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Medieval Ireland and Feudalism



In medieval Ireland, the _____ was the most valuable resource. Kings and lords owned vast amounts of it, and they granted it to their _____ in exchange for military service and loyalty. This system, known as _____, structured society into various levels of dependency and obligation. At the top were the _____, who held ultimate control over the land. Beneath them were the _____, powerful nobles who managed large estates and had many knights and vassals under their command.

The _____ were warriors who received land from the lords in exchange for their military service. They played a crucial role in defending the territory and maintaining the lord's power. Below the knights were the _____, who worked the land to produce food and goods. They had very few rights and were often _____ to the will of their lords.

Feudalism in Ireland was not just about the control of land; it also involved complex relationships of _____ and duty. A vassal pledged loyalty to his lord and promised to fight for him in times of war. In return, the lord provided the _____ with protection and the right to work a piece of land.

This system created a stable, hierarchical _____ where everyone knew their place and duties. However, it also led to a rigid class structure, with a wide gap between the rich and the _____. The peasants, who made up the majority of the population, lived hard lives with little chance of improving their _____.

Despite its challenges, feudalism was an effective way of organizing society during the chaotic times of the Middle Ages. It provided _____ and order in a period when wars and conflicts were common. Over time, as the power of the central _____ grew, feudalism in Ireland gradually declined, giving way to more modern forms of governance and society.

vassal vassals feudalism kings lords land security society knights
government loyalty subject peasants poor status