Return of the King...

**Royal Power in England and France**

Monarchs in Europe had limited power.
- They relied on vassals for military support.
- Nobles and the Church had as much—or more—power as the monarchs.
- Both nobles and the Church had their own courts, collected their own taxes, and fielded their own armies.
- They jealously guarded their rights and privileges against any effort by rulers to increase royal authority.

Monarchs used various means to centralize power:
- Expanded the royal domain
- Set up a system of royal justice
- Organized a government bureaucracy
- Developed a system of taxes
- Built a standing army
- Strengthened ties with the middle class

**Strong Monarchs in England**

During the early Middle Ages, Angles, Saxons, and Vikings invaded and settled in England. English rulers generally kept their kingdoms united.
- In 1066, the Anglo-Saxon king Edward died without an heir.
- A council of nobles chose Harold to rule.
- Duke William of Normandy, France, also claimed the throne.
- The answer to the rival claims lay on the battlefield.

Monarchs in England had limited power because they relied on vassals for military support. Monarchs, nobles, and the Church each had significant power and influence, and they jealously guarded their rights and privileges against any effort by rulers to increase royal authority.

Monarchs used various means to centralize power, such as expanding the royal domain, setting up a system of royal justice, organizing a government bureaucracy, developing a system of taxes, building a standing army, and strengthening ties with the middle class.

**Strong Monarchs in England**

- **Norman Conquest**
  - Duke William raised an army and won the backing of the pope and sailed across the English Channel.
  - In 1066, at the **BATTLE OF HASTINGS**, William and his Norman knights defeated Harold.
  - On Christmas Day 1066, **WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR** became the King of England.

**Royal Power in England and France**

A monarch could not always count on the loyalty of powerful nobles and Church officials. A medieval chronicle tells of the difficulties faced by one English king in the 1100s:

"King Stephen ... seized ... Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, and Roger, the chancellor, his nephew, and he kept them all in prison.... They had done homage to him, and sworn oaths, but they ... broke their allegiance, for every rich man built his castles, and defended them against him."

—Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

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The BAYEAX TAPES is an embroidery that is roughly 20 inches tall and 30 feet long. It tells the story of the events leading up to and including the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066.

Strong Monarchs in England

Growth of Royal Power

To learn about his kingdom, William had a complete census called the DOMESDAY BOOK in 1086.

Listed every castle, field, serf and pigpen in England.

Information in the Domesday Book helped William and build an efficient system of tax collecting.

Strong Monarchs in England

Growth of Royal Power

William’s successors continued to increase royal authority.

In the area of finance, they created the royal EXCHEQUER, or treasury, to collect taxes.

Into the exchequer flowed fees, fines, and other dues.

Strong Monarchs in England

Growth of Royal Power

William exerted firm control over his new lands.

He granted fiefs to the Church and his Norman lords, or BARONS.

He kept a large amount of land for himself.

He controlled who built castles and where.

He required every vassal to swear first allegiance to him rather than to any other feudal lord.

Domesday Lecefele

“...in Offlow Hundred (the Bishop of Chester holds) LECFELE (Lichfield), with its dependences. The church held it itself; 144 hides and 1 virgate of land. Land for 37 ploughs. In lordship 20 ploughs; 10 slaves; 52 villagers and 22 smallholders who have 21 ploughs. 10 canons have 7 ploughs. Meadow, 33 acres; 2 mills at 4s. The value was and is £15. These members belong to this manor: PADINTONE (Packington), land for 4 ploughs; the two HUMERVICH (Hammerwicles), 5 carucates of land; TICHEBROC (Stychbrock), land for 1 plough; NORTONE (Norton Canes) and WERELEIA (Great Wyrley), 4 carucates of land; ROVVELEIA (Rowley), 1 carucate of land. All these lands are waste.”

Royal Power in England and France

Strong Monarchs in England

Growth of Royal Power

A Unified Legal System

In 1154, an energetic, well-educated HENRY II became king.

He broadened the system of royal justice.

Henry found ways to expand customs into law.

He sent out traveling justices to enforce royal laws.

The decisions of the royal courts became the foundation of English COMMON LAW, a legal system based on custom and court rulings which applied to all of England.

Royal Power in England and France
When traveling justices visited an area, local officials collected a jury, or group of men sworn to speak the truth. These early juries determined which cases should be brought to trial and were the ancestors of today's grand jury. Another jury evolved composed of a neighbors of an accused which would become today's trial jury.

Under Henry II, England also developed an early jury system. Henry claimed the right to try clergy in royal courts. He faced three powerful enemies: King Philip II of France, Pope Innocent III, and his own English nobles. He lost his struggles with each.

