CHAPTER FOUR

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD OR MIDDLE AGES

- Analogy	**- Gargoyles**	**- Quadrivium**	**- Black Death**
- Gothic	**- Romanesque**	**- Guild- Samurai**	**- Caliphate**
- Hadith	**- Shiite**	**- Chivalry**	**- Homage**
- Shogun	**-Coloni**	**- Imamate**	**- Sunnite**
- Corvee	**- Janissaries**	**- Taika Reform**	**- Demesne**
- Kharijites	**- Timars**	**- Daimyo**	**- Mahdi**
- Trivium	**- Fief**	**- Manor**	**- Vassal**

4.1. Europe during the middle Ages

Invasions and the Age of Feudalism

- In the fifth century AD, the Germanic tribes (the Romans called them barbarians) came from Scandinavia began invading Roman territory.
- By then the Roman Empire had lost much of its great power, and its armies could not defend the long frontier.
- The Visigoths invaded Spain about 416 AD.
- The Angles, Jutes and Saxons began to settle in Britain about 450.
- The Franks established a kingdom in Gaul (now France) in the 480's.
- The Ostrogoth's invaded Italy at about the same time.

Division of the huge Roman Empire

- The barbarian invasions divided the huge Roman Empire into many kingdoms.

- They were loyal only to their chiefs or families
- Each tribe kept its own laws and customs.
- The strong central and local government of the Roman Empire disappeared.
- The barbarian invasions also destroyed the European trade that the Romans had established.
- Most peoples who lived in the towns went to the country side and became peasants.
- Some towns were completely abandoned and gradually disappeared.
- Ancient literature, architect, painting, and sculpture were almost forgotten.
- Most of people were forced to make their living from farming activities.

The Roman Catholic Church

- The Roman Catholic Church was the main civilizing force of the early middle Ages.
- It provided leadership for the people
- Saved Western Europe from complete ignorance.
- Missionaries traveled great distances to spread Christianity.
- The Church collected taxes and maintained law and order.
- Church buildings served as hospitals for the sick, and as inns for travelers.
- Cathedrals were the churches of bishops.
- Monasteries were communities of monks, people who gave up worldly life to God's service.
- The Latin language also continued to be a living language in many parts of Europe.
- It was the language of the Roman Catholic Church.
- It was a teaching language in medieval universities.
- The Roman Catholic Church also became the largest landholder in Western Europe during the Middle Ages.

4.2. The Byzantine Empire/ Eastern Roman Empire

- In 330 A.D, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium (later Istanbul).
- The city was renamed Constantinople after him.
- The Roman Empire was divided into two parts:
  - The West Roman Empire and
  - The East Roman Empire in 395AD.
- The West Roman Empire collapsed in 476 A.D.
- While the East Roman Empire continued to survive for another 1000 years after that.

Why the East Roman Empire survived?

- Geographically, it was not so open to barbarian attack.
- It was also richer,
- Had more population
- Had more towns and cities with defensive walls than the west.

- The East Roman Empire is also called the Byzantine Empire or Byzantium.
- The word Byzantine comes from Byzantium,
- The Greek name for a city on the strait of Bosporus.
- The Empire reached its greatest size under Emperor Justinian I (r. 527-565 A.D).

Territorial Extent of the Empire

- Part of Spain and the old Roman province of "Africa" in the west (now Tunisia)were conquered.
- The empire had already included Asia Minor (now Turkey), the Balkan peninsula, Egypt, Palestine and Syria.

Great Achievements

- The Byzantines organized many laws of the ancient Romans the Justinian code
- The Byzantines preserved ancient Greek literature and philosophy.
- Justinian also built Hagias Sophia (St. Sophia), the empire's largest and most splendid Christian church in Constantinople.

Economy

- The majority of Byzantines were poor farmers
- They raised grapes, olives and wheat or herded sheep.
- Merchants and craft workers practiced their trade in the towns and large cities.
- The Byzantines imported silk, spices and luxury goods from China.

