

Western Europe in the Middle Ages

After the fall of Rome, Western Europe had constant warfare

Medieval kingdoms lacked trade, common language, & cultural diffusion

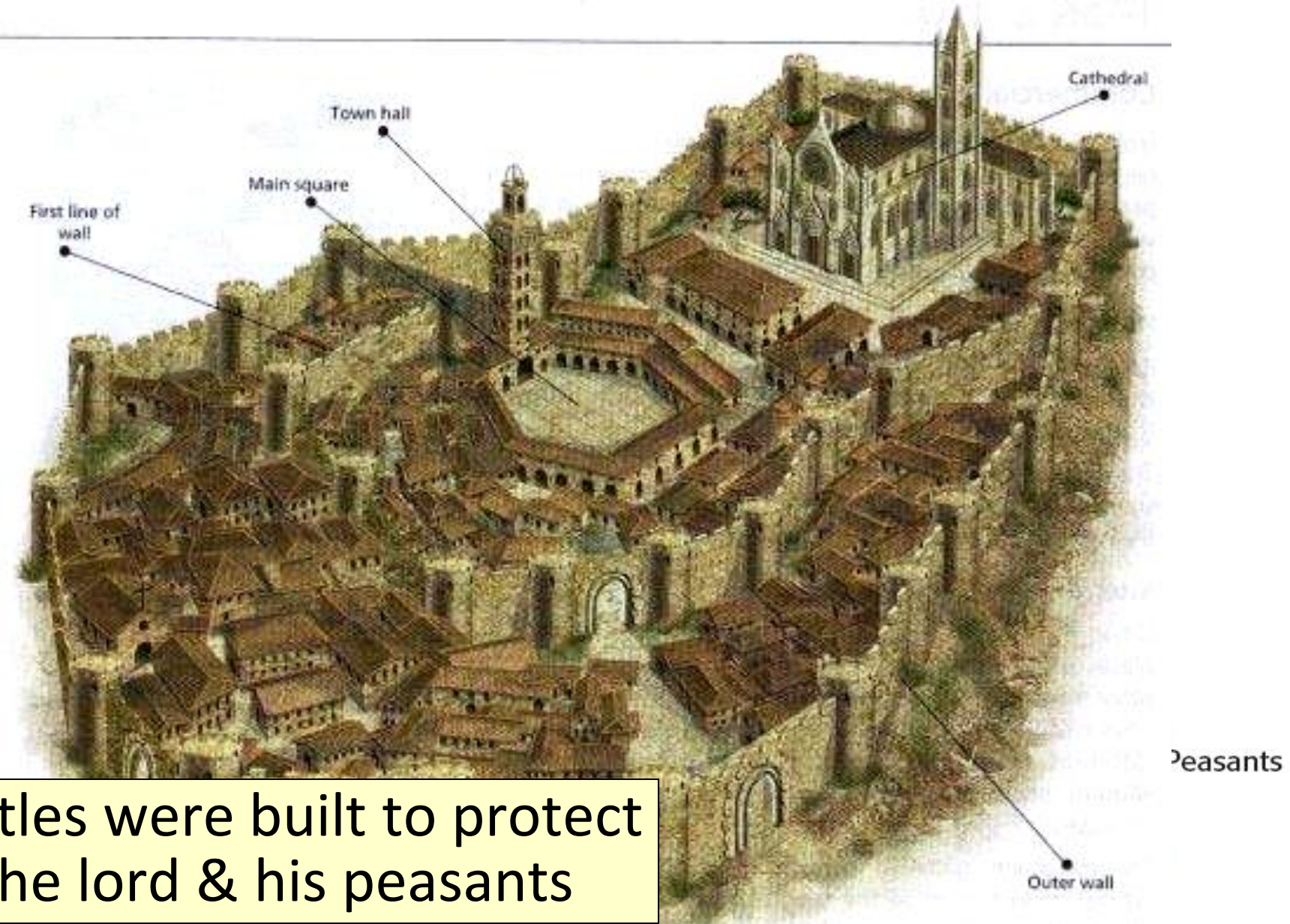


Because the Middle Ages were so dangerous, people used a variety of strategies to survive



