

The Making of Medieval Monarchies

I. The Norman conquest of England

A. William the Conqueror (1027–1087)

1. Rewarded his Norman followers with grants of English land
2. Exercised a variety of public rights not derived from feudalism
3. All landowners owed loyalty to the king—a centralized feudalism
4. Represented a fusion of Carolingian public power with new feudal structures of power and landholding

II. Feudal monarchy in England

III. The rise of administrative kingship

A. Henry I (1068–1135)

1. Created the clerks of the Exchequer
2. Strengthened local administration
3. Traveling circuit judges

B. The reign of Henry II (1133–1189)

1. Already the ruler of Normandy, Anjou, Maine, and Aquitaine
2. Orders juries of local men to report under oath every violation of the laws
3. Origin of the grand jury
4. System of “writs”
5. Tried to reform operation of Church courts
6. Thomas Becket -Archbishop of Canterbury
 - a) Clerics convicted of serious crimes to be handed over to royal court for sentencing
 - b) Becket objected
 - c) Fled to France
 - d) Murdered upon his return to England
 - e) Henry forced to surrender several of his claims (e.g., the right to sentence criminal clerics)

IV. Richard the Lionhearted (1157–1199)

V. The reign of King John and the Magna Carta

- A. Less capable military leader
- B. Lost nearly all Angevin lands
- C. Devoted his reign to raising money to regain French lands
- D. Pressed feudal rights to their limit
- E. Fined the nobility

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- F. Heavy taxation on the county
- G. Failed military expedition to France (1214)
- H. The magnates rebel

VI. Magna Carta (1215)

- A. The king must respect the traditional rights of his vassals
- B. Taxation could not be raised by the crown without the consent of the barons
- C. Parliament -
 1. Emerged gradually after 1300
 2. A consultative body
 3. A political as well as financial and judicial body

VII. Feudal monarchy in France

- A. The Capetian dynasty (987–1328)
 1. The reinvention of the French kingdom
 2. The growth of royal power in France
- B. Louis VI, “the Fat” (1078–1137)
 1. Consolidated royal control over the Île-de-France by subduing “robber barons”
 2. Agriculture, trade, and intellectual life could flourish at Paris
- C. Louis VII (1137–1181)
- D. Philip Augustus (1165–1223)
 1. Undermined John’s control over French territories
 2. John refused to submit to pressure
 3. A war of conquest
 4. Philip retained Angevin territories
 5. An effective system of local administration
 6. Superimposed new royal officials (*baillis*) over local government practice
 7. The *baillis* had full judicial, administrative, and military authority

VIII. Louis IX, “Saint Louis” (1226–1270)

- A. Extended administrative pattern further
- B. The epitome of thirteenth-century kingship

IX. England and France Compared