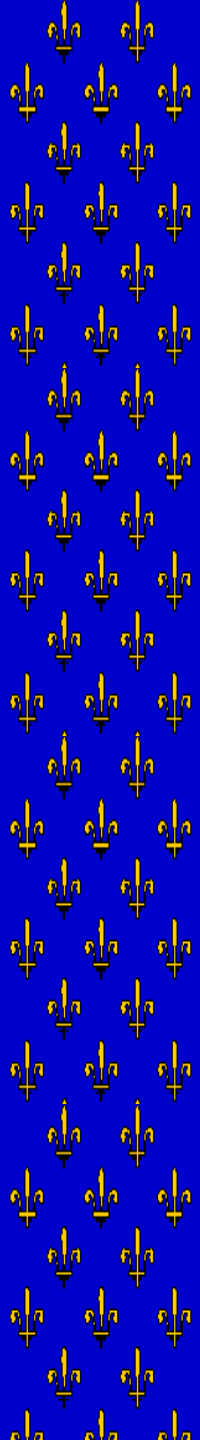
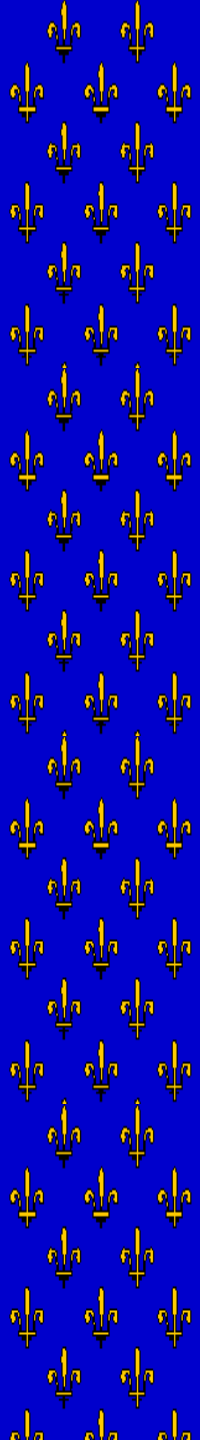


The  
Hundred  
Years' War  
(1347-1453)



# Causes of the 100 Years' War



# 1. Controversy Over

## Succession



The French nobility selected **Philip of Valois**, a cousin of the last king through the male line.

- Y He founded a new French dynasty that ruled through the 16c.
- Y He was chosen in preference to **King Edward III of England**, whose mother was the daughter of the late king, Philip IV.



In 1340, Edward claimed the title "King of France."

## 2. Fr. Land Belonging to Br. Kings

A longer standing issue was the status of lands within France that belonged to English kings.

Edward was actually a vassal of Philip's, holding sizable French territories as fiefs from the king of France [it went back to the Norman conquest].



# 3. Conflict Over Flanders



*The 'dagger' pointing at the 'heart' of England!*

Wool industry.

Flanders wants its independence from French control.

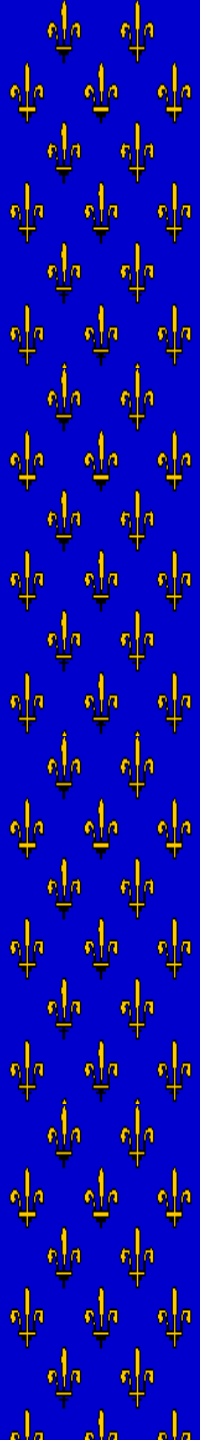
Asks England for help.

