

# Section 2: Western Europe

**France**  
**Culture:**  
Strong in  
France and  
Monaco!

Belgium,  
Netherlands  
and  
Luxembourg  
have been  
influence by  
both cultures.

**German**  
**Culture:**  
Strong in  
Germany,  
Austria and  
Liechtenstein!

# Political Map of Europe



# ROMAN EMPIRE



# ROMAN EMPIRE

- By 50 B.C., the Roman Empire had conquered the Celtic tribes in what is now France
  - French is one of the Romance languages that evolved from Latin (Rome's language)
- Rome never fully conquered the Germanic tribes that migrated east of France which is why Germanic languages are still spoken there

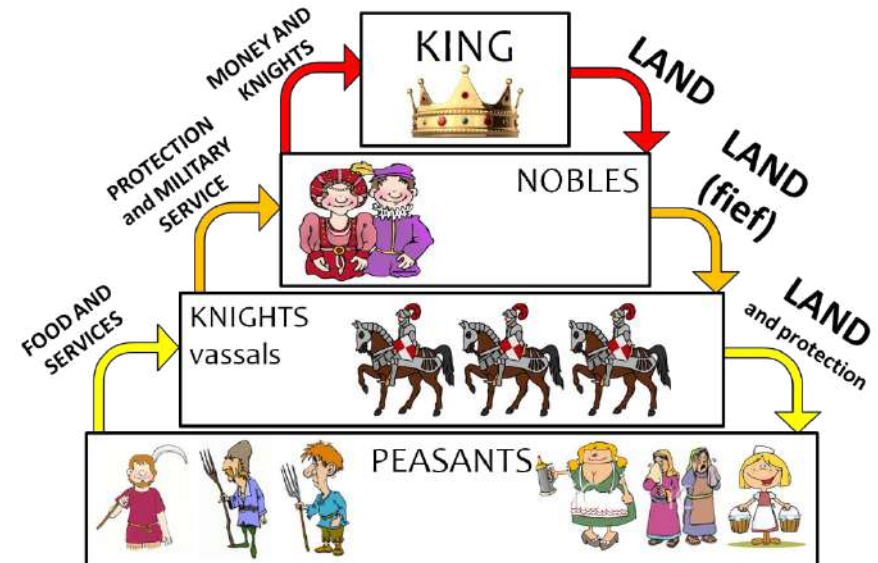


# Reformation - many Christians break from church, because of the problems involving the Catholic Church.



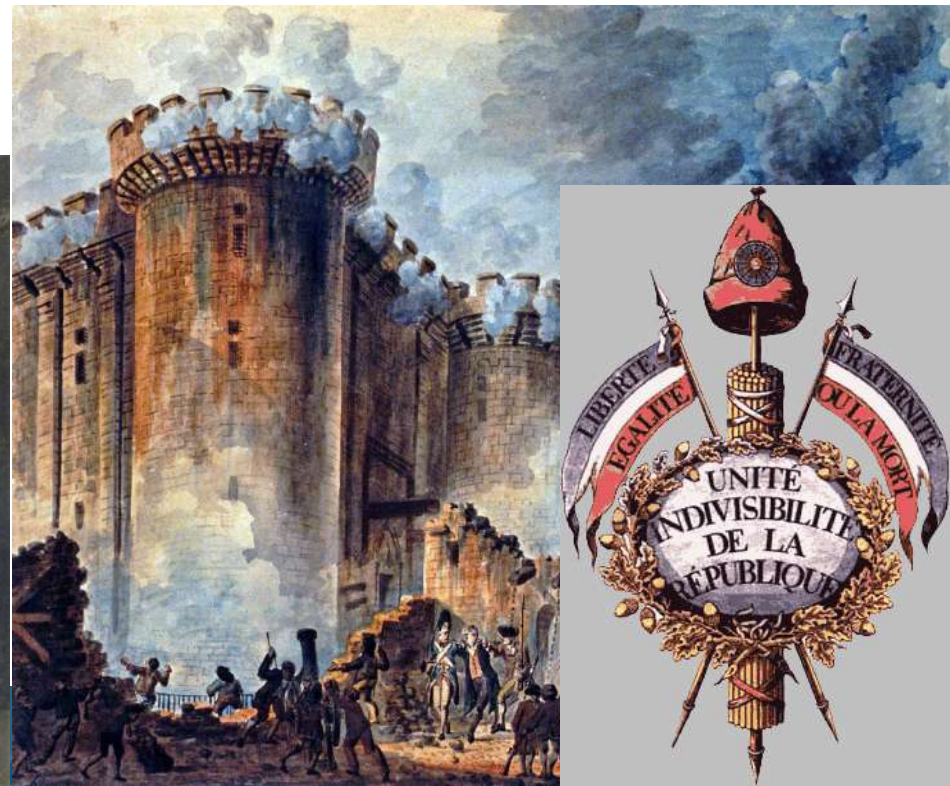
# The rise of nation-states

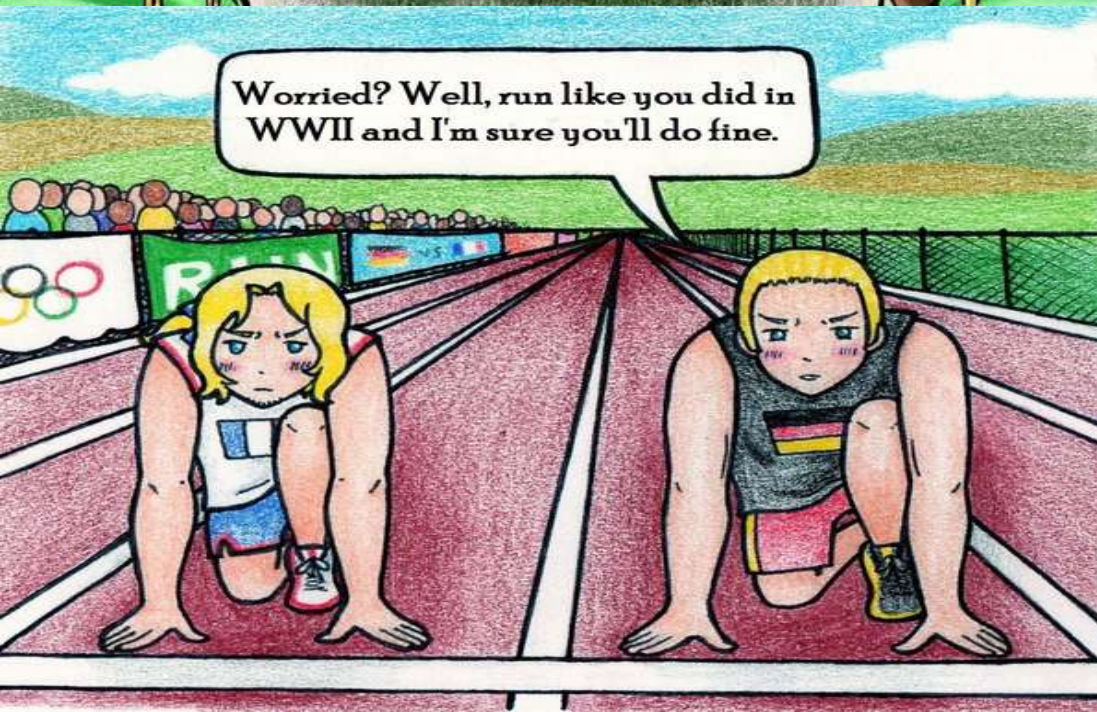
- During the centuries after the Roman Empire dissolved, feudalism gradually developed in Europe
- Over time, strong kings gained power over feudal lords, and nationalism evolved
  - Nationalism causes groups to want their own countries
  - France was one of the first nation-states



Feudal Pyramid of Power

- By the late 1600s, French kings held absolute (total) power
  - In 1789, the people began a rebellion—[The French Revolution](#)
  - They deposed (removed) the king and formed a republic
- A few years later an army officer named Napoleon Bonaparte seized power; in 1804 he made himself emperor and tried to conquer all of Europe but failed





Germany  
vs.  
France -  
Germany  
unifies in  
1871.



# World War I – Fight for Colonies

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graph TD; A[World War I – Fight for Colonies] --> B[Allied Powers – includes France]; A --> C[Central Powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies];
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**Allied  
Powers –  
includes  
France**

**Central Powers –  
Germany, Austria-  
Hungary and their  
allies**

# World War II

Harsh terms that ended WWI caused WWII.

Hitler, leader of Germany during WWII, wanted to conquer Europe.



**Holocaust**  
**— mass**  
**murder of**  
**European**  
**Jews, and**  
**others**