

Characteristics of Medieval Europe

	1450 (Middle Ages)
Social Structure	The Three Orders: Cleagy, Nobility, Everyone Else
Political Privileges	Political Privileges: • Nobility • Church • Land Ownership
Forms of Government	Aristocratic Monarchies Privileged classes had nearly exclusive say in government
Women's Rights	No meaningful role for women in the public sphere
Religion	Religion was the center of society and the Institutional church held a lot of political power. • State Religions • Little Religious Diversity
Interaction with the World	Isolation Before the Age of Exploration, Europeans had very little contact with anyone outside of Europe Exotic goods were very rare and expensive Subsistence farming in a local production-based economy
Warfare	Feudalism (localism) Many local wars and conflicts over dynastic and religious concerns
Ethnic Diversity	Little ethinc diversity Laws banning ethnic and religious minorities (Jews, Muslims)