

Foundations of Absolutism



Photo by Chiew Pang

*It's not easy
being KING*



CHECK!

*Medieval kings
faced many
challenges.*



CHECK!

*They competed in a real
life game of chess.*

CHECK!

1. Church
2. Nobility
3. Representative Bodies
4. Towns
5. Universities

**These groups kept medieval kings in check...
think about the game of chess.**

CHECK!

The Church

The Church was not just a religious institution in early modern Europe – bishops held considerable wealth and influence.



Wealth and Power

A photograph of the interior of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, showing the nave with its massive stone columns and large stained glass windows. The lighting is warm, highlighting the architectural details and the colorful glass.

Interior of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

Photo by Eivind K. Døvik

CHECK!

The Nobility

Medieval kings were heavily dependent on the hereditary warrior aristocracy.



Feudalism

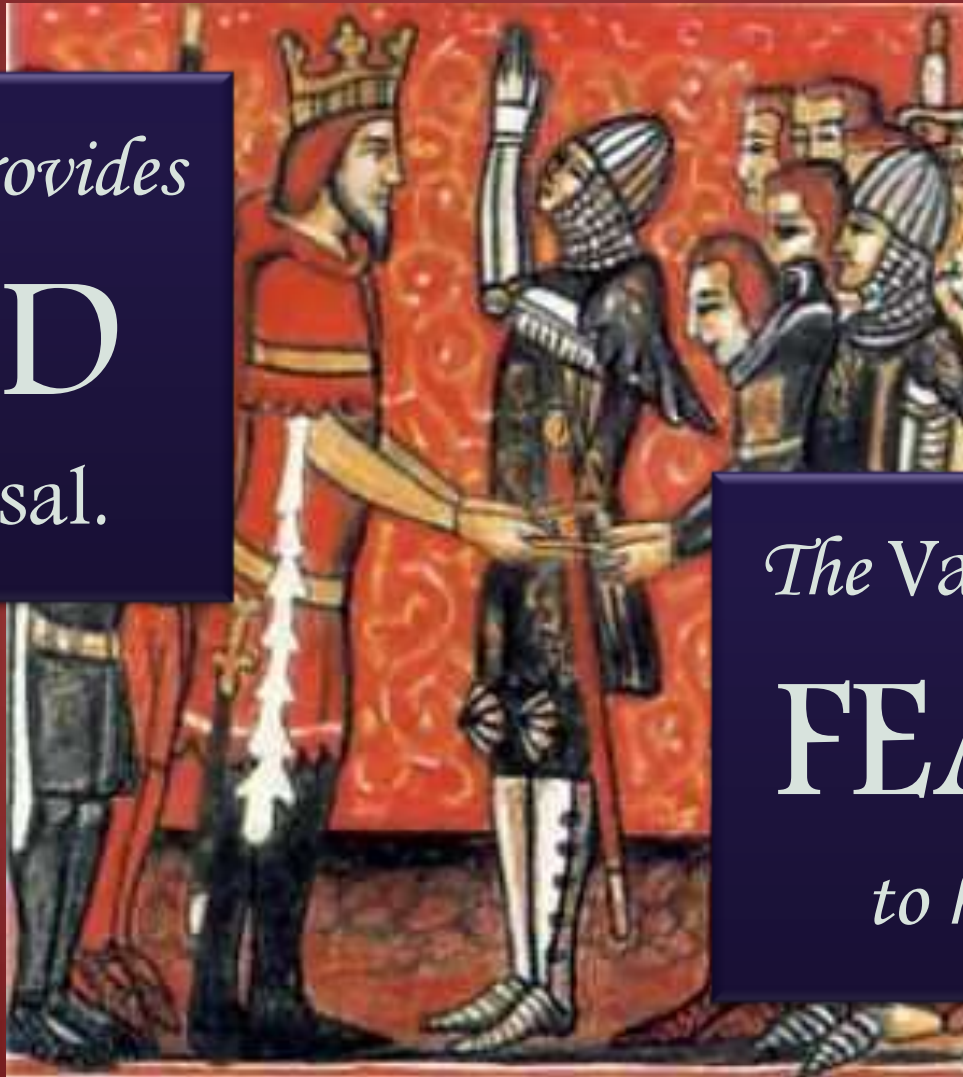
Lord/Vassal Contracts

The Feudal Contract

The King provides

LAND

to his vassal.

