

The Hundred Years' War



Successio, onis (f)

- A coming into the place of [another]
- A following after, succeeding
- Succession in office

England and France: Rivalry (since 1066)

- Proximity
- England holdings in France
- Trade
- Claim to throne



100 Years' War:
1337-1453

Phases of the 100 Years' War

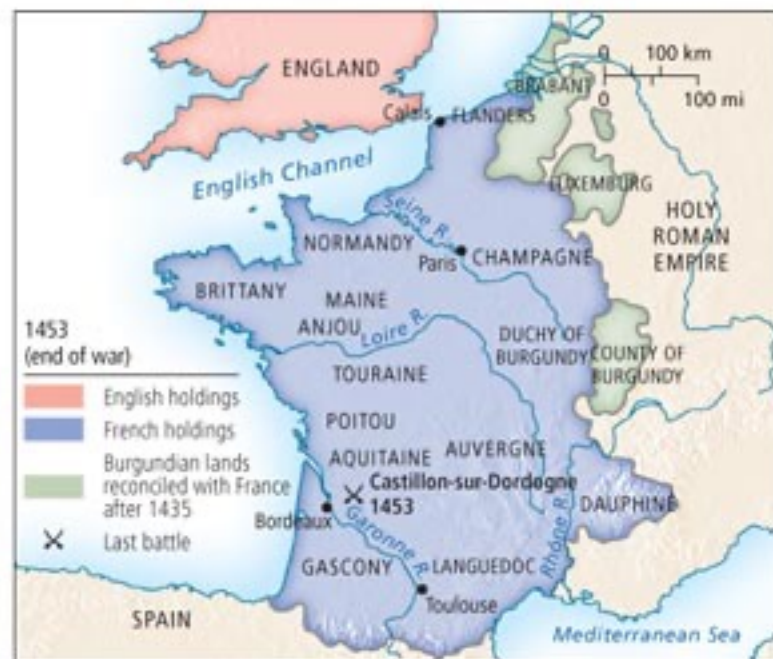
1330s-1350s

- Great English successes
- E.g. of battle of Crécy (1346)

Long lull:
1360s-1415

1415-1453

- 1415: Revived by Henry V of England
- 1430s: Shift to French successes
- 1453: End of war



Our focus today...

