# Before and during the Rise of Nation-States (1000s-1600s)

# The Beginnings of Nationalism in Europe

One of the most important events in Europe towards the end of the Middle Ages was the beginning of the feeling of nationalism among the people. *Nationalism* means a feeling of deep loyalty to one's country.

Between 1300 and 1500, France and England became nation-states, a new type of country. A *nation-state* is a group of people who live in a definite territory and are united under one government. They generally speak the same language and have a feeling of belonging and sense of loyalty to their country.

This unit will provide information about the political situation in Europe from 1300-1600, the end of the Middle Ages to the end of the Renaissance and the Reformation. Study the chart on the following page to learn about the political events happening in each European country between 1000 and 1300, before the rise of nation-states.

**Timeline of the Rise of the Nation-States** 

#### **Tudor dynasty Hundred Years' War** in England 1337-1453 1485-1603 1000 1700 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1100-1134 1295 1455-1485 1558-1603 1066 1154-1189 1215 1509-1547 1588 William the King Henry King Edward I War of the Elizabeth I Spanish Conqueror II rules sets up the Model Roses rules England; Armada invades **England** Parliament England officially defeated by England; 1154-1189 becomes defeats Harold the English; Henry VIII Protestant at Hastings Spanish King John rules England country King Henry I rules England the Magna power 1558-1603 1509-1547 declines 1100-1134

The **monarchs** or kings and queens of Europe all had family names. For example, France was ruled by the Carolingians, the Capets, and the Bourbons. In Germany, the Hapsburgs, Hohenzollems, and the Hanovers ruled. England has been ruled by the House of Orange, the Yorks, the Tudors, the Stuarts, and the Windsors. The present queen of England is a Windsor.

Political Events in Europe 1000s-1300s					
England	William the Conqueror— invaded England; defeated Harold at Hastings and controlled England; harsh but capable ruler; reorganized England's military and landholding systems, building many castles and creating a	Introduced the powers of nobles	1199-1215  King John—in 1215 the barons rose in revolt and forced John to sign the Magna Carter, confirming their feudal rights and established that the king's authority is subject to law	1272-1307  King Edward I—in 1295 he set up the Model Parliament; centralized the national administration; reduced baron and clergy power; took over Wales and Scotland	
	strong feudal government 987-1137	1179-1223	1226-1270	1285-1314	
France	King Hugh Capet— French nobles elected Hugh Capet, Count of Paris, as king; beginning of the Capetian Line  Louis VI—ruled from 1108-1137; gained full control over his royal lands, called lle de France; the first Capetian king to show that he was stronger than the nobles	King Philip II (Philip Augustus)—instead of appointing nobles, he used paid middle-class officials who would owe their loyally to him; quadrupled royal land holdings; began to take over southern France; before his death he became the most powerful ruler in Europe	King Louis IX— expanded royal courts, outlawed private wars, and ended serfdom in his lands; represented the perfect medieval monarch—generous, devoted to justice and rules of chivalry; a very religious man, he died of plague while on a crusade after reaching North Africa; was made a saint by the Church in 1297	King Philip IV (Philip the Fair)—defied papal authority and moved pope and church headquarters from Rome to Avignon with the French pope under the control of the French king; set up the Estates General in 1302—this body had representatives from all three classes: clergy, nobles, and townspeople	
	1000s	1100s-1200s	1276	1300s-1400s	
Spain	El Cid—Spain's national hero who fought on both sides, for the Moors and for the Christian kings; ballads tell of his legendary deeds	Spain—in the late 1100s and early 1200s, most of Christian Spain joined in fighting the Moors	Moorish kingdom in Spain—consisted only of the southern state of Granada	Castile—late 1300s and early 1400s, Castile became the most powerful kingdom in Spain	
>	1000s	1152-1190	1198-1215	1200s	
Germany & Italy	Italy—from about 1000s on, Italian cities began to grow in independence and importance, becoming centers of foreign trade, political life, and banking; several cities including Venice, Florence, Milan, and Genoa had their own foreign policy and developed their own political life; they resisted the efforts of noblemen and emperors to control them	Frederick I (Frederick Barbarossa)—elected king of Germany in 1152, promoted learning and economic growth; occupied Lombardy and was crowned king of Italy in 1154 and Holy Roman Emperor in 1155; was drowned while leading the Third Crusade	Otto IV—the king of Germany and Holy Roman emperor; excommunicated by the pope for attempting to master parts of Italy; later removed from being emperor	Germany—attempts to retain a united Germany were unsuccessful; could not gain rule of Italy  Italy—could not gain political unity	

# The Tudor Monarchy

Henry VII, or Henry Tudor, of the House of Lancaster was crowned king after the War of the Roses. He became the founder of the Tudor dynasty. He made a wise move when he married a woman from the House of York because it made peace between the House of Lancaster and the House of York. Henry VII ruled until 1509.

The next king of England is one of the most famous. A large man, King Henry VIII was married six times. The story of his marriages has been described in books, movies, and songs.



