The Decline of Feudalism (7.6.5)

INCREASING RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS
(Power of Commoners)

Limiting Power of Monarchs

Feudal Roles Change

What factors led to the decline of feudalism?

Power of monarchs increases as nobles and knights are away at war during Crusades
As farming becomes more efficient, peasants move off of the manor and into towns to make profits from surplus goods
New weapons developed during the Hundred Years' War (longbows) eliminates the need for knights
The Black Death wipes out millions of Europeans

Describe three events that have changed your life.

Describe the role of lords on the manors of feudal Europe.

Political Changes
As monarchs and nobles try to limit each other's power, a side effect is the increase in the rights of commoners
Royal Courts (Independent Judiciary)
Royal courts were originally created by King Henry II in order to limit the role of nobles in English government
Courts interpret (make meaning) of laws
Guilt or innocence would be decided by royal judges and later by a jury of peers
How did the creation of royal courts change the power of nobles? Commoners?

IMPORTANT FACT
ALERT:
RIGHTS AND POWER OF COMMONERS INCREASES, LEADING TO THE DECLINE OF FEUDALISM IN EUROPE.

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Magna Carta limits power of monarchs

Charlemagne uses system of rewards
Emperor Henry IV excommunicated
Monarchs gain power during Crusades
Hundred Years War, Black Death wiped out trained knights
Black Death; value of survivor's labor demands more rights

Feudal Roles Change

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How did the creation of royal courts change the power of nobles? Commoners?
Step 1: Assume your role. You will pretend to be King John, one of his knights, a noble (lord), or a bishop living in England during the early 1200s.

Step 2: Help John pay off the ransom for his brother Richard, who was kidnapped in Austria after fighting in the Crusades.
- King John, tell your knights to collect five coins from each bishop and noble.
- Knights, collect coins from bishops and nobles.
- Bishops and nobles, pay five coins to one of the king’s knights.

Step 3: Listen to this announcement:
Over the past several years, England has accumulated huge debts by fighting wars in the Holy Land and against the French. If these debts are not paid, England will become bankrupt and will be vulnerable to conquest by one of its enemies.

Step 4: Help John pay for the foreign wars in which England has been involved.
- King John, tell your knights to collect five more coins from each bishop and noble.
- Knights collect coins from bishops and nobles.
- Bishops and nobles, pay five coins to one of the king’s knights.

Step 5: Listen to this announcement:
John’s poor military leadership has caused him to lose control of lands in France that were once controlled by the English. In addition, he has angered the pope by insisting that he has the power to appoint new bishops and confiscate church property if he wishes.

Step 6: King John, imprison your enemies and confiscate church property.
- Have your knights imprison two nobles you feel cannot be trusted. Tell your knights to take all of the two nobles’ coins.
- Have your knights take land (desks) from two bishops you feel cannot be trusted. Tell your knights to take all of the two bishops’ coins.

Step 7: King John, meet outside with your knights to pay them for their services.

Step 8: Nobles, while the king is outside, list your complaints about King John. Write “Great Charter” at the top of the paper. List your complaints as well as the rights that you feel you should have if John wants to remain king.

Step 9: March to King John, present your list, and demand that he put his seal on it.
Step 10: Respond to these questions:

- Why was it necessary to present King John with the Great Charter (Magna Carta)?
  
  THE KING WAS BEING UNFAIR, TAXATION, IMPRISONING FOR NO GOOD REASON. HE WAS ABUSING HIS POWER.
  
- How did John’s seal on the charter affect his power? How did his sealing it affect the power of the nobles?
  
  THE KING’S POWER NOW HAD LIMITS. NOBLES NOW MUST APPROVE THE DECISIONS OF THE KING.
  
- If you had been King John, would you have accepted the charter? Why or why not?
  
- How do you think the acceptance of the charter contributed to the decline of feudalism?

Why do you think it is important to limit the power of our country’s leaders? What do you think would happen if people like our president could do ANYTHING that they wanted?

Magna Carta (p. 54-55)

King John puts his seal on the Magna Carta in 1215

Foundation of U.S. Constitution and other constitutional documents

Limited power of monarchs, they now observed common law (all laws apply to everyone!) and rights of nobles and the church

Monarch must consult nobles and clergy before making special taxes (ex: HUNDRED YEARS’ WAR)

Early ideas of habeas corpus

Who was the Magna Carta intended to benefit? Who did it also help?

