

## ISLAM AND EUROPEAN FEUDALISM IN THE MID-CENTURY

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### ABSTRACT

*This article was aimed to study the development of European Feudalism within the Mid Century. From the existing sources, it was found that as Muslim dominated Mediterranean Sea in the 8<sup>th</sup> A.D., European economy drastically declined. Moreover, it was said that the economy was near dead. The fall of trade and commerce within the continent had pushed Europe to use land as their source of life again. It is that within this situation, the feudalism found its way. The situation in Europe was changing within the 11<sup>th</sup> century, i.e. when the trade and commerce were awakening and the markets as well as cities were reviving. Commercial growth and the reuse of currency system, in fact, affected the economy of feudalists. Their life which was represented by manor was then disturbed and declining.*

**Key words:** *Islam, Europe, Feudalism.*

### Introduction

The economic life within the mid century, as has been said by Atiya, cannot be separated from the international economic growth and commerce between East and West or between Islamic world and Europe (Atiya, 1969: 162). It is in Europe that the international trade began and it was centralized in Italian maritime cities (Ganshof, 1968: 104). All works within this field had given wealth and prosperity that had never realized before. Italian cities such as Genoa, Pisa, Florence, and Venesia, had got a very sensational growth (Brooke, 1987: 86). The very fast growth was surely not influenced by the European feudalism farming system at that time, instead, it was resulted from the dynamics of trade and commerce as well as industry happened in the East Mediterranean, Attiya said (Atiya, 1969: 162).

As has been known, from the 8<sup>th</sup> century forward, Islam had developed and became a dominant religion within Africa, Asia, and Spain. Islamic world which spread from Morocco to Indonesia had developed in accordance with its geographical condition. These areas had been united, not only by their same religion, but also by the international trade and commerce among them (Lockard, 2005).

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The domination of international trade routes by Muslim which spread from Sahara to Spain and South China Sea had helped the growth of Islam and the Muslim economy. The growth of maritime trade and commerce along Indian Seas had connected China, Japan, Vietnam, and Cambodia in the East through Malaka Strait and Indonesian archipelago. From these areas, through India and Sri Lanka, the merchandises were carried out towards west to Persia, Arabia, East African coast as well as Mozambique, Egypt, and southern Mediterranean, onto Venetian merchant, in Genoa, and to the inside part of Europe (Lockard, 2005).

### **Islam Domination and Europe Deterioration**

Until the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century or the early of 8<sup>th</sup> century, North Africa and half of Spain, as well as Italy had been under the control of Byzantium. Within this era, there was an economic-political war carried by the Byzantium Imperial towards Muslim. Over the seas, though there was any fluctuation, Byzantium fleets kept leading and dominant. They could force every merchant ship to visit in the ports under their control such as in the Southern Italy sea shore and Adriatic. On the other hand, Muslim soldiers also attempted to penetrate into the areas under Byzantium control. Because of this competition, Mediterranean was divided into two main parts, which by and large was crossed from Rhodes to Sicilia (Cahen, 2005: 4-5).

Expansion from Muslim to Mediterranean in the late of 7<sup>th</sup> century had actually caused the deterioration towards European trade. Muslim domination towards Mediterranean Sea had halted their trade within the area. Nevertheless, the sea was still open for Europeans from other areas such as southern Italy, Adriatic, and Aegean Sea (Pirenne, 1937: 15). Since then, practically, Mediterranean Sea belonged to Muslim. This area then became an area opened for trades involving countries under the control of Muslim. One of the effects of the domination was the unpredictable growth of trade and commerce as well as economy in Islamic world. The increase of trade and commerce potentials was really unpredictable (Pirenne, 1937: 15).

Accordingly, the 8<sup>th</sup> century had become the witness of the beginning of Muslim hegemony in the North West of Tirenia as well as a threat and big disaster to European trade and commerce in Mediterranean. According to Pirenne, the win of Muslim towards North Africa and Spain had changed the old trade and commerce pattern and made Mediterranean lose its economic hegemony. The control which was previously belonged to Byzantium was slowly replaced by Muslim (Cahen, 2005: 4-5). It has also been stated that the subjugation made Europe change their trade to the north (Watt, 1995: 25).

