

majority of voting members come from the Teutonic states and this gives them a lot of control in elections. The big job given the emperor in this period is that of raising forces for the Crusades.

That most territories are becoming very "home rule" conscious cannot be denied. The strong desire is to determine one's own goals without the help or interference of outside parties. This will both aid and harm the church: aid as strong and capable national ecclesiastical leadership arises; harm as countries become increasingly provincial in their outlook and activity structures.

VI.1.b  
Feudalism

The Church and Feudalism

Feudalism was the social setting in which strong persons gave aid to weaker persons in return for their support and total yieldedness. This is somewhat overly simplified but the end of it was that the weaker parties simply got weaker while the stronger aggrandized much for themselves. It was a losing cause for the serfs...the best they could hope for was survival and the general thrust of the feudal age lasted until the period just after 1200...with a vestige here and there just because things do not all die at once.

Consciously or unconsciously, the church mirrored this sort of society in itself. The Bishops, etc. became the heads of local territories offering safety and provision for lesser persons who would commit themselves to the bishopric control. They did the work and kept the monasteries, etc., in return for sanctuary and peace. The Bishop related to his superiors in much the same manner and all of them took sort of "pecking order" in the community. Since feudalism in the church was different from that in society the church promulgated it a long time after the sociological pattern ended...and in some ways some parts of the church continue to promote a feudalistic pattern...you will note that a chess game is set up on feudalistic lines and the inclusion of the bishop is no accident. The feudal system will end with the practical use of gunpowder, the better development of printing, and the increase in nationalism which is always a foe to the feudal ideas. Technical matters on this development are treated later in our syllabus.