

A COMPARISON OF THE MEDIEVAL AND MODERN WORLD

	MEDIEVAL	MODERN
Social Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly stratified ▪ Three social classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clergy (prayers) · Nobility (fighters) · Peasantry (diggers) ▪ Position dependent upon birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less stratified ▪ Three social classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Upper class (very wealthy) · Middle class (merchants, shopkeepers, professionals) · Working class (wage earners) ▪ Position dependent upon wealth and education
Political System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feudalism: offered security, political organization, law enforcement, justice ▪ System dependent upon the relationship between members of the nobility ▪ The lord and his vassals were the highest authorities in the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Democracy: creates these same conditions ▪ System dependent upon representative government ▪ Popular sovereignty (authority rests with the people)
Economic System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manorialism ▪ Agriculture the basis for wealth ▪ Lands divided up into self-sufficient manors ▪ Barter the usual form of exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capitalism ▪ Property the basis for wealth ▪ Economy diversified: agriculture, commerce, industry ▪ Money the basis for exchange
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasis on the spiritual afterlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasis on the material here and now
Religious Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roman Catholicism (unity) ▪ Religious authority rests with the church ▪ Hierarchical structure: Pope, cardinals, archbishops, priests, laymen ▪ Church served as intermediary between God and man ▪ Sacraments (dispensed by a priest) essential for salvation ▪ Heresy (departure from orthodox beliefs) not tolerated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protestantism (diversity) ▪ Bible or personal conscience the basis for religious authority ▪ Congregational structure: each congregation independent and laity have voice in church government ▪ No intermediary required ▪ Sacraments not essential for salvation – faith the basis for salvation (clergy less important) ▪ Heresy (departure from orthodox beliefs) eventually tolerated

STEPS IN THE TRANSITION FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN WORLD

DEVELOPMENT	CONSEQUENCES
Crusades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broke down isolation ▪ Exchange of ideas (intellectual awakening) ▪ Increase in trade
Rise of National Monarchies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Centralized government ▪ Increased security ▪ Increased taxation (treasury could be used for exploration and colonization)
Rise of the Middle Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased personal property (capital) ▪ Increased trade ▪ Could finance the national state
Rise of the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban environment ▪ Increased wealth ▪ Cultural achievements
Rise of Capitalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial revolution ▪ Banking establishments (combined lending with manufacturing enterprises) ▪ Credit facilities (bills of exchange, checks, bank notes) ▪ New industries (mining, smelting, woolen) ▪ New business organizations (regulated companies, joint stock companies, chartered companies)
Renaissance (1300-1600)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A flowering of culture ▪ From inward to outward ▪ Increased individualism ▪ Secularism ▪ Materialism (from other worldly to material existence) ▪ Basic change in the form and spirit of civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Form: from feudalism to national state (from decentralized, authoritarian, hierarchical to centralized, democratic, individualistic) · Spirit: from spiritual to secular
Reformation (1500-1650)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From unity to diversity in religious beliefs and practices ▪ Luther <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Priesthood of all believers · Bible the basis for religious authority · Sacramental system limited (Baptism, Holy Eucharist) · Faith alone the basis for salvation · Concept of calling made secular life respectable ▪ Calvin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Predestination · Feeling of obligation in one's calling · Protestant ethic: industry, thrift, hard work, ceaseless activity · Church government based on elected bodies · Advocated rebellion against tyranny