

Analytical Essay Sample



Levels 10-12

The Change

Though they were difficult times, including such events as plagues and wars, the Middle Ages were a time when our sovereign God was “bulldozing” old things to make way for newer, better things. The Hundred Years War, the War of the Roses, and the Black Death all contributed to the demise of the Feudal Age and the construction of a more modern age. God placed these things in the path of Europe for the betterment of the times to come. At all times the plan of our Lord is reflected. This time of change is rightfully called the “Fall of Feudalism.”

This fall began with the Hundred Years War, which began in 1337, and actually ended in 1453. The French king had died, and an English king named Edward III was the only person with a relatively good “claim” to the throne, despite his nationality. The first battle in this long war was the Battle of Flanders, where they fought not only at Flanders, but also at the channel of the North Sea. Henry, the English king, married into the house of Valois, and this marked the end of the English control. With this fall also came the fall of knighthood and moral victory.

The next war of significance was the War of the Roses. The name came from two families’ coat-of-arms, which served as a point of identification. Beginning as a fight between these families, people soon joined sides. The victor would claim the throne. Out of fifteen major battles, the first major one was the battle of Saint Albans. Finally the Tudor family assembled a great army, stormed powerful lords, and took the crown for themselves. This war began in 1455 and finally came to a halt in 1487.

One of the largest worldwide epidemics was known as the Black Death. It annihilated one-third of the whole population of Europe. There were three different kinds of plague: pneumonic, bubonic, and septicemic. All three kinds of the virus invaded the lymphatic system and took over. Between 50 and 70 percent of all people contracting the bubonic plague died. The rate of death from the other types of plagues was even higher. Animals and humans alike could contract these deadly diseases.

Difficult times full of plagues and wars were upon the people of the Middle Ages. The Hundred Years War, the War of the Roses, and the Black Death were cataclysmic. Unfortunate as they were, they contributed to changes that took place and the furtherance of God’s sovereign plan.