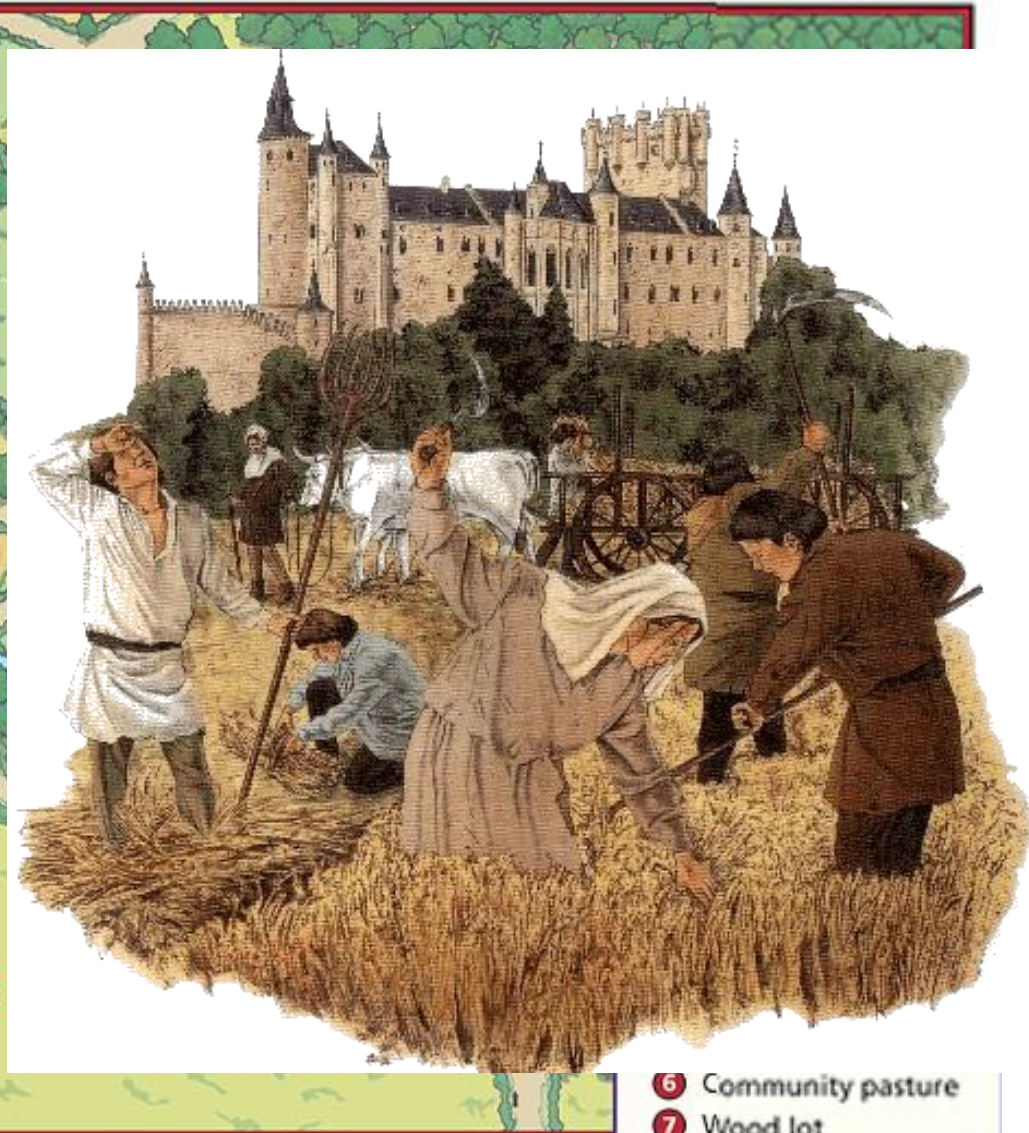
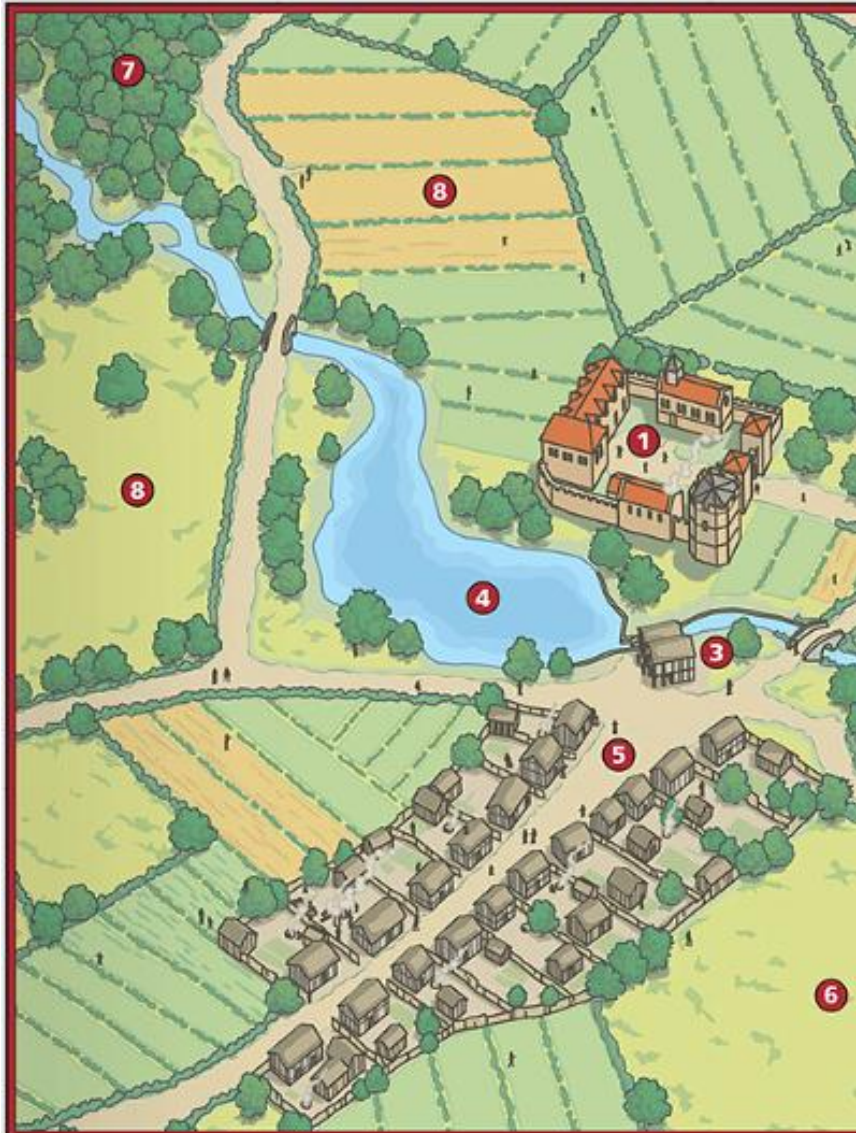
Feudalism offered protection when land-owning lords gave fiefs to knights who swore to protect the manor

