

Vocabulary

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Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

bourgeoisie the middle class

communication an exchanging or sharing of ideas,
feelings, thoughts, or information

convert to adopt a different religion or belief

decline to grow smaller or weaker; to decrease

economic having to do with the way money and
goods are produced, how they are
divided up among people, and how
they are used

excommunicate to deprive a person of the rights of
church membership

feudal system a system in which land was given by a
lord in return for military or other
service

feudalism a system in which the people owed
loyalty to the wealthy landowners in
exchange for protection

fief an estate granted by a lord to a vassal in
exchange for service and loyalty

guild a system in which one learns a trade and
is presented with membership in that
trade's organization

Vocabulary

illiterate not able to read or write

influence the power of a person or thing to
produce an effect on others

invasion the act of entering and trying to
conquer a territory

lord a powerful man who lived in a castle
and had many people under his
command

manor a large area of land belonging to a lord
in the Middle Ages

migrate to move from one place to another

moat a deep, wide ditch, usually filled with
water, dug around a castle or town for
protection against enemies

monk a man who has separated himself from
the rest of the world and lives
according to religious vows

political having to do with government

population the number of people who live in an
area

professional one who is specially trained and paid
for the value of his or her skills

Vocabulary

protection the keeping of someone or something
from harm

sanctuary a safe place

serf a person forced to stay and work on
the land belonging to the lord

social having to do with people and how
they get along as a group

turmoil great confusion and disorder

unite to bring or join together

unsanitary unclean; filthy

vassal a person receiving land and protection
from a lord in return for loyalty and
military service