Following the development, slowly, cities such as Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordova, became trade and commerce as well as economy centers beating Constantinople. Similar to other cities in the Mid Century, as had also been happened and seen in cities within the Islamic world, the trade and economy

was generally clustered in a road or roads. Trade of the same merchandise was placed in the same bloc or group. Regarding this, trade of one type of merchandise was usually tied in an organization. However, it is still hard to say whether the trade organization was under the control of government or spontaneous as what happened to gilda in Europe, Cahen said (Holt, Lambton, Lewis (ed.), 1970: 528).

Within Abbasiyyah period, Baghdad played either as the capital city or as the economy and trade centre. It was in the city that the west and east trade met. There were also manufacture industry such as cloth, silk, carpet, jewelry, metal weapon, and golden and silver ware. In the early of 12<sup>th</sup> century, along with the expansion of trade from European and the reopening of trade route as the affect of Crusade towards the areas dominated by Muslim, the commercial centre was removed from Baghdad to Egypt (Hillenbrand, 2005: 491).

Besides the cities above, the other cities within Islamic world had also grown to be the center of trade and economy. Basra, for instance, was placed as the final destination of sea trade route in Persian bay headed to India, Sri Lanka, and East India. Al Mansurah played an important role in land trade route to India. Samarkand and Bukhara had connected the trade in China. Damascus was exactly located in the trade route between Baghdad and Mediterranean. Cairo and Iskandariah became the trade and economy center in Egypt. Kairwan in Tunisia, however, was the trade and economy center for North Africa.

The main trade route from the east, either through the land or the sea, generally passed the areas dominated by Muslim. The ships that carried foods or another products from India docked at Arabian coasts such as Persian Bay and Red Sea. Meanwhile, the troupe of merchants with their camel caravans crossed from China to whole markets within the cities under the control of Muslim.

The aforementioned cities, which were under the control of Islamic government, had in fact a geographical position good for trade and economy at that time. Assorted chosen products from East Asia were carried out through the valley in Euphrat-Tigris towards Byzantium as to pass Europe. Caspian Sea was a busy trade area, since there were wealthy trade centers within the area such as Samarkand and Bukhara. The expansion of this trade spread to the areas in the vicinity of Volga and Dnieper. This expansion was for instance proven by the finding of currency of Arab Islam in Scandinavia, German, and Russia (Lucas, 1993: 65).

### **European Economy in the Mid Century**

From the 8<sup>th</sup> century to the following centuries, Mediterranean had indeed played its role in connecting Islam and Christian Europe. Mediterranean had indeed played an important role because of the provinces around it. Its west and south were adjacent to Muslim areas; its south coast was the disputed area Muslim and Byzantium competed for; while its north coast was divided into West and

Byzantium; and its islands were controlled by Byzantium and Muslim (Brooke, 1987: 40).

Nonetheless, as has been explained above, within the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century, Mediterranean had indeed changed to be the lake of Muslim. Ships from Muslim had dominated the important trade routes in Mediterranean. At that time, Mediterranean and its three sides was surrounded by Muslim countries, and so was the islands such as Sicilia, Crete, Cyprus, and Balearic Archipelago. Accordingly, within the centuries, Muslim had dominated the main trade route in the West and actively traded with European countries.

According to Pirenne, since that 8<sup>th</sup> century, namely after Muslim dominated Mediterranean Sea, the economy of the inside of Europe was drastically deteriorating. He also denied that there was an economical growth within the rule of Charlemagne or Karel the Great. After the 8<sup>th</sup> century, he said, the trade situation in Europe was in ruin. Mediterranean Sea was forbidden for them and they then used land as their source of life within the kingdom.

At that time, there was no growth in economy that could be proud of, however there was deterioration in the field. Trades, which was initially centralized in the south, was then removed to the north (Berg, 1956: 47).

Since the early of 8<sup>th</sup> century, trade in Europe was near dead. At that time, which is at the time of Karoling Dynasty, there was only one market which was often visited by people, i.e. St Denis. In a smaller market, commodities sold comprised local products only, such as egg, cattle, fowl, and those produced by local industries. Since 716 A.D., spices were also lost in European markets, and so was the silk. The simplicity of Karolingian kings' apparel and palace did not emerge because they wanted it; instead it was because there was nothing else they could do (Berg, 1956: 33).

