

Europe in the Middle Age (Part one)

Ec 565

October 1

1. Great intermediary period
2. Feudalism
3. Grand view about the evolution of states in Europe
 - Competing and growing monopolies
 - Framework for case studies on the emergence of the state and of representation in
 - England and Spain
 - France
 - Germany and Italy

Review of overall expenditures:

- Change of technology used in armies:

- Roman
 - Infantry
- MA:
 - 1. cavalry
 - 2. long bow
 - 3. infantry

FULL-TIME SOLDIERS / 1000 POPULATION							
<i>Date</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>Byzantine</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Turkish</i>	<i>Spanish-Hapsburg</i>	<i>Scottish</i>
AD 1-350	6. to 10.						
550		7.5					
1071		2. ^a					
1200			[2.] ^{a b}				
1214				[1.] ^a			
1300			2. ^a				
1346				[0.5] ^a			
1347			[1.5] ^a				
1410-1450			2. ^a				
1460-1470			[1.5] ^a				
1480				0.9 ^a			
1500					[1.5] ^a		
1503						2. ^a	
1503-1525				2.-3. ^a			
1513			10.0 ^a				[8.] ^a
1536						4. ^a	
1544			10.0 ^a				
1547			[0.6] ^a				[6.] ^a
1557						3. ^a	
1560's				2. or 3. ^a			
1563			0.3 ^a				
1566					2. or 3.		
1585			0.3 ^a				
1591						4. or 5. ^a	
1592			2. ^a				
1599			4.6				

Public finances (non optional, questions to think about)

- Very limited resources of the state
 - Ancient landlord customs
 - Very small surplus
 - Difficult communications
 - No hydraulic basin civilization
 - Limited trade (easier to tax)
 - Smaller use of money
 - Elite (scribes) is now in the Church
- Main use of public finance “defense”
- Feudalism brings one solution to the problems of information and enforcement under limited resources.

Geography

- Size is essential
- Three types
 - 1. Spain
 - Reconquista
 - No feudalism tied to land
 - Charters (fueros)
 - 2. England
 - Right size (~a French province)
 - Takeover by William I, like a “corporate” takeover. Particular type of feudalism
 - 3. France
 - Large country **and** stability of the society
 - In the North, textbook feudalism

The big picture: evolution of parliaments

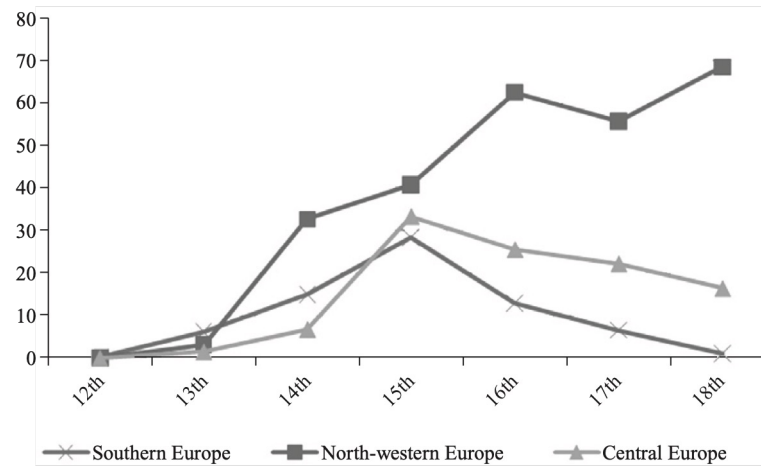


Figure 4. Activity index of parliaments in three parts of Europe, twelfth to eighteenth centuries

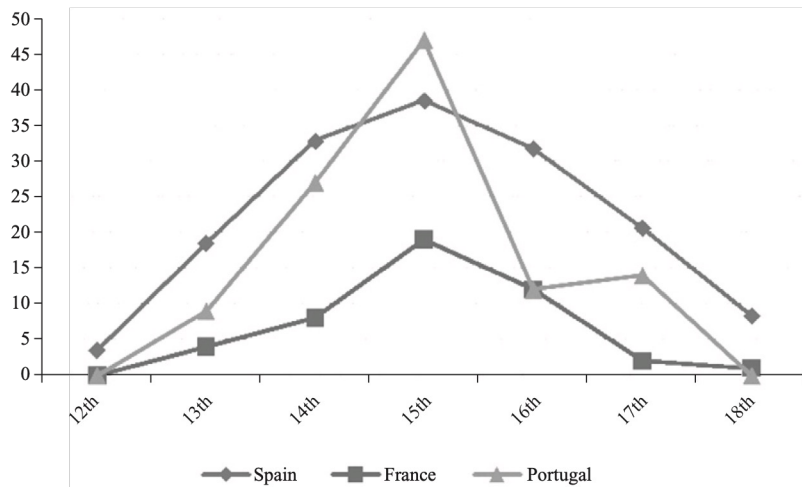


Figure 1. Activity index of parliaments in Spain, France, and Portugal, twelfth to eighteenth centuries

