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Medieval to Modern History

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The Focus of People in the Medieval World

When it comes to the medieval world, the main focus of people is on God and eternal life. But, the greed of kings gets in the way of living, in all aspects of life, for God. These ideas of eternal life in medieval culture modifies how kings rule, and how the law and freedoms of the people are interrupted.

John of Salisbury writes about the comparison of tyrannus kings in his Policraticus. He states on page 256 of Perry, "A tyrant, then... is one who oppresses the rule based upon force... while he who rules in accordance with the laws is a prince" (Perry 256). Salisbury is getting to the point that living in accordance with the law is Godly and of the Lord. By upholding the law, a king is doing his duties to the people and the Lord.

Sadly, some rules need to be put in line to ensure they do not interfere with the law and church. That is why King John signs the Magna Carta. He was attempting to appoint church leaders even though that is not where his power lies as a king. The people make him sign a charter, reinforcing the rules and laws they have been granted, which are the same laws the king is under. By having King John sign the Magna Carta, that action shows that upholding the law and the freedoms medieval culture value is very important for everyone to follow. They do not want their lives as a church body to be tampered with.

As a culture, the medieval people want to uphold traditions of the church in accordance with the law. People also want oaths taken in church over holy relics because it shows the king

that even he cannot break the oath. This action of oaths is also an important tradition. This plays into the value of freedoms and upholding the Christian ways with the church to the people. This is another way of maintaining a healthy amount of church in the state, not the other way around.

All of medieval culture puts a heavy influence on religion in many aspects of life, especially politics. The medieval people do it in how they address others or specific topics like John of Salisbury. They influence the King and make sure he does not gain too much power and greed. And finally, the culture is influencing the consistencies of oaths and traditions. Every aspect of life involves Christianity because they were focused on the eternal. That is why medieval culture influenced politics.

John of Salisbury's Policraticus, the Magna Carta, and the influence on politics of feudal traditions all have something in common: they all aim to uphold and maintain the laws and freedoms of the people as a community and church. The people involve Christianity and religion in every aspect of life because the law is not their main focus truly. The main focus of the people is eternal life with God, and that idea is strong enough in their culture to affect every aspect of their life. The medieval people are a good example for the people of contemporary times.