1. Context and overview of the 100 Years' War
2. Military changes and innovations
3. Joan of Arc

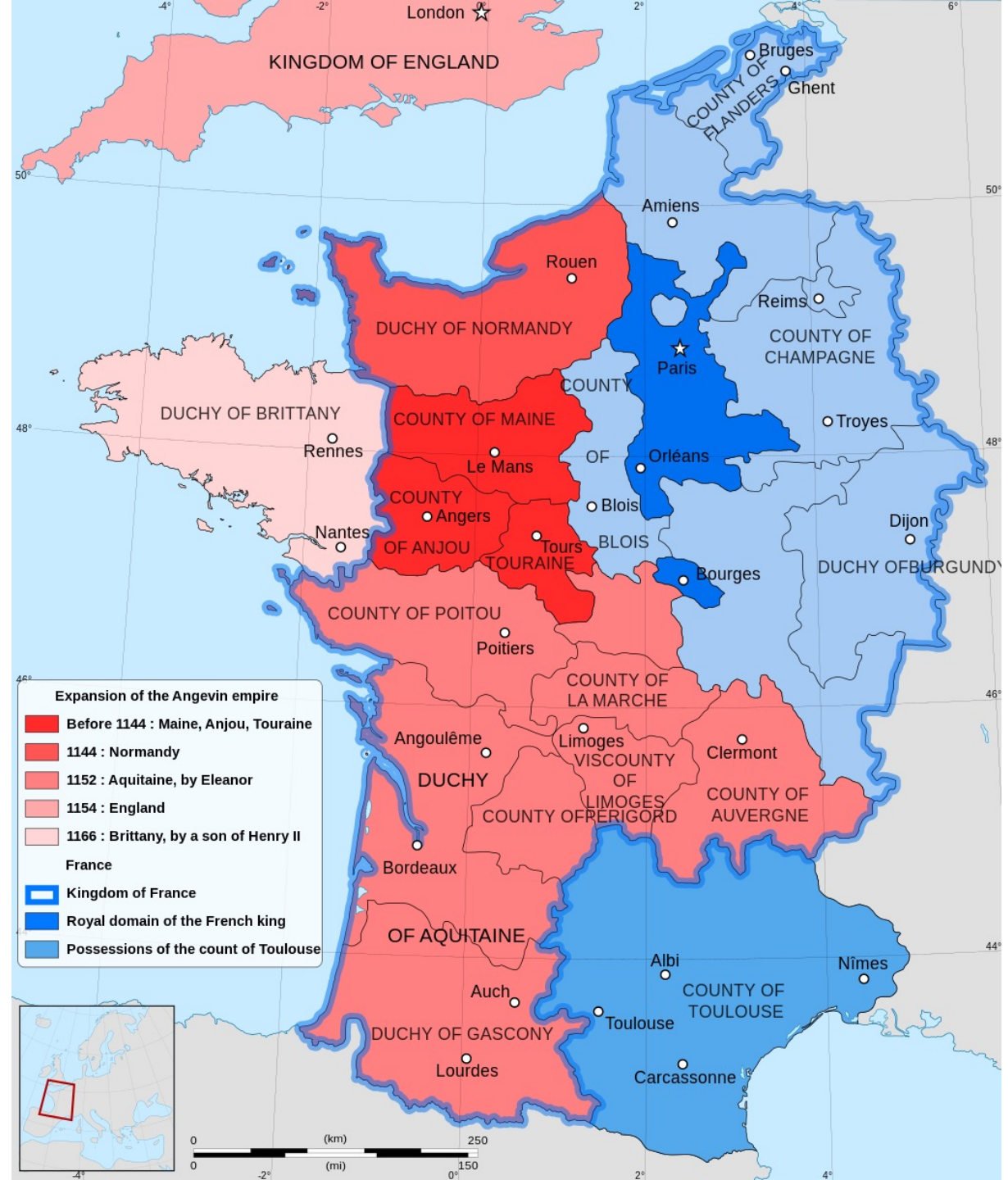
WHY?