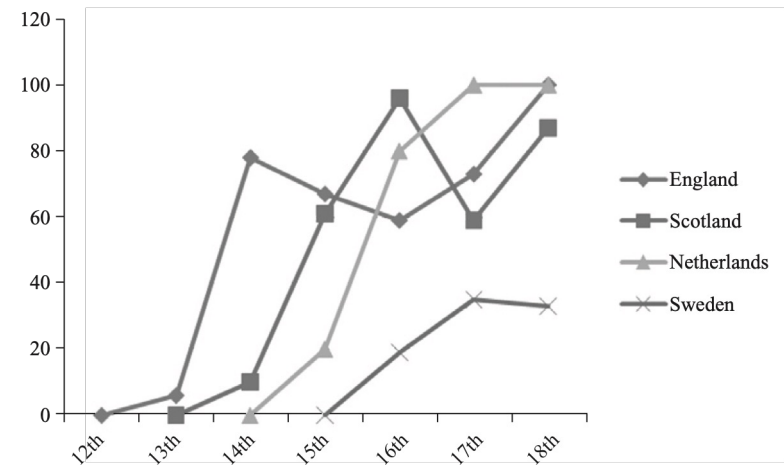
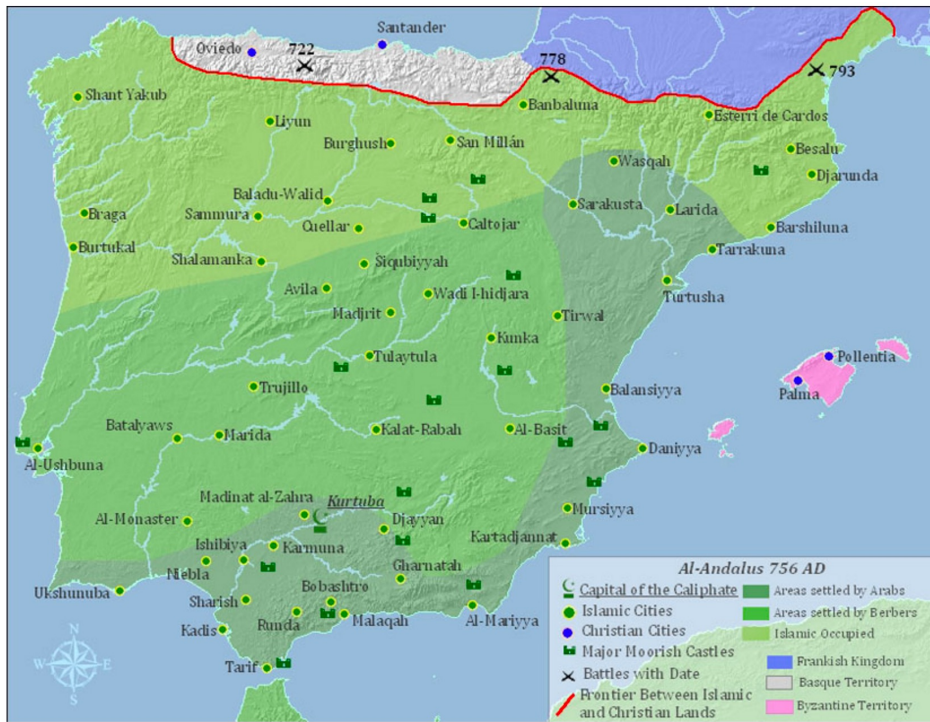


Figure 2. Activity index of north-western Europe, twelfth to eighteenth centuries
Sources: See online app. S1.