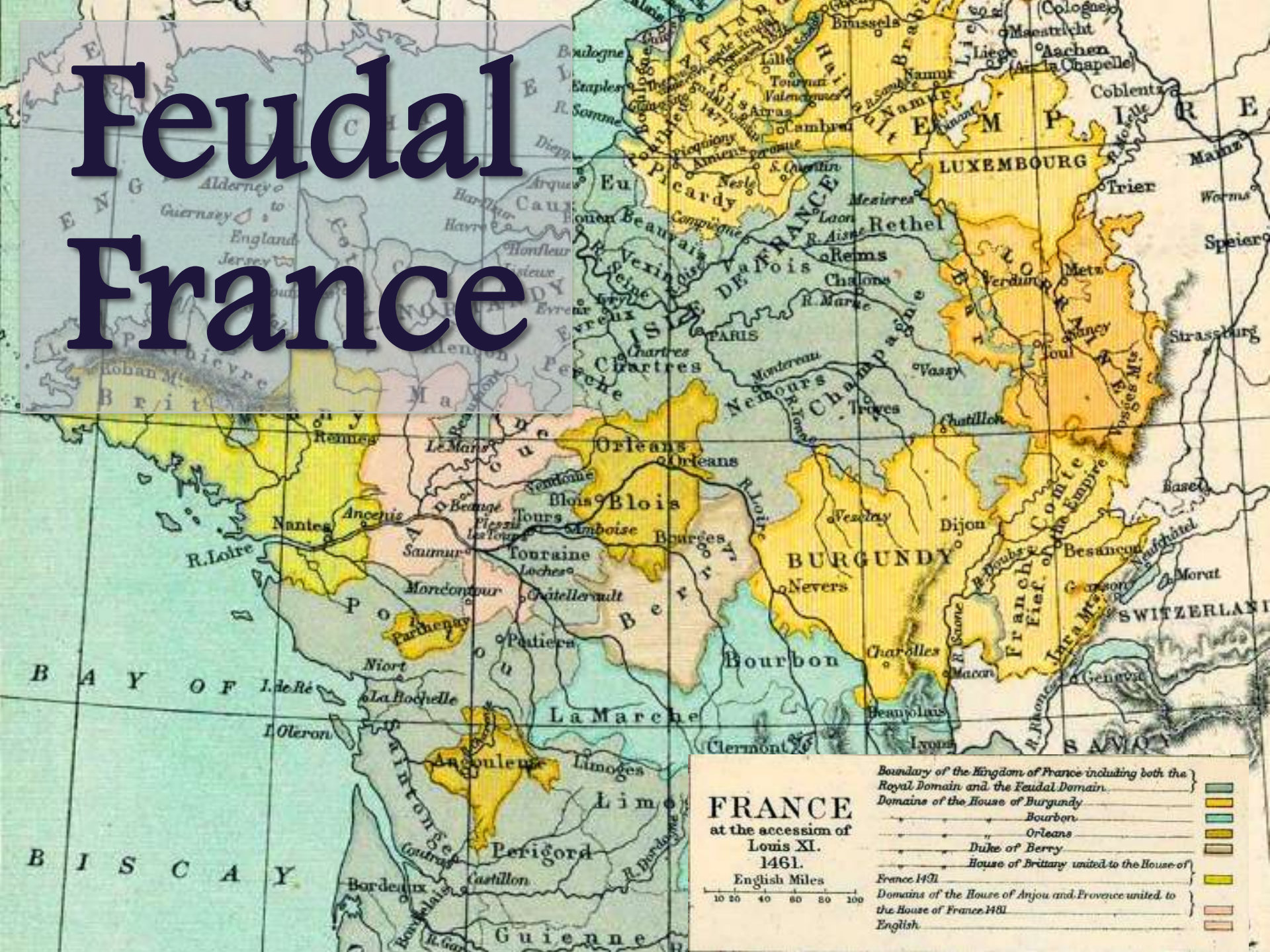


The Vassal swears

FEALTY

to his king.

Feudal France



FRANCE

at the accession of
Louis XI.
1461.

English Miles

10 20 40 60 80 100

Boundary of the Kingdom of France including both the
Royal Domain and the Feudal Domain.

Domains of the House of Burgundy

Bourbon

Orleans

Duke of Berry

House of Brittany united to the House of

France 1431

Domains of the House of Anjou and Provence united to
the House of France 1481

English



Banners

Medieval soldiers fought under the banners of their lords – not the king.

Castles

The most powerful lords were protected behind the walls of fortified castles.

Some rights reserved by Lee Jordan

CHECK!

Representative Bodies



Taxation by CONSENT



A medieval depiction of a meeting of Parliament

CHECK!

Representative Bodies



England: Parliament

France: Estates General

Prussia: Junkers



A medieval depiction of a meeting of Parliament

CHECK!

Towns and Cities

Royal charters granted privileges and exemptions from certain taxes and laws.



WALLS



Medieval towns often had fortifications.



CHECK!

Universities

*Universities
typically controlled
by the Church.*

(NOT by the king)



The Absolutist's Goal



Photo by Jonathan W (@whatie)

SOVEREIGNTY



Photo by Jonathan W (@whatie)

The Absolutists



Louis XIV
of France



Peter the Great
of Russia



The Fredericks
of Prussia

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