Eu



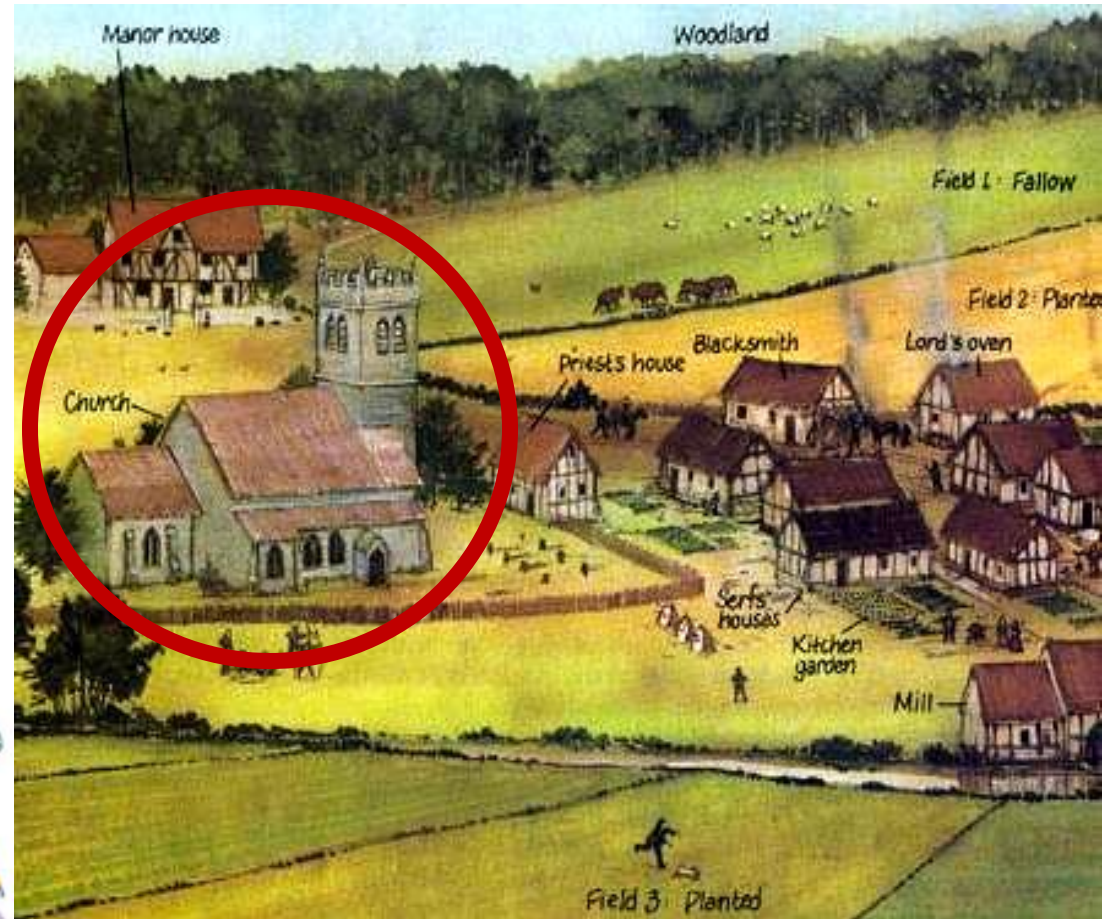
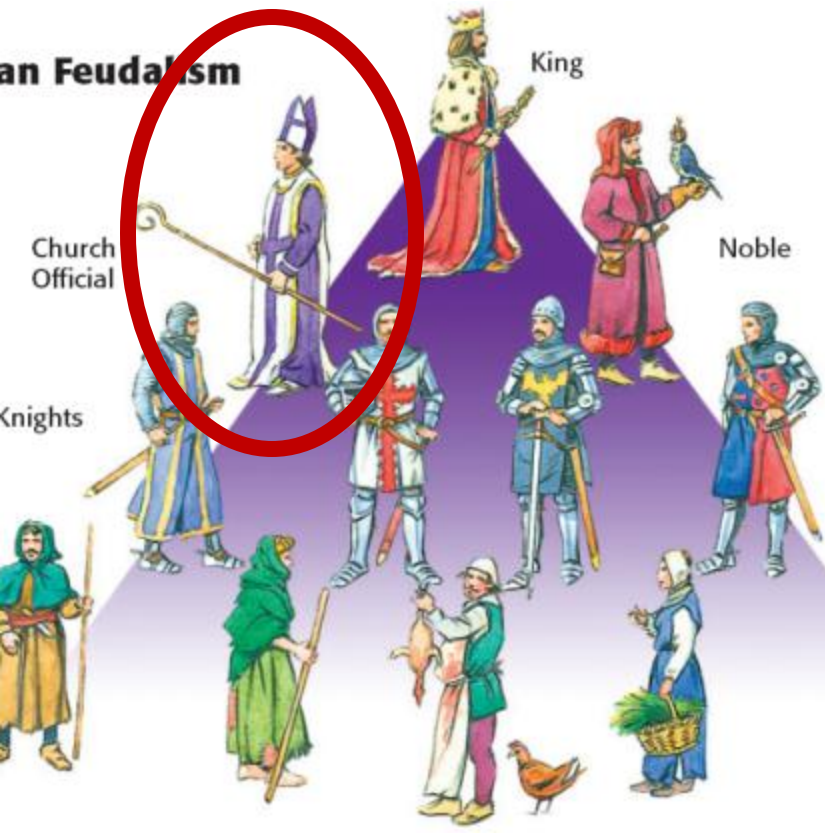
Castles were built to protect the lord & his peasants

Medieval Europeans lived on self-sufficient manors;
The manorial system allowed peasants to farm the lord's land in exchange for part of the food harvested



- 6 Community pasture
- 7 Wood lot

Besides feudalism & the manorial system, what else was important in the Middle Ages?



The Role of the Medieval Church

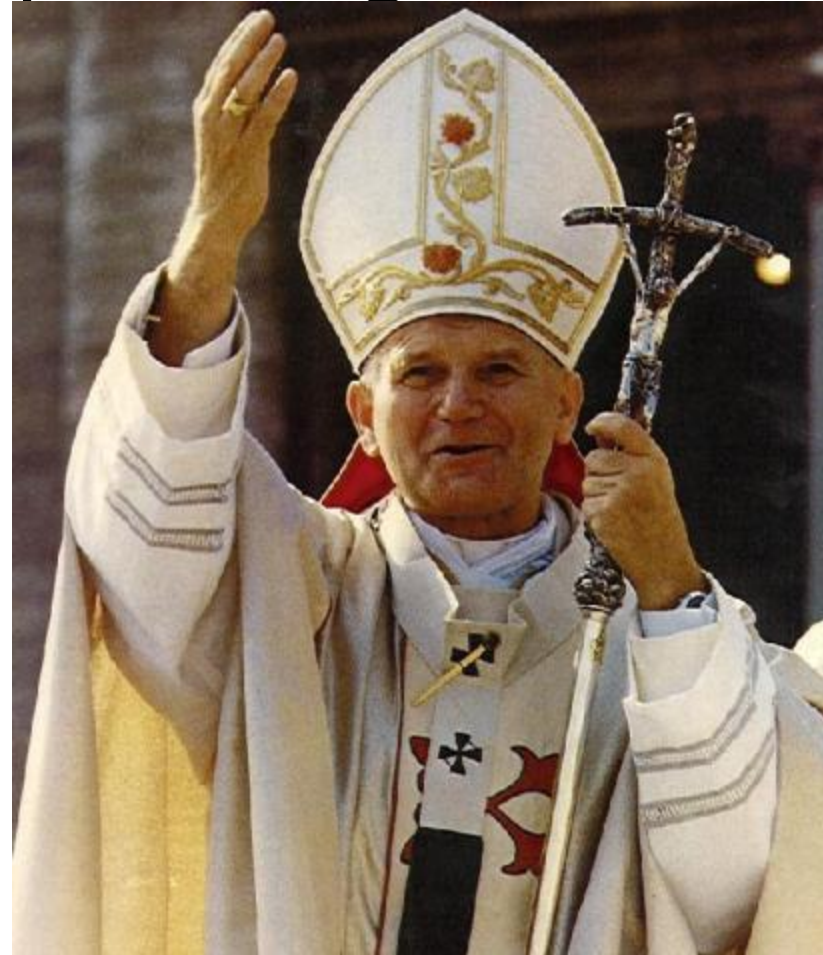


Feudalism & the manor system divided people, but the shared belief in Christianity unified medieval people