Henry VII

Henry was 18 when he became king of England.
He married a Spanish princess named
Catherine of Aragon. She came from

Aragon, which is in Spain, and was the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. King Henry VIII was not happy with Catherine of Aragon because she

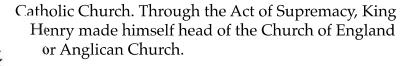
with Catherine of Aragon because she gave birth to a daughter, Mary Tudor, instead of a son. Henry needed a male heir to continue the Tudor dynasty after his death. Without a male heir to the throne, the Tudor dynasty would end. In 1529 Henry wanted a divorce, but the pope said that, being Catholic, he couldn't have one. Another reason was that at this time the Church was also being criticized and attacked from the Reformation. However, the real reason for the pope's refusal was political.



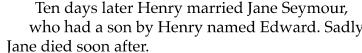
Henry VIII

Catherine was the aunt of the German Emperor, Charles V. During this period, Charles V had control over the pope, so the pope wasn't about to do anything Charles did not want him to do.

Like all other kings of this time, Henry VIII did not want to be told what he could or could not do by the pope. Henry VIII made a new law in 1534, called the *Act of Supremacy*. This law said that the king could obtain a divorce. The pope was angry and forbade the king to worship in the



Next, Henry married Anne Boleyn. What makes the whole story fascinating is that he married her a year before the Act of Supremacy! Henry was very unhappy when Anne Boleyn gave birth to a girl named Elizabeth because he still wanted a son. Henry soon decided that he no longer wanted Anne as a wife. So he put Anne Boleyn in prison and ordered her to be **beheaded** because he said she had been unfaithful.



who had a son by Henry named Edward. Sadly,

Henry's fourth marriage was to Anne of Cleves. This was a political marriage like the marriage to Catherine of Aragon. The purpose of the marriage to Anne of Cleves was to ally England with the Protestants in Germany. Henry became bored with Anne of Cleves and divorced her after a few months. Henry also had the man who had arranged the marriage killed.

Henry's fifth marriage was to Catherine Howard. Soon after the wedding, he found out that Catherine Howard loved another man. Henry had Catherine Howard killed by beheading.

Henry's sixth and last wife was Catherine Parr, who was lucky enough to live longer than Henry.

So Henry VII had six wives:

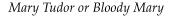
Anne Boleyn

Catherine of Aragon	
Anne Boleyn	
Jane Seymour	died
Anne of Cleves	divorced
Catherine Howard	killed
Catherine Parr	outlived Henry

Henry VIII had three children. Edward VI ruled for only six years. Mary Tudor, Henry's daughter by

Catherine of Aragon, ruled for five years. Under the **reign** of Mary Tudor, England became an official Catholic country. Mary married King

Philip II of Spain, a Catholic. She has been called Bloody Mary because during her reign, many Protestants were put to death for not becoming Catholic.



Mary's half sister became

Queen Elizabeth I. She was one of the greatest rulers in history. She ruled from 1588 to 1603. England became a Protestant country again under her rule. England also Philip II of Spain defeated the Spanish navy of King Philip II, who had been the husband of Bloody Mary. Under the rule of Elizabeth I, England became one of the most powerful nations in the world. With Elizabeth's death, the Tudor Monarchy ended because there was no heir to inherit the throne. The Tudor Monarchy included the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary Tudor, and Elizabeth I (see Unit 14, page 409).

Queen Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and ruled England for 46 years, from 1558 to 1603. The 25-year-old Elizabeth came to the throne at the death of her half-sister, Mary Tudor. Elizabeth composed poetry, was well read in the classics, and had a scholar's command of Greek and Latin. She also spoke fluently in Italian, Spanish, and French.

Elizabeth was well aware of the prejudice against her as a woman ruler. Although she was encouraged by the Parliament to marry a suitable man, Elizabeth always resisted the pressure for the good of England and to preserve her own power. She remained unmarried. Elizabeth was the last and greatest of the Tudor dynasty.

# Isabella and Ferdinand Rule Spain

### The Reconquista

Under Muslim rule, Spain had a tradition of religious **tolerance**, or respect for the opinions and practices of others. Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived in relative peace. Efforts by Christian warriors to **expel** or force out Muslims from Spain became known as the *Reconquista* or reconquest. It was an effort by the Roman Catholic Church to recover Christian lands from Muslims. In 1469 Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon and opened the way for Spain to become a unified state. The two monarchs conquered the last Muslim kingdom of Granada in 1492, and the Reconquista was complete. This crusading spirit linked religion with Spanish nationalism and was disastrous for Spaniards who were not Christian.

### The Spanish Inquisition

In order to make Spain a Catholic country, the king and queen asked the pope's permission in 1478 to set up a Church court of **Inquisition**. The purpose was to get **confessions** from people opposed to the Roman Catholic Church and punish heretics, people who opposed the Church's teachings. A crusade against Jews and Muslims began. The Inquisition took place in many parts of Europe but mainly in France, Germany, and Spain. It was an organization of the Church whose job it was to find and judge heretics.

