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 aide. Communes were formed because Europe had just finally turned away the attacks from the Barbarians, and the people needed better protection and better legal and economic systems.

Communes then were sort of like districts or states that were usually respected by the king of that country.

Sometimes king would honor it 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 communers above all else, the sharing of common expenses, like the upkeep of fortifications, a group of elected officials who 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.