

## Knowledge Map: Conflict and Upheaval 1337 – 1381: 2. The start of the Hundred Years War

**Summary:** The Hundred Years War was a series of military campaigns between the English and French kings. The first stage of the conflict began in 1337. Many factors contributed to this outbreak, some of which dated back many years. The main causes of the hostilities were the overseas possessions of the English, relations between France and Scotland, Isabella of France, Edward III's claim to the French throne and the trigger cause was the confiscation of Aquitaine.

### Key people

<b>Philip IV of France</b>	King of France from 1285 – 1314. From 1314 – 1328 his three sons Louis X (1314 – 1316), Philip V (1316 – 1322) and Charles IV (1322 – 1328) succeeded him, but neither had a male heir.
<b>Isabella of France</b>	The only daughter of Philip IV of France. Isabella married Edward II of England in 1308.
<b>Edward III</b>	Became King of England in 1327 at the age of 14, after Isabella had Edward II imprisoned. Between 1327 – 1330 Isabella made most of the decisions on how to run the country. Edward III had a claim to the French throne.
<b>Charles of Valois</b>	Philip IV's brother.
<b>Philip VI of France</b>	Charles of Valois' son. Became king of France in 1328 after none of Philip IV's sons had a male heir. He was very popular in France.

### Key knowledge

7.	The Salic Law	In 1328 Edward III was the closest male blood relative of Charles IV of France when he died. However Isabella was very unpopular in France and it was feared there would a civil war in France so the ancient Salic Law was resurrected.
8.	Edward recognised Philip as king of France.	Edward III accepted this and did not pursue his claim to the French throne. He recognised Philip VI as his overlord for French possessions and paid homage to him in 1329 and 1331.
9.	The Battle of Halidon Hill	Tensions between England and Scotland increased in the 1330s. In 1333 the English won the Battle of Halidon Hill and placed Edward Balliol on the Scottish throne.
10.	King David II of Scotland	After a disagreement with the English, Philip VI offered refuge to King David II of Scotland. Philip viewed supporting Scotland as a way of weakening the English.
11.	French fleet at Normandy	In 1336 the French moved a fleet of assembled ships to the Normandy coast which meant the English felt threatened. France was richer than England and had a larger population.

### Overseas possessions

#### Summary

Since 1066 the English had controlled a considerable amount of land in France, some of which was of great economic importance. This had long been a source of conflict between the two countries.

### Key knowledge

1.	Gascony and Aquitaine	Gascony was a prosperous region in Aquitaine that the English controlled, that the French were unhappy about. France tried to confiscate it in 1294 and 1324.
2.	Treaty of Paris 1259	This confirmed that Gascony was a possession of the English kings. In return for this the English kings had to pay homage to the French king.
3.	Problems with the overseas possessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The English kings found paying homage to the French kings humiliating, especially as they had to do it each time there was a new king of France.</li> <li>The border of Gascony was not well defined.</li> <li>Some people in Gascony had been prosecuted (by the French king) for treason).</li> </ul>
4.	Flanders	Both the English and French kings wanted to have influence in Flanders due to its importance in the wool trade. The English had more influence.
5.	The Auld Alliance	Agreed in 1295/6 between the French and the Scottish who were both worried about English expansion. It was a military alliance.
6.	Relations between England and Scotland	During the early 14 <sup>th</sup> century England and Scotland had fought wars over control of Scotland. From 1330 England became more determined to take control of Scotland which strengthened the Auld Alliance.

### The confiscation of Aquitaine

#### Summary

By this stage relations between England and France had seriously deteriorated, and the confiscation of Aquitaine triggered the outbreak of the first phase of the Hundred Years' war.

### Key knowledge

12.	Robert, Count of Artois	Robert had been accused of forging documents and was now Philip VI's 'mortal enemy'. Edward offered Robert refuge in England. His return to France was demanded, but not granted.
13.	Confiscation of Aquitaine	In April 1337, Aquitaine was confiscated from the English due to Edward sheltering Robert and his general disobedience.
14.	Edward III's aims	Instead of seeking a diplomatic solution to the confiscation crisis Edward issued a clear challenge to Philip's claim to the French throne. In 1340 Edward formally assumed the title 'King of France'. Some historians believe Edward did want to become king of France, but others suggest that he simply hoped to achieve a military victory to confirm his possession of Aquitaine.

### Key words

<b>Homage</b>	To publicly pay respect and acknowledge the feudal position.
<b>Vassal</b>	Someone who is given someone else's land, and is, in effect, a servant to them.
<b>Duchy</b>	An area of land that someone controls, but is owned by someone else.
<b>The Salic Law</b>	An ancient French law that stated that the throne could not descend through a female.

### Edward III's claim to the throne and Philip VI's role

#### Summary

Edward III had a strong claim to the throne through his mother, Isabella, but did not try to pursue it in 1328. Philip VI was determined to assert the authority of the French kings which increased tension between England and France.