Religion, Culture and Language

- Christianity, Greek culture and Roman customs flourished in the empire
- Christianity became the official state religion.
- It had a strong influence on the Byzantine art, music and architecture.
- They also translated the Church services and Bible from Greek into the old Slavonic. They invented an alphabet (later called Cyrillic)
- This Cyrillic alphabet is used in Russia and much of the Balkans today.

Decline and Collapse

- A division between the Western Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches.
    - Took place in the eleventh century.
    - One of the reasons for this division was the dispute over the authority in the Church.

- The Eastern Orthodox Church did not accept that the Pope of Rome had jurisdiction over the East.
- The west accepts the right to decide by the Pope matters of Christian doctrine (belief).

- The Byzantine Empire began to collapse during the eleventh century.
- By 1071, the Normans had taken southern Italy.
- In Asia Minor, the Seljuk Turks defeated Byzantine army at the Battle of Manzikert.
- With this defeat began the decline of Byzantine control over Asia Minor.
- Finally, the Byzantine Empire ended in 1453, when Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople.
- The last Byzantine Emperor, Constantine XI died while defending the city.

4.3. The Rise and Expansion of Islam

Islam and the Muslim Empire

- Islam is the name given to the religion preached by the Prophet Mohammed in 7th A.D
- Mohammed was an Arab who was born in Mecca about 570.
- Mohammed preached that there is only one God (Allah) He, was God's messenger.
- Those who believe in the one God and accept Mohammed as His messenger are called Muslims.
- Muslim is an Arabic word that means one who submits (to God).
- Islam is an Arabic word for submission.

The teachings of Islam

- Mohammed began his teachings in Mecca about 610

- Soon the Quraysh Arabs and the wealthy merchants in Mecca considered his teachings a threat to their privileges.
- The annual pilgrimage to the **Ka'ba**, a holy shrine in Mecca, visited by thousands of Arabs from the whole peninsula,
- Mohammed and his followers fled to the town of **Yathrib**, later renamed Madinat al-Nabi (the city of the Prophet) or Medina.
- This event, known as Hijra, took place in 622, the first year of the Islamic calendar.
- The inhabitants of Medina who invited Mohammed to their town came to be known as the **Ansar (the Helpers)**.
- The Meccan emigrants were known as the **Muhajirun** (those who undertook the Hijra, or Emigrants).
- These two groups formed together the **Sahaba** (the companions of the Prophet).
- From 622 until he died in 632, Mohammed strengthened and governed the Muslim community (**umma)**

The Four Islamic Legal Schools

- The emerged four legal schools Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali.
- They agree on the Quran and Hadith as sources of the Shari'a,
- They give priority to one or the other two sources of law, that is, analogy and consensus.

1. The Hanafi school

- Dominant in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Ethiopia, central Asia and northern India/Pakistan.

2. The Maliki schools

- Dominant in North Africa, Muslim Spain and the western and central Sudan.

3. The Shafi madhhab (law school)

- Is found along the Indian Ocean shores, from Southern Arabia and East Africa (Ethiopia) to Indonesia.

4. The Hanbali Schools

- Formerly dominant in Syria and Iraq, is now restricted to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Muslim Caliphate

- The Prophet indicated that governing the community should be based on Shura (consultation).
- The first four caliphs were Abu Bakr (1632-34), Umar (634-44), Uthman (644-56) and Ali (656-61),
- All of whom belonged to the Qurysh tribe
- They were related to Mohammed by marriage. Moreover, Ali was the Prophet's cousin.
- Othman was murdered by a group of Muslims who had revolted
- Because they were offended by some of his

SIMILARITIES

Both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims are committed to the five pillars of Islam (the declaration of faith, prayer, giving to the poor, fasting, and pilgrimage)

Both prioritize the Qur'an, *Sunnah* and *Hadith*, with minor differences

They adhere to Islamic law (*shari'ah*),

DIFFERENCES

- They hold different views about religious authority and the leadership succession after the death of the Prophet in 632
- Sunnis focus on following the Prophet's example;
- Shi'as focus on Muhammad's family lineage through a series of Imams

but follow different legal traditions.

- Special status is afforded by Shi'as to Ali, Hasan and Hussein; the suffering of Ali and Hussein is remembered in annual festivals.