# 4. A Struggle for National Identity

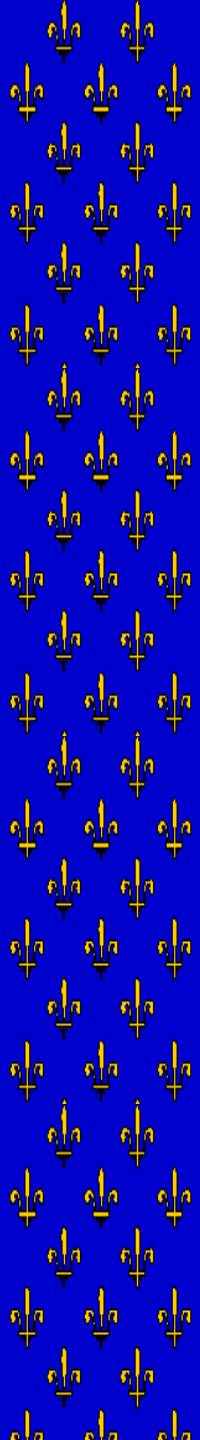


France was NOT a united country before the war began.

The French king only controlled about half of the country.



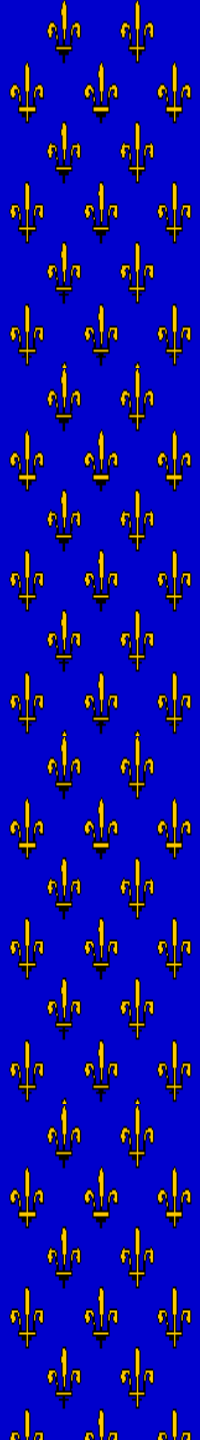
# The War Itself



# Military Characteristics

The War was a series of short raids and expeditions punctuated by a few major battles, marked off by truces or ineffective treaties.

- Y The relative strengths of each country dictated the sporadic nature of the struggle.



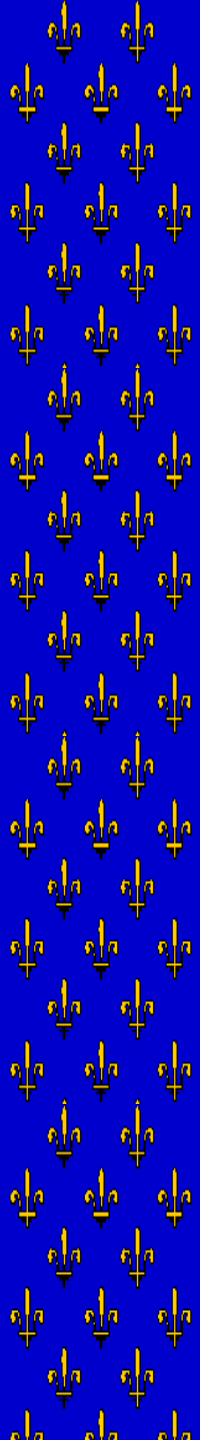


# French Advantages

Population of about 16,000,000.

Far richer and more populous than England.

At one point, the French fielded an army of over 50,000 → at most, Britain mustered only 32,000.



# British Advantages

Weapons Technologies.

In almost every engagement, the English were outnumbered.

Y Britain's most successful strategies:

- / Avoid pitched battles.
- / Engage in quick, profitable raids
  - N Steal what you can.
  - N Destroy everything else.
  - N Capture enemy knights to hold for ransom.

# The Longbow as a Weapon



The use of the English defensive position was the use of the **longbow**.

Its arrows had more penetrating power than a bolt from a **crossbow**.