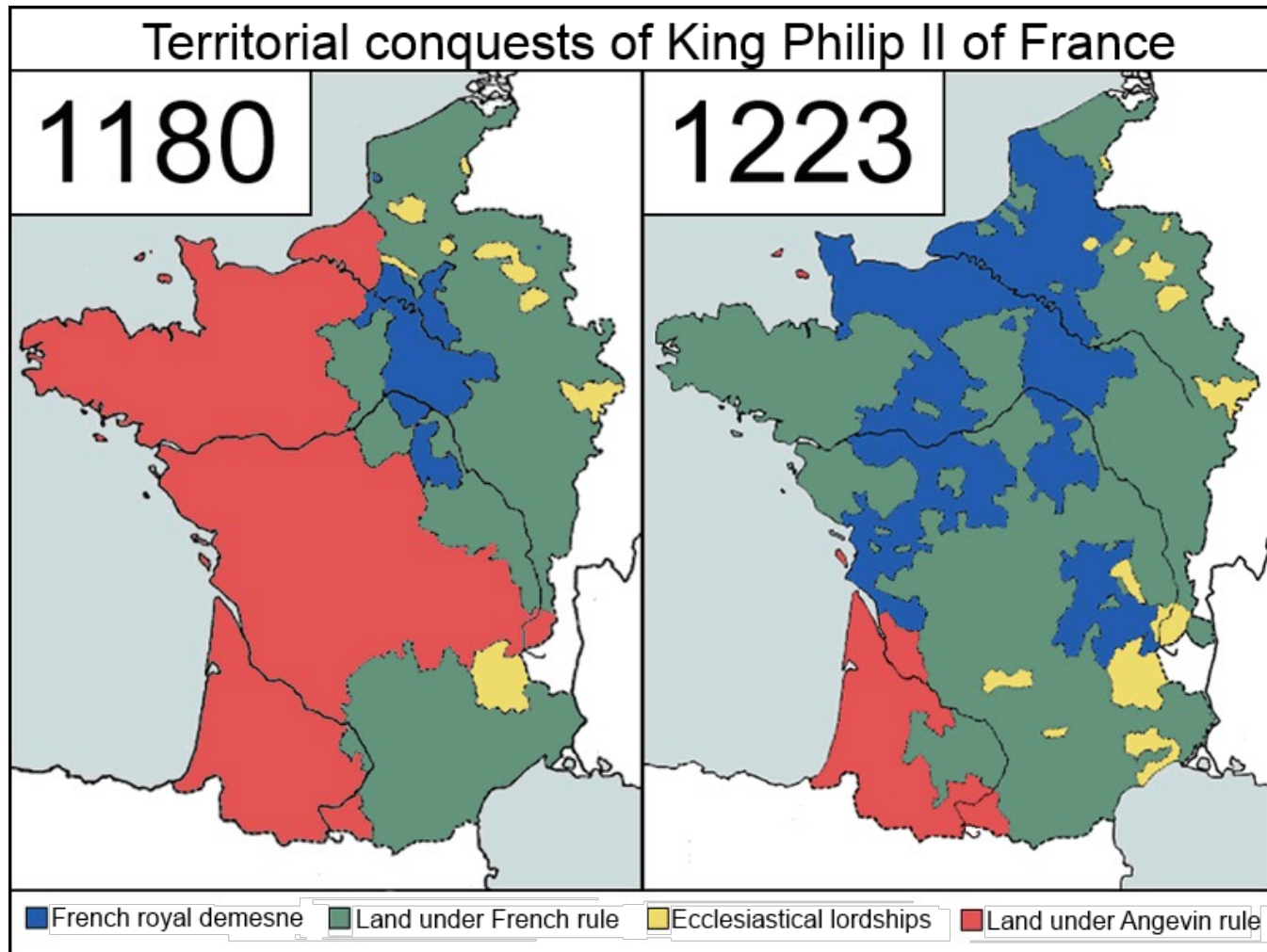
Background and Context

Image: Battle of Poitiers from
Froissart's *Chronicles* (15th c)



Why #1: English landholdings in France (12th and 13th centuries)





Territory lost to Philip II of France (much of it by John I of England)

BUT English monarchs retained claims, especially to Aquitaine, Normandy, Maine, and Anjou

Angevin = English Plantagenet lands

Why #2:

Marriage of
Isabelle of France
and Edward II of
England (1308)





Isabelle and Edward: A fraught relationship

- Adulterous affairs
- **1326:** Edward II deposed by Isabelle and Roger Mortimer
- **1327:** Death of Edward II
- **1327-1330:** Isabelle as co-regent with Roger for son (also Edward)
- **1330:** Edward III comes to the throne

