

Proofreading Marks in Action

Communes first appeared in Belgium, France and Italy at the end of the 11th century. They were ~~actually~~[≡] a town where everyone agreed to take an oath of mutual aid^e. Communes were formed because Europe had just finally turned away the attacks ~~from~~^{from} the Barbarians, and the people needed better protection and better legal and economic systems.

Communes then were ~~sort of~~^{sort of} like districts or states that were usually respected by the King of that country.

Sometimes ^{the} king would honor ~~it~~^{them} with a charter.

At different times, living in a commune could mean simply a local self-government and at other times, it could mean a complete independence from the reigning authorities. All of the communes were different but there were fundamental similarities between them. Similarities, like loyalty to your fellow comuners above all else, ^{SP} sharing of common expenses, like the upkeep of fortifications, a group of elected officials who were the political authority, an authoritative structure that was directed toward keeping the peace and protecting the community members, a communal court where disputes were judged, and all economic affairs like taxes and trade being regulated in the community's best interest.