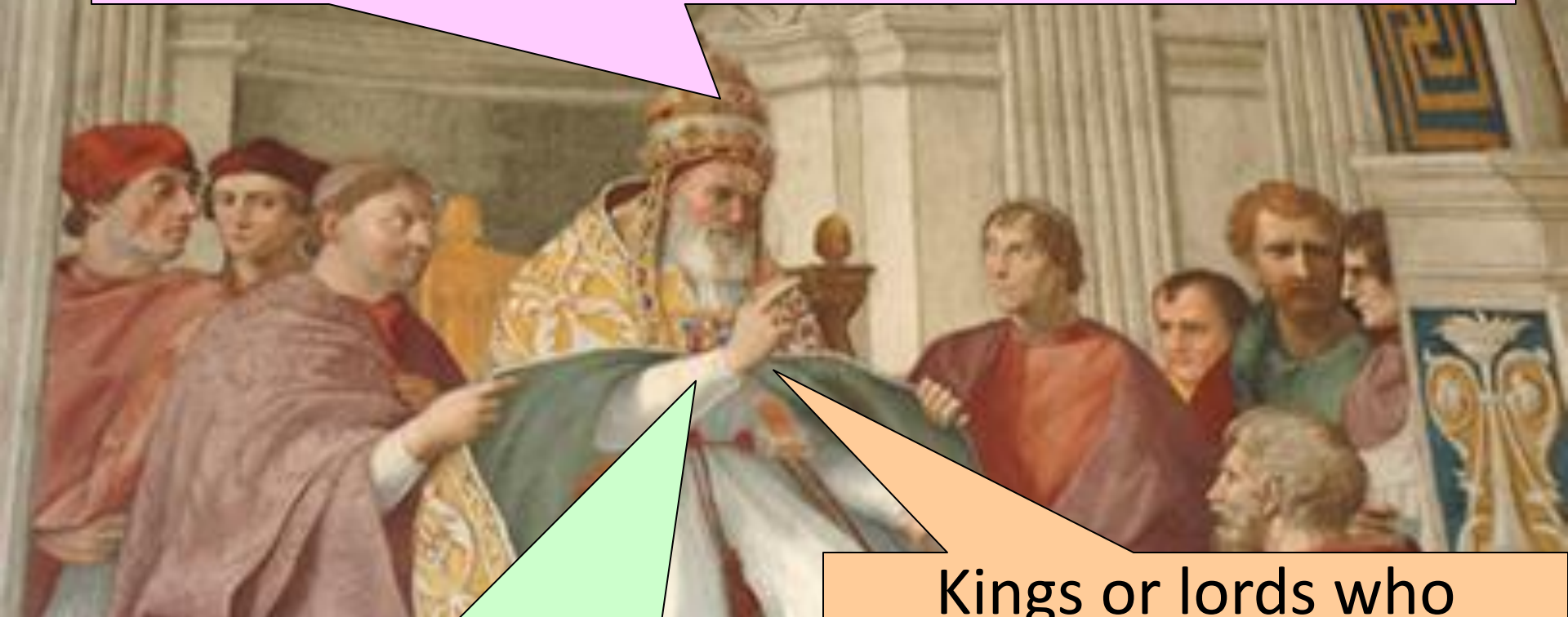
The Role of the Medieval Church

■ Roman Catholicism was the dominant religion in Western Europe during the Middle Ages:

- Without a common government to hold everyone together, the Catholic Church filled an important role in peoples' lives
- The Catholic Pope became the strongest political leader in Western Europe



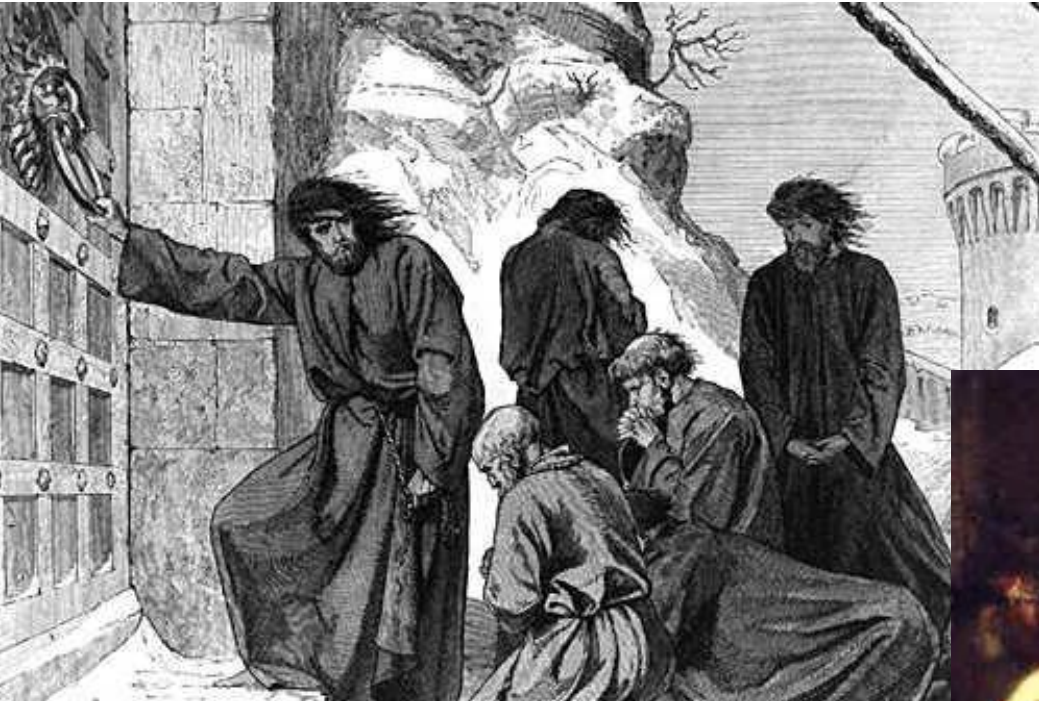
The Catholic Church conducted spiritual rituals (called sacraments) & created a system of rules called Canon Law that all Christians had to follow



Christians who violated Canon Law could be excommunicated (banished from the church)

Kings or lords who violated Canon Law could face interdiction (ban on religious services in a king's lands)

After a disagreement with king Henry IV, Pope Gregory VII issued an interdict; Henry was so upset he begged for 3 days for the Pope to forgive him



PRIMARY SOURCE

There, having laid aside all the belongings of royalty, wretchedly, with bare feet and clad in wool, he [Henry IV] continued for three days to stand before the gate of the castle. Nor did he desist from imploring with many tears the aid and consolation of the apostolic mercy until he had moved all of those who were present there.

POPE GREGORY, in *Basic Documents in Medieval History*

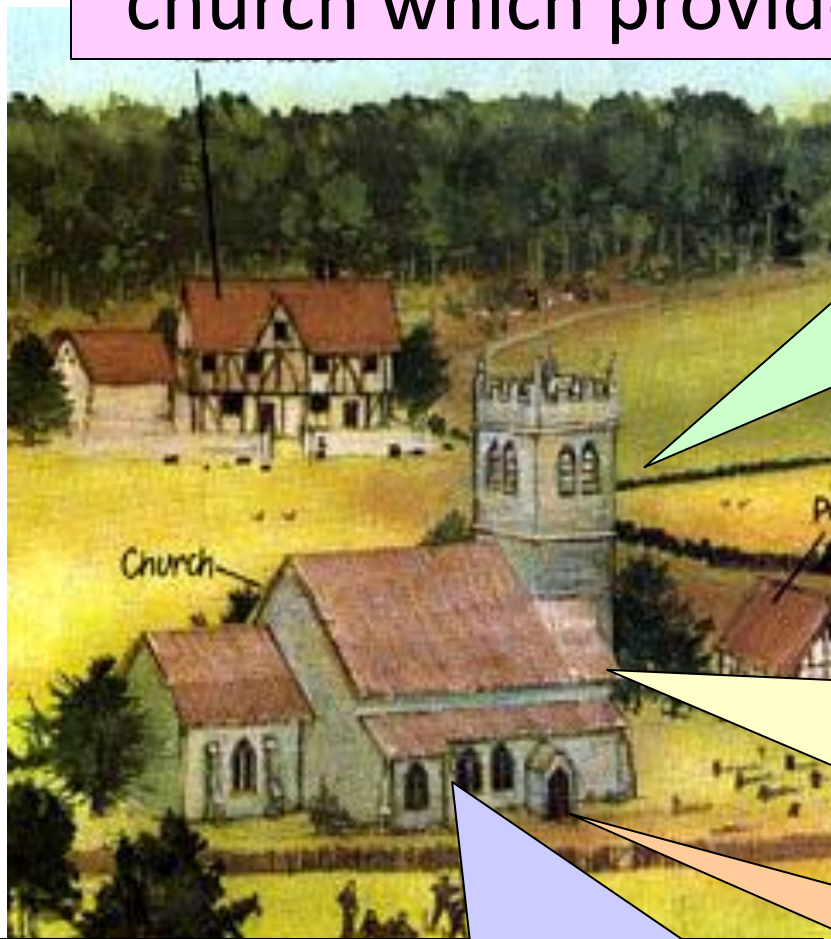
Each territory in medieval Europe had a church which provided order on the manor