End of
Carolingian
Dynasty in France
and rise of
Capetian Dynasty

Death of
Philip IV

Death of
Philip's 3 sons
and heirs

987

1314

1316-1328

Unbroken succession of Capetian monarchs



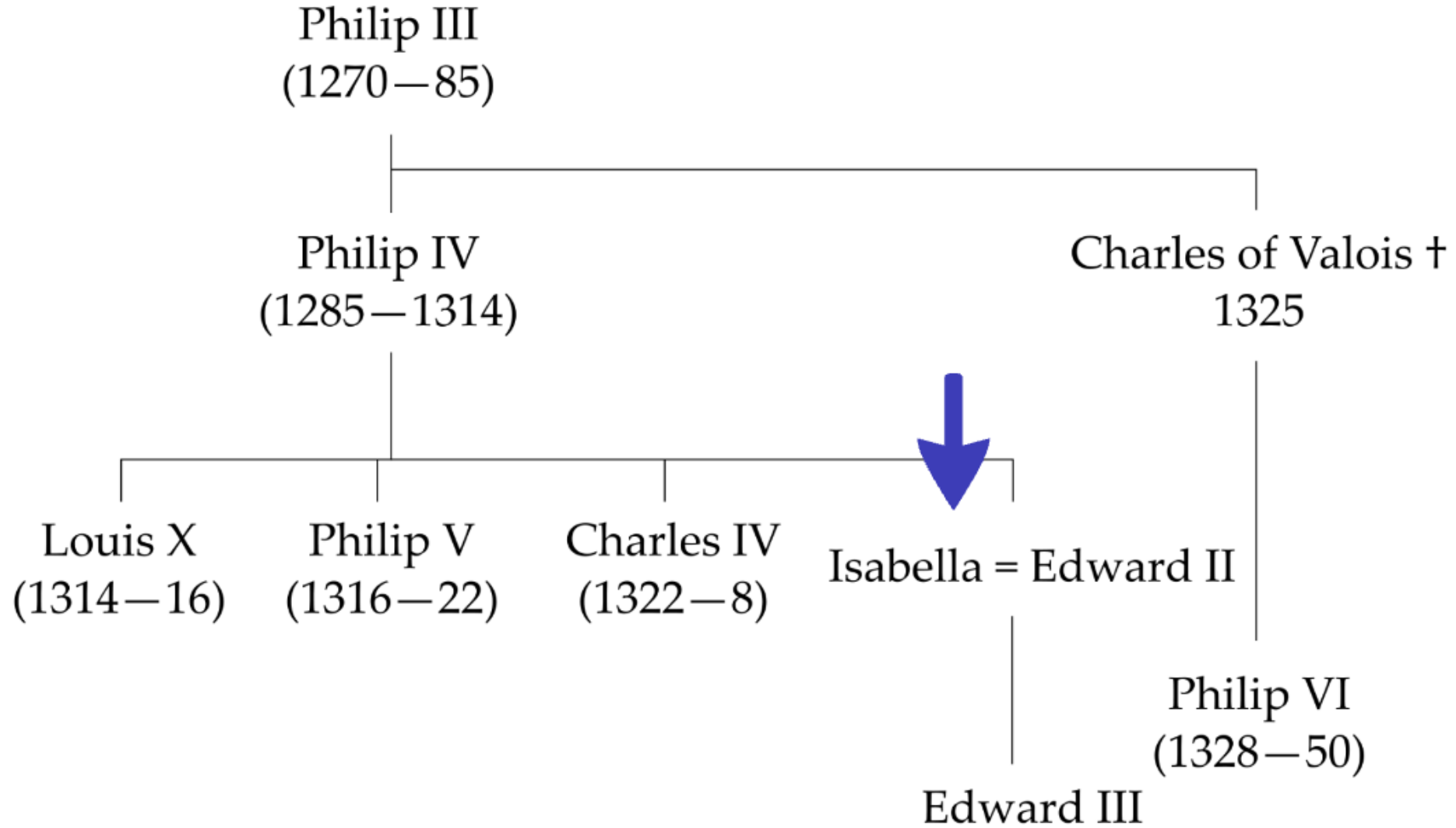
Philip V,
1315-1322

Charles
IV,
1322-28

ISABELLE

Philip IV,
d. 1314

Louis X,
1314-1316



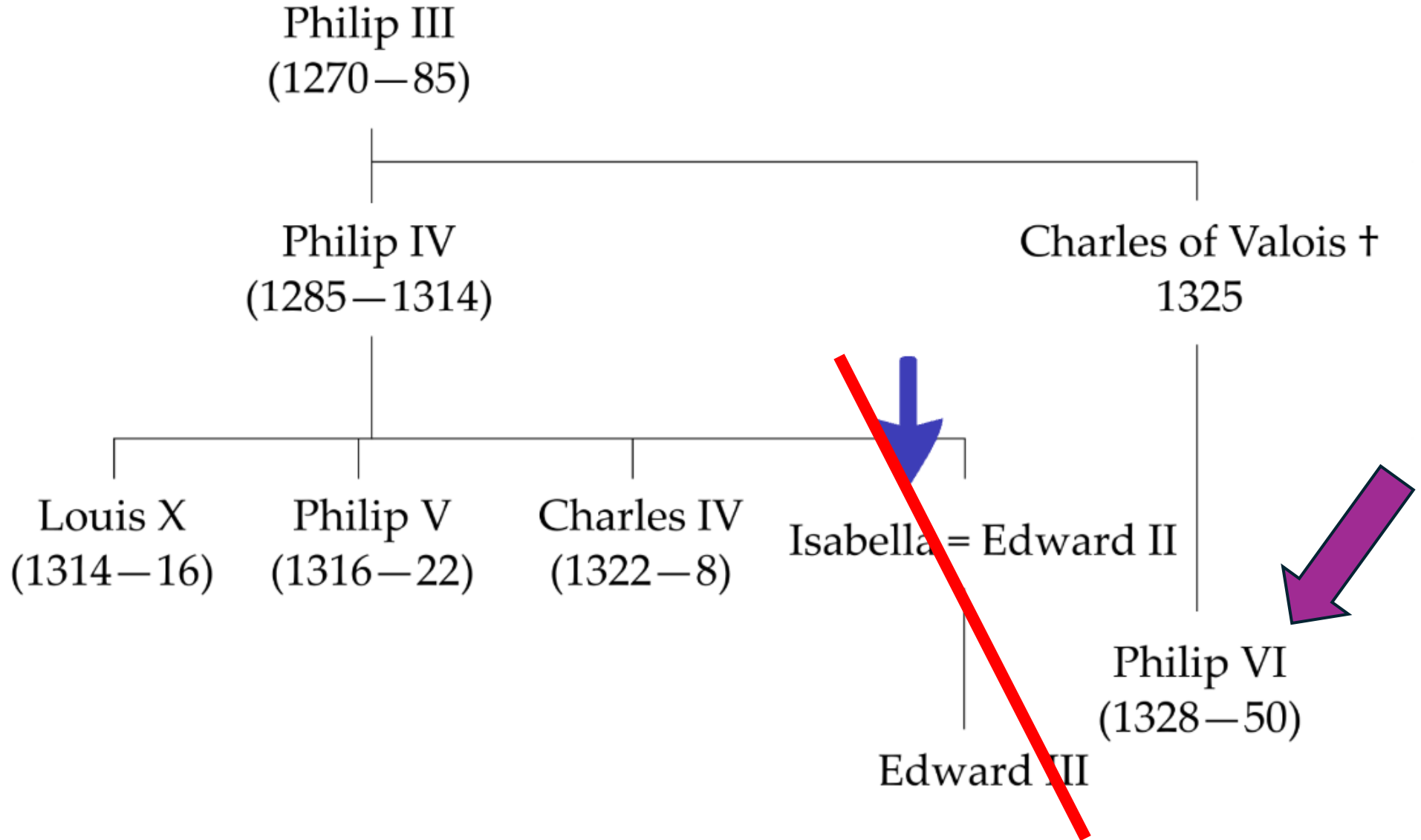
French opposition to Edward III as king

- Do not want an English king on the French throne
- **Previous historical arguments:** Exclusion of Edward because women could not inherit throne in France because of the “Salic Law” (479-496)
- **Revised arguments:** French Crown as a “public office” and so “special rules” outside of normal inheritance practices

Valois Family: Philip VI of France (1328- 1350)

- Nephew of Philip IV (son of Philip's brother Charles)
- Valois family
1320s: Edward III's claim illegitimate because was through his mother Isabelle





Chronology of the war

Image: Battle of La Rochelle, Froissart's
Chronicles



Overview

1337-1360: English success (battles of Crécy, 1346 and Calais, 1347)

1360-1400: France regains control (Richard II of England, abdication 1399)

1400-1429: English victories under Henry V (1415, Agincourt)

1429-1453: French success (Joan of Arc)

**Valois
creativity and
female
succession**

- Return to the “Salic Law”
 - “men should receive the heritage of the ancestors”
 - Women should get personal property



Only MEN can receive the heritage of the kingdom (early 15th c.)