Letter from John Adams

- In a research like this, after those people in Europe who have had the skill, courage, and fortune, to **preserve a voice in the government, Biscay, in Spain, ought by no means to be omitted.**
- While their neighbours have long since resigned all their pretensions into the hands of kings and priests, this extraordinary people have preserved their ancient language, genius, laws, government, and manners, without innovation, longer than any other nation of Europe.
- their love of liberty, and unconquerable aversion to a foreign servitude, made them retire, when invaded and overpowered in their ancient feats, **into these mountainous countries,** called by the ancients Cantabria.
- The whole is a collection of very high and very steep mountains, rugged and rocky to such a degree, that a company of men posted on one of them might defend itself as long as it could subsist, by rolling rocks on their enemy. **This natural formation of the country, which has rendered the march of armies impracticable, and the daring spirit of the inhabitants, have preserved their liberty.**

Spain in 756 and 1036



Spain: the “Reconquista”

- Rapid push of the Muslims 711-732
- Gradual and slow process moving south 1000-1492.
- Unique setting:
 - New territories (not totally unlike new territories in N. America)
 - Charters for free peasants
 - Charters for cities: *fueros*
 - Incentive to populate new areas during the Reconquista

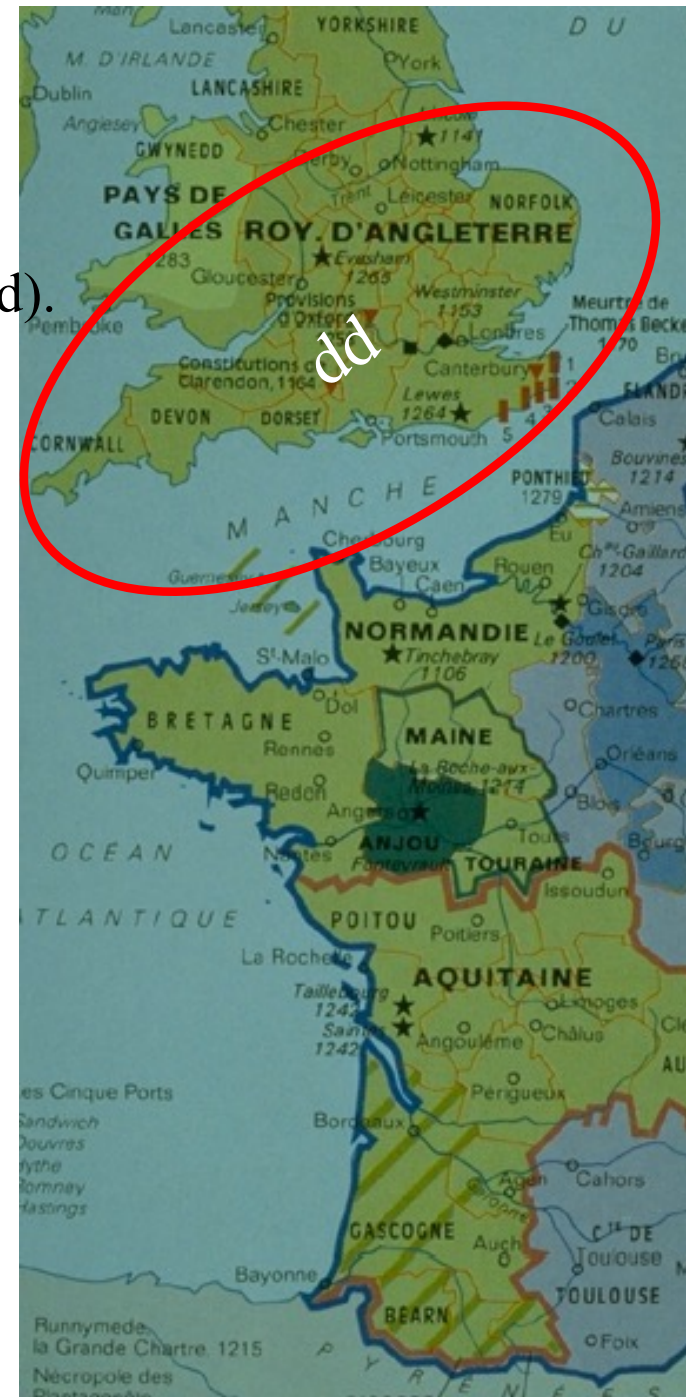
Fueros (charters)

- From the latin “forum” (public)
 - Law rests to a large extent on tradition. Fueros put traditions on paper.
 - Fueros de León (1017)
 - 48 precepts
 - 20 general rules for the kingdom
 - 28 additional for the city of León (the new capital)
- Regulates the peaceful possession of property by the Church. It also seeks to protect its members, both secular and regular clergy, confirming their judicial authority and direct authority of the bishop.
 - A certain judicial autonomy, and minimum legal guarantees.
 - Relationship between king and people. **Protection of people and property.**
 - Items on marriage, protecting the woman and her assets. It specifies the right of the woman to inherit.
 - Obligation to pay taxes to the monarch.
 - Obligation to respond to the call of war, except for the recently married gentlemen, because they had to father a son.

