

Church and Society in Western Europe**Lesson 4**

England and France Develop

Key Terms and People

William the Conqueror Duke of Normandy who invaded England in 1066 and claimed the English crown

Henry II English king who added French lands to English holdings by marrying Eleanor of Aquitaine

common law a body of rulings by English judges

Magna Carta Great Charter, which guaranteed certain basic political rights

parliament body of representatives that makes laws for a nation

Hugh Capet founder of the dynasty that ruled France from 987–1328

Philip II one of the most powerful Capetian kings

Estates-General a council of representatives that advise the French king

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about the growth of towns and trade.

In this lesson, you will read about the development of France and England.

As You Read

Use a timeline to identify major steps toward England and France developing into nations.

ENGLAND ABSORBS WAVES OF INVADERS**Who invaded England?**

England was formed by the blending of cultures. Danish Vikings invaded the island in the 800s. Some Germanic groups arrived there much earlier. Over time, the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons were united under one rule and kingdom.

In 1066, King Edward died. A power struggle followed. This led to one last invasion. The invader was **William the Conqueror**. He was the duke of Normandy, a land in northern France.

He won control of England and declared it his personal realm.

1. Who invaded England before William the Conqueror?

ENGLAND'S EVOLVING GOVERNMENT

What were some of England's earliest steps toward democracy?

Lesson 4, *continued*

Later English kings, descendants of William, tried to hold and add to the land they still had in France.

They also wanted to increase their control over the government and the Church in England.

Henry II ruled from 1154 to 1189. He was one of the strongest of William's descendants. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine, who had been married to King Louis VII of France. From this marriage, Henry gained more territory in France. In England, he began the practice of trial by jury. Over the years, the ruling of the English judges formed a body of law called **common law**. These laws form the basis of law in many English-speaking countries.

One of Henry's sons, King John, had serious problems. He was a poor military leader. His harsh rule caused nobles to rebel against him. In 1215, they forced John to sign an important paper called the **Magna Carta**. It put limits on the power of the king. The document protected the power of nobles only. Common people, though, said that parts of the Magna Carta also applied to them.

Another step toward limiting the king came in the 1200s. Edward I needed to raise taxes for a war against the French. He called a meeting of representatives from all parts of England. It was called a **parliament**. The purpose of this meeting was to approve his tax plan. His Model Parliament met in 1295. This was the first time bishops, nobles, and common people attended together.

2. Why was the Magna Carta important?

CAPETIAN DYNASTY RULES FRANCE

What was the Capetian Dynasty?

In France, a new dynasty of kings came to power. They were called the Capetians. They were named for the first of these rulers, **Hugh Capet**, who had been a duke from the middle of France. This dynasty ruled from 987 to 1328.

France was split into more than 30 separate small territories. Each was ruled by a different lord. The kings held only a small area centered in Paris. They tried to gain control of all the land. Gradually, the growth of royal power would unite France.

One of the most successful kings was **Philip II**. He ruled from 1180 to 1223. He tripled the land under his control. He also made a stronger central government. This gave the king more control over his lands and the people who lived there.

His grandson, Louis IX, ruled from 1226 to 1270. He carried on Philip's work. Louis set up royal courts. There, people could appeal their lords' decisions. These courts increased the king's power. In 1302, Philip IV called for a meeting of representatives. Like Edward I in England, Philip invited common people. This meeting and the council of representatives was called the **Estates-General**.

3. How did the kings of France gain more control over their subjects?

Lesson 4, *continued*

As you read about the democratic traditions that evolved as England and France developed into nations, answer questions about the timeline below.

1066	William the Conqueror invades England.	→	1. How did this event affect the course of English history?
1154	Henry II becomes ruler of England.	→	2. How did Henry II strengthen England's legal system?
1204	Philip II of France regains Normandy from the English.	→	3. How did Philip strengthen the central government in France?
1215	The Magna Carta is signed by King John of England.	→	4. Why is this document so important?
1226	Louis IX becomes king of France.	→	5. How did Louis strengthen the monarchy while weakening feudal ties?
1295	Model Parliament meets during reign of Edward I of England.	→	6. How was this meeting a major step toward democratic government?