

The Hundred Years' War (1347-1453)

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Causes of the 100 Years' War

1. Controversy Over Succession



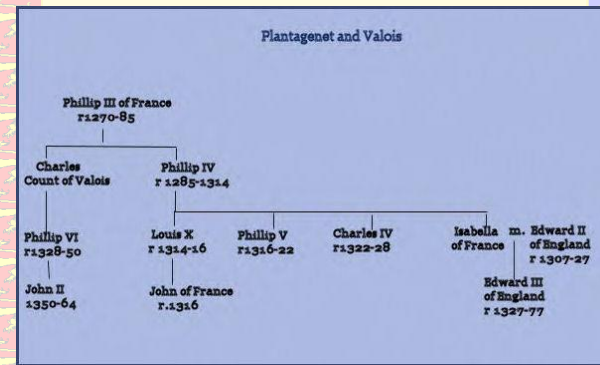
The French nobility selected **Philip of Valois**, a cousin of the last king through the male line.

- He founded a new French dynasty that ruled through the 16c.
- He was chosen in preference to **King Edward III of England**, whose mother was the daughter of the late king, Philip IV.



In 1340, Edward claimed the title "King of France."

Capetian Dynasty



Immediate Cause

- Quarrel over Gascony
- 1337: Edward III (king of England and duchy of Gascony) refused to do homage to Philip VI for Gascony.
- French king Philip VI seizes Gascony
- Edward III declares war on Philip the "so called king of France"

2. Fr. Land Belonging to Br. Kings

A longer standing issue was the status of lands within France that belonged to English kings.

Edward was actually a vassal of Philip's, holding sizable French territories as fiefs from the king of France [it went back to the Norman conquest].



3. Conflict Over Flanders



The 'dagger' pointing at the 'heart' of England!

- Wool industry.
- Flanders wants its independence from French control.
- Asks England for help.

4. A Struggle for National Identity

France was NOT a united country before the war began.

The French king only controlled about half of the country.



The War Itself

Military Characteristics

☛ The War was a series of short raids and expeditions punctuated by a few major battles, marked off by truces or ineffective treaties.

✦ The relative strengths of each country dictated the sporadic nature of the struggle.

French Advantages

- ☛ Population of about 16,000,000.
- ☛ Far richer and more populous than England.
- ☛ At one point, the French fielded an army of over 50,000 → at most, Britain mustered only 32,000.

British Advantages

- ☛ Weapons Technologies.
- ☛ In almost every engagement, the English were outnumbered.
 - ✦ Britain's most successful strategies:
 - ☒ Avoid pitched battles.
 - ☒ Engage in quick, profitable raids
 - ☑ Steal what you can.
 - ☑ Destroy everything else.
 - ☑ Capture enemy knights to hold for ransom.

The Longbow as a Weapon



- ✠ The use of the English defensive position was the use of the **longbow**.
- ✠ Its arrows had more penetrating power than a bolt from a **crossbow**.
 - ✦ Could pierce an inch of wood or the armor of a knight at 200 yards!
- ✠ A longbow could be fired more rapidly.
 - ✦ 6 arrows per minute.

The British Longbow: The Battle of Poitiers, 1356



Early English Victories



The Effective Use of the Cannon at Poitiers, 1356



French Confusion

👑 The English captured the French king, **John II** [r.1350-1364].

✦ France was now ruled by the **Estates General**

✦ A representative council of townspeople and nobles.

✦ Created in 1355.

✦ **Purpose** → to secure funds for the war.

👑 In theory, the French king could not levy taxes on his own!!

The Jacquerie, 1358

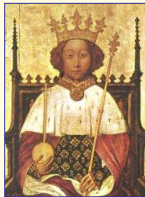
👑 In the confusion and unrest following the French disaster at Poitiers, this rural movement began.

✦ It was a response to the longstanding economic and political grievances in the countryside worsened by warfare.

✦ The rebels were defeated by aristocratic armies.



Trouble in England



✦ Peasant Revolt in 1381 was put down by **King Richard II** [r. 1377-1399].

✦ After charges of tyranny, Richard II was forced to abdicate in 1390.

✦ Parliament elected **Henry IV** [r. 1399-1413], the first ruler from the **House of Lancaster**.