Merchants left at that time were Jews. They also became well known people and got rights on field belonging and other special rights. Their main commodity was slaves. Besides, these Jewish were sometimes used by Karolingian authority to get connection with Islam, such as being envoy or ambassador sent by Karel the Great to Khalifah Harun al-Rasyid of Baghdad (Berg, 1956: 48).

At the second phase of the 9<sup>th</sup> A.D., as there was an attack from Norman, the trade in north was also ruined. However, Muslim still could enter their commodities to Europe through Scandinavia. The evidence of economic deterioration could be indicated by (a) the disappearance of golden currency at Karoling era; (b) the prohibition towards interest on loan; (c) the decrease of merchants' activity drastically; (d) the halt of commodity cycles from east such as spices and silk; (e) the decrease of currency cycles to the minimum level; (f) the spread of illiteracy; and (g) the position of cities decreasing sharply and changing into clusters. All of these proved that Europe was back into a backward agrarian society and could be called as anti-commerce (Maalouf, 1983: 102). JJ Sounders also asserts that until the 1000s A.D., Europe was poor, backwards, and illiteracy. They also had to defend themselves from the attack of other nations either from land or sea.

Meanwhile, in the East, Muslim was in the middle of great development, thus they could build a great urban culture. Entering the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the situation had been changed, trade in Europe had started to life again, markets and cities had got their spirit again, either in the inside Europe or in the south of Europe, i.e. around West Mediterranean (Sounders, 1965: 154, Esposito, 1994: 51).

Regarding this, Farmer also asserts that from 800s to 1000s, European life was completely without trade. That condition slowly changed when there was trade between Muslim and Europe in the north. Sea trade spread in the north of Europe was centralized around Baltik Sea and North Sea. The commercial growth happened in this area was in line with the growth in southern Europe centralized in Mediterania Sea. Following the growth, there was trade route in the land connecting the two areas. At the same time, the trade net also grew in the inside part of Europe (Farmer, 1951: 249-250).

This is in line with Burn et. al.'s explanation on the European situation. Burn asserts that, though the 10<sup>th</sup> A.D shows a great economical growth in the cities in Italy, it could not represent the situation in Europe in general. It was in fact different from what happened in the inside part of Europe. Since the 8<sup>th</sup> century until the 11<sup>th</sup>, economic condition of inside Europe was fully based on limited farming and local trade. Many roads were ruined and barter had replaced money. Basic main economic unit along the period was back to the land system that was usually owned by kings, knights, and churches (Burn, Leener, Meacham, 1982: 393).

In the 1050s, Europe started entering a big and fast transformation period. The city life that had not been fully active started growing and it grew fast. Farming life had also been changed from mid era farming model that was in economic self-sufficiency mode, to the market mode farming. Trade and commerce in general, especially those in Mediterranean and southern France grow faster, either from the quantity or from the expansion (Smith, 2005)

Entering Crusades, the economic life in Europe grew faster. Many fields and garden grew faster, the border areas were also more open and there were markets. Domination of Muslim in Mediterranean Sea or Middle Sea also got some challenge from Italian merchants. Nobleman, bourgeois and peasants, all tried to find new markets in the areas under the control of Muslim (Baldwin, 1979: 298).

### **Feudalism in Europe in the Mid Century**

As has been stated above, in the early of 8<sup>th</sup> century, the trade in Christian Europe had a drastic deterioration. It was caused by the ruin of trade route with east world as the effect of the domination of Mediterranean Sea by Muslim. The absent of stimulus from outside world had made the economy in Christian Europe returned to natural economy counting on land as the basis. It also made government hard to collect a significant amount of tax and lose their main financial support (Ferguson and Bruun, 1962: 159).

Though money was still used as the means of exchange, the circulation was very limited. What had been left was farming economy based on barter and service exchange. Land, therefore, became the only source of wealth and farming became the main activity. Accordingly, there emerged what so called manorial system in Europe. Manorial is a term used to refer to taxing and jurisdiction life under the power of lord or landlord (Kuntowijoyo, 2005: 42.).