.Sunnis or Sunnites comprise 90% of the world's total Muslim population.

.The four bases of the Shiite law are the Quran, the Hadith of the Prophet and of the Imams

.The sources of the Sunnite law are the Quran, the Hadith, the consensus of the community and analog.

Muslim dynasties

- Large scale expansion Islam was achieved under four successive dynasties
  a. The Caliphates
  b. The Umayyad's,
  c. The Abbasid and
  d. The Ottomans.

The Ottoman Turkish Empire

- The Turks were a nomadic, pastoralist people in central Asia.
- They were pagan but converted to Sunni Islam in the 10th century and became firm, strong Muslims.

- Their leaders commanded Turkish troops for the Abbasid Arab Caliphate.
- In 1071, a Turkish Sultan, Alp Arslan, defeated the Byzantine army at the Battle of Manzikert in eastern Asia Minor.
- The battle of Manzikert was a great disaster for the Byzantine Empire
- Turks had to settle as agriculturalists
- The state had to develop a regular, effective administration.
- The term Ottoman comes from Osman, also called Othman,
- The founder and first Sultan (ruler) of the empire.
- In 1453, the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II Fatih, the Conqueror (r. 1451–1481),
- He took Constantinople, renamed Istanbul
- He made it the capital of the Ottoman Empire.
- The Ottoman territory were Iraq, Syria, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Cyprus, Crete and much of what are now the southern Ukraine and Poland, and most of Hungary.
- The Ottoman Empire reached the height of its power under Sultan Suleiman I
- Known by "the Magnificent", (r. 1520-1566).
- The Ottoman Empire was the greatest Muslim state in the world.
- The Ottoman state machinery was fairly simple but effective.
- The Sultan was an absolute autocrat "the shadow (representative) of God on earth".
- His power was only limited by need to make his policies
- Decisions agree with the Sharia (the Muslim law), as interpreted by the Muslim "clergy", the Ulema.
- Under the Sultan was a chief minister called the Grand Vizier, who sometimes commanded the army as well

The Janissaries

- The army was large and efficient.
- Professional Ottoman army was the infantry of the Janissaries.
- They were recruited from the regular tribute of Christian children
- Taken from the Balkans, who were brought up as Muslims and trained as soldiers.
- The Janissaries were respected and feared by the enemies
- They Ottomans for their skill, discipline, courage and fanaticism.
- Janissary infantry using matchlock muskets and the Ottoman army also used canon.
- The cavalry of the Ottoman army was the Sipahi Turkish cavalry.
- Turkish leaders and their men were given land in Asia Minor and Europe called timars.

Decline

- Ottoman economic and military decline from the 17th century
- Removed the Ottoman danger from Europe.
- European states (especially Austria, then Russia) began to push forward aggressively against the Ottoman Empire.

Muslim Legacy

- Arabic grammar, law and theology are some aspects of the civilization with definitely Muslim character.

- The Islamic civilization borrowed freely from the Greeks, Persians and Hindus, it was also creative and original.
- For a period of 400 years, great advances were made in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, botany, chemistry, medicine, history and geography in the world of Islam.
- The writings of Aristotle, translated by Syrian Christians, inspired Muslim thinkers such as al- Kindi (d. 873), Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (d. 1037) and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) (d. 1198).

1. **Al-Kindi**, called the "Philosopher of the Arabs," rated the search for truth above all other intellectual activities, exalted logic and mathematics, and wrote and edited many works on science, psychology, medicine and music.
2. **Ibn Sina** combined philosophy with medicine. His scientific writings included a medical encyclopedia which was translated into Latin and remained a standard textbook for European medical students until the 17th century.
3. **Ibn Rushd** is best known for his works on the philosophy of Aristotle and on Muslim theologians.
4. **Hunayn ibn Ishaq** (d. 873) developed the science of optics. Physicians in early Islamic society studied both botany and chemistry in order to discover curative drugs and also antidotes to various poisons lightning.