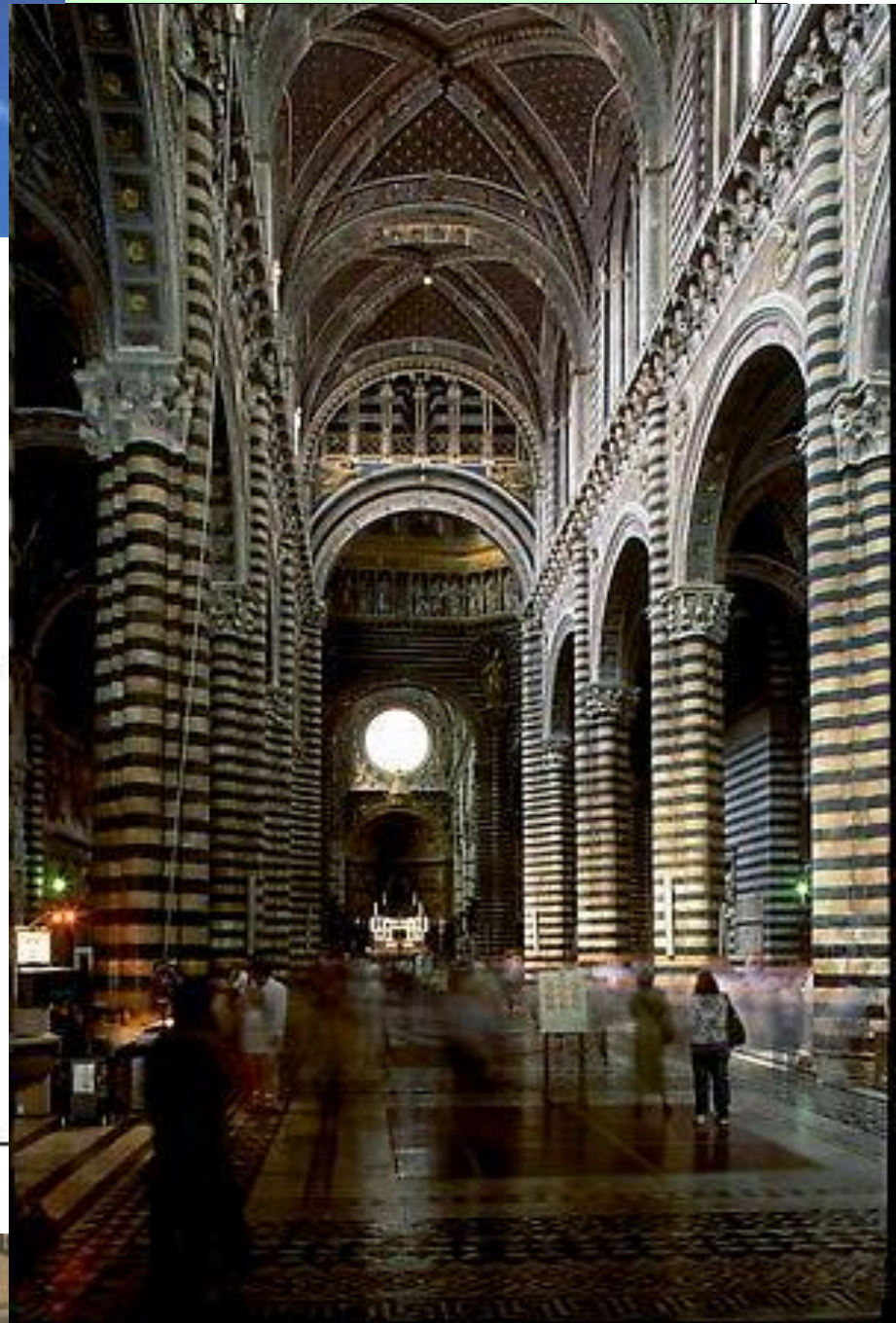
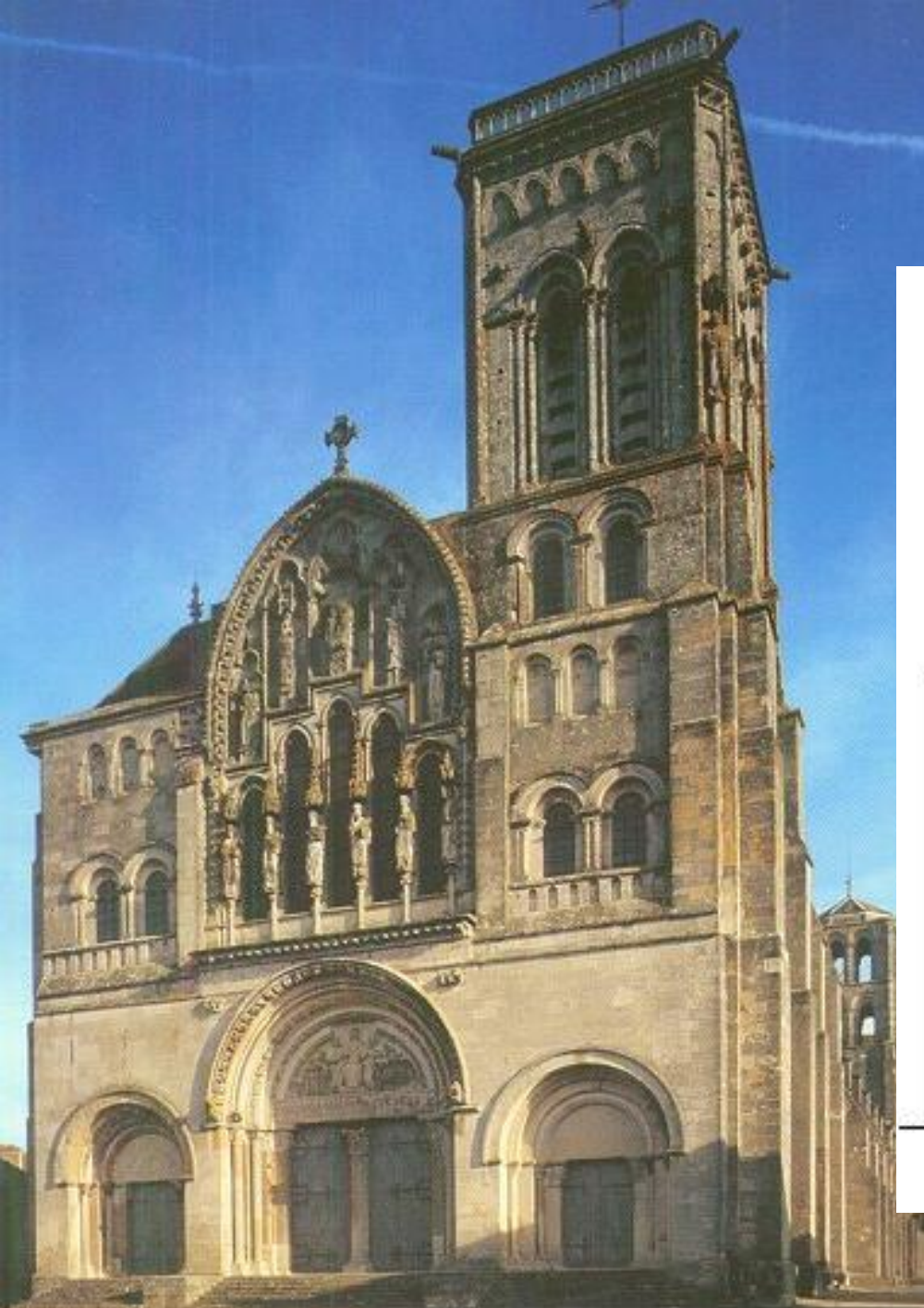
Priests controlled peoples' access to heaven by delivering the sacraments & absolving sins