Strong Monarchs in England
Conflict With the Church
Henry's efforts to extend royal power led to a bitter dispute with the Church.

In 1170, four knights, believing the King ordered them murdered the archbishop in his own cathedral.

THOMAS BECKET, the archbishop of Canterbury fiercely opposed the King's move.

Henry denied any part in the attack.

To make peace with the Church, he eased his attempts to regulate the clergy.

Becket was honored as a martyr and declared a saint.

Pilgrims flocked to his tomb at Canterbury, where miracles were said to happen.

King John’s Troubles
John was a clever, greedy, cruel, and untrustworthy ruler.

He faced three powerful enemies: King Philip II of France, Pope Innocent III, and his own English nobles.

He lost his struggles with each.

Evolving Traditions of English Government
King John’s Troubles
Ever since William the Conqueror, Norman rulers of England had held vast lands in France.

In 1205, John suffered a major setback when he lost a war with Philip II and had to give up English-held lands in Anjou and Normandy.

John battled with Pope Innocent III over selecting a new archbishop of Canterbury.

John rejected the pope's nominee.

Pope responded by excommunicating him.

Pope also placed England under the Interdict—a papal order that forbade Church services in an entire kingdom.

To save himself and his crown, John had to accept England as a fief of the papacy and pay a yearly fee to Rome.
In this scene, King Edward I preaches over what was later called the Model Parliament.

On both sides of him are his vassals, the rulers of Scotland and Wales.

Clergy sit on the left, and lords sit on the right.

The Magna Carta contained two very important ideas:

- Nobles had certain rights. Over time, these were extended to all English citizens
- The monarch must obey the law

The king affirmed a long list of feudal rights

In protecting their own privileges, the barons included the legal rights of townspeople and the Church

Protecting every freeman from arbitrary legal actions became the basis of the right known as “due process of law”

English rulers often called on the Great Council for advice which evolved into Parliament

It helped unify England

Parliament developed into a two-house body: the House of Lords with nobles and high clergy and the House of Commons with knights and middle-class citizens

English monarchs summoned Parliament for their own purposes

Parliament gained the crucial “power of the purse” - the right to approve any new taxes

With that power, Parliament could insist that the monarch meet its demands before voting for taxes

Parliament could check, or limit, the power of the monarch
Charlemagne had little power over a patchwork of French territories ruled by great feudal nobles. Monarchs in France did not rule over a unified kingdom. The successors to Charlemagne had little power over a patchwork of French territories ruled by great feudal nobles.

Hugh and his heirs slowly increased royal power. They won the support of the Church. They added to their lands by playing rival nobles against each other. They won the support of the Church. They made the throne hereditary. They added to their prestige and gained the backing of the new middle class. In 987, these feudal nobles elected Hugh Capet, the count of Paris, to fill the vacant throne. They probably chose him because he was too weak to pose a threat to them. Hugh's own lands around Paris were smaller than those of many of his vassals.

The Capetians

Hugh and his heirs slowly increased royal power. They made the throne hereditary. They added to their lands by playing rival nobles against each other. They won the support of the Church. They built an effective government, establishing order, adding to their prestige and gained the backing of the new middle class. In 987, these feudal nobles elected Hugh Capet, the count of Paris, to fill the vacant throne. They probably chose him because he was too weak to pose a threat to them. Hugh's own lands around Paris were smaller than those of many of his vassals.

PHILIP II

Philip quadrupled royal land holdings. He strengthened royal government. He used paid middle-class government officials who owed their loyalty to him. He granted charters to many new towns. He organized a standing army. He introduced a new national tax. He was the most admired French ruler of his time. He was put down the Albigensians. Within 30 years of his death, he was declared a saint.

Louis IX, King and Saint

Most admired French ruler of this time. He ascended to the throne in 1226. He was the ideal of the perfect medieval monarch—generous, noble, and devoted to justice and chivalry. Within 30 years of his death, he was declared a saint.
Louis IX, King and Saint

Saint Louis was a deeply religious man, pursuing religious goals that were acceptable to Christians in his day.

He persecuted heretics and Jews.

Led thousands of French knights in two wars against Muslims.

Louis did much to improve royal government.

Sent out roving officials to check on local officials.

Expanded the royal courts.

Outlawed private wars.

Ended serfdom in his lands.

By the time of his death in 1270, France was an efficient centralized monarchy.

Philip IV Clashes With the Pope

Pope Boniface VIII declared that “God has set popes over kings and kingdoms.”

To raise cash, he tried to collect new taxes from the clergy.

These efforts led to a clash with Pope Boniface VIII.

