

England in the Middle Ages

The decline of the Norman Dynasty marked the beginning of the new age.

The Plantagenet [plæn 'tædʒənɪt] Dynasty (Династія Плантагенетів)



In 1154 **King Henry II** (his mother was the daughter of King Henry I) came from France and became the King of England. He took his father's name **Plantagenet** and started the **The Plantagenet Dynasty**. He also belonged to **the Angevins** (the family name of his mother).

- was the 1st king who had greater power and wealth on the Continent than in Britain.
- reestablished the system of royal government
- restored order in England by destroying castles and prohibiting private wars.
- introduced trial by jury: 12 knights had to decide the dispute.
- made numerous attempts to become the King of the British Isles (not only England):
 - ❖ made the Scottish King to give him lands south of the Cheviot Hills
 - ❖ established his lordship over Wales
 - ❖ tried to get Ireland
- his failure: he ordered to kill his Archbishop Thomas Becket who wanted as strong power as the king's.

Th. Becket was murdered in his cathedral. After that the four king's sons rebelled against him. Henry II took this as God's damnation. His pilgrimage to Canterbury (to Th. Becket's grave) changed the situation.
(*Geoffrey Chaucer's " The Canterbury Tales" written in the 14th c. describes the ordinary pilgrims in the book.*)

In 1189 **Richard the Lionhearted** (the son of Henry II) came to power.

- spent most of his reign in Holy Land crusading
- was poor statesman

In 1199 **John the Lackland** (the younger brother of Richard the Lionhearted) came to power.
-lost all English possessions in France, including Normandy, in numerous wars. He took great taxes to pay for his wars. This caused the civil war in 1214 between the King and the barons.

-in 1215 the document called **Magna Carta (the Great Charter)** was accepted. It was based on the laws established by Henry II, Alfred the Great and Edward the Confessor. It promised new rights to people:

- ❖ The King was not to make people pay taxes without the consent of the Great Council.
- ❖ No one was to be punished without a proper trial according to the law.

In 1216 **Henry III** (the son of John the Lackland) came to power. He was only 9 years old so his Regent was Lord Pembroke who governed justly till his death.

-After that the period of great disorder and civil wars began. The power of the King was weak.

- The barons and churchmen held an assembly and appointed the Justiciar, Chancellor and Treasurer. The Council of Fifteen was to govern England.

-In **1265** the first **Parliament** was summoned. It had little time to show its merits.

In 1272 **Edward I** (the son of Henry III) came to power.

HW: I. Draw the family tree of the The Plantagenet Dynasty from 1154 to 1272.

II. Answer the questions:

1. Why did Henry II give a new name Plantagenet to his dynasty?
2. How did Henry II manage to restore the order in England?
3. What is Magna Carta? When and why was it accepted?
4. When and why was the 1st Parliament summoned?