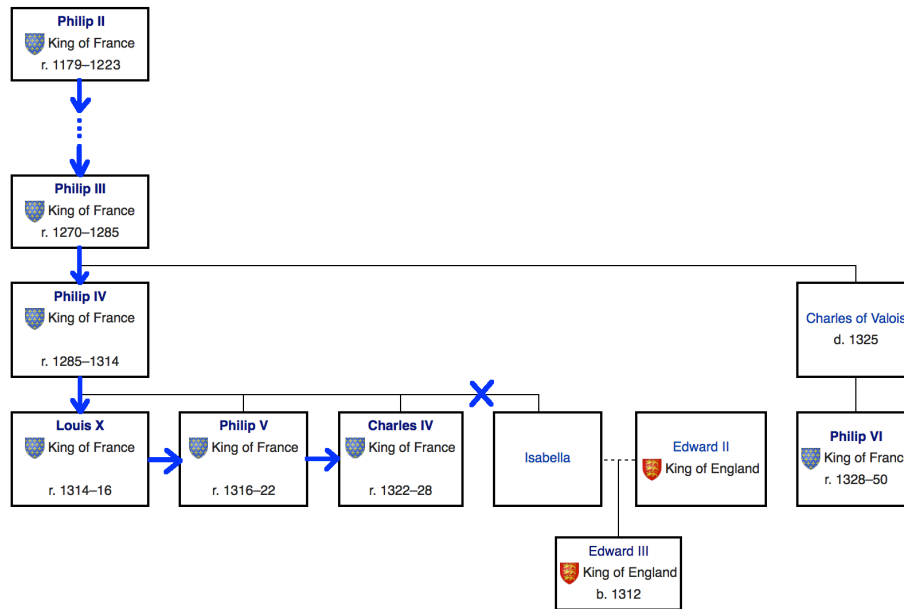


D. The Holy Roman Empire, i.e. the failed union of Germany and Italy

1. After the failure of the Frankish Union, Germany and Italy remained loosely connected, until the 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 before.
2. In exchange for his help to the pope, Otto was crowned “Holy Roman Emperor” in **962**.
3. When kings and popes agreed, things went smoothly, but when they didn’t, it made the “holy” empire combining Germany and Italy impossible to manage.
4. Even though the king had a powerful army he could command, if the pope did not accept him as a proper Christian king, he could lose all his power, because the pope could “excommunicate” the king, which literally means cutting someone off from “communication” with the Church. If a pope excommunicated a king, that king’s supporters would often abandon him because he was no longer considered Christian.
5. Using such a power, the popes encouraged Italy 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 were replaced by the Capetian dynasty, named after its first king, Hugh Capet **c.987 AD**, because the Capetians were better able to protect France against the threat of the Vikings, who would attack northern France each year.
2. 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 on the next page), leaving only a daughter in the direct line of succession.
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 possibility 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



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.

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 these kings to tax Englishmen in order to pay for their wars—which is eventually why, much later, English colonists in *America* rebelled to create the United States!



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.