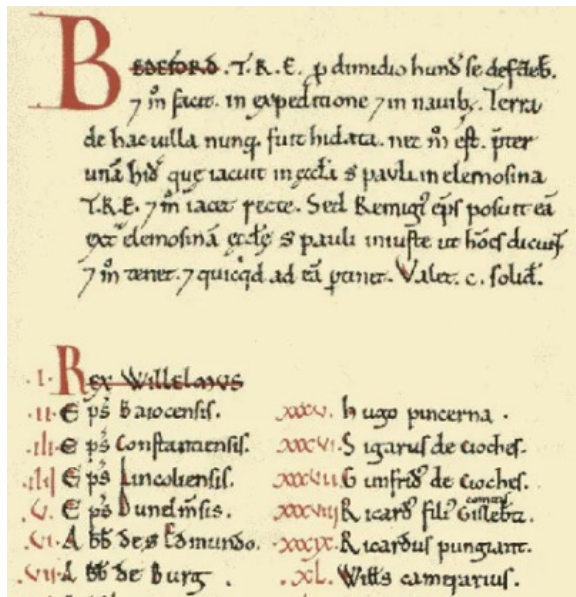


England

- Hostile takeover by the Normans and William the Conqueror in 1066, with barons (like a corporate board).
- William I, like after a corporate takeover:
inventory of the property: **Doomsday Book**.
- From the beginning, some control by a centralized government.
 - Barons were part of a team and did not come from long local family tradition. Tenants in chief.
 - King and nobles ruled the realm in concert. They were mutually indispensable. (Holt, *Magna Carta*, p.126).
 - We should not forget that England was a colony.
Mainland: Anjou and Normandy. Strong link with the continent (Normandy and after the marriage Henry II - Alienor of Aquitain, the whole western part of France).
 - England the right size and the right borders.



Doomsday book (1089)



Bedford. In the time of King Edward (T.R.E.) it answered for tax by its hundreds, and in the royal estates, in the chapel holding, and in the manors. The land of this town was never assessed in hides, nor held in chief, except one hide which lies in the church of Saint Paul as alms in the time of King Edward and otherwise in lay hands. But Bishop Remigius placed it in alms for the church of Saint Paul, as they say, together with the manor and whatever belongs to it.

It is worth 100 shillings.

