1. **European Feudal Society** 
   1. The Feudal System
      1. Lords and vassals
         1. Lord provided vassal a grant known as a benefice, usually grants of land often called fiefs
            1. enabled the vassal to devote time and energy to serve the lord
            2. provided resources to maintain horses and military equipment
         2. Vassals owed lord loyalty, obedience, respect, counsel, and military service
         3. The lord-vassal relationship was not entirely new, but became dominant now
      2. Feudal politics
         1. Multitiered network of lord-vassal relationships
         2. Political stability depended on discipline and control of vassals
   2. Serfs and Manors in Feudal Europe
      1. Serfs
         1. Slaves and peasants took agricultural tasks, frequently intermarried
         2. Free peasants often turned over themselves and their lands to a lord for protection
         3. Serfs as an intermediate category emerged about the mid-7th century
      2. Serfs' obligations
         1. Labor service and rents in kind
         2. Could not move to other lands without permission
         3. Obligations fulfilled, serfs had right to work on land and pass it to heirs
      3. Manors
         1. Principal form of agricultural organization
         2. A manor was a large estate, controlled by the lord and his deputies
         3. Many lords had the authority to execute serfs for serious misconduct
         4. Manors were largely self-sufficient communities
   3. The Economy of Feudal Europe
      1. Agriculture
         1. Agricultural production suffered from repeated invasions
         2. Small wooden plows of Mediterranean farmers did not work well in the north
      2. Heavy plows
         1. Heavy plows appeared in the 6th century, could turn soils
         2. Became common from the 8th century, production increased
         3. Cultivation of new lands, watermills, and rotating crops
      3. A rural society
         1. Agricultural surplus not enough to support large cities
         2. Towns were few and sparsely populated
      4. Trade
         1. Trade and urban centers began to develop by the 10th century
         2. Trade took place in Mediterranean, North Sea, and Black Sea
      5. Population
         1. In 200 C.E., European population stood at 36 million
         2. In 400 C.E., 31 million
         3. In 600 C.E., 26 million
         4. In 800 C.E., edged up to 29 million
         5. In 900 C.E., 30 million
         6. By 1000 C.E., back to 36 million
   4. Feudal Monarchies in France and England
      1. Capetian France
         1. Hugh Capet, a minor and weak noble, was elected king in 987
         2. In the next three centuries, Capetian kings gained power and wealth gradually
      2. The Normans
         1. Descendants of Vikings who carved out a state in Normandy of France
         2. Nominally subject to Carolingian and Capetian rulers, but acted independently
      3. Norman England
         1. Duke William of Normandy invaded England in 1066
         2. Introduced Norman style of feudalism to England
   5. Regional States in Italy and Iberia
      1. Church influence in Italy
         1. The popes ruled a good-sized territory in central Italy
         2. The church also influenced politics of northern Italy
      2. Italian states
         1. A series of prosperous city-states emerged by the 12th century
         2. Normans conquered southern Italy, brought it to Roman Catholic Christianity
      3. Christian and Muslim states in Iberia
         1. Muslim conquerors ruled most of the peninsula, 8th-11th centuries
         2. Christian kingdoms took the peninsula except Granada by late 13th century
2. **Economic Growth and Social Development**
   1. Growth of the Agricultural Economy
      1. Expansion of arable land
         1. Population pressure by the late 10th century
         2. Serfs and monks began to clear forests and swamps
         3. Lords encouraged such efforts for high taxes
      2. Improved agricultural techniques
         1. Crop rotation methods
         2. Cultivation of beans increased - enriched the land
         3. More domestic animals - also enriched the land
         4. Books and treatises on household economy and agricultural methods
      3. New tools and technology
         1. Extensive use of watermills and heavy plows
         2. Use of horseshoe and horse collar, increased land under cultivation
      4. New food supplies
         1. Before 1000, European diet - grains
         2. After 1000, more meat, dairy products, fish, vegetables, and legumes
      5. Population growth: from 29 to 79 million between 800 C.E. and 1300 C.E.
   2. The Revival of Towns and Trade
      1. Urbanization: Peasants and serfs flocked to cities and towns
      2. Textile production
         1. Northern Italian cities and Flanders became centers of wool textiles
         2. Trade in wool products fueled economic development of Europe
      3. Mediterranean trade
         1. Beside Amalfi and Venice, other cities also became important
         2. Italian merchants established colonies in Mediterranean and Black Sea
      4. The Hanseatic League
         1. The Hansa - an association of trading cities, dominated trade of northern Europe
         2. Major European rivers linked Hansa to the Mediterranean
      5. Improved business techniques
         1. Bankers issued letters of credit to merchants
         2. Commercial partnerships for limiting risks of commercial investment
   3. Social Changes
      1. The three estates
         1. "Those who pray" - clergy of Roman Catholic church, the spiritual estate
         2. "Those who fight" - feudal nobles, the military estate
         3. "Those who work" - mostly peasants and serfs
      2. Chivalry
         1. Widely-recognized code of ethics and behavior for feudal nobles
         2. Church officials directed chivalry toward Christian faith and piety
      3. Troubadours
         1. Aristocratic women promoted chivalric values by patronizing troubadours
         2. Troubadours drew inspiration from the love poetry of Muslim Spain
      4. Eleanor of Aquitaine
         1. Most celebrated woman of her day
         2. Supported troubadours, promoted good manners, refinement, and romantic love
         3. Code of chivalry and romantic poetry softened manners of rough warriors
      5. Independent cities
         1. Expansion of cities fit awkwardly in the feudal framework
         2. Urban populations were increasingly able to resist demands of feudal nobles
      6. Guilds
         1. Established standards of quality for manufactured goods
         2. Determined prices and regulated entry of new workers
      7. Urban women
         1. Towns and cities offered fresh opportunities for women
         2. Women worked in a wide range of occupations
         3. Most guilds admitted women, and women also had their own guilds