Peasants' lives were hard, but the hope of a salvation in heaven kept them loyal & obedient the Church

Christians paid a tax to the church called a tithe

Local priests were the main contact most people had with the Catholic Church

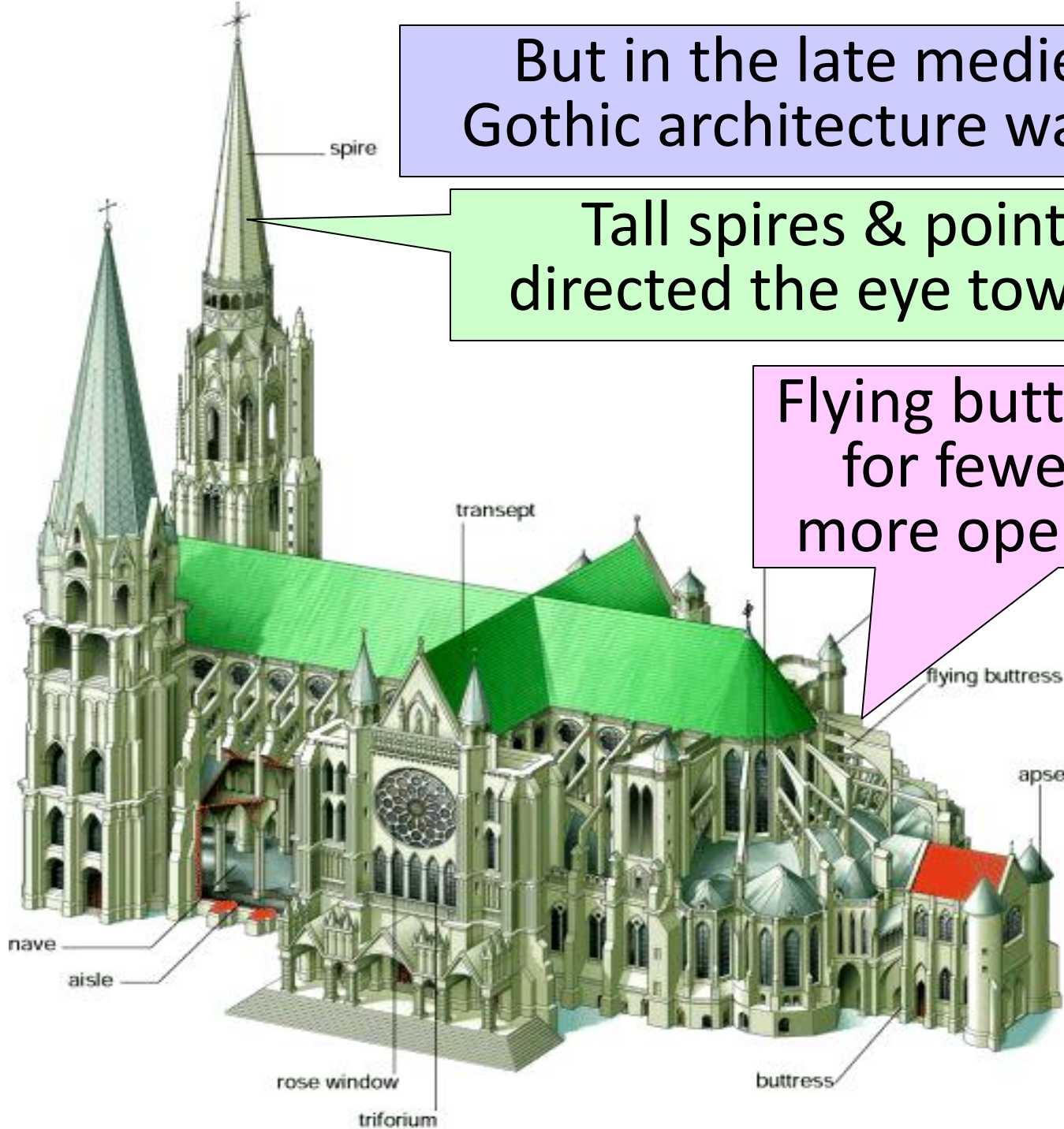




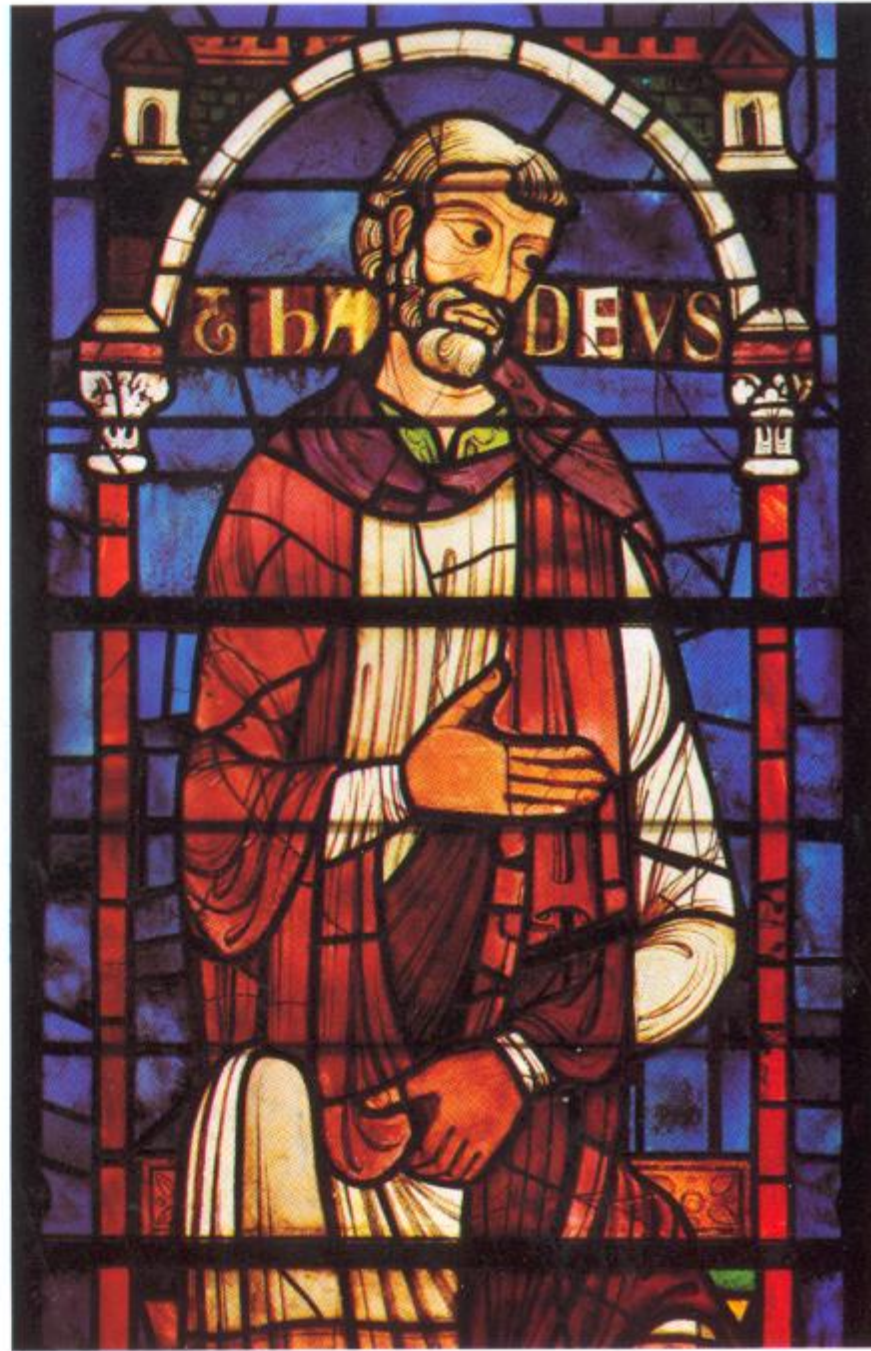
