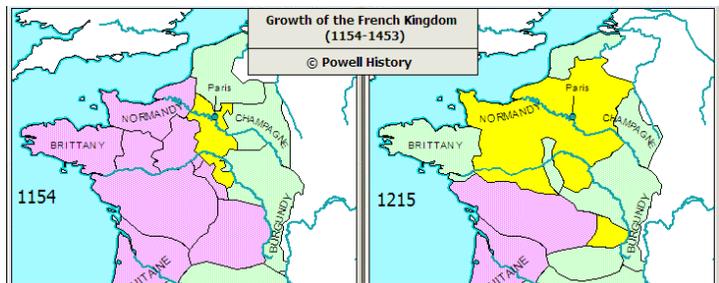


### C. Success of the Capetian Dynasty (87-1328 AD)

1. The rise of the Capetian kings (followers of Hugh *Capet*) is an important contrast with Germany, where the Ottonian kings floundered.
2. The Capetian kings succeeded in part because they did not attempt to use the Church as part of their power, but also because they were single-minded and adept at using the rules of their time to their advantage.
3. The most important example was the great expansion of the king's power at the expense of the Duke of Normandy (and king of England), John I.
  - a) John was the fifth child of the English royal family and a very unlikely heir.
  - b) Nonetheless, because of his brothers' deaths, he was positioned to become the most powerful king in Europe.
  - c) One obstacle to his rise, however, was a niece in the French duchy of Brittany (see the map below), who had inherited that piece of land and would soon be married to some lord chosen by—and loyal to—the French king.
  - d) John decided to kidnap and imprison her to prevent the match, and keep the land under his control.
  - e) The French king Philip II seized the opportunity to command John to answer charges in Paris, which John (surely guilty) refused to do.
  - f) When John refused, he was violating the most basic code of the time, whereby a lord had to be loyal to the king in order to maintain a right to his land.
  - g) Philip was thus able to make the case to the other lords of France that John was no longer a legitimate lord and that he needed their help to take back Normandy and John's other French possessions.
  - h) 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 16 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 16* and accompanying section on the end of the Capetian dynasty.
2. In thinking about the importance of **1328**, compare the state of France to Germany (after the Interregnum). Think about how important the rise of the kings was in light of the anarchy of Germany.
3. This makes the denial of the throne to Edward III of England completely understandable.

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

1. Although the Hundred Years' War was an almost all-encompassing struggle for the rulers and people of two nations for an extended period, 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 long-term significance 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 promoted the view that it was not necessary to follow the (French) pope in order to be a good Christian. Although Wycliffe was pronounced a heretic for these views, the conflict between England and France introduced the idea into wide circulation in Europe, 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. The French fought a war of attrition, waiting for the English to tire and abandon their overall objective.
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 illegitimate 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.