Isabella was determined to bring religious and political unity to Spain and ended the policy of religious tolerance that had been in place since the 700s. Isabella won permission from the pope to use the Inquisition to try people accused of heresy. The primary suspects were Jews and Muslims who had converted to Christianity. Assuming the suspects were guilty, the Church courts demanded they confess. The Inquisition used torture, usually in public, to get confessions. If suspects refused, they often were tortured; yet if they confessed, they were burned at the stake. Between 1478 and 1490, over 2,000 men and women were executed this way.

In the same year as the conquest of Granada in 1492, Isabella and Ferdinand also began a new effort against the 200,000 Spanish Jews who openly practiced their religion. These were the Jews who refused to convert to Christianity. The great majority, about 130,000, chose exile, so Jewish families set off in ships to other lands. In August of 1492, Christopher Columbus witnessed and recorded the event in his diary.

Columbus was about to leave on the voyage he hoped would lead to Asia but took him to the Americas. Some exiled Jews sailed with him, such as the ship's doctor and interpreter.

Later, a few Jews became early settlers in the Americas. Most of the exiled Jews went to Muslim countries of Southwest Asia, lands that are now Iran, Syria, Israel, and Jordan.

In 1496 the remaining Jews were forced to leave Portugal. In 1502 Isabella ordered all Muslims who had not converted to Christianity to leave her kingdom. Isabella had achieved unity by expelling the Jews and Muslims but also ruined two skilled, educated groups of people who had contributed to Spain's and Portugal's economy and culture.

#### Review

Nationalism was one of the most important developments in Europe at the end of the Middle Ages. As the Middle Ages ended and the Renaissance began, people began to feel deep loyalty for their own country. This feeling of loyalty and pride in one's country is called nationalism. As nation-states replaced the feudal system, people began to feel loyal toward their entire country rather than just to one lord of a manor.



Elizabethan woman in 1575

In each European country, the kings and queens belonged to one royal family. For instance, the Hapsburgs controlled Austria at the same time that the Bourbons ruled France. During the Renaissance, the English royal family was the Tudor family. Henry Tudor became King Henry VII after the War of the Roses. The War of the Roses was a battle between two families to determine who would rule England. Henry, who belonged to one of the families, the House of Lancaster, defeated the other family, the House of York. He also wisely married a woman from the House of York to unite the families. Henry VII ruled until 1509.

Henry VIII, the next king of England, is famous for having had six wives. Henry was unhappy with his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, because she gave birth to a daughter, Mary Tudor, rather than to a son, and Henry wanted a son to be the next

king or heir to the English throne after him. When the pope refused to give Henry a divorce, Henry passed a new law in 1534, the Act of Supremacy. This Act made Henry the head of the Church in England. Thus, he had the authority to grant himself a divorce.

Henry had his next wife, Anne Boleyn, executed because she, too, gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth I, instead of a son. Henry finally got a son, Edward VI, from his third wife, Jane Seymour, but she died soon afterward. Henry's fourth wife, Anne of Cleaves, bored him, so he divorced her after a few months. He became angry with his fifth wife, Catherine Howard and had her executed because she loved another man. Henry's last wife, Catherine Parr, luckily outlived her husband.

Edward VI, Henry's son by Jane Seymour, died after only six years on the throne. Henry's daughter by Catherine of Aragon, Mary Tudor, forced England to become Catholic again when she took the throne. She was known as Bloody Mary because she had many Protestants killed for not becoming Catholic.

Mary's half-sister Elizabeth I, Henry's daughter by Anne Boleyn, went on to become one of the greatest English rulers of all time. She ruled from 1588 to 1603. England became a Protestant country again under Elizabeth I. The country also won an important naval battle under Elizabeth. English ships defeated the Spanish fleet of Philip II, who had been Mary Tudor's husband. Now England was on the way to becoming one of the mightiest nations in the world. Elizabeth was the last English monarch of the Tudor family.

The crusading spirit continued even after the failure of almost all of the Crusades. It especially grew in Spain where Christian warriors had been battling Muslims for hundreds of years. By the time Christopher Columbus had set sail in 1492, Spain had completed the Reconquista against Muslims and revived the Inquisition against Muslims and Jews to achieve religious unity.



Elizabethan man in 1575

Earlier, the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella united Spain into one country. With permission from the pope, a Church court of Inquisition was set up to drive the Muslims and Jews from Spain. The purpose of the Church court was to obtain confessions from people who opposed the Church. The Inquisition used brutal methods, often torturing people in public.

In 1492 as part of the Inquisition, Ferdinand and Isabella ruled that all Jews in Spain would have to become Catholic or leave the country for Portugal. About 200,000 Spanish Jews left, but a few years later they were even forced to leave Portugal. As a result, the economies of Spain and Portugal suffered because the Jews had held high positions as bankers, merchants, scholars, physicians, and government officials. Muslims and Jews had helped shape the arts and literature, and Isabella's policy had destroyed two skilled, educated groups that had contributed much to Spain's and Portugal's economy and culture.