

Why Did the Feudal System Exist in Western Europe?

De-centralized Power

There was not ONE powerful ruler, but hundreds of weak ones.

Geography/Isolation

Western Europe was surrounded by mountains, oceans, and powerful empires.

Transportation

In the early middle ages, there were few roads, and ships were not advanced enough for sea travel.

Poverty

The feudal system kept everyone poor, with just enough resources to survive, not to trade.