***ROLE OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH HOMEWORK***

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| **Document #1**   1. What is the view of medieval society that is expressed in this document? 2. According to this document, what is the deadliest of sins? |
| Society, like the human body, is made up of different parts. Each member of society serves a purpose, prayer (clergy), defense (knights), merchandise (tradesmen, merchants) or tilling the soil (serfs). Each person should receive the means proper for his or her class. Within classes there must be equality; between classes there must be inequality. Peasants must follow the orders of those above them. Lords must not take unfair advantage of the peasants. Craftsmen and merchants should receive only what they need to remain in business and no more. To seek more is greed, and greed is a deadly sin. |
| **SOURCE:** R.R. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism* (London: Harcourt Brace and Company, Inc., 1926). |

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| **Document #2**  Why does Pope Innocence III believe that the church has more power than kings and other secular rulers? |
| The Creator set up two great lights in the heavens; the greater light to rule the day, the lesser light to rule the night. In the same way, the Church has set up two great lights on earth; the greater light, being the Pope, to rule over souls; the lesser light, being the king, to rule over bodies. Just as the moon’s light comes from the sun, does the power of the king come from the Pope. The more closely a king is willing to follow the Pope's rule, the greater his light will be. |
| **SOURCE:** Excerpt from a letter of Pope Innocent III, 1198. |

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| **Document #3**  What are the results of being excommunicated from the Catholic Church? |
| In the name of God, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, and the authority divinely granted to bishops by Peter, chief of the Apostles, we separate them from the bosom of holy Mother Church, and condemn them with the anathema of the eternal curse, that they may have no help of man nor any converse with Christians. Let them be accursed in the city and accursed in the country. Accursed be their barns and accursed their bones; accursed be the . . . seed of their lands, their flocks of sheep, and their herds of cattle. Accursed be they in their entering and in their outgoing. Be they accursed at home and homeless elsewhere. . . . Upon their heads fall all the curses with  which God through His servant Moses threatened the transgressors of the Divine Law. Let them be anathema maranatha [terribly accursed], and let them perish in the second coming of the Lord; and let them moreover endure whatever of evil is provided in the sacred canons and the apostolic decrees for murder and sacrilege. Let the righteous sentence of Divine Condemnation consign them to eternal death. Let no Christian salute them. Let no priest say Mass for them, nor in sickness receive their confession, nor, unless they repent, grant them the sacrosanct communion even on their deathbed. But let them be buried in the grave of an ass, . . . that their shame and malediction may be a warning to present and future generations. And, as these lights which we now cast from our hands are extinguished, so may their light be quenched in eternal darkness. |
| **SOURCE:** A decree of excommunication (10c) as quoted |