That is within this situation that feudalism in Europe in mid century had their basis. Literally, feudalism, which is derived from Latin word *feudum* refers to a society controlled by system of *fief* with legal and political power spread among those who had economic power. The term of *fief* itself emerged as the king gave a certain area of land to a well known military figure, who was usually known as *lord (fighting aristocracy)*. A lord then became the employer of the peasant in the fief, and had rights to collect tax and apply legal authority. As the repayment, a lord vowed to the king, actively helped him to defend the area from the enemy, and prepared armored cavalry. Though formally *fief* still belong to the king and it is returned to the king if the man managing *fief* died, however, in practice, the fiefs is inherited (Fink, 2010: 17).

This feudalism term had been used largely in any society that emerged when there was any necessity from people to give some part of their product to the owner. The payment could be in the form of workforce, or rent in the form of goods or money, or the combination. In the period between 800 and 1000, the real producers in Europe were slaves, enslaved peasants, and those who worked on free land. Along this period, feudal production model became dominant since trade and commerce in this Mid Sea was dominated by Muslim. Therefore, landholding and manorial land management was a general indication in Europe along this period.

Lord or so called *seigneur* from a manor was usually a member of fighting aristocracy. Pertaining to the manor possession, the lord might have only one manor, or hundreds of manor. According to Ferguson and Bruun, though there was some variations in the custom or practice, manorial system reflected some general indications of economy in Europe in mid century (Ferguson and Bruun, 1962: 161).

In the middle of manor, on the highest part of the land or high land there was usually the house of manor. Around the manor, there was fort to defend lord and the peasants. The land was usually divided into some parts; there was a part planted with grain products producing cereals and seeds such as wheat or the like, and the other part that was used to graze cows, lambs and pigs. There was also forest producing wood and as the place to hunt. If a lord did not stay in the manor and lived in another manor, the manor's house was lived by bailiff, i.e. the people who acted as manor agent and was responsible to manage the land.

Near the manor's living place, there usually was peasants' housing. Each of the peasants bound to a certain area of land, made a village which could not be separated with manor. Therefore, village can be referred to manor, where the

peasants were in general included *sef* or the slave of a lord. The peasants should not leave manor without the permit of the lord. They also did not have possession right towards the land, all belonged to their lord. Besides, they also did not have freedom to choose their spouse or marry with the peasants from another manor. The peasants were the forced workers of the lord and land for them was only work to do.

The tie between peasants and their lord could be loose if the landlord freed them. However, the landlord still had a strong monopoly. If there was a peasant who had owned his or her freedom and intended to leave the land, he or she had to leave all of his or her wealth, except for the clothes he or she wore. Though the peasants had freedom to get married; however, if the person replacing him came from another landlords, he or she should pay a high tax.

A manor usually had a milling place, blacksmith, small church and convent. Beside the village, there was usually field, savannah, empty land, and wood forest. Within the farmland, there was so called *demense*, the width was by and large a third of manor, which is used by lord himself. *Demense* could be in a certain place or spread along the manor.

Manor, therefore, played as either economy or politic entity. The peasants in manor could not freely contact other world and the higher authority beyond the lord either. In that situation, it was not surprising that there was landlord who exploited the peasants. Besides, the peasants were often suffering because of what lord's employee did. According to Ferguson and Bruun, even the best lord would burden his peasants with manorial works. On the other hand, a good lord was that who was responsible for the security of the peasants and did as their rights (Ferguson and Bruun, 1962: 228).

Within these centuries, commerce only happened in a small scale and most of the peasants' need such as food, cloth and tools were produced in manor. Farm products was mostly consumed in manor, though there was also cereal products brought to another manors. After the reawakening of the city life, many of the products were sold to the near markets. in conclusion, it can be said that manorial system was a simple economy marked by production and service exchange through barter or cash transactions (Ferguson and Bruun, 1962: 165).