✦ Henry avoided war taxes.

✦ He was careful not to alienate the nobility.

✦ Therefore, a truce was signed ending French and British hostilities [for the time being, at least].



King Henry V (r. 1412-1422)

✦ Renewed his family's claim to the French throne.

✦ At **Agincourt** in 1415, the English, led by Henry himself, goaded a larger French army into attacking a fortified English position.

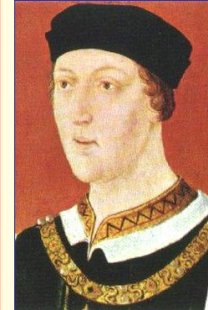
✦ With the aid of the **dukes of Burgundy**, Henry gained control over Normandy, Paris, and much of northern France!



A Burgundian Presence



Treaty of Troyes (1420)



- ✠ Charles VI's son [the future Charles VII], was declared illegitimate and disinherited.
- ✠ Henry V married Catherine, the daughter of Charles VI.
 - ✦ Henry was declared the legitimate heir to the French throne!
- ✠ A final English victory seemed assured, but both Charles VI and Henry V died in 1422.
- ✠ This left Henry's infant son, **Henry VI** [r. 1422-1461], to inherit BOTH thrones.

Height of English Dominance



The French "Reconquest"



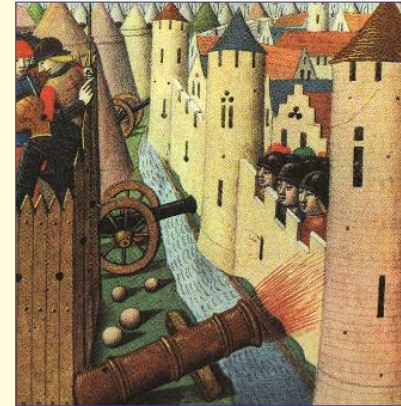
- ✠ The two kings' deaths ushered in the final stage of the 100 Years' War [1422-1453].
 - ✦ Even though in 1428 the military and political power seemed firmly in British hands, the French reversed the situation.
- ✠ In 1429, with the aid of the mysterious **Joan of Arc**, the French king, **Charles VII**, was able to raise the English siege of **Orleans**.
 - ✦ This began the reconquest of the north of France.

Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

- ✙ The daughter of prosperous peasants from an area of Burgundy that had suffered under the English.
- ✙ Like many medieval mystics, she reported regular visions of divine revelation.
 - ✦ Her "voices" told her to go to the king and assist him in driving out the English.
- ✙ She dressed like a man and was Charles' most charismatic and feared military leader!



Cannons Used at Orleans



Joan Announces the Capture of Orleans to the King



Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

- ✙ She brought inspiration and a sense of national identity and self-confidence.
- ✙ With her aid, the king was crowned at Reims [ending the "disinheritance"].
- ✙ She was captured during an attack on Paris and fell into English hands.
 - ✦ Because of her "unnatural dress" and claim to divine guidance, she was condemned and burned as a heretic in 1432.



- ✦ She instantly became a symbol of French resistance.

Joan as a "Feminist" Symbol Today?



The End of the War

- ❖ Despite Joan's capture, the French advance continued.
- ❖ By 1450 the English had lost all their major centers except **Calais**.
- ❖ In 1453 the French armies captured an English-held fortress.
 - ✦ This was the last battle of the war.
- ❖ There was not treaty, only a cessation of hostilities.

France Becomes Unified!



France in 1337



France's political system

- Who made up the Estates-General?
- Who did they represent?
- Why was France nearly pulled apart by political problems?
- How was France and Great Britain different than other countries in Europe at this time?

The Holy Roman Empire

- How did it work?
- Who was in charge?
- Why might it be said that the Golden Bull of 1356 A.D. established both the independence and dependence of the Holy Roman Empire?



Italy

- How was Italy ruled?
- What were the 2 tendencies that can be discerned in Italy by the 14th century?
- What three major states came to dominate northern Italy?



How was Milan, Florence, and Venice ruled?



Florence

- Ciompi (1378)
- Wool workers
- Real wages decline due to the coinage being not worth as much.
- Won the right to form guilds and be represented in government
- Short-lived (ended gov participation in 1382)

