15-2 Notes

* Feudalism – a social order where landowning nobles governed and protected the people in return for services
* Vassal – a noble who served a lord of higher rank
* Fief – land granted to a vassal or knight
* Knights – warriors in armor who fought on horseback

* serfs – peasants who could not leave the manor, own property, or marry without the lord’s approval; they worked long hours on the lord’s land and did services for the lord
* 4 ways farming improved during the Middle Ages: invention of a heavy wheeled plow, invention of the horse collar, new ways to harvest water and wind power, and the rotation of crops on three fields instead of two
* Code of Chivalry – certain rules knights followed
* By 1100, feudalism had made Europe safer.
* Venice, Italy and Flanders(in the northern Europe) – major trading centers in Europe
* Guilds – business groups which set standards for quality
* Taxes were paid to ensure basic rights were protected.
* Medieval cities were often dirty and smelly and could be destroyed easily by fire.