

The background of the slide features a landscape with a bright, glowing horizon line, possibly representing a sunset or sunrise. The sky above is dark and cloudy, while the ground below is a mix of brown and grey tones, suggesting a desolate or post-apocalyptic environment. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

# **After the Fall of the Roman Empire**

# German Invaders

⇒ German Tribes (Barbarians) conquered the Roman Empire during the 400s AD.

⇒ These people were only loyal to their tribal chiefs and their families. Thus, the strong central and local governments of the Roman Empire disappeared.



⇒ In addition, Germanic customs replaced many Roman laws.



⇒ All of these changes resulted in general disorder and constant warfare in the years after the collapse of the Roman Empire.



# Feudalism

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This is the political and military system of western Europe during the Middle Ages.



⇒ The practice of giving land  
in return for military service  
and loyalty



⇒ Since there was no strong central government, this system helped to establish order and provide protection.

This is how it worked. . .

1. The Germanic war chiefs divided the land and declared themselves **Kings**.



2. The Kings distributed  
the land to their faithful  
warriors who became a  
**Lord.**





⇒ They gave them this land in exchange for pledges of loyalty and support in times of war.

3. The lords would be responsible for protecting, the King and the land so they would need Knights





⇒ To employ both **foot soldiers**  
and **KNIGHTS**.

⇒ This was expensive for the lord.



4. Lords then granted land to their knights for similar promises of loyalty.



Feudalism was necessary because

Kings had so much land =  
impossible to protect land  
and people from the  
frequent foreign invasions.

# IV. Manorial System

This system worked in conjunction with feudalism.



⇒ This is the economic system that organized agricultural labor.



Lords gave peasants the right to work on their manor (estate) in return for a fixed payment.

Manors usually consisted of manor house, pastures, a church, grain mill and a village. Most were nearly self-sufficient. Important for safety





Peasants would farm the land and give the Lord a part of their crops, pay taxes, and perform a variety of other jobs.



Most peasants were **SERFS**.

They could not leave the land without their lord's permission. They were not slaves.

Advantages for  
peasants = safety,  
able to live on land  
and farm.