1337



1360



1429

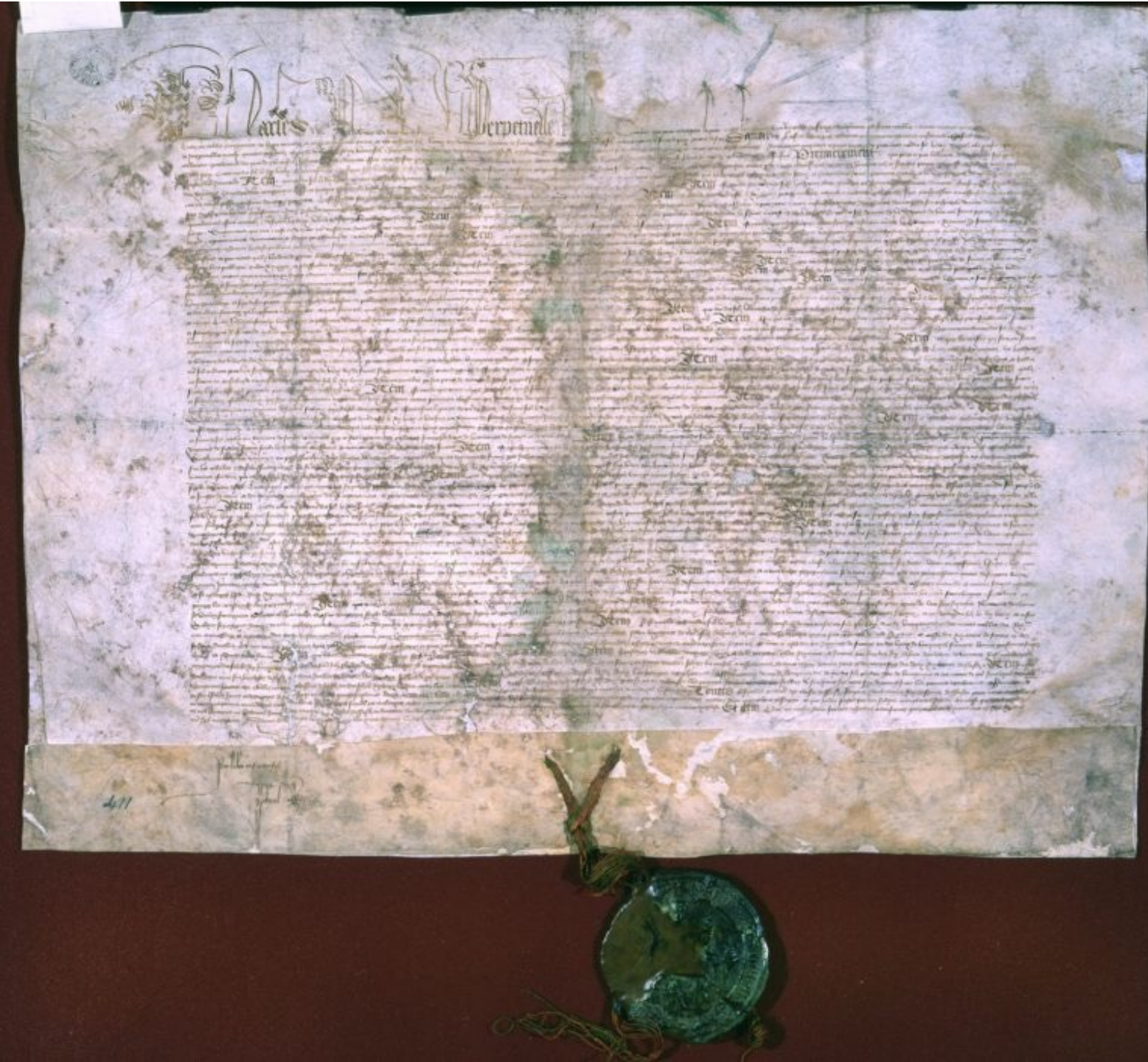


1453



Henry V of England and the Treaty of Troyes (1420)

- Signed with Charles VI (r. 1380-1422)
- Henry would marry Charles' daughter Catherine
- BUT death of Henry in 1422



1337



1360



1429

Role of Joan of Arc



1453

English left with only Calais





Military Changes

Image: Battle of Crécy featuring English archers

Warfare Before 100 years' War

- Pitched battles
- Armies = warrior-aristocrats
- Heavy reliance on cavalry
- Use of lance and swords
- Limited use of infantry
- Focus on capture and ransom



Warfare during the 100 Years' War (and after)

- Nobles paid fines to get out of military service
- Lower status soldiers paid a wage
- Growth in use of mercenary soldiers
- More extensive use of infantry
- Fight to kill