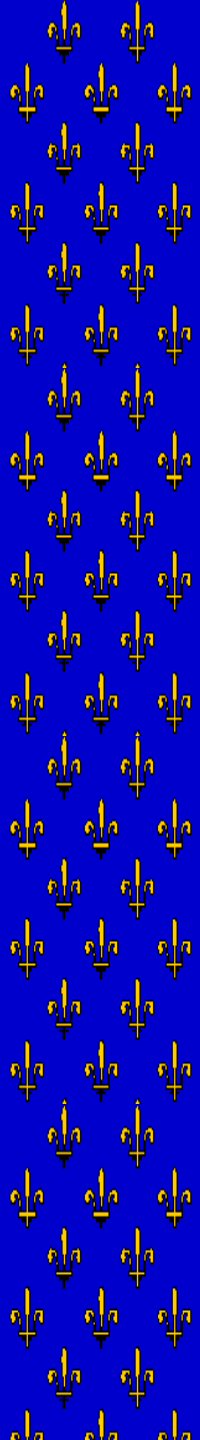
Y Could pierce an inch of wood or the armor of a knight at 200 yards!

A longbow could be fired more rapidly.

Y 6 arrows per minute.



# The British Longbow: The Battle of Poitiers, 1356



# Early English Victories



# The Effective Use of the Cannon at Poitiers, 1356



# French Confusion

The English captured the French king, **John II** [r.1350-1364].

Y France was now ruled by the **Estates General**

E A representative council of townspeople and nobles.

E Created in 1355.

E Purpose → to secure funds for the war.

N In theory, the French king could not levy taxes on his own!!

# The Jacquerie, 1358

In the confusion and unrest following the French disaster at Poitiers, this rural movement began.

It was a response to the longstanding economic and political grievances in the countryside worsened by warfare.

The rebels were defeated by aristocratic armies.





# Trouble in England



Peasant Revolt in 1381 was put down by **King Richard II** [r. 1377-1399].

After charges of tyranny, Richard II was forced to abdicate in 1399.

Parliament elected **Henry IV** [r. 1399-1413], the first ruler from the **House of Lancaster**.

Henry avoided war taxes.

- Y He was careful not to alienate the nobility.
- Y Therefore, a truce was signed ending French and British hostilities [for the time being, at least].

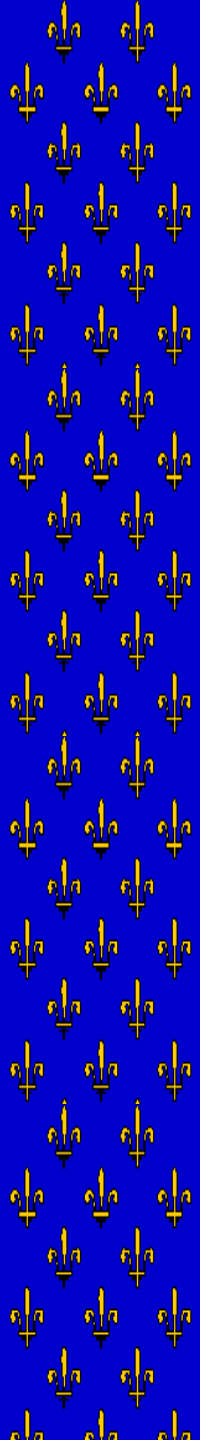


# King Henry V (r. 1412-1422)

Renewed his family's claim to the French throne.

At **Agincourt** in 1415, the English, led by Henry himself, goaded a larger French army into attacking a fortified English position.

Y With the aid of the **dukes of Burgundy**, Henry gained control over Normandy, Paris, and much of northern France!



# A Burgundian Presence



# Treaty of Troyes (1420)



Charles VI's son [the future Charles VII], was declared illegitimate and disinherited.

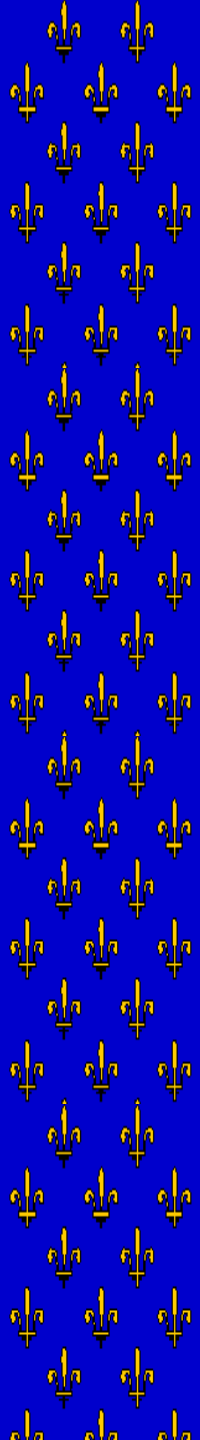
Henry V married Catherine, the daughter of Charles VI.

