

Comparison between Feudal Society and the Absolutist Nation-State



FEUDALISM		Absolutist Nation-State
King bound nobles by obligations to supply soldiers, in exchange for grants of land	Source of Royal power	King maintained a national army, out of tax revenues
Armies were smaller—kings had to call on their noble supporters to supply troops.	Size of army	Armies were larger—kings could hire mercenaries or conscript soldiers throughout their kingdom
Mounted, heavily armored and armed knights	Makeup of army	Greater reliance upon citizens or mercenaries with crossbow
King lived off his own private lands and revenues	Source of royal Revenues	King taxed nation and lived off royal treasury
Limited to the estates that the royal family controlled.	Locus of royal power	Extended to the entire nation.