### **Reawakening of European Trade and Commerce**

According to Watt, trade pattern between Islamic world and Christian Europe grew to a newest direction happened in the 10<sup>th</sup> century or the second period and to a bigger volume. The most important character of the trade contact in this era was the transportation of merchandise done indirectly by Arabic merchants or directly by Italian merchants by crossing Mid Sea. The Italian merchants coming from Amalfi and Venetia were the first people found the trade route to Mid Sea. They not only came to Tunisia but also to Egypt and Syria (Watt, 1990: 26, Hayes, 1956: 245).

The trade journey to Muslim area was followed by merchants from Genoa and Pisa, who then beat the position of Amalfi traders. This was because Genoa and Pisa were two harbors good and strategic for merchants to transit from north. Besides having been conducted by Italian, the transportation of merchandise was also carried out from Morocco or west Islam area such as Spain and North Africa to its east side, it was also conducted by Jewish Morocco (Watt, 1990: 26, Hayes, 1956: 245).

In line with Watt, Cahen asserts that there was unwillingness from Muslim merchants to directly contact Europe. The unwillingness was not resulted from their unwillingness to wander to the non Muslim areas or from their uneasiness that they would be expelled by the European authority. The unwillingness from Muslim to directly contact Europe besides Italy and Byzantium was especially resulted from the volume of the trade which was considered small. Besides, they also felt that they would get a better benefit if the transportation was conducted by Italian (Watt, 1990: 26, Hayes, 1956: 245).

In line with Cahen and Watt, Lewis also notes that there were some factors causing unwillingness from Muslim to make a commercial journey to Europe at that time. For Muslim merchants, Europe seems to be more interesting than India, China and South East Asia. Comparing to the countries, Europe did not have products to be offered or sold. Notes towards the commodity from Europe did not interest Muslim merchants. Among the commodities or products within west and central Europe, there were three things important to Islam, namely Slavian slave, Frank gun, and England wool.

However, different from Cahen and Watt, Lewis said that religion was the factor underlying the unwillingness from Muslim merchant to come to Europe directly. According to Lewis, the unwillingness was caused by the intolerance from European authority towards Muslim newcomers. As to face the situation, it was not surprised that the Muslim authority or Muslim merchants who had some business with Europe tended to chose to send Christian envoy. Therefore, these envoys could do the journey and the communication easier and do the task well (Lewis, 1988: 77-78)

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, it was seen that Europe was started rebuilding its economy (Barbara H. Rosenwein, "Middle Age" dalam *Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2005*, Microsoft Corporation, All rights reserved, 1993-2004). This awakening of Europe could not be separated from the development in trade and commerce According to Lopez, it is within this era that the commercial revolution in Europe happened. It is because within the era, the spectacular economic growth in the trade cities such as Venesia, Genoa and Florence happened (Robert S. Lopez, "Of Towns and Trade" dalam bukunya Robert S. Hoyt (ed.), *Life and Thought in Early Middle Ages*).

The reawakening of Christian Europe trade was started from Italy. This was because Italy had succeeded in maintain its relation in trade and commerce with east world, i.e. with the Constantinople imperial and Islamic world. Meanwhile,

the trade and commerce within the inside Europe had really deteriorated. Since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Italian merchant, namely from Amalfi, had grown its trade and political net with North Africa Muslim. In the end of 10<sup>th</sup> century, they then built its trade with Egypt, the capital city of Fatimiyyah Dynasty at that time (Hayes, 1956: 245).

The trade expansion of Italians by crossing Mediterranean had brought a significant increase in economy. This growth then caused the emergence of new markets in Europe, which at the same time supported commerce in a broader level. Cities in Italy which were located in the seaside played a strategic role pertaining to the trade and commerce traffic, because the European commerce with the east areas could be assured to pass the Italian cities (Knopf, 1951: 254.)

Besides importing merchants from Islamic world, Italian cities also grew manufacture products that could be sold along European land. Venetia, for instance, had increased its products to include silk and glassware. Milan also had increased the same products, i.e. products made of silk. Florence did the same; they produced high quality wool and silk cloths. Therefore, the Italian cities grew fast becoming prosperous cities as well as becoming the economy centre through their commerce and manufacture. Therefore, it was not surprising if there was a statement that European economy in the mid century was very depended on the economic growth in Italy ((Paul Farmer, *The European World: A Historical Introduction* (Knopf, 1951: 254-255).

