

Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management.



NEW FORMS OF LABOR MANAGEMENT

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FREE - PEASANT AGRICULTURE



FREE PEASANT AGRICULTURE is what you probably think of when you think of peasants during the **POST-CLASSICAL PERIOD**. They were the majority of the population. *Peasant* comes from the French word *Paisant* meaning *countryside*. Peasants are typically small farm owning rural farmers. It later took on a negative connotation by the upper classes (ex. “*Bloody Peasant*” –*King Arthur*)
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NOMADIC PASTORIALISM



Think of **NOMADIC RANCHERS** as **PEASANTS** without arable land. They follow their animals from pasture to pasture depending on the season. These people are generally associated with warrior-based cultures that became fearsome to settled people. They tend to move around 150 miles per year (in rotation). Examples: Cattle, Yaks, Sheep, Goats, Reindeer, Horses, Donkeys, Nerfs
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GUILDS



GUILDS are simply a collection of craftsmen of a similar trade. They were originally organized similarly to a trade union or secret society. The goal of these **GUILDS** is to regulate their industry. **GUILD** members would be experienced tradesmen or “masters”. You enter the guild as an **APPRENTICE**, then becoming a **JOURNEYMAN**. Once you have created a **MASTERPIECE**, you then become a **MASTER**. **GUILDS** are a global entity from China, India, Persia, Africa, and Europe. The word **GUILD** comes from the Old English “*gegylde*” meaning “payment”. By the 14th Century, for example, Paris had 350 guilds.
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COERCED LABOR



Let’s not dance around the issue: **COERCED LABOR** are different ways to force someone to do work for you...

SERFDOM

In both Europe and Japan, **SERFS** work a specific plot of land for a **LORD** in return for protection. They are the lowest class of Feudal society.

MITA

MITA was Incan **CORVEE** (unpaid, required labor). It was tribute owed to the Inca. Generally, people did large community projects.
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GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED LABOR TAXES



TAXES aren’t new. Medieval taxes were paid to the ruling class (usually to the King). The tax was often on land or came in the form of custom duties (taxes paid on moving from place to place). A prime example is the **GELD**. It was raised in England starting in 1012 to pay for **MERCENARIES**. It was later replaced with taxes on personal income and property.
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MILITARY OBLIGATIONS



As a part of **FEUDALISM**, a **PEASANT** who worked the land of a **LORD** would owe military service for that **LORD** in return for land usage. The **VASSAL** (someone who pledged loyalty to a **LORD**) using whatever means they could attain, would have to defend the **LORD**’s territory. This was **THE** primary reason why the **LORD** entered into these **FEUDAL** relationships.

Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts

THREE EXAMPLES:

BYZANTINE



BASIL THE COPPER HAND
Back in the 10th Century, there lived a man named Basil. Basil's most notable physical feature was his copper hand. How did he get a copper hand? Well, he tried to impersonate a dead general to take power in Bithynia (North Anatolia). His ruse was discovered and he was quickly taken back to Constantinople and given history's most infamous slap on the wrist. Sans-hand, he had it replaced with a copper one. *Hence the name.* Looking like a Super Villain, he attempted to lead a peasant rebellion against the Byzantine Empire. He gathered the destitute and downtrodden peasants of the region who were upset at the Byzantine taxes they were forced to pay. Noticing the lack of tax funds coming in from Bithynia, the Emperor sent in the Byzantine Army. Used to fighting Persians and Arabs, the peasant army of Basil the Copper Hand didn't stand a chance. He was caught, chained, and returned to Constantinople. After a quick trial, he was burned at the stake.

EUROPEAN



PEASANT REVOLT IN FLANDERS

In the 1320s, a series of small scale peasant revolts joined forces into an all-out rebellion that lasted for 5 years. What drove these otherwise docile peasants to revolt? The answer is simple: TAXES. The people were mad at Louis I for raising taxes. So, they proceeded to revolt and take over the majority of the Flanders region. They even captured the Count of Flanders, Louis I! This became such a problem, that the King of France had to step in and quell the insurrection. A hastily agreed to peace treaty was signed, but quickly forgotten as the rebellion continued. It wasn't until the Battle of Cassel that the rebel army and its peasant leaders were defeated.

CHINESE



RED TURBAN REBELLION AKA *White Lotus Rebellion*

It's difficult to find anyone who would ever say anything bad about the Mongols (*sarcasm*). But, there was a group of Chinese peasants in the 1340s that were fed up with the Yuan (Mongol) rule. The Yellow River had been constantly flooding (along with other natural disasters). A Mahayana Buddhist sect known as the White Lotus Society (who worshipped a Mother Goddess who would gather her children at the millennium) started the rebellion against Mongol rule. After 30 years of war, the rebellion was successful. The Mongols were constantly fighting themselves and therefore couldn't handle the rebellion. In 1368, the Zhu Yuanzhang, former beggar/Buddhist monk, claimed the Mandate of Heaven and declared himself the Hongwu Emperor of the new Ming Dynasty.



AGAINST THE
(POSTCLASSICAL)
MACHINE

FREEMAN-PEDIA

