Warm Up: What happened to Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire?

In the East, the Byzantine Empire became a center for trade & Greco-Roman culture.
In the West, Europe grew weak & fell into the Middle Ages from 500 to 1300

Also known as the “Dark Ages” or “Medieval” era
When barbarian kingdoms conquered Rome, Europe was plagued by constant warfare.

Warfare disrupted trade, destroyed Europe’s cities, & forced people to rural areas.

Learning declined; Few people could read or write.

Greco-Roman culture was forgotten.

Europe lost a common language; Latin mixed with local languages to form Spanish, French, Italian.
Without the unity of the Roman Empire, Europe became divided into a series of Germanic kingdoms. Germanic people lived in small communities led by chiefs & his loyal warriors. Family ties & loyalty were more important than citizenship.
During the early Middle Ages, the Germanic kingdoms were slowly converted to Christianity. The Catholic Pope became involved in secular (non-religious) issues like road repair, aiding the poor, & helping Christian kings expand their power.
The Franks were the largest & most powerful of the Germanic kingdoms in the early Middle Ages.

Frankish kings allied with the Catholic Church & expanded their power.

In 771, Charlemagne (“Charles the Great”) became king of the Franks.
Charlemagne was the greatest Medieval king because he did something no other king was able to do…create an organized empire – The Holy Roman Empire (First Reich).

- Charlemagne expanded the Frankish empire.
- He spread Christianity – Missi Dominici.
- He created schools to train future priests.
- He valued learning & built schools in his empire.
After Charlemagne’s death in 814, his Frankish Empire was divided & lost power...

...This was the last opportunity to provide unity in medieval Europe.
From 800 to 1000, a 2\textsuperscript{nd} major wave of invasions struck Europe led by Vikings, Muslims & Magyars.

These invasions caused widespread fear & suffering.

Kings could not defend against invasion.

People stopped looking to kings for protection.
Feudalism

- Feudalism began in Europe as a way to offer protection.
- Feudalism is based on land & loyalty.
- Land-owning lords offer land (called a fief) to knights in exchange for their loyalty & promise to protect the lord’s land.
- Feudalism came to England with Norman Invasion in 1066.

Bayeaux Tapestry
Kings had land but very little power.

Lords (also called Nobles) were the upper-class landowners; they had inherited titles ("Duke," "Earl," "Sir").

Knights were specially trained soldiers who protected the lords & peasants – vassals took an oath of fealty (loyalty).

Some peasants were serfs & could not leave the lord’s estate.
Lords built castles to protect their territory from outside invasions.

**Castles and Siege Weapons**

Attacking armies carefully planned how to capture a castle. Engineers would inspect the castle walls for weak points in the stone. Then, enemy soldiers would try to ram the walls, causing them to collapse. At the battle site, attackers often constructed the heavy and clumsy weapons shown here.

**Siege Tower**
- had a platform on top that lowered like a drawbridge
- could support weapons and soldiers

**Battering Ram**
- made of heavy timber with a sharp metal tip
- swung like a pendulum to crack castle walls or to knock down drawbridge

**Mantlet**
- shielded soldiers

**Tortoise**
- moved slowly on wheels
- sheltered soldiers from falling arrows

**Trebuchet**
- worked like a giant slingston
- propelled objects up to a distance of 960 feet

**Mangonel**
- flung huge rocks that crashed into castle walls
- propelled objects up to a distance of 1,300 feet

**An Array of High-Flying Missiles**

Using the trebuchet, enemy soldiers launched a wide variety of missiles over the castle walls:
- pots of burning lime
- boulders
- severed human heads
- dead horses
- captured soldiers
- diseased cows

**Connect to Today**

1. **Making Inferences** How do these siege weapons show that their designers knew the architecture of a castle well?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** What are some examples of modern weapons of war? What do they indicate about the way war is conducted today?
The Manorial System

During the Middle Ages, the manorial system was the way in which people survived.

The lord’s land was called a manor.

The lord provided peasants with housing, farmland, & protection.

In exchange, peasants repaid the lord by working his land & providing a portion of the food they produced.
Manors were self-sufficient communities; Everything that was needed was produced on the manor.

Peasant life was hard: They paid taxes to use the lord’s mill, had to get permission to get married, & life expectancy was about 35 years old.
Roman society ... involved a system of patronage. Members of the upper classes— the patroni—offered protection to freedmen or plebeians, who became their “cliens.” Patronage might consist of money, food, or legal help. Traditionally, any freed slaves became the cliens of their former owner.

In return, patroni received respect and political favors. During the empire, cliens were required to offer daily greetings to their patroni, and the number of these greeters helped determine social status.


The system of patronage described in the excerpt is most similar to the —

A relationship between a guild master and his apprentice  
B relationship between a noble and a wealthy merchant during the Enlightenment  
C obligations of a monk to his abbot and to the pope  
D alliance between a lord and his vassal in the Middle Ages
Homework: You must write a 1-2 page type-written, first-person account of daily life for a person living in the Middle Ages. You should make up a name, develop a voice, and describe your life as a king, noble, knight, or peasant. Feel free to give yourself a family and describe them as well. Grading will be based on creativity, organization, voice, word choice, evidence and elaboration. You must give evidence from the textbook and your notes. Most importantly, please have fun with this writing assignment!

Due: Tuesday, October 25th