

**Module 11: The High Middle Ages**  
**Topic 1 Content: The Rise of England as a Nation-State**

**Introduction**



**THE RISE OF ENGLAND  
AS A NATION-STATE**

Click the numbers to reveal a timeline

1 2 3 4

whro  
EDUCATION

The image shows a dark grey interactive interface. At the top left, the title 'THE RISE OF ENGLAND AS A NATION-STATE' is written in large, bold, yellow-orange letters. Below the title, the instruction 'Click the numbers to reveal a timeline' is written in white. To the right of the title is a white square containing a red cross, representing the flag of England. Below the title and instruction is a horizontal bar with four grey rectangular buttons labeled '1', '2', '3', and '4' in white. To the right of these buttons is the 'whro EDUCATION' logo, which consists of the word 'whro' in a stylized font with a small leaf-like icon above the 'o', and the word 'EDUCATION' in a smaller font below it. The main body of the interface is a large, empty dark grey rectangle.

Click the numbers to reveal a timeline. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.

# Module 11: The High Middle Ages

## Topic 1 Content: The Rise of England as a Nation-State

### William the Conqueror

# THE RISE OF ENGLAND AS A NATION-STATE

## William the Conqueror

- 1
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- 11th century A.D. (C.E.)**  
Norman Conquest
- 1066 A.D. (C.E.)**  
Battle of Hastings  
William crowned king
- Accomplishments**  
Feudal government  
Land tax  
Domesday books  
Intermarriages



With the line of succession in England unclear after the death of King Edward, William the Conqueror of Normandy launched the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century A.D. (C.E.) in an effort to wear the English crown. William was crowned king after his forces' victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D. (C.E.).

Once William obtained the crown and secured his control, he organized England into a more structured feudal government. He also developed a system of taxation by collecting an annual land tax based on the value of landholdings. This was the only universal tax collected by rulers at this time. To do this, William performed the first census in England since Romans had been there: he sent people to count every farm, every person, and even every pig and chicken, ultimately compiling the information into the Domesday books, and determining the kingdom's worth. Today, this book is still important because it reveals a lot of information regarding daily life in medieval times. Another result of the Norman Conquest was the gradual emergence of new English culture that sprung from the intermarriages between Normans and Anglo-Saxons.

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#### Henry II

## THE RISE OF ENGLAND AS A NATION-STATE

### Henry II

- 1
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- 3
- 4

**1154 A.D. (C.E.)**  
Henry II became king

**Accomplishments**  
Jury system  
Unified the court system  
Common law system



The next king to make great strides toward a nation-state was Henry II, who became king in 1154 A.D. (C.E.). Henry II developed a system of law that promoted fairness and equality. To do this, he instated a jury system that reached verdicts after evaluating common local knowledge. Of course, this system is much different than our court systems today. Henry II also unified the court system by sending judges throughout the country to hear and resolve various disputes, ultimately recording the cases. Subsequent judges were bound to follow the decision of an earlier judge in a similar case. This created a common law system throughout England.

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### Topic 1 Content: The Rise of England as a Nation-State

#### King John

## THE RISE OF ENGLAND AS A NATION-STATE

### King John

- 1
- 2
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- 1215 A.D. (C.E.)**  
King John signed the Magna Carta
- Governmental Changes Due to the Magna Carta**  
Limited the king's power  
Increased nobility's power  
Royal Council/Parliament
- 1265 A.D. (C.E.)**  
First meeting of Parliament

In 1215 A.D. (C.E.), King John was forced to sign the Magna Carta, a document that mandated no free man could be punished except through law. This right is still in existence today. The Magna Carta limited the power of the king, and increased the power of nobility. It also stated that the king could no longer collect taxes without consent from the Royal Council. Today, the Royal Council is known as the Parliament, and is a type of representative government that makes legislative decisions on behalf of the people. England's first Parliament met in official capacity to advise the king in 1265 A.D. (C.E.) under King Edward I. The government that governs England today is still bicameral, or has two "houses," although both the House of Lords and the House of Commons are modernized and much more democratic. In the beginning, the clergy and nobles met in the House of Lords, while knights and important townspeople met in the House of Commons.

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#### The Hundred Years' War

# THE RISE OF ENGLAND AS A NATION-STATE

## The Hundred Years' War

- 1
- 2
- 3
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The map shows France and surrounding regions. In 1337, England controlled a large portion of France, including Normandy, Brittany, and parts of the north. In 1429, England gained control over a significant portion of France, including Normandy, Brittany, and parts of the north. The map also shows other regions like Flanders, Champagne, Burgundy, Aquitania, Dauphine, Gascony, and Languedoc.

- 1337 - 1453 A.D. (C.E.)**  
Between England and France
- 1429 A.D. (C.E.)**  
England gained control
- 1453 A.D. (C.E.)**  
French reclaimed land
- Outcomes**  
England suffered loss  
England gained nationalism
- 1485 A.D. (C.E.)**  
Henry Tudor

The last event that aided in the unification of England as a nation-state was the Hundred Years' War, a war that took place between England and France as they struggled to control French territories. The war lasted from 1337 to 1453 A.D. (C.E.), a little over one hundred years. You can see from the gray area on the map that England initially gained a lot of control over France in 1429 A.D. (C.E.). With a victory in 1453 A.D. (C.E.), the French reclaimed that land, which is indicated in yellow on the map. In the end, England failed to gain control over French territory, and suffered many casualties. However, the war helped unify England by giving its people a sense of nationalism, or a feeling of loyalty to their country and people. After the Hundred Years' War, England experienced a series of civil conflicts in which nobles fought for control of the monarchy. Known as the War of the Roses, the fighting came to an end when Henry Tudor established a new dynasty in 1485 A.D. (C.E.), and gained support for his strong monarchy.