

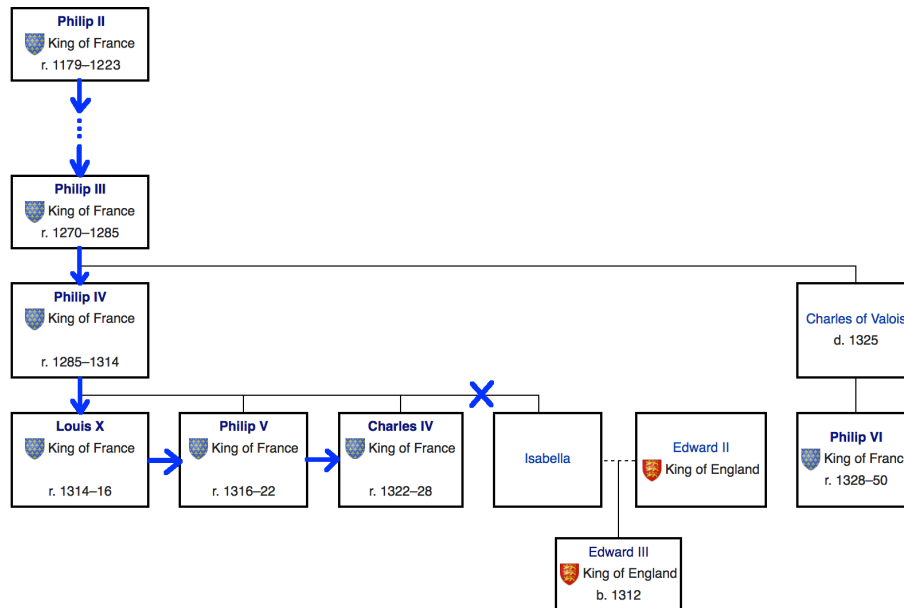
D. The Holy Roman Empire, i.e. the failed union of Germany and Italy

1. After the failure of the Frankish Union, Germany and Italy remained loosely connected, while the Frankish kings of Germany struggled to unite their territory under a true monarchy.
2. German king Otto I, a.k.a. Otto “the Great” decided to march on Italy to forge a direct alliance with the pope in the same way that Charlemagne had done many years before.
3. For his service to the Church—in particular, for his practice of making generous land grants to the Church at the expense of his unruly aristocracy—Otto was crowned “Holy Roman Emperor” by the pope in **962 AD**.
4. The problem that arose for the German kings because of this alliance with the Church was that both kings and popes intended to choose who would be in charge of church lands in such an empire. The popes intended to choose religiously loyal bishops, who would also serve as princes. The kings intended to choose politically loyal princes, who would also serve as bishops. The outcome was a controversy that pitted kings vs. popes over who was the ultimate authority in a “holy” empire.
5. If it seems that popes would be outmatched in any such argument, one must remember that popes were the acknowledged head of the organized Christian religion, and thus could usually count on the loyalty of anyone who believed in Christianity, and they could even deny any person or group of persons membership in the Church by means of “excommunication,” which literally means cutting someone off from “communication” or participation in the rituals of the Church that insure good standing in the Catholic form of belief and thus are believed to be necessary for “salvation” and admittance into heaven for a Catholic believer. If a pope excommunicated a king, that king’s supporters would often abandon him because he was no longer considered Christian.
6. Using such a power, the popes encouraged the Italian aristocracy to rebel against the German kings who refused to submit to the popes’ religious authority. In **1176**, by the Battle of Legnano, Italian forces defeated those of Germany, and effectively broke the alliance between the two regions. Italy and Germany would now evolve as separate cultures into separate nations, like France and Germany were already doing because of the failure of the Frankish Union.

E. The Hundred Years’ War, i.e. the failed union of France *and England*

1. After the failure of the Frankish Union, France evolved as a separate kingdom from Germany. Its Frankish rulers failed to meet the challenge of repelling the regular invasion of northern France by the Vikings, giving rise to a new set of charismatic leaders for France who held the title of “Count of Paris.”
2. Having prevented the conquest of France by the Vikings and made peace with them by allowing their settlement in the northern part of France (henceforth called “*Normandy*”) the counts of Paris were rewarded by their peers with the title of “King” of France in place of a rival Frankish dynasty. This new dynasty was known as the Capetian dynasty, named after its first king, Hugh Capet **c.987 AD**.

3. The Capetian dynasty was successful as a hereditary dynasty all the way until 1328, when a crisis hit. King Philip IV had died, and was closely followed to the grave by his three sons (see the diagram below), leaving only a daughter in the direct line of succession.



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.

4. Technically, Philip IV's daughter Isabella should have inherited the throne as queen, but her marriage to the English king Edward II meant that their son, who became Edward III of England, would thus become the king of a united kingdom of France and England. In effect, France and England would merge—under an English king. In other words, France would become part of England.
5. This prospect was unacceptable to the Capetian family and the French aristocracy, so they claimed that Isabella was not, in fact, allowed to inherit, according to an old Frankish custom, and a French king would be chosen from the Valois branch of the royal family.
6. Edward III refused to accept this outcome and invaded France to press his claim. This triggered the *Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)*.
7. Although the English won most of the major battles in this long drawn-out dynastic war, France was a far more populous country, and could recover from each setback, and finally, a miraculous young leader appeared in the cause of France, a girl named **Joan of Arc**, who convinced the French claimant to allow her to lead the French into battle. When she did, she won, and the myth of her miraculous intervention was born.
8. Joan herself is a tragic figure, because even though she helped France to win, she was captured and burned at the stake as a witch by the English and their allies.

9. The war created a strong nationalist sentiment in France, including, of course, the idea that for all the French, it's the *English* that are the "common enemy."
10. For the English, it does the reverse, of course, but it also contributed to an important theme in English history, which is the refusal of the English to submit to the unlimited power of their kings to tax Englishmen in order to pay for their wars in France. Rebellions against



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. For now, however, France remains committed to supranationalism.

the English monarchy's power of taxation began with a war by the English king in France as far back as 1214, which led to a revolt against the king, and the creation of the *Magna Carta* in 1215, which limited the power of king by imposing a written constitution as a limitation to his actions. This made British culture unique in Europe as a *constitutional monarchy*—a fact that later contributed to the American Revolution, which started as a revolt in the name of the rights of English colonists against the power of taxation of their English kings.