

The Manorial System

What is the Manorial System?

The manorial system was a socio-economic institution that organized land use, labor, and economic exchange in a self-sufficient agricultural community centered around a manor, which was owned and managed by a lord.

Roles of People in the Manorial System

The manorial system was composed of several key groups of people, each with their own function and role.

The Lord

The lord was the owner and manager of the manor. They were responsible for providing protection, maintaining the manor, and ensuring that the agricultural production met the needs of the community. The lord had significant power and authority over the peasantry and was the ultimate decision-maker in the manorial system.

The Peasantry

The peasantry was the labor force that worked the land and provided labor and services to the lord. They were divided into several classes, including serfs, slaves, and free tenants.

Serfs:

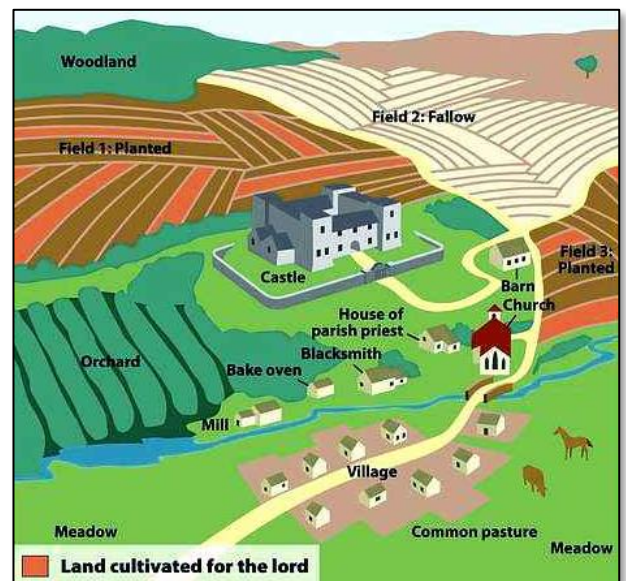
- Legally bound peasants to land and lord.
- Required to provide labor and pay fees to lord.
- No freedom to leave manor or change occupation without lord's permission.

Slaves:

- People treated as property with no rights or freedoms.
- Bought and sold like commodities.
- Not as common as serfdom.

Free Tenants:

- Peasants not legally bound to land or lord.
- Free to move, marry, and choose occupation.
- Could own or rent land without providing labor to lord.
- Still required to pay rent or fees to lord for use of land.



What the Manor Looked Like

A **manor** had a manor house, a church, and fields for growing crops and keeping animals. There were buildings for storing food and other things like a barn and a mill. The people who worked on the manor lived in small houses made of a mixture of mud, straw and manure.