Following the great growth of Italian cities in Mediterranean, there was penetration to the inside Europe. Commerce that at first was centralized in Italy spread fast to inside Europe and gave prosperity to the citizens within the main trade route. Therefore, the increase of the traffic along the trade routes also prompted the emergence of new housings (Cahen, "Commercial Relations, 1980: 16).

Because of the trade expansion of the Italian merchants, several important cities outside Italy started growing fast. There was growth and development of cities along Danube, Rhine, and Rhone rivers; around North Sea and Baltic; and so of countries such as Belgium, Luxemburg, and Netherland. It is that within these cities that the north and south trade route met. The growth and development of these cities, did not only influence the production in farming, but also caused export industry.

Tuscany, Sienna, and Florence, which had a commerce connection with Pisa through Arno Valley, had also become prosperous. Merchants from Pisa also expanded to Lyons Bay and Rhone. Harbors such as Marseilles, Montpellier and Norton also traded with Provence as well as Barcelona in Catalonia. These countries and cities had tried to increase their production. In the early of 12<sup>th</sup> century, for instance, Lucca had produced silk which the raw materials were gained from sea trade (Pirenne, 1937: 33).

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the spirit to trade from maritime Italian cities had indeed spread to north side. The Venetian merchant had done some trade

expansion to German trough Brenner; to Saone and Rhine valley through Septimer; to St. Bernard and Rhone valley through Mont Cenis. It was also said that within the last half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Italian merchant had reached Prance. Therefore, it was not impossible that they had ever visited Champagne markets through Flander beach. Their aims, the merchants who came from Italy to Flander, however, were to buy clothes and sell spices, silks, and golden ware.

Since the early of 13<sup>th</sup> century, apricot, fig tree, raisin, oranges, rice, perfume elements, medicines, and alum had been exported to Europe. Silk and cotton brought to Italy went to inside Europe. Damas (kimcha) from Damascus, gauze from Mosul, canopy from Baghdad, gauze from Gaza, followed the emergence of cotton and silk in Italy. A few modern Europe terms in commerce that was guessed to be derived from east worlds were *bazaar*, *tarrif*, and *cheque*(Pirenne, 1937: 34).

The great benefit gained by the trade cities had caused the awakening of merchant groups in inside Europe. The groups had a big role in distributing many commodities from east to whole Europe. Merchant cities such as Venetia, Genoa, and Pisa, became the most important cities in south Italy. Milan, the merchant League City, which had united some cities such as Bergamo, Brescia, and Crema, became important either. And so did the cities such as Marseilles, Montpellier, and Narbonne in Prance. Barcelona in Catalonia, which awoke in a few times later, was either.

Besides building trade leagues, the benefit gained from the trade, was also used to open another business, especially business in banking and industrial field. The wealth from Florence, the city well known as the pioneer of the renaissance culture in Europe, came from this business. In its glorious time, textile industries in Florentine could employ 30,000 labors. At the same time, banking they developed had also caused the emergence of wealthy families in Florence. A further explanation on the banking development will be explained in a certain sub chapter.

### **Market in Europe in Mid Century**

Before the reawakening of the commerce, markets in Europe, follow the terms what was called by Pirenne as local markets. These markets were held in a week time or weekly, which was supported by the fund from feudalist. In the markets, farmers sold chickens, eggs, wools, and clothes. Along with the increase of the demand on various kinds of merchandise in 11<sup>th</sup> century, a certain local markets became trade centers. The centers then became the place to do barter of many commodities from Europe and the outside Europe. The merchant troupe from whole Europe then came to the trade centers.

The most well known market among the European markets in the mid century was Champagne. Champagne was a country that had a geographical location strategic for trade or barter among the European nations. It was located between Prance and Flander at a side and had access to Lombardi through St.

Bernard and Mont-Cenis at the other side. Naturally, Champagne was a strategic spot for merchants from all over Europe (Atiya, 1969: 177).

Its location inside France made the place easy to reach, either from north or south of France. Therefore, Champagne ideally played a very important role in diffusing commerce at the meeting point of West Europe. It made possible and supported trade within the areas under the jurisdiction to open markets rotating over year. The markets were Lagny, Bar, Provins, Troyers, and Lent markets (Atiya, 1969: 177).