- **Ibn Khaldun** (d. 1406) linked the rise of states with the existence of a strong group feeling between the leaders and their supporters.
- Calligraphy was also an important art form, used for walls of public buildings as well as manuscripts.

4.4. **Medieval Society**

Feudalism

- Feudalism describes relations of peasants dominated by lords.
- Medieval Europe was feudal in its rural economy.
- These conditions developed over a long period of time and began even in the last period of the Roman Empire.

The coloni

- They were dependent peasants.
- They were not slaves but they owed labor services to their land lords
- They could not leave their land lord's land.
- These coloni were very similar to the serfs of the middle ages.
- In the early Middle Ages coloni simply became what were called serfs.

A lord

- A lord had a manor or several manors.
- On a manor lived peasants, many of them serfs.
- They cultivated the land.
- The serfs belonged to the lord
- They could not leave the manor without his permission.
- The lord kept part of the land of the manor under his own direct control.
- This land, called the demesne,
- Was cultivated for the lord by unpaid, compulsory corvee labour of his serfs.
- The peasants also paid feudal dues, in kind like cheese, eggs, cloth, honey, etc or in money, to the lord.

- Serfdom and corvee were imposed on peasants at the bottom of society.

Manorialism

- It was the economic system of Europe from the end of the West Roman Empire to 1200's.
- The name comes from **manerium**, the Latin word for manor,
- Meaning a large estate controlled by a lord and worked by peasants.
- Manors covered most of Europe during the middle ages.
- They supplied food, clothing, shelter and nearly everything else needed by the lords and peasants.
- Most manors were made up of the lord's land and small plots of land held by the peasants.
- They lived in the manor house, which was usually surrounded by a garden, an orchard and farm buildings.
- Most manors also included a church, a mill for grinding grain into flour and a press for making wine.
- The manorial system began to decline when trade and towns revived.

The Rise of Trade and Towns

- Most early towns developed near a fortified castle, church or monastery where merchants could stop for protection.
- The location of natural resources was another reason for the growth of towns.

- To the trading centers, the woolen centers and the fishing centers came weavers, shoemakers, bakers, butchers, carpenters, tailors and other craftsman.

Medieval Culture

Art

- Western Europe followed the design used by the Romans in the early Christian Churches.
- This style of church architecture was called Romanesque.
- Romanesque cathedrals had massive walls, strong columns and rounded arches.
- The new style of architecture, with its high towers and walls, pointed arches and leaning arches (called flying buttresses) is called Gothic architecture.
- Most cathedrals that stood to this day are 500 and more years old.

Education

- In the monastery and cathedral schools, students studied such subjects as church music, theology and Latin, the official language of the Western Church.
- They were also taught subjects similar to those taught in an ancient Greece and Rome.
- These subjects were divided into two groups, which together were known as the seven liberal arts.
  1. The first group, called the **trivium**, consisted of grammar, rhetoric and logic.
  2. The second group, called the **quadrivium**, consisted of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and harmonics.
- The first modern universities developed in Europe during the 1100's.
- The universities did not originate as place or groups of buildings.

- Φ The word university comes from the **Latin universitas**, the term for corporation or guild in the middle Ages.
- Φ The university of Paris, which became the largest and most famous university in
- Φ Europe during the thirteenth century, served as a model for the majority of northern European universities.
- Φ Most of these universities in northern Europe developed from teachers' guilds at cathedral schools.
- Φ The guilds charged a fee to train students and to grant degrees.
- Φ They were run by corporations of teachers.

The Crusades

- ✝ The crusades were originally called armed pilgrimages.
- ✝ The word crusade comes from the Latin word crux, meaning cross.
- ✝ Members of the many expeditions sewed the symbol of the cross of Christ on their clothing. "**To take up the cross**" means to become a crusader.
- ✝ Crusades were Christian military expeditions organized mainly to recapture Palestine during the middle Ages.
- ✝ Palestine, also called the Holy Land, was important to Christians because it was the region where Jesus Christ had lived.
- ✝ During the eleventh century, fierce Seljuk Turks from central Asia invaded the Near East and conquered Asia Minor, Palestine and Syria.
- ✝ Kings, nobles and thousands of knights, peasants and towns people took part in the crusades.

