

## **PAPER IV: SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD**

**Paper Code: HHSCR2041T**

### **Module 1**

#### **1: Islam and Carolingian Empire**

- 1) Mohammad and Charlemagne and the Pirenne thesis – establishment of Arab control over the Mediterranean – its impact on west European society – Charlemagne inconceivable without Mohammad?
- 2) Coronation of Charlemagne – who inspired it and what did it signify? Contending papal and Carolingian concepts of the empire.
- 3) Frankish institutions under Charlemagne.

#### **2: The darkest hour in the West**

- 1) The Treaty of Verdun – Dissolution of the Carolingian Empire – reasons for the break up.
- 2) Western Europe besieged – Norsemen, Hungarian and Arabs – feudalisation of the besieged West – lessons and consequences of the invasions.
- 3) The significance of the Norse migrations in history.

#### **3: Birth and development of the German Empire**

- 1) Revival of German kingship under Henry the Fowler and Otto 1.
- 2) Otto 1 and Italy – long term consequences, German involvement in Italy.
- 3) Evolution of the pattern of relations between the Emperor, the German feudal nobility and the German church from the founding of German Empire to the eve of the Investiture Contest – the consolidation of German unity under a strong monarch till AD 1075.

#### **4: Church reform and the rise of papacy**

- 1) Condition of the church since Charlemagne – Cluny and monastic revival.
- 2) Reforms and growth of the papacy of Hildebrand – restructuring of the papal government and its tightening hold over the western church.
- 3) Gregory VII, Henry IV on the Concordat of Worms.

#### **5: The Church Triumphant**

- 1) Frederick Barbarossa and the renewed struggle of Empire and papacy – German problems and German policy - Barbarossa and Italian politics – growth of the Italian communes – Imperial defeat and recovery.
- 2) The Crusades – causes, features and consequences.
- 3) The growth of papal government to the pontificate – the political triumph of the papacy in Western Christendom.

#### **6: The Church and the people**

- 1) The new Monastic orders of the 12<sup>th</sup> century – the contribution of monasticism to Western Civilization.
- 2) The Friars, Franciscans and Dominicans – their influence.
- 3) Popular religious movements and the growth of heresy – Albigensian Crusade and the Inquisition.

## **Module 2**

### **1: The emergence of national kingship**

- 1) Frederick II and the imperial tragedy – feudal disintegration of Germany – frustration of his attempt to unite Italy.
- 2) Philip II Augustus, St. Louis and the growth of a strong monarchy in France.
- 3) Why national monarchies in France and England but not in Germany and Italy? Reasons for divergent developments.
- 4) Fall of the Hohenstaufens – society, economy and culture.

### **2: The evolution of a feudal society**

- 1) What is a feudal society? – Its origin in Western Europe – its main features from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries – evolution of vassalage and fief.
- 2) Decay of feudalism – its legacy and contribution to European civilization.

### **3: Lord, peasants and Knights**

- 1) The structure of the nobility – disappearance of the older aristocracies by birth – emergence of a noble class of lords and warriors – transformation of the nobility into a legal and hereditary class in the later middle ages – gradations and rank – barons and knights.
- 2) Chivalry – its impact on literature and society.
- 3) The Manor, its origin and growth.

### **4: The Medieval Economy**

- 1) Trade in the early Middle Ages – revival of trade – factors in the commercial revolutions.
- 2) Medieval trade at its zenith – contrasting patterns of north and south – long term changes in trade routes and commodities.
- 3) The question of economic growth in Europe in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries – population, agriculture and industry.
- 4) The guilds and industrial organizations – development of guild structure – the impact of guilds on production and economic growth – the merchant class with special emphasis to Bourgeois.

### **5: Pattern of Culture**

- 1) Medieval Thought – the Schoolmen – Scholastic philosophy and science in the Middle Ages.
- 2) The medieval universities.
- 3) Literature and art transition from Romanesque to Gothic style – the rise of the new vernacular literature – from epic to romance.
- 4) The 12<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance

## **References**

Thompson and Johnson – An Introduction to Medieval Europe  
R.H.C. Davis – A History of Medieval Europe  
Previte-Orten – The Shorter Cambridge Medieval History (2 vols.)  
Henry Pirenne – Economic and Social History of Medieval Europe  
William Hollister – Medieval Europe  
R.W. Southern – The Making of the Middle Ages  
C. Brookes – Europe in the Central Middle Ages