The markets in general sold various merchandise, there were shops available for merchants. Usually, agents inventoried in detail all merchandise to ensure that there was not any unfair retribution. In a certain days, there was an exhibition and the merchants sold all of their merchandises. Weaving wool from Italy and Flemish, linen and grape from France, leather from German, steel from Sicilia and Spain, spices and silk as well as carpet from East, gold and silver from Africa, alum from little Asia, and another commodities were bartered among the merchants (Atiya, 1969: 177).

Within the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the development of this trade had spread through Alpine to German, through Saone, Rhine, and Rhone. It was not doubted that the Italian merchants within the era had visited Champagne markets and traded from Flander Beach (Catriona Macperon, "Medieval Merchants...", p. 15). During the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, markets in Champagne had grown to be the market mostly visited by merchants all over Europe. The bustle from Champagne and Brie markets was caused by their location which was in the middle of the big trade route from Italy to Flander beach. From the markets, the merchants could continued their journey to North Sea and the five markets in Flemish, namely Bruges, Ypres, Lille, Thourout, and Messines.

Merchants and capital owners, could live in the Champagne markets along the year, went from one markets to the other. There, the merchants from south Europe could meet with merchants from the east Europe. Merchants from France, England, German, Flemish, Catalan, Provencal, and Italy, gathered in Champagne markets to barter. England wool and Flemish wool were bought by merchants from Florentine, then were dyed and soften to get a lot more benefit. From France, especially from Bordeaux, the merchants bought mining products (Macperon, 2005: 16).

Gold, silver, steel, diamond, incense, charcoal, wool, silk, cotton, jute, linen, and salt, bought from markets in east (Islamic world) was then brought to Champagne markets. Merchants from Syria, Jewish, and Italy, traded leather from Antiokia, purple cloth from Tyrania, and another weaving works, spices, and jewel. Copper pots from East Belgium, musical instruments from Alsace, men wear, gloves, shoes, saddle, grindstone, guns, carts, and products made by gold smith, could be found in Champagne markets. Besides, that there was certain markets known for the special products. For instance, if a knight needed a horse, he would go to Lagni market products (Macperon, 2005: 15).

Besides Champagne, there was also Lendit market in St. Denis. In another area in France, there was also Beaucaire market which was located next to Mersailles and Aix-en-provence. However, Champagne was still the main market until the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Since its emergence, Champagne reached its success in 13<sup>th</sup> century and deteriorated in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The deterioration happened when the merchants from Venetia and Genoa directly sailed to Flander and England through Gibraltar strait (Atiya, 1969: 178).

Another well known commerce also emerged between Champagne and Flemish. Flemish cloth was sold to buy gold, silver, silk clothes, and spices. Within the 13<sup>th</sup> century, merchants selling Flemish clothe went in group to a certain cities. Each of the group usually used a certain flags or signs (Macperon, 2005: 16).

The growth in fact had caused Flemish markets such as Bruges, Ypres, Lille, Tourout, and Messines, grew fast and started competing Champagne Market as international market. It also happened in England which had markets such as Winchester, Stanford, St. giles, St. Ives, Stourbridge, and Bartholomew. Meanwhile, Novrogod in Russia and Kiev in Ukraine became livelier because of fur trade from north and merchandise coming by caravan from East Asia (Atiya, 1969: 178).

Markets in this mid century, therefore, had played an important role in the growth of European civilization. Trade and commerce in general had caused the markets influenced by civilization. The markets, as has been known, became the meeting point for various cultures from many areas. At the same time, this commerce had stimulated the growth of farming and industrial field. This commerce also became the main factor for the changing of barter to currency system. Since then, currency had been used again in markets and money changer grew as well (Macperon, 2005: 16).

In general, merchants worked in money changing were Jewish and Lombardi merchants. They counted values of various currency used in markets. Besides money changing, the merchants also gave loan as well. Moreover, they also kept money and helped others in increasing credit. These activities in fact had stimulated the growth of credit organization. This loan transaction was mostly done in Champagne markets, because the merchants visited the places from time to time. Ironically, though there was a prohibition from churches on interest system, most of the merchants kept on ignoring the prohibition.

