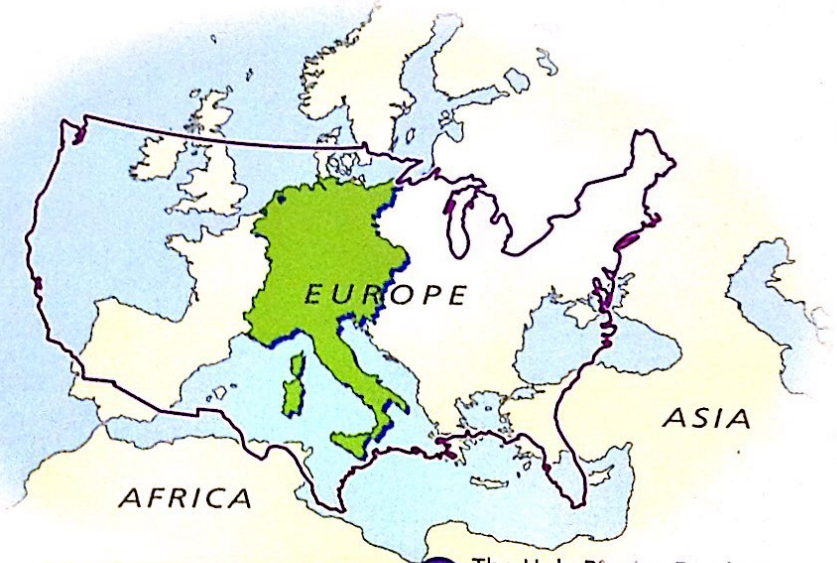
0 200 400 miles

0 200 400 kilometers

C The Holy Roman Empire grew through conquest, marriage, and inheritance. But its emperors did not have firm control over the Empire, and each region had its own laws.

Holy? Roman? Empire?

Otto I united northern Europe with the Roman Catholic Church. Later emperors named this territory the Holy Roman Empire, but like Otto, they were violent, German, and did not have much real power. Someone once joked that the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire.



How Big Was the Holy Roman Empire?

■ Holy Roman Empire

D The Holy Roman Empire included almost all of central Europe. Compare this empire with Charlemagne's empire on page 57.