The Hundred Years’ War

What do you see happening?
Step 1: Assume your role. You will pretend to be either a French knight or an English archer at the Battle of Crecy in 1346. At this battle, the French are trying to drive the English from their position. French soldiers must reach the firing line before shooting their weapons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: Learn how to use your weapon.
- French knights, pretend to hold a crossbow in your hands like the knight in the illustration. Practice firing your weapon by pretending to pull the trigger on the crossbow and saying, "Phew!"

- English archers, pretend to hold a longbow in your hands like the archers in the illustration. Practice firing your weapon by pretending to pull back and release the string on your longbow and saying "Whoosh!"

Step 3: French knights, advance toward the English.
- French knights, shout "Attaquons!" and take one step toward the English. (Once you have reached the firing line, you may call out the name of an English archer and pretend to shoot them!)

Step 4: English archers, fire arrows from your longbows.
- English archers, shout "Fire!" and pretend to fire arrows into the sky so that they rain down on the French knights.
- We will roll the die to determine the number of casualties (people killed or injured) your arrows have inflicted.
- French knights "hit" by arrows, sit on the ground to represent that you are wounded.

Repeat steps 3 and 4 until a side wins, remember the French may not fire until they have reached the firing line!

Step 5: Respond to these questions:
- Who do you think won the Battle of Crecy, the English or the French?
- Why do you think the longbow gave English archers an advantage at Crecy?
- How might weapons such as the longbow have made knights unimportant?
- If knights (with all of their training) became unimportant, how would that contribute to the decline of feudalism?
Habeas Corpus

*The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.*

Article 39: "No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned or disseised or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor will we send upon him except upon the lawful judgement of his peers or the law of the land."

Now try to write this in your own words...

Important part of later independent English courts

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

A man walks into a store. He grabs a TV. He walks out of the store without paying for it, announcing very loudly what he has just done. The police are called and quickly take him into custody. Should there be a trial for this man or should he be placed directly into jail?

Habeas Corpus in our Constitution

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YOU HAVE
THE BODY
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English Bill of Rights

Stated that the king could no longer hold a standing army in times of peace

Model Parliament

Established by Edward I (King John’s grandson)

to include more people in creating laws

- Intended to limit the power of nobles

1295 - knights, townspeople, and priests are invited to join

- Commoners now had a “voice” in government (early democracy)

1330s - Parliament splits into the House of Lords and the House of Commons

- Similar to our Senate and House of Representatives

- Representative democracy is when the people elect leaders to vote on issues for them

Magna Carta

Independent Judiciary

(Courts)

Approve/make special laws and taxes

English Parliament

King

House of Lords

House of Commons

Habeas Corpus

Right to a Fair Trial

Innocent Until Proven Guilty

What are some things that people vote on? How does the privilege of voting give us power?

- What are some things that people vote on? How does the privilege of voting give us power?
DO YOU SEE THE SIMILARITIES?

RIGHTS AND POWER OF COMMONERS INCREASES, LEADING TO THE DECLINE OF FEUDALISM IN EUROPE.

Step 1: Assume your role. You will pretend to be a part of a family living in medieval Europe during the 1300s. You must travel with your family among six towns and avoid contracting the bubonic plague, a deadly illness sweeping the continent.

Step 2: Visit a city and see whether you have contracted the plague.
- Sit at the group of desks representing a medieval city.
- Each student, remove one card from the envelope.
- Students who remove a card showing a skull and crossbones, report to the teacher. You have contracted the plague!

Step 3: Visit another city and determine your fate.
- When you get the signal, rotate clockwise to the next city.
- Students who have contracted the plague, place the card you were given by the teacher in the envelope at this city. Then lie in the “graveyard” to show that you were killed by the plague.
- Remaining students, remove one card from the envelope.
- Students who get a card with a skull and crossbones, report to the teacher. You have contracted the plague!

Step 4: Visit the remaining cities and determine your fate.
- Follow the procedure in Step 3 at each city you visit.
Step 5: Respond to these questions:

- How do you think the plague spread across Europe?

- How might people treat visitors to their town during an outbreak of the plague?

- How do you think the plague could contribute to the decline of feudalism?

1. Describe each English political change including how it limited the power of kings or nobles and increased rights of commoners (using notes)

2. Explain how this change affects or life today

3. Create an illustration on the front along with the term clearly written

   - English Bill of Rights
   - Magna Carta
   - Model Parliament
   - Habeas corpus
   - Common law
   - Royal courts