**B. A system based on personal loyalty**

* Charlemagne besed his government on persanal relationships.
* His counts and marquises promised to be loyal and protect the Emperor. They became their vassals, so the Emperor was their lord.
* In exchange these nobles received a land from the Emperor.
* This land was worked by peasanst, who became vassals of the count or the marquis.

So, the counts and marquises were vassals of the Emperor and lords of their peasants. Peasants had two lords (the emperor and the count or marquis).

**C. Towards feudal Europe**

When Charlemagne died the crown passes to his son Louis the Pious.

But, when Louis the Pious died, the tree grandsons of Charlemagne (Lothair, Louis the German and Charles the Bald) fought to get a piece of the Empire.

In the Treaty of Verdun (843) they divided the Empire into three independent kingdoms, one for each brother. This is the definitive separation between France and Germany. This last kingdom will retain the title of “Emperor” for its kings.

Vikings and Muslims started to attack and sack Europe and the kings could not stop them. As a result, the counts and marquises protected their population and they became almost independent, as the kings were weak. It’s the beginning of **FEUDALISM**.