LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEDIEVAL TIMES

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Background Information

- Middle Ages or Medieval Period
- Between the Fall of Rome in 467 CE and the beginning of the Renaissance in the 14th century
- Black Plague (Bubonic Plague) was introduced to Europe. It killed over 20 million people in Europe.
- There was no Government, most of Europe was ran by the Catholic Church
- Kings, Queens, and other leaders power was protected under the Church.
- People gave 10% of their earnings to the Church as payment (tithe). The Church gained wealth and power by doing this
The Catholic Church sent out Crusaders, who went to expel the Muslims (infidels), from the Holy Land.

The Crusaders would wear red crosses, spreading their faith to Holy Land. Doing this would guarantee them going to Heaven.

Cathedrals (Churches) were built by the Catholic Church. They were place in the center of towns to be the main attraction. These Cathedrals were the largest infrastructure during this time period.
Medieval people lived very restricted lives due to the impact and power of moral responsibilities. There concepts of rights were based on the duties owed to God. The rights included the rule of following God as your ruler, every man is free (but they still had servants), thou shall not steal, love your enemies and do good unto others. The rights were mainly based on the 10 commandments, being how their entire society was shaped on God. The Magna Carta was made by King John in 1215. This granted men common rights. One main one being, no imprisonment without trial.
Social System in Medieval Times

The social structure was organized into 3 estates:

- **Commoners**
  - Usually English speaking people who worked for the people in the higher classes

- **Clergy**
  - Traditionally spoke Latin and whose purpose was to worship the Lord and save the people through Christ

- **Nobles**
  - Usually French spoken people whose purpose is to defend and protect all people and to provide peace and justice
Laws in the Medieval Times was based on old Germanic but was also influenced by the ancient Roman law system.

Court by ordeal: When in court for your crime they test your innocence by putting you in the worst position possible and having you do difficult tasks such as pulling an object from boiling oil, swallowing poison, and much more painful things.

Trial by Battle: Two nobles fight until one of the nobles dies. The winner was the one to be innocent because God only protects an innocent person.
How the laws compare to the United States

- We both follow the common law. Common law is largely based on judicial decisions, it was developed in England during the 19th century but was eventually adapted by the United States and is now the foundation of our law. The Common law does vary for each state but drastically differs from Louisiana. Louisiana follows more of a French-civil law. The modern common law focuses less on the manor courts and feudalism has ended.
FUN FACTS ABOUT THE LAWS AND LIFE DURING MEDIEVAL TIMES

- Animals could be tried and convicted of a crime.
- Rich people ate porpoises haggis.
- Medieval bread could get you high or kill you.
- Football was illegal and violent aka mob football.
- Made the males practice archery for 2 hours.
1. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/humanrights/1215-1500/


7. https://www.google.com/search?q=medieval+laws+compared+to+modern&biw=1366&bih=673&espv=2&source=lnms&tbnm=isch&sa=X&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAWoVChMIn8G17tXRyAIVhdWACTh1UAAxQ&dpr=1&safe=active&ssui=on#imgrc=oDuc6zwf0-Y6KM%3A

8. http://autocww.colorado.edu/~flc/E64ContentFiles/LawAndCourts/CommonLaw.html
We have made our own game (too much Kahoot)! Your groups are going to be your own kingdoms. You will make your own laws (make them sound Medieval). Make 2 Laws that pertain to what you wish to see at school.

Example: All students must notith runith to the parking lot.

We will all present these laws in a few minutes. If your kingdom does not like other kingdoms law, you may throw your tomatoes at them (red paper)! Let the law making begin!

DO NOT ABUSE YOUR TOMATO THROWING, THE KING DOES PUNISH!!!!