This market phenomenon was one of the interesting characters of mid century life. Citizens from all classes came to the market to trade or at least to find entertainment. Later, almost cities had their own market. They were sometimes held in commemorating holidays or religious ceremony. However, it should be noted that big markets in Christian Europe in general had their own colleagues in east (Atiya,1969: 179.).

## **The decrease of European feudalism**

After the awakening of cities and the reawakening of commerce which promoted currency system again, self-sufficiency economic life of manors was disturbed or deteriorating. The trade using currency had replaced barter system. The spread of currency system and the increase of demand to work in cities had also changed life pattern of peasants and farming in Europe in general.

In 1106, for instance, Florence government invited peasants from villages around the place to come and live in the city as free people. Bologne and few other cities also freed the peasants from feudal lords and let the slaves move out of towns. Meanwhile, there was some slaves run from their lords or was invited to open new field around Elbe and their position was changed automatically as free people (Durrant, 1950: 643-646).

For the peasants who still lived in manor, they should live with the manorial rules or tried to defy while facing a number of sanctions. Their defiance, for instance, was reflected in the abrogation of *seigniorial* act containing some responsibilities, the burst of castles owned by adamant seigneur, and threats to ignore authority of *seigneurs* if their charge was not fulfilled.

One of the defiance of the slaves happened in 1100 A.D. for example happened when the personal slaves of St. Michel-de-beauvis stated that they will marry every woman they like and will give his daughters to those who likes her. In 1102 A.D., personal slaves of Arnoul-de-Crepy also refused the abbey on the traditional or burial ceremony, and refused to pay fine because of marrying their sisters to other. A similar defiance also happened in many cities from Flander to Spain (Durrant, 1950: 643-646).

Because of the defiance from peasants, feudal lords had a harder situation to get benefit. The increase of those hard situations had caused a high cost, because they should pay guards. Slaves in manorial shops also gave a higher cost comparing to the free workers who had produced similar merchandises in cities. In another words, seigniorial institution started losing its jurisdiction on peasants slowly.

As to keep the peasants not to leave their work land and to gain some benefit to their own good, lords changed the contract among them. Each payment was then changed with money. They also offered freedom to slaves for those who were able to pay them. Besides, they also started offering *demense* to free peasants in a certain value. They also lent and paid free workers to work in their shops or lands.

Following the way done by Muslim and Byzantium year by year, European in 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries started changing barter transaction model with currency system. As the landlords wanted manufacture sold in the market as well, they needed money to buy the merchandises.

Slowly, from 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in certain areas within Europe, especially in the west of Elbe, peasants started having their own farmland. Meanwhile, the

land owned by feudal manors was decreasing, since many of them sold their land – usually for prompting their position to become bourgeoisie. Therefore, in 13<sup>th</sup> century, peasants had been awakening and got the freedom and prosperity that had never been experienced by them for thousand years.

The new stimulant for the freedom of peasants cannot be separated from the opening of markets towards farming products. This stimulant had helped increasing methods, tools, and various farming products. The increase of the number of citizens, prosperity, the emergence of new facilities in financial and commerce, in fact had stimulated and increased the town economy.

## **Conclusion**

Paying attention to the explanation above, it can be concluded that:

1. Since Muslim dominated the Mediterranean Sea in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, European economy had a drastic deterioration. Further, it was said that the commerce was ruined or nearly dead. The fall of commerce in this field had pushed Europe to reuse land as life source. At that time, European feudalism in the mid century found its way.
2. Entering the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the situation in Europe started to change; the economy and commerce had been awakening, markets and cities started to life again. The situation was caused by the betterment of commerce in the south centralized in Mediterranean Sea and in the north around Baltic Sea and North Sea. The commercial development in the two areas then reawakened the commerce route in Europe connecting north and south.
3. After and along the reawakening of cities and the reawakening of trade economy which reintroduced the currency system, the self-sufficiency economy from manors was disturbed or deteriorating. The feudalism based on land economy had a drastic change, and change into a wider production.

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