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Chapter #16

Frame Your World: Who ruled? What rights did people have? How was power distributed? List the differences and similarities between the hierarchies described in this chapter and the society you live in today. Are the similarities or differences more striking?

Social ladders have been part of the intrinsic nature of humankind and have continuously been used throughout history. The concept of hierarchies have evolved to the point where it is still very part of our modern social history. During the 16th Century in Roman catholic European countries the King and the Pope were at the top of the social ladder, followed by those that were part of the aristocracy, then those that composed the government of the king, and at the very bottom the peasants (common people). In other words, the power was from the top to the bottom. Which is not so different from modern times. Depending on the countries that you reside in, the government has a constitutional monarchy or absolute monarch, president elected by the common people, prime minister and so on. The Church power might be equally or under Government power depending on the country, then followed by those that composed the Government power. In other words, the power flows from top to the bottom. In the past and modern times trading has been part of the economic system of any country with some modern variations and other economic incomes that have been added such as tourism and technology. One of the biggest differences between these past hierarchies compared to modern ones is that people have some sort of rights that are protected by the government that are meant to represent

and protect the people, something that was not so well established or exercised during past history.