But in the late medieval period,
Gothic architecture was introduced

Tall spires & pointed arches
directed the eye towards heaven

Flying buttresses allowed
for fewer columns &
more open space inside







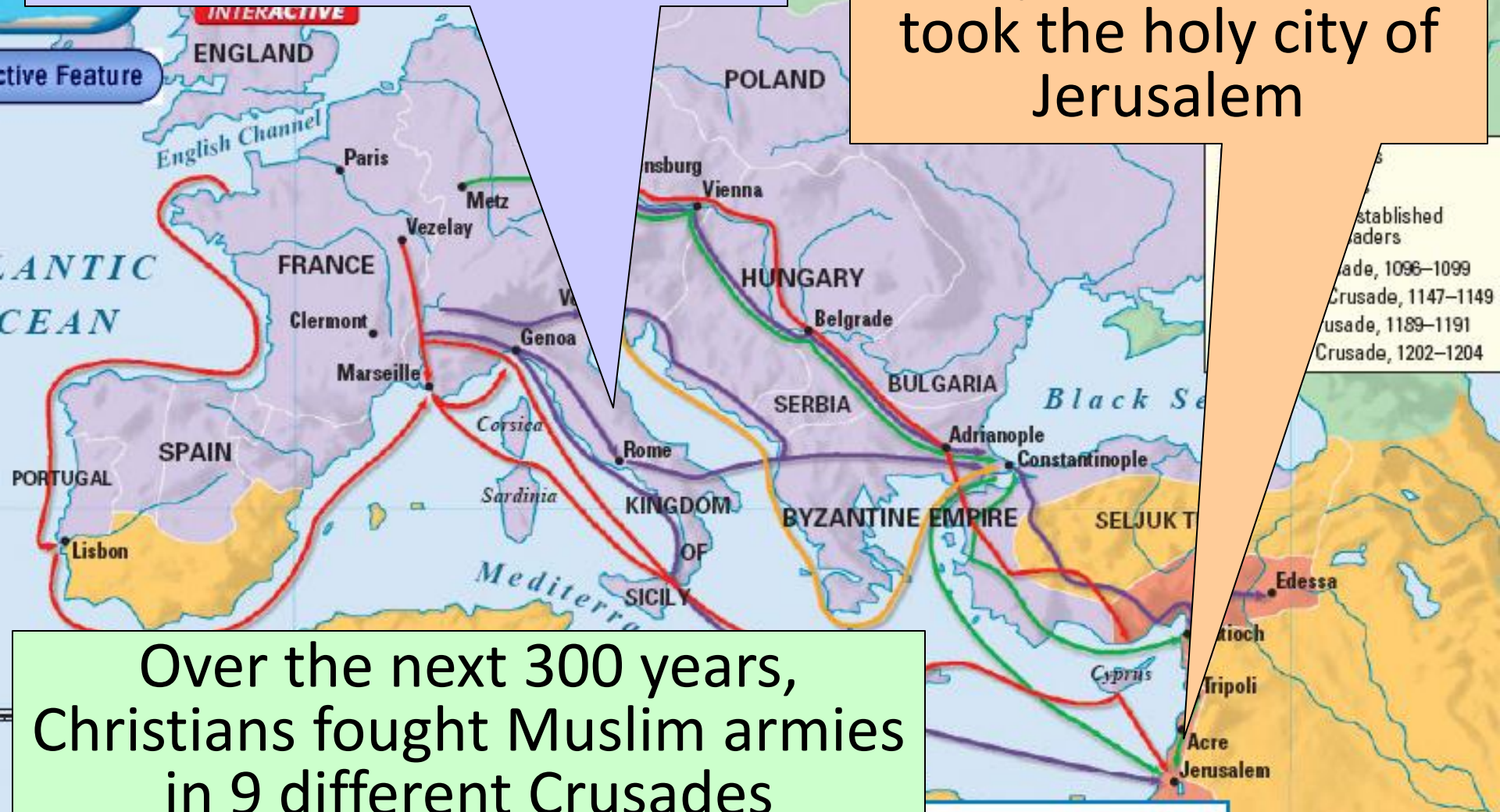
Why did Christians go to Jerusalem during the Middle Ages?



