

# FEUDALISM IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

## Chronological Evolution & Structure

**c. 476 AD**

### **Fall of the Western Roman Empire**

Centralized authority collapses, leading to a localized need for protection and the seeds of manorialism.

**c. 732 AD**

### **Battle of Tours**

Charles Martel utilizes professional cavalry, increasing the importance of the knight class and land grants (fiefs).

**800 AD**

### **Coronation of Charlemagne**

Establishment of the Carolingian Empire; formalization of the vassalage system across Western Europe.

**1066 AD**

### **Norman Conquest of England**

William the Conqueror introduces a highly organized and rigid feudal structure to the British Isles.

**1215 AD**

### **Signing of the Magna Carta**

The first significant challenge to absolute feudal authority, defining the rights of barons against the Crown.

**1347 - 1351**

### **The Black Death**

Massive population decline leads to labor shortages, empowering the peasantry and destabilizing the manorial system.

**c. 1500 AD**

### **Rise of Centralized Monarchies**

The transition to early modern states; feudal levies are replaced by professional standing armies.