

## Summer Homework: Chapter Eight Terms

### **Fief:**

The fief, the foundation of feudalism in Western Europe, was a vassal's source of income. Fiefs were granted to vassals by lords in exchange for services, including fighting for a lord as his knight. The fief usually consisted of land and the labor of peasants who were bound to cultivate it. Dignities, offices, and money rents were also given in fief. While feudalism differed between regions of Europe and changed over the centuries, feudalism and the fief's importance began in the early Middle Ages. The fief is important because it is the central component of the political, economic, and social structure of feudalism, a significant part of the lives of Europeans living during the Middle Ages. Feudalism held their systems and lives together, and the fief was symbolic of this.

### **Sources:**

1. Textbook Pages 251-252
2. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/206138/fief>
3. <http://www.lordsandladies.org/fief.htm>
4. Lecture

### **Vassal:**

A vassal was a free man who held land, known as a fief, from a lord or king to whom he swore loyalty and service to. A lord had to provide his vassals with a fief, protection, and justice in court. In return, the lord received service and incomes from vassals. Essentially, lords and kings such as Charles Martel purchased support from vassals. Vassals, like the fief, were common throughout Europe during the period between the eighth and sixteenth centuries. Vassals are important because of their loyalty to their lord; the lord would sometimes call upon his men to fight for him when conflicts arose.

### **Sources:**

1. Textbook Pages 251-253
2. <http://www.lordsandladies.org/fief.htm>
3. Lecture

### **Charlemagne:**

Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, ruled much of Western Europe during the late eighth century and early ninth century. Beginning as the King of the Franks, he aimed to unite the Germanic peoples of Western Europe. Pope Leo III crowned him the Holy Roman Emperor in 800, and by this time much of Europe was under his control. Although he was a Roman Catholic, he still used both military and diplomatic tactics in order to gain more land. His reign saw the Carolingian Renaissance, a time where interest in classical texts and manuscripts increased. Some claim that his reign was the beginning of European culture. Charlemagne funded monasteries, including a new church in Aachen that is consecrated by Pope Leo III. Charlemagne is important because he united much of Western Europe for the first time since the fall of the Roman Empire through diplomacy and military tactics. He became the first Holy Roman Empire, further uniting people under one religion, and saw a time of prosperity and cultural revival.

### **Sources:**

1. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/106546/Charlemagne>
2. <http://www.history.com/topics/charlemagne>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMF7VZf3GVk&feature>
4. Lecture

## ❖❖AP European History❖❖

### **Pippin III:**

Pippin III, also known as Pepin the Short or Pepin the Younger, was the first king of the Carolingian Dynasty and ruled during the middle of the eighth century. He ruled in what is now modern-day France and helped unify the Franks. Pope Zacharias supported Pippin III as King of the Franks; when Lombards threatened the papacy, the pope gave Pippin the title “Patrician of the Romans” and Pippin promised restoration of the church lands. The relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Frankish king remained strong and made Pippin’s claim to the throne sturdier; he was the first king to be anointed, first by Saint Boniface and later by Pope Stephen II, as usually only religious figures had been anointed prior to this. Pippin III is important because his anointment and alliance with the papacy symbolized the union of church and state and for his unification of the Frankish empire.

### **Sources:**

1. Textbook Pages 238-240
2. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/450778/Pippin-III>
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pepin\\_the\\_Short](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pepin_the_Short)
4. Lecture