

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:I MODULE II-MEDIEVAL SOCIAL FORMATIONS



DECLINE OF MANORIALISM
I SEMESTER
I BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER
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- Both feudalism and Manorialism were declined by several developments in the late Middle Ages.
- ❑ One particular blow- decline of population caused by wars and plagues, Particularly Black Death (1347-1352).
- ❑ Crop failure – risk to everyone’s livelihood
- Such crises caused a chronic shortage of labour and abandonment of estates because there was no one to work them.
- ❑ Growth of large towns and cities – labour leave the country side to find a better future and new Jobs available- working for the new and wealthy merchant class.



- ❑ peasant revolts – serious revolts by peasants against their lords. England witnessed a peasant revolt in 1381 CE which caused a strong blow to the manorial system.
- ❑ Increase in the use of coinage in the late Middle Ages led many serfs made a payment to their lord instead of labour or paid a fee to be absolved from some of the expected of them, or even bought their freedom.



- All these factors caused to weaken the traditional set up of unfree labour being tied to land and working for the rich
- By the end of 14th century more agricultural labour was done by paid workers than unpaid serfs.