

SECTION 4 NOTES FOR PACKET: **THE GROWTH OF CITIES**

- There was very little trade during the early part of the Middle Ages
- The manors were self sufficient and the money was worthless
- Eventually travel became safer and trade was on the rise
- Coins were once again used during the 13th century
- There were large fairs where people began to trade various goods
- The merchants started to become regulars in towns
- The towns where there were many merchants grew into cities
- There were many people interested in living in these cities
- Serfs left manors in order to prosper economically
- The towns were first under the control of the lords
- The merchants became so powerful that they demanded a charter
- A charter is a paper signed by the lord that gives the town the right to be self governed
- The people elected officials and council members
- The town taxed trade and provided services for the poor, sick, and homeless
- The towns also possessed their own laws which they enforced

What was life like in the City?

- The cities were crowded and unhealthy
- The streets were filled with animals, garbage, waste
- There was various environments in a city
 - The section where people were apprentices and learned a trade
 - There was a marketplace where the money was made
 - The merchants had control over most of the city
- The merchants were so successful that they richer than some nobles
- The merchants with the most wealth often was the “elected” leader of the city
- Merchants formed guilds to protect its members when traveling and dealing with money
- Craft workers also organized themselves into guilds in order to protect their occupation
- The guilds set the prices of the various trades
- The students of the workers were known as an apprentice in the master’s shop
- The apprentice eventually led to a journeyman, and after their skills were practiced they became masters
- Guilds made sure that the work was quality
- The learning eventually led to schools, and then universities were developed
- Learning was again a major part of everyday life

What disasters and changes occurred?

- ❖ A widespread sickness known as the “Black Death” swept through Europe in the late 1340’s
- ❖ The plague killed so many people that the population was almost cut in half!
- ❖ The farmers who survived realized that they were important in order to feed the population
- ❖ The farmers who were once enslaved, now wanted more respect and more money for their work
- ❖ The church and the nobles lost a lot of control because they could not protect everyone from this disease
- ❖ The people started to realize that the feudal way of life was becoming obsolete
- ❖ There was now a competition for power during the Middle Ages

Why was there a rise of Nation States?

- Governments began to change
- Kings started to take away the power of nobles in England, Spain, and France
- The nation state was created
 - Had a strong central government with one ruler
 - There was a governing body representing the people
 - Each individual nation state had its own system of written laws, paid officials, and army
 - They were almost like a country
- The people of the same nation-state shared the same language, culture, and pride
- These people would defend and die for their nation-state
- The merchants saw an opportunity to support the governments
- They needed a strong and peaceful government so they could safely travel and trade
- The taxes on trade brought the government money to supply services to the people
- The Magna Carta was written to limit a king’s power over people
 - Also known as the “Great Charter”
 - Signed by King John in England in 1215
 - The basis of this document was to protect rights of people
 - This included everyone, peasants and serfs included!
 - It stated that everyone was governed by the laws and had the right of trial by jury
- Change and the development of new ideas provided the people with a chance of growth while the time of the Middle Ages came to an end