Y Henry was declared the legitimate heir to the French throne!

A final English victory seemed assured, but both Charles VI and Henry V died in 1422.

This left Henry's infant son, **Henry VI** [r. 1422-1461], to inherit BOTH thrones.

# Height of English



# The French “Reconquest”



The two kings' deaths ushered in the final stage of the 100 Years' War [1422-1453].

Y Even though in 1428 the military and political power seemed firmly in British hands, the French reversed the situation.



In 1429, with the aid of the mysterious **Joan of Arc**, the French king, **Charles VII**, was able to raise the English siege of **Orleans**.

Y This began the reconquest of the north of France.

# Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

The daughter of prosperous peasants from an area of Burgundy that had suffered under the English.

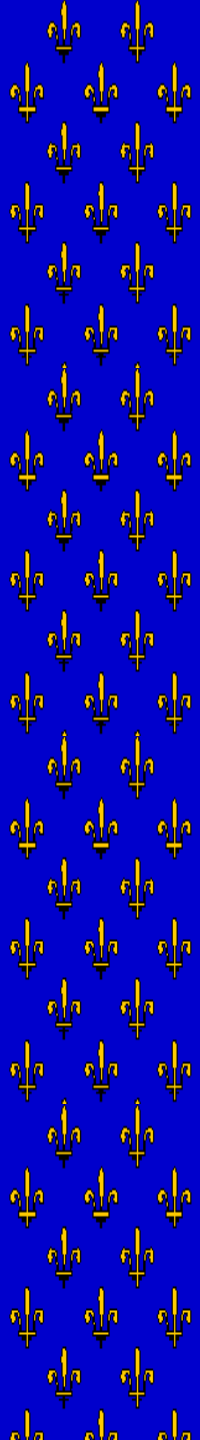
Like many medieval mystics, she reported regular visions of divine revelation.

Y Her "voices" told her to go to the king and assist him in driving out the English.

She dressed like a man and was Charles' most charismatic and feared military leader!

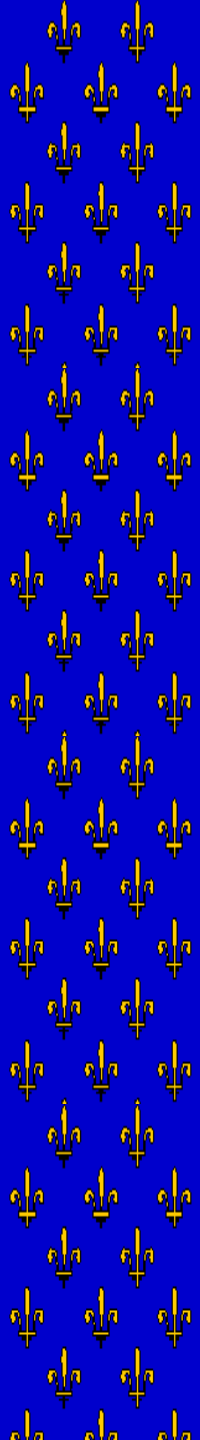


# Cannons Used at Orleans





# Joan Announces the Capture of Orleans to the



# Joan of Arc (1412-1432)

She brought inspiration and a sense of national identity and self-confidence.

With her aid, the king was crowned at Reims [ending the "disinheritance"].

She was captured during an attack on Paris and fell into English hands.

Y Because of her "unnatural dress" and claim to divine guidance, she was condemned and burned as a heretic in 1432.



Y She instantly became a symbol of French resistance.

# The End of the War

Despite Joan's capture, the French advance continued.

By 1450 the English had lost all their major centers except **Calais**.

In 1453 the French armies captured an English-held fortress.

Y This was the last battle of the war.

There was not treaty, only a cessation of hostilities.

# France Becomes Unified!



France in 1337



France in 1453