

# SOCIAL STUDIES 8

## THE MIDDLE AGES IN WESTERN EUROPE

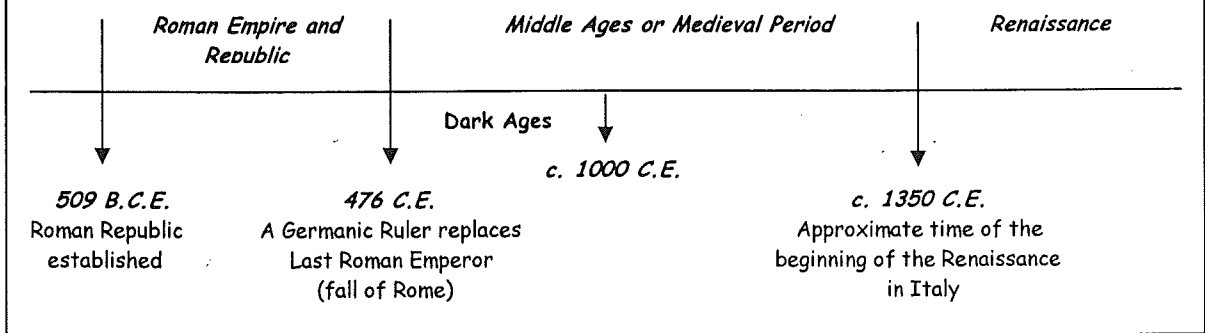
The Middle Ages is the term used to describe the time period in Western European history that began after the fall of the Roman Empire and lasted until the Renaissance. It is called the "Middle" Ages because it existed between two great periods of cultural growth and development in Western Europe (see time line below).

The Early Middle Ages is sometimes called the "Dark Ages" because it represented a decline in civilization after the fall of Rome. The Early Middle Ages lasted for approximately 500 years, from c. 476 C.E. to c. 1000 C.E.

### Civilization:

1. a civilized condition which involves an advanced stage of social, political, economic, and cultural development
2. a group of peoples who have reached an advanced level of social and political organization

### Timeline:



### Social:

anything that concerns human beings and their relationship to each other; includes cultural achievements and religion

- religion
- art and architecture
- language and communication
- lifestyle and gender roles

### Political:

having to do with politics and government and their development

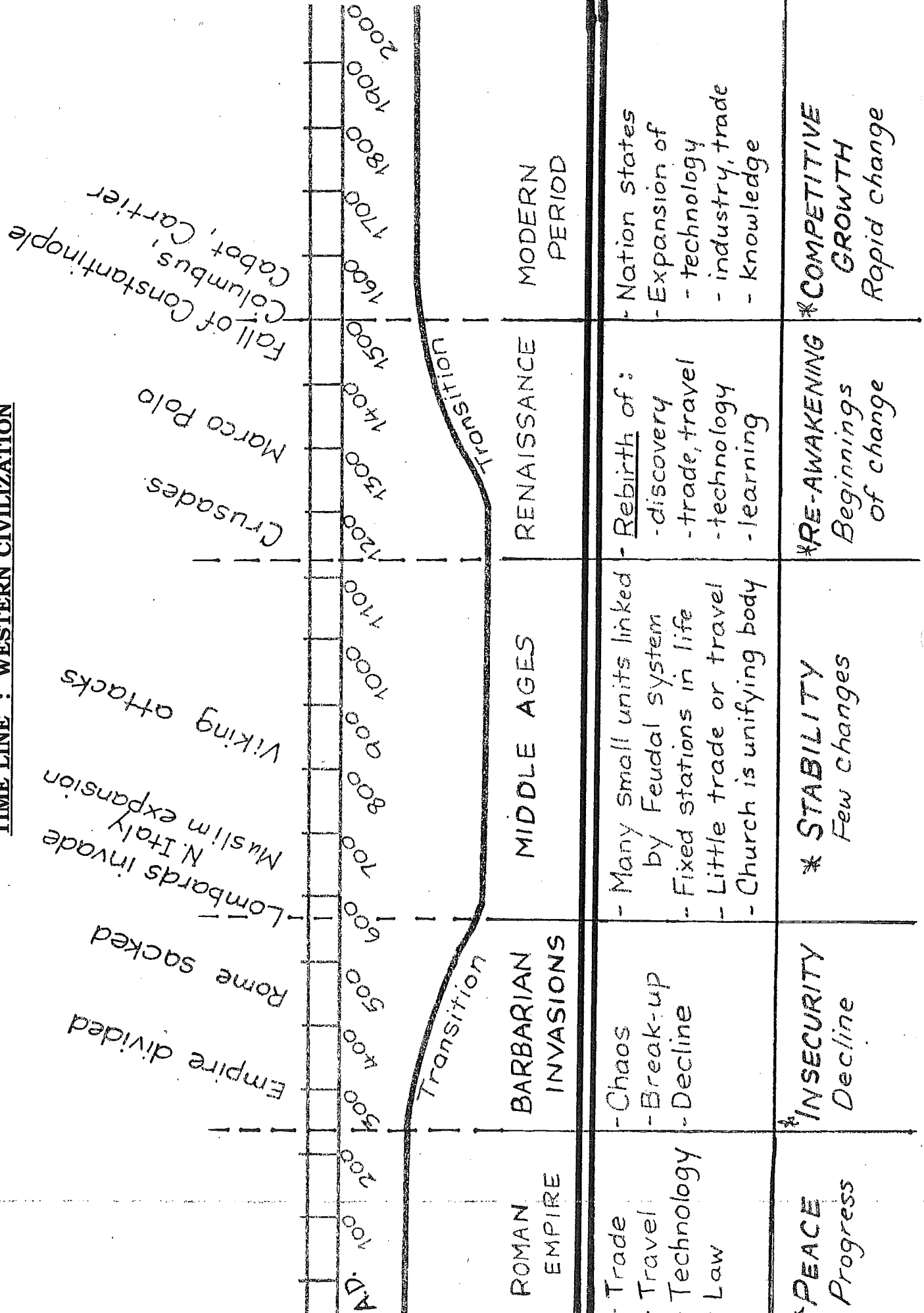
- governments
- rulers and leaders
- methods and structure of ruling

### Economic:

having to do with the management of income, expenses, and trade of a kingdom, country, etc.

- taxes
- growth of trade
- use of money versus barter

**TIME LINE : WESTERN CIVILIZATION**



2000  
1900  
1800  
1700  
1600  
1500  
1400  
1300  
1200  
1100  
1000  
900  
800  
700  
600  
500  
400  
300  
200  
100  
A.D.

Empire divided  
Rome sacked  
Lombards invade N. Italy  
Muslim expansion  
Viking attacks  
Crusades  
Marco Polo  
Fall of Constantinople  
Columbus, Cabot, Cartier

Transition  
Transition  
Transition

\*PEACE  
Progress

\*INSECURITY  
Decline

\*STABILITY  
Few changes

\*RE-AWAKENING  
Beginnings of change

\*COMPETITIVE GROWTH  
Rapid change