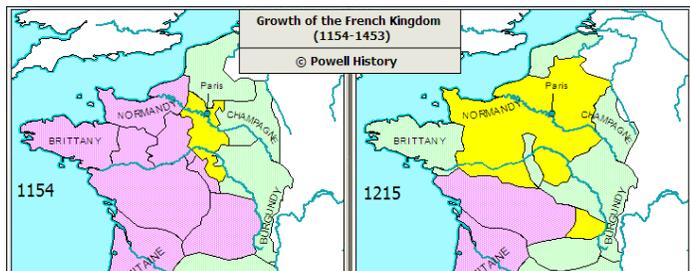


C. Success of the Capetian Dynasty (987-1328 AD)

1. The success of the Capetian kings (followers of Hugh *Capet*) in solving the “problem of the dukes” is a big difference between France and Germany.
2. The most important example of their success was the triumph of Philip II over John of England:
 - a) John was the fifth child of the English royal family.
 - b) Nonetheless, because of this brothers’ deaths, he was positioned to become the most powerful king in Europe.
 - c) His niece, however, was the heiress of the French duchy of Brittany (see the map below), so John decided to kidnap and imprison her to prevent her from being married to any ally of the French king.
 - d) The French king Philip II seized the opportunity to command John to answer
 - e) the charges of kidnapping in Paris, but John refused to go.
 - f) When John refused, he was being disloyal, and thus the king could rightly take his land.
 - g) This led to the pivotal *Battle of Bouvines* of **1214**, where Philip defeated John and was able to take most of his land away.



French lords assemble around Philip II in preparation for the **Battle of Bouvines of 1214** in a painting by Horace Vernet.



This detail from our map from page 12 shows the gains of the Capetian king Philip II of France at the expense of John I of England.

D. Avoiding a Dead End

1. Please revisit the diagram on *page 10* and accompanying section on the end of the Capetian dynasty.
2. In thinking about the importance of **1328**, compare the success of the Capetian kings of France to failure of the German kings.
3. This makes it very understandable that French leaders would not want to hand over that success to their enemies (the English).

E. The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) — Here and Now, Part 1

1. Although the Hundred Years' War was a huge war, its importance has naturally reduced over time. Most of the details can no longer concern students of history.
2. Early in the war, the Black Death (the plague) wiped out nearly 40% of the population of Europe, and thus interrupted the war.
3. Of greater importance in the long run was that the popes had been forced to move from Rome to Avignon, France for a brief period called the “Avignon Papacy” due to the chaos in the Holy Roman Empire (because of their struggles with the German kings) and the relative power of the French monarchy.
4. Naturally, Englishmen objected to making donations to a Church headquartered in France, whose leader was so closely connected to the king of France.
5. In particular, an English theologian (scholar of the Bible) named John Wycliffe said that it was not necessary to follow the (French) pope in order to be a good Christian. Although Wycliffe was pronounced a heretic (like Arius back in Roman times) for these views, the conflict between England and France made such views more common, and it would eventually be one of the causes of the **Reformation and Religious Wars (1517-1648)**.

F. The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) — Here and Now, Part 2: Joan of Arc

1. Although the English won most of the major battles of the war, the sheer size of France made its final conquest impossible to them.
2. Then arose the miraculous figure of Joan of Arc.
3. The young woman is said to have experienced a religious vision in which she was assigned the mission of saving France and its legitimate Christian king from the wrongful claim of the English.
4. Joan was able to make the case to the French king that she should accompany the troops in the **Battle of Orleans of 1429**, in which they were successful, and her legend grew.
5. Thanks to Joan, the French king was triumphant, and although she was later captured, condemned as a witch and burned at the stake, Joan became a great national hero.



The powerful symbol of Joan of Arc continues to inspire French nationalists today. This leader, Marine Le Pen, is deploying imagery of Joan to promote the view that France must reassert its national greatness and leave the European Union. If she is successful, the EU will end in 2017.