

### **The Three order**

- Socio - economic and Political changes which occurred in western Europe between the 9th and 16th Centuries. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Many groups of Germanic People occupied regions of Italy, Spain and France.
- The three orders are three social categories : Christian priests, landowning nobles and peasants .
- The term 'feudalism' has been used by historians to describe the economic, legal, political and social relationships that existed in Europe in the medieval era.

### **The Three order**

#### **First Order :- Priests (The Clergy)**

- The Catholic Church
- Europe guided by bishops and clerics.
- Pope lived in Rome
- Women could not become priests
- Monks
- The church and Society

#### **Second Orde**

##### **Nobles**

- Vassals of the king
- enjoyed a privileged status
- Absolute control over property
- Could raise troops
- even coin his own money

#### **Third Order**

- Peasants
- Free peasants and serfs
- Serfs cultivated plots of land, but these belonged to the lord.

#### **Factors affecting Social and Economic Relations.**

The Environment , Land use, New Agricultural Technology ,**Urbanization**

#### **Cathedral - Towns :**

- From the 12<sup>th</sup> century, large churches - called cathedrals - were being built in France.
- These belonged to the monasteries Cathedrals were built of stone.
- The area around the cathedrals became more populated and they became centres of pilgrimage. Small towns developed around them. Stained glass was used for windows of the Cathedrals. During the day the sunlight would make them radiant and after Sunset, the light of candles would make them visible to people outside.
- The stained glass narrated the stories in the Bible through Pictures.

### **The Crisis of the Fourteenth Century**

In Europe economic expansion slowed down. This was due to three factors.

1. In Northern Europe, by the end of the thirteenth century the warm summers of the previous 300 years had given way to bitterly cold summers. Seasons for growing crops were reduced by a month.
2. Trade was hit by a severe shortage of metal money because of a shortfall in the output of silver mines in Austria and Serbia. This forced governments to reduce the silver content of the currency and to mix it with cheaper metals.
3. Ships carrying goods from distant countries had started arriving in European ports. The ships came with rats carrying deadly bubonic plague infection ( the Black Death).

### **Political Changes :**

- In the 15th and 16th Centuries, European kings strengthened their military and financial power .
- The new monarchs, Louis XI in France, Maximilian in Austria, Henry VII in England and Isabelle and Ferdinand in Spain were absolutist rulers.

### **Sources :**

Hever Castle in England, Salisbury Cathedral in England, Nemours Castle in France, Canterbury Tales written by Chaucer.

### **Key Words**

#### **Feudalism :**

Derived from the German word 'feud', which means a piece of Land', it refers to the kind of society that developed in medieval France and later in England and Italy.

#### **Abbey :**

It is derived from the Syrica abba, meaning father. An abbey was governed by an abbot or an abess.

#### **Doon de Mayence :**

A thirteenth century French poem to be sung recounting the adventures of Knights.

#### **Monastery :**

The word 'monastery' is derived from the greek word 'monos', meaning someone who lives alone

### **The Black Death :**

Ships with rats carrying the deadly bubonic plague infection in Western Europe between 1347 and 1350.

### **Fourth Order :**

The bigger towns had populations of about 30,000. They could be said to have formed a 'fourth' order.

### **Model Questions**

#### **2 Marks Questions :**

1. What is the meaning of the term 'Feudalism' ?
2. Who constituted the first order ?
3. What do you understand by 'monastery' ?
4. What are called the Cathedrals ?
5. What do you understand by 'The Black Death' ?

#### **5 Marks Questions :**

1. What was the function of medieval monasteries ?
2. Why did Knights become a distinct group ?
3. What was the relation between the Church and Society ?
4. Describe about the Manorial Estate ?
5. Write about the Cathedral - towns ?

#### **8. Marks Questions :**

1. Write about the Crisis of the Fourteenth Century ?
2. What were the factors affecting social and economic relations ?
3. Describe about the three orders of French Society