The crusaders had two stated goals

1. To gain permanent control of the Holy Land
2. To protect the Byzantine Empire. Not all the crusaders however, joined the expeditions for religious reasons.

The Aims of the Crusaders

- The French knights wanted more land.
- Italian merchants intended to involve and then, if possible, to control the trade of Middle Eastern Ports.
- Many priests and monks wanted valuable religious relics.
- Large numbers of poor people joined the expeditions simply to escape the hardships of their lives.

Phases of the Crusades Expedition

- The crusaders organized eight major expeditions between 1096 and 1270.

1. **The First Crusade (1096-1099)**
2. **The Second Crusade (1147-1149)**
3. **The Third Crusade (1189-1192)**
4. **The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204)**
5. **The Children's Crusade (1212)**
6. **The Fifth Crusade (1217-1221)**
7. **Sixth Crusade (1228-1229)**
8. **The Seventh Crusade (1248-1254)**
9. **The Eighth Crusade (1258-1270)**

Results of the Crusades

- The crusaders failed to accomplish their main goals.
- They recaptured the Holy Land for a time but could not establish lasting control over the area.
- The crusaders stimulated economic growth
- Increased trade between cities that bordered the Mediterranean Sea.
- Western Europeans also learned how to build better ships
- They also learned how to make more accurate maps.
- They began to use magnetic compasses to tell directions.
- The expansion of early capitalist relations in the Early Modern World.

4.5. The Middle Ages in the Far East

India

A period of greatness

- A period of peace and prosperity
- It was From about 300 to 500,
- Art and architecture flourished,
- Great literature was produced and science advanced.
- Trade grew to such an extent that Indian goods,
- Especially dyes and spices were to be found in market places as far apart as Egypt and China.

A period of decline

- By about 500, India came to an end with new external attacks.
- The first attack came from the white Huns,
- A people related to the Huns under Attila who had attacked the Roman Empire.
- Then other bands of raiders came down from the mountain passes in the northwest.
- By about 700, these raids had grown into full- scale invasions.
- Arabs and Persians and savage tribesmen from central Asia pushed into northern India.
- Among the latter were Turks and Mongols.
- The Turkish invaders who ruled India for several centuries
- They made their capital at Delhi in north-central India, but extended their authority far to the south.
- The great raid of the Mongol leader Tamerlane swept into India in 1398 and stayed in it for a year.
- Religion exercised strong influence on Indian culture
- Hinduism and Islam continued to exist side by side.
- The **Taj Mahal**, a graceful, stately tomb erected in the 1600's, is an outstanding example.

China

1. The Sui dynasty (581-618)

- Reunified China after almost 400 years of division.
- By 605, the Grand Canal linked the Yangtze Valley with northern China.
- The canal made the grain and other products of the south more easily available to support the political and military needs of the north.

2. The Tang dynasty

- Replaced the Sui in 618 and ruled China for nearly 300 years.
- The Tang period was an age of prosperity and great cultural accomplishments.
- Tang capital, Chang'an (now xian), was the largest city in the World.
- It attracted diplomats, traders, poets and scholars from all over Asia and the Mediterranean area.
- Some of China's greatest poets, including Li Bo and Du Fu, wrote during the Tang period.
- The gradual decline of Tang power began by a rebellion in 755.
- Further weakened the Tang Empire from 875 to 884, which finally ended in 907.

3. The Song dynasty reunified China in 960.

- The Song dynasty introduced two major changes inside China.
- First, the Song rulers firmly established a system of civil service
- The second significant change was the development of Neo-Confucianism.
- The Song dynasty established Neo-Confucianism as the official state philosophy
- During the Song period, rice production had increased greatly.

Chinese inventions during this period

- gunpowder,
- The magnetic compass, and
- Moveable type for printing.
- Art, philosophy and literature flourished. In the fine arts,
- Hard- glazed porcelains and
- Magnificent landscape paintings.

A period of decline

- The Song dynasty suffered from frequent attacks by nomadic peoples from the north.
- The Mongol leader, Kublai Khan, established the Yuan dynasty.
- It controlled China from 1279 to 1368,
- The first time that all China had come under foreign rule.

