

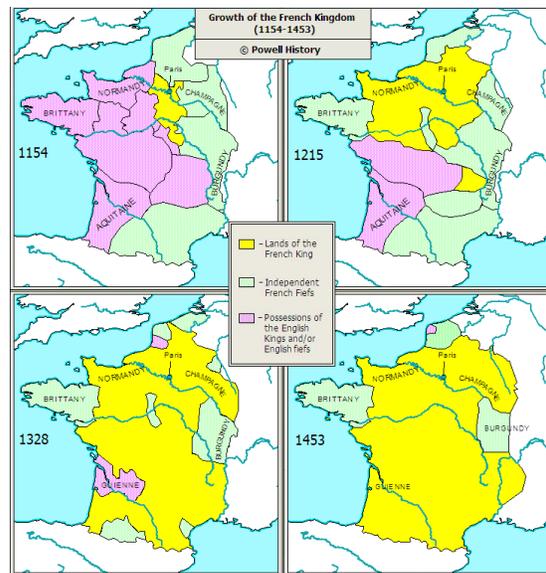
C. England/Britain (and France) — The Norman Conquest and the Hundred Years’ War

1. Britain has always been separate from Europe simply because it is an island.
2. The Roman Empire included England, but when the Romans abandoned England as their empire collapsed, tribes called the “Angles” and “Saxons” took over.
3. The most important event of British history is the *Norman Conquest of 1066*.

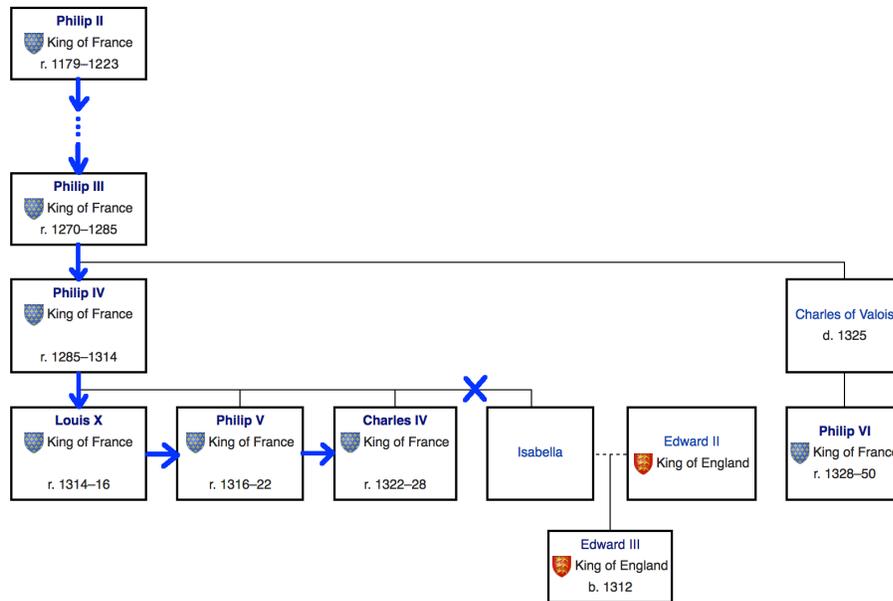


The Dominion of William “the Conqueror” in 1066— included both his *kingdom* of England and the *duchy* of Normandy (in France).

- a) The Normans were Vikings that had settled in northern France (a region called “Normandy”).
- b) The ruling families of England and Normandy were connected, and when the king of England died in 1066, his cousin William (the Duke of Normandy) decided to take over England for himself. He succeeded, and became known as William “the Conqueror.”
- c) For now what matters is that William’s rule of England created a difficult relationship between England and France. William did not completely control his land in Normandy. He had to be loyal to the French king in order to continue being the Duke of Normandy. (If a duke was not loyal to a king, the king could take away his land.)
- d) Very gradually, as shown by the map to the right, the French kings gained the upper hand and took over direct control of their own kingdom. In 1328, however, all the work of the clever French kings seemed to be for nothing.
- e) In that year, the French king Charles IV died without a direct heir. (See the diagram on the next page.) If his sister Isabella inherited the throne, her husband—the king of England—would then inherit all of France, and France would be ruled from England.



The French kings outmaneuvered the English kings to regain control of their country by 1328, but it all seemed for naught when the English king seemed poised to inherit the whole thing because he was married to the sister of Charles IV of France (see below).



The dynastic succession of the French throne until 1328, when all the gains by the French kings at the expense of the English kings appeared as though they would be wiped out.

- f) To prevent this from happening, the ruling family and allied French lords agreed to pass the throne to the nearest male relative: Philip VI (see above, on the right).
  - g) To press his claim to the French throne, the descendant of William the Conqueror, Edward III, initiated a long struggle called the *Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)*.
  - h) Despite great hardships, the French won the war because of an inspirational leader named Joan of Arc.
  - i) By 1453, England and France were no longer connected. That is the key to the entire sequence of events in this section.
4. The connection established in 1066 between the countries of France and England by William the Conqueror shaped the two nations we know today. If they had stayed connected, there might not be separate French and English nations. However, the *Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)* made them separate *nations—as well as nations that do not like each other!*