Infantry



Battle of Crécy, 1347

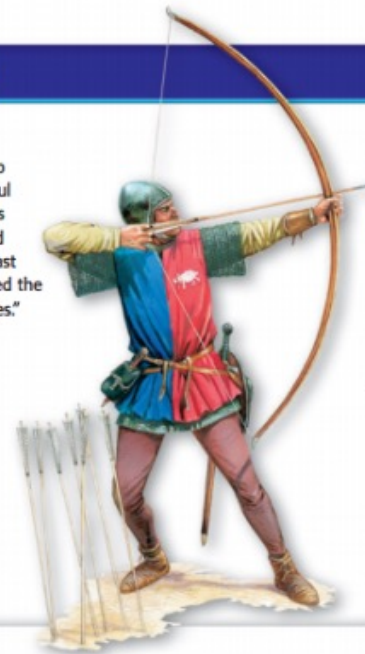
- on foot
- close order formations
- paid (frequently late or not at all)
- "routiers"

History *in* Depth

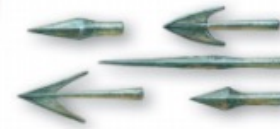
The Longbow

The longbow was cheap, easy to carry, and deadly. It was powerful enough to penetrate armor, thus reducing the impact of mounted cavalry. Bowmen could fire so fast that the longbow has been called the "machine gun of the Middle Ages."

▶ The longbow was as tall as a man, or taller. A six-foot-tall man might have a bow up to six and a half feet tall.



▶ English archers usually carried a case with extra bowstrings and a sheaf of 24 arrows. The arrows were about 27 inches long and balanced in flight by feathers.



▲ The arrows were absolutely fatal when shot within 100 yards. The average archer could fire 12 to 15 arrows per minute and hit a man at 200 yards away.



Nature of War



Battle of Agincourt, 1415



Battle of Poitiers, 1356



Joan of Arc, 1412-1431

Image: 19th painting of Joan of Arc by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres

Timeline

1422: Death of Henry V; Charles VII unable to capitalize

1429: Arrival of Joan of Arc

May 1429: Victory at Orléans

July 1429: Victory at Reims

May 1430: Captured by the Burgundians

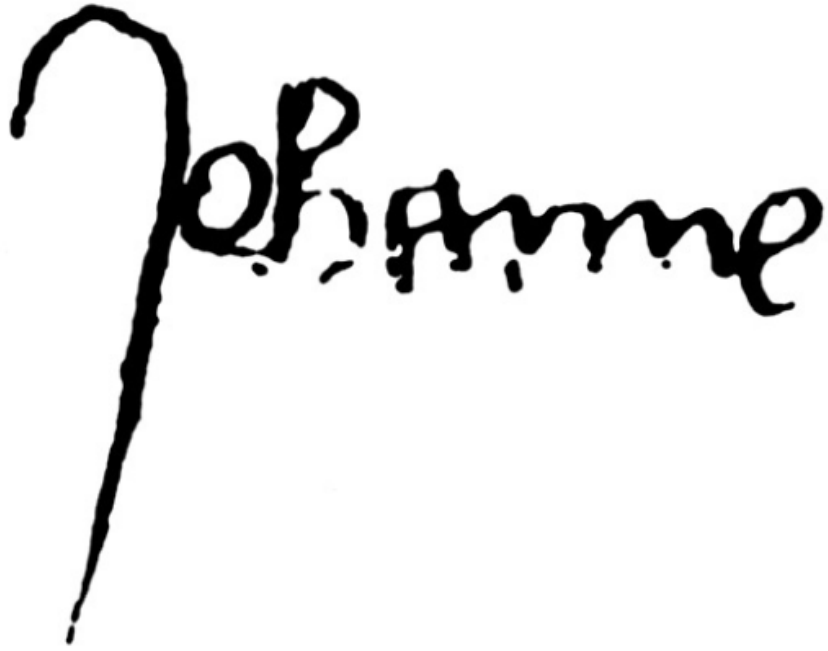




Joan of Arc, French Heroine

- Symbol of French freedom during WWI
- Canonized 1920

"Letter to the English" 1429

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Johanne". The letter 'J' is large and stylized, with a long, thin tail that curves downwards and to the left. The rest of the name is written in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

"If you do not believe this news sent on behalf of God via the Maid, then we shall strike you down, with such fury as has never been seen in France for a thousand years, wherever we may find you, if you do not comply with us."

Additional words?

"And if you do not do this, await news of the Maid, who will shortly pay you a visit, much to your disfavour, to inflict great damage upon you. King of England, if you do not do this, I am **chief of the army** and am waiting to confront your men in France."