The Yuan period

- Marco Polo, a trader from Venice,
- traveled widely in China from 1275 to 1292,
- He returned home with glowing accounts of the highly civilized country he called Cathay.

4. The Ming dynasty.

- The Ming dynasty ruled from 1368 to 1644,
- A period of stability and prosperity. Literature and art flourished again.
- In 1644, the Manchu people of Manchuria invaded China
- Established the Qing dynasty.
- The Manchu ruled China until 1912.

Japan

A period of new ideas and technology in Japan

- Began arriving in the late fifth century from China.
- The Japanese borrowed the Chinese system of writing

- They adopted their advanced methods of calculating the calendar.
- Confucianism was introduced from China and began to spread across Japan.

Prince Shotoku (r. 593-622)

- He encouraged the Japanese to adopt Chinese ideas.
- He tried to adopt the Chinese system of centralized imperial rule.
- In 645, Kotoku became emperor
- He began the Taika Reform,
- A program that introduced more features of the Chinese model of government.
- It also introduced a central system of taxation and a land distribution program.

The Fujiwaras Family

- a powerful noble family
- In 858, the emperor and his court fell under the control of
- They gained power by intermarrying with the imperial family.
- The Fujiwara family ruled Japan for about 300 years.

The daimyo

- The lords who controlled the estates.
- The daimyo hired bands of warriors to protect their lands
- The peasants who worked them.
- These warriors became known as samurai.
- Two of the most powerful bands of samurai were headed by the Taira family and Minamoto family.
- The Minamoto family, headed by Yoritomo, became the strongest family in the country.

- Yoritomo set up his military headquarters in Kama Kura.
- In 1192, the emperor gave Yoritomo the title Shogun (general) known as shogunate.
- The first Europeans to reach Japan in 1543, were the Portuguese sailors.
- In mid-sixteenth century, Catholic missionaries from Spain and Portugal arrived in Japan along with some traders.
- During the early seventeenth century, traders arrived from the Netherlands and England.

4.6. The Development of Early Capitalism in the middle Ages

Capitalism

- The period c. 1000- c. 1500 can be called the later Middle Ages.
- In this period, Europe's economy expanded.
- There was some decline in the fourteenth century resulting from war and plague.
- The breakdown of feudalism and manorialism caused civil war

The Black Death

- The Black Death killed about a fourth of Europe's population between 1347 and 1352.
- The Black Death was an outbreak of plague, one of the worst epidemic diseases.
- Severe droughts and floods also brought death, diseases and famine.

Important characteristics of a capitalist economy

- In capitalism land is an absolute private property
- Lending money at interest; a "market economy
- The system labor is free in order to work for money wages with no slavery or serfdom.

- There is legal equality of all members of society with
- No special legal privileges for nobles or others high status Business men are respected and profit making is strongly motivated in society.
- Accumulating money to use to make more money (investment)

Towns and Long Distance Trade

- In the period between c. 1000 and c. 1300,
- Towns and cities grew in size and number, and long distance and other trade expanded.
- Capitalist relations developed most quickly in urban centers
    1. The smallest towns had between 500–2000 inhabitants.
    2. Larger urban centers had between 2000-10,000 people,
    3. Great cities had between 20,000 and 30,000 inhabitants.
- It is not certain if a few great cities such as Venice and Paris reached 100,000 people.
- The greatest cities like Venice in Italy became completely independent city republics
- "City air is free air" was a German saying at the time.

Technology

- The middle Ages made important advances in technology.
- Although agricultural productivity remained low,
- a better plough helped to improve crop yields in northern Europe.
- A better loom for weaving;
- Big mechanical clocks in towns and cities from c.1330 on.
- The appearance and spread of clocks might indicate the growing importance of time in urban centers and societies.

- Early clocks were in fact not very accurate.
- Heavy work like grinding grain was done by water or wind power.
- The earliest guns in Europe date from the beginnings of the 14th c.
- Printing with moveable metal type was invented in Germany in the mid –fifteenth century.