Pope Urban II issued a call to Christians for a Crusade (a holy war) to regain control of the Holy Land


sades

In 1095, the Islamic Empire invaded & took the holy city of Jerusalem



Over the next 300 years, Christians fought Muslim armies in 9 different Crusades

Why did Christians go on the Crusades?



History Channel Video #1: The Spiritual Life of Europe

Merchants wanted
access to trade routes

The Pope wanted to unite
Roman Catholic & Eastern
Orthodox Christians & regain
holy lands from Muslims

Knights wanted to
support the Church;
Many hoped to gain
land & wealth

Christian soldiers took back Jerusalem during the First Crusade

But, Muslims took back Jerusalem & kept it during the Second & Third Crusades

More Crusades were fought, but Christians never regained the Holy Lands



Effects of the Crusades

The Crusades brought cultural diffusion & introduced new ideas into Western Europe



Increased desires for luxury goods like silk, cotton, sugar, & spices

Introduced technologies like compass, astrolabe, ship designs, & gunpowder

Introduced ideas like Arabic numbers, chemistry, algebra, telescope



Greek ideas

After the Crusades, learning increased & more people were educated

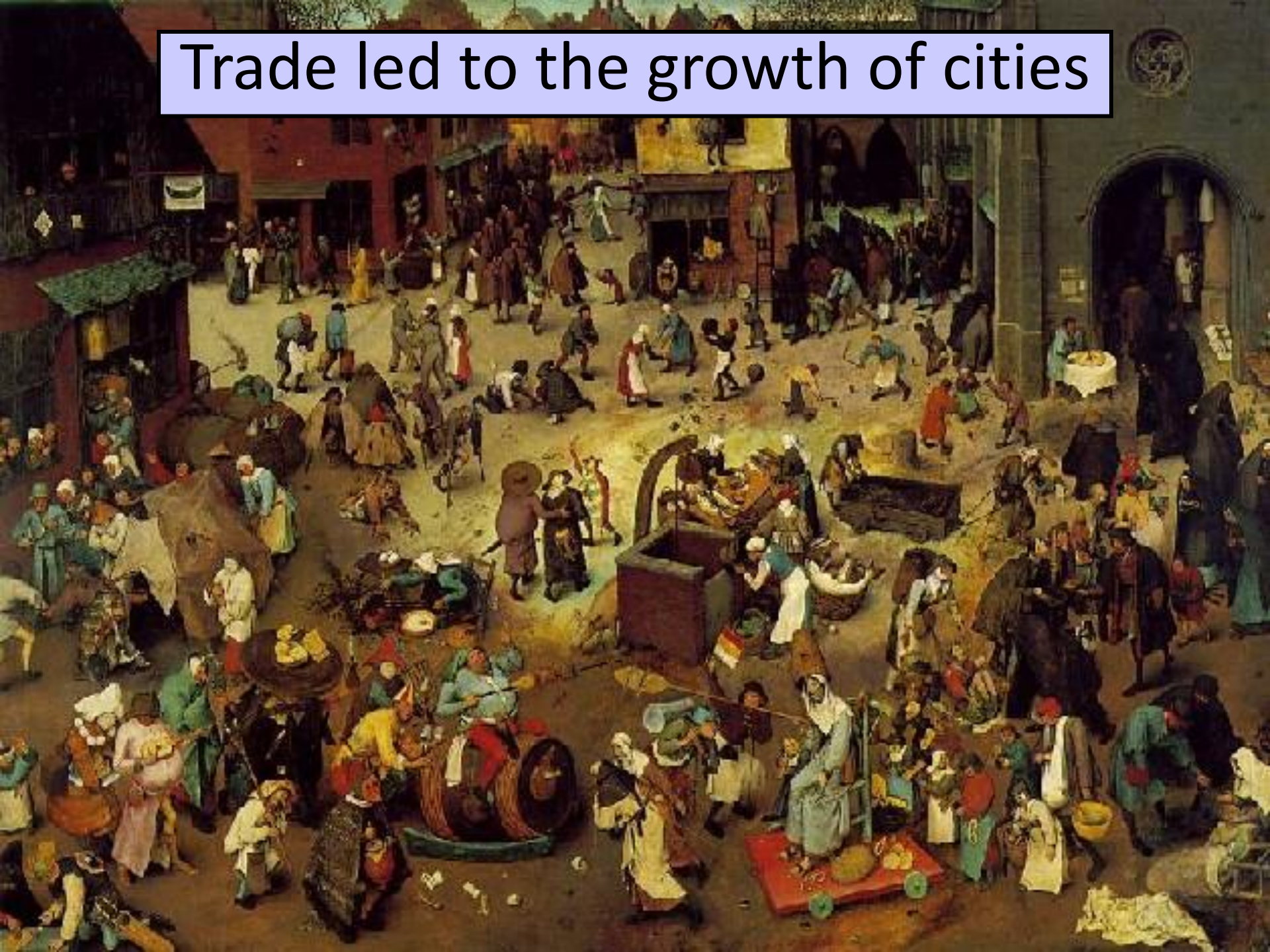
Roman ideas

Islamic ideas

Ideas about the Bible

Chinese ideas

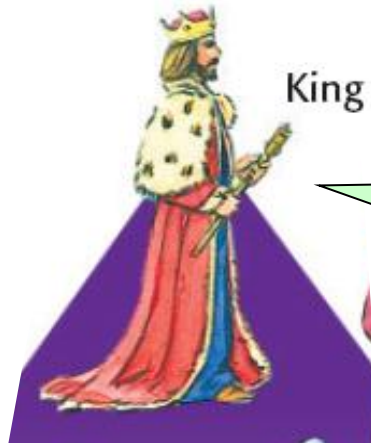
Trade led to the growth of cities



The failures of the Crusades decreased the power of the Church & Pope

European Feudalism

Lords & knights lost power as they sold lands to raise money to fight the Crusades



Kings increased their power & formed nations

Knights

Peasants



Peasants

Conclusions

- The role of religion in the Middle Ages:
 - The Roman Catholic Church played an important role in the lives of Europeans both before & after the Middle Ages
 - The Crusades failed to secure Jerusalem from the Islamic Empire, but these holy wars increased cultural diffusion & helped bring an end to the Middle Ages



European Middle Ages



Economic System

Manors

- Lord's estate
- Set of rights and obligations between serfs and lords
- Self-sufficient community producing a variety of goods



Belief System

The Church

- Power over people's everyday lives
- Unifying force of Christian faith
- Involvement in political affairs

MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

Code of Behavior



Chivalry

- Displays of courage and valor in combat
- Respect toward women
- Devotion to a feudal lord and heavenly lord

Political System



Feudalism

- Form of government based on landholding
- Alliances between lords and vassals
- Oaths of loyalty in exchange for land and military service
- Ranking of power and authority