Pope forbade Philip to tax the clergy without papal consent.

Philip threatened to arrest any clergy who did not pay up.

Philip sent troops to seize the pope.

The pope escaped, but he was badly beaten and died.

Representative body from all three ESTATES, or classes: clergy, nobles, and townspeople.

Estates General did not develop the same role that the English Parliament as a balance to royal power.

The Estates General

Philip rallied French support by setting up the Estates General in 1302.

Beginning of the "BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY".

This ensured that future French rulers would control religion within their own kingdoms.

The new French pope moved the papal court to AVIGNON in southern France.

Shortly after, a Frenchman was elected pope.

Successful Monarchs in France
The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

By the High Middle Ages, both popes and monarchs were extending their authority. In the early 1200s, Pope Innocent III claimed broad powers: "Just as the moon gets her light from the sun, and is inferior to the sun in quality, quantity, position, and effect, so the royal power gets the splendor of its dignity from the papal authority."

—Letter of Innocent III to Nobles of Tuscany, 1198

The longest and most destructive conflict pitted popes against Holy Roman emperors who ruled vast lands from Germany to Italy.

The Holy Roman Empire

In 936, Duke Otto I of Saxony took the title King of Germany. He also took an army into Italy to help the pope defeat Rome, which were crowned by Emperor Henry IV.

Conflict Between Popes and Emperors

Pope Gregory VII

Pope was determined to make the Church independent of secular rulers. He banned the practice of Lay Investiture in which a person who is not a member of the clergy "invested," or presented, bishops with the ring and staff.

Only the pope, said Gregory, had the right to appoint and install bishops in office.

Conflict Between Popes and Emperors

Emperor Henry IV

Pope Gregory's ban brought an angry response from the Holy Roman emperor Henry IV. Henry argued that bishops held their lands as royal fiefs entitling him to give them the symbols of office.

Rebellious German princes saw a chance to undermine Henry by supporting the pope.
The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

Conflict Between Popes and Emperors

In 1076, Gregory excommunicated Henry, freeing his subjects from their allegiance to the emperor.

Henry was forced to make peace with the pope.

Gregory forgave Henry at **Canossa**.

He lifted the order of excommunication, and Henry quickly returned to Germany to subdue his rebellious nobles.

Henry took revenge on Gregory when he led an army to Rome and forced the pope into exile.

The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

Conflict Between Popes and Emperors

**Concordat of Worms**

The struggle over investiture dragged on for almost 50 years.

In 1122, both sides accepted a treaty known as the **Concordat of Worms** that ended the practice of lay investiture.

The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

**The Struggle for Italy**

**Frederick Barbarossa**

Frederick I, called Barbarossa, or “Red Beard,” dreamed of building an empire from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea.

He fought to bring the wealthy cities of northern Italy under his control.

By joining forces with the pope in the Lombard League, they managed to defeat Barbarossa’s armies.

Barbarossa arranged a marriage between his son Henry and Constance, heiress to Sicily and southern Italy.

The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

**The Struggle for Italy**

**Frederick II**

The child of Henry and Constance was raised in southern Italy.

He was an able, arrogant leader, willing to use any means to achieve his ends.

As Holy Roman emperor, Frederick clashed repeatedly and unsuccessfully with several popes in Italy.

Like his grandfather, Frederick also tried but failed to subdue the cities of northern Italy.

The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

**The Struggle for Italy**

**Frederick II**

While Frederick was in Italy, German nobles grew more independent.

The Holy Roman Empire survived, but it remained fragmented into many feudal states.

Germany would not achieve unity for another 600 years.

Southern Italy and Sicily also faced centuries of upheaval as popes turned to the French to overthrow Frederick’s heirs.

The Holy Roman Empire and the Church

**The Height of Church Power**

**Pope Innocent III, 1198-1216**

Innocent clashed with all the powerful rulers of his day.

Often the pope came out ahead.

Excommunicated King John of England and placed his kingdom under interdict until John made England a fief of Rome and paid a yearly tribute.

Innocent excommunicated Philip II of France when the king tried unlawfully to **Annul**, or invalidate, his marriage.
In 1209 the pope aided by King Philip II of France, launched a brutal Crusade, or holy war, against the Albigensians. The Albigensians wanted to purify the Church and return to the simple ways of early Christianity. Tens of thousands of people were slaughtered in the Albigensian Crusade.

After Innocent’s death, popes continued to press their claim to supremacy. In 1296, King Philip IV of France successfully challenged Pope Boniface VIII on the issue of taxing the clergy. After Philip engineered the election of a French pope, the papacy entered a period of decline.