

# Religion in Feudalist Societies

## Introduction

During medieval times, religion was very important in people's lives. The Catholic Church was the main religious power in Europe and had a big effect on how society worked. People went to church regularly and followed the Church's teachings in their daily lives.

## The Church Hierarchy

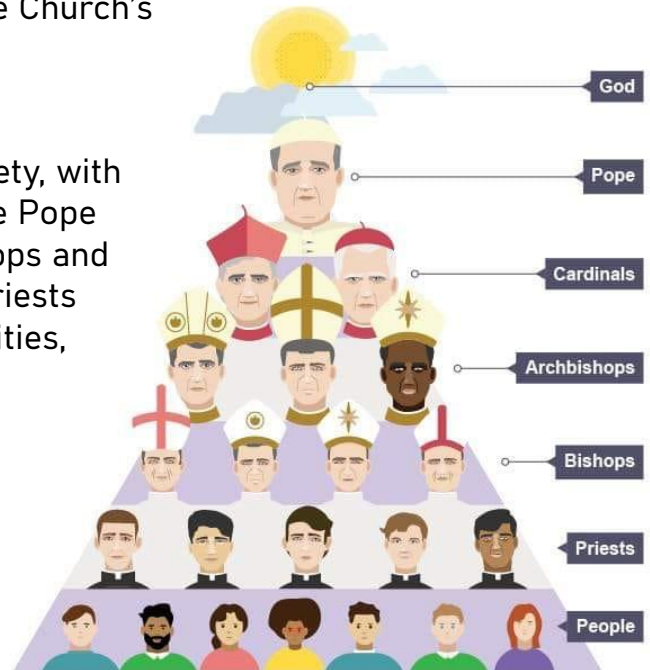
The Church had a structure similar to feudal society, with the Pope at the top and priests at the bottom. The Pope made decisions for the whole Church, while bishops and archbishops led regions called dioceses. Local priests took care of the religious needs of their communities, like holding church services and giving advice.

## Monastic Orders

Groups of monks, like the Benedictines and Franciscans, were important in medieval society. They lived in monasteries, where they prayed,

worked, and helped the poor. Monks copied books by hand, which helped preserve knowledge during a time when books were rare. They also farmed and produced goods,

like wine and cheese, which were sold to support the monastery.



## Church Lands and Tithes

The Church owned a lot of land, given to them by kings and nobles. This land was used to grow food and provide income for the Church. People also paid a tax called tithes, usually one-tenth of their income, to support the Church. This made the Church very wealthy and powerful.

## The Church's Influence on Society

The Church helped keep society stable and united. It taught that the social order, with kings and nobles at the top, was set by God. This supported the feudal system and discouraged people from rebelling. The Church also provided help to the poor and sick, like food and medical care.

## Education and Culture

The Church was the main source of education during medieval times. They taught future church leaders and nobles at schools called cathedral schools and universities. These schools preserved knowledge and taught subjects like Latin, theology, and philosophy. The Church also supported the arts, like music and architecture. Many famous buildings, like cathedrals and monasteries, were built during this time.

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## Questions

Use information from the text to support your answer

1) How did the church have a similar hierarchy than feudalist societies? Explain the similarities.

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2) Why was the church powerful? Explain in reference to the land and money they had.

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## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer

1) What was the main religious power in Europe?	Islam	Catholic Church
2) Who led the Catholic Church?	Pope	King
3) What did monks live in?	Castles	Monasteries
4) Tithes were typically what fraction of income?	1/5	1/10
5) Who supported the feudal system?	Peasants	The Church

## Draw

Draw a diagram that shows hierarchy in the church