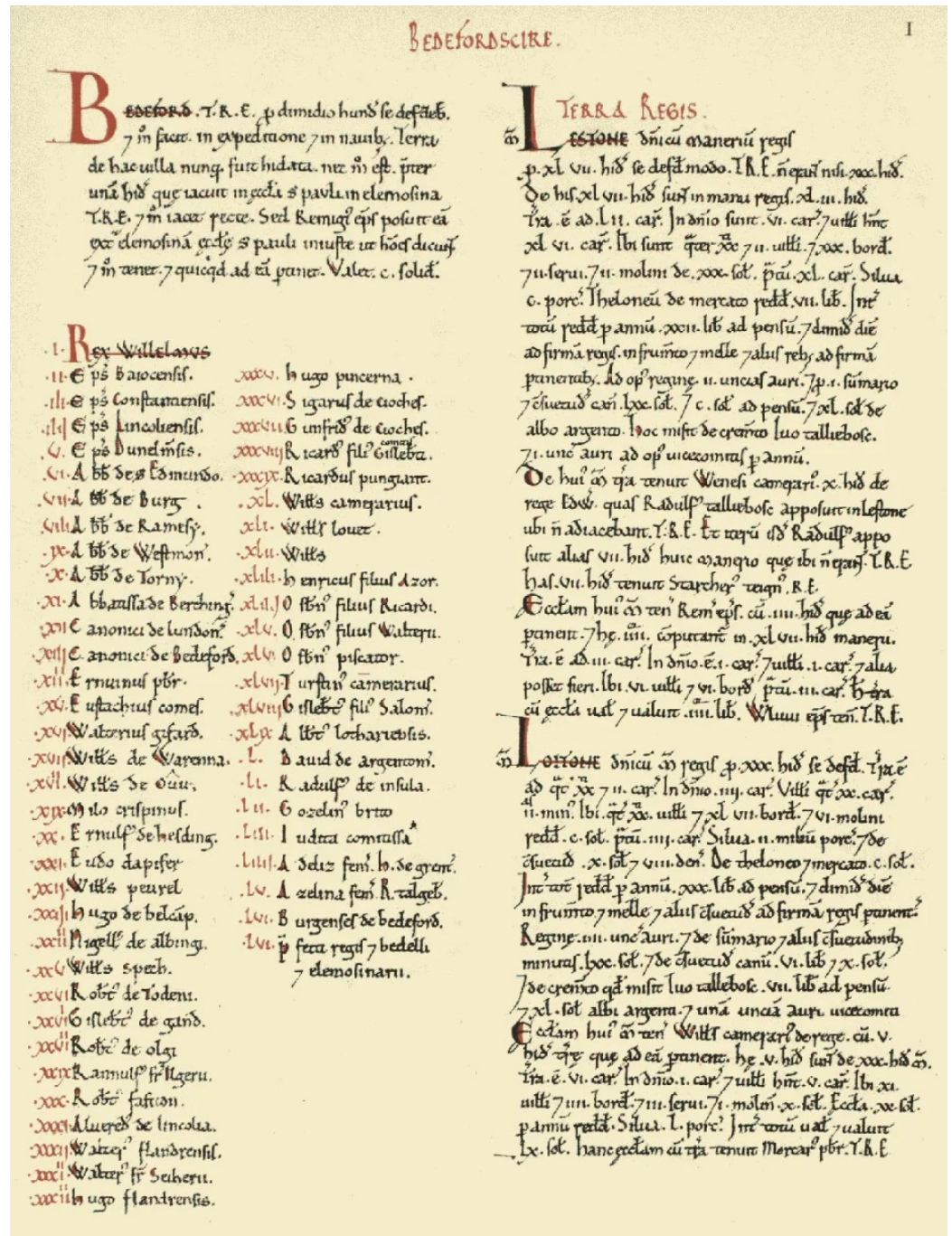
King William

The Bishop of Bayeux

The Bishop of Coutances

The Bishop of Lincoln

The Bishop of Durham



Public finances in early England

- Ordinary revenues
 - Domains of the king (like rent from tenants)
- Tallage: land tax
- Forests
 - Used as hunting ground, but has expenses to sell for agriculture
- Customs and aids
- Justice
 - Self-financed system of justice (circuit courts).
 - Efficient centralization
- **Scutage**
 - **In man-days or equivalent money**
- **Maltolt: wool export**

Magna Carta

- “rebellions” of the barons.
- More like the board not pleased with the CEO: quarrels within the system. (Property, land rights, etc), not against the system.
- Particular arbitrariness of king John (and Richard in raising taxes).
- Already with Henry II: tension between King and “magnates” who are willing to come to the king's protection but not to help him on his expeditions in Western France.
- King (national) danger: willingness to pay. Not for the king's private affairs (considered to be private).
- Good context for bargaining. Development of assemblies, (parliament)
- Some “national” unity is necessary in these assemblies for the bargaining and compromises between different interest groups.
- Charters were issued before. MC more important.

Parliaments in England

- Problem of bias from the survival of records.
- Before 1215, councils and charters
- 1215: Magna Carta
 - Barons and king
- Henry III (1216-1272)
 - 1236 ? **1258, 1265** (three orders, with commoner elected from the buroughs)
 - 1242-1272: 23 summonses (about once a year)
- Edward I (1272-1307)
 - More than 45 summonses
- Edward II (1307-1327)
 - More than 25
- Edward III (1327-1377)
 - More than 45 total.
 - No summons in 13 years, but never 2 years in a row (except 49-50, 74-75).

Tax on the export of wool

- Negotiated with the exporters (to the continent)
- Collusion Crown – exporters
 - Monopoly for the exporters
 - Few points of exports, easy monitoring
 - Shift of the tax incidence up and down, no direct collection
- Role of geography
- System will be the basis for taxation in the most important century (18th): taxation of imports of wine and domestic taxation of alcoholic beverages.

Customs

- Tax on exports of wool and hides
 - Fixed rate per quantity
- Designated customs ports
 - In each port, two citizens “des plus leaux et plus pussanz” (among the most loyals and powerful) as collectors (information and enforcement)
 - On each tax document, additional controller of the king
 - Fines on evaders could be charged and collected by local authorities (incentive/administration solution)
- Steady and monitorable tax revenues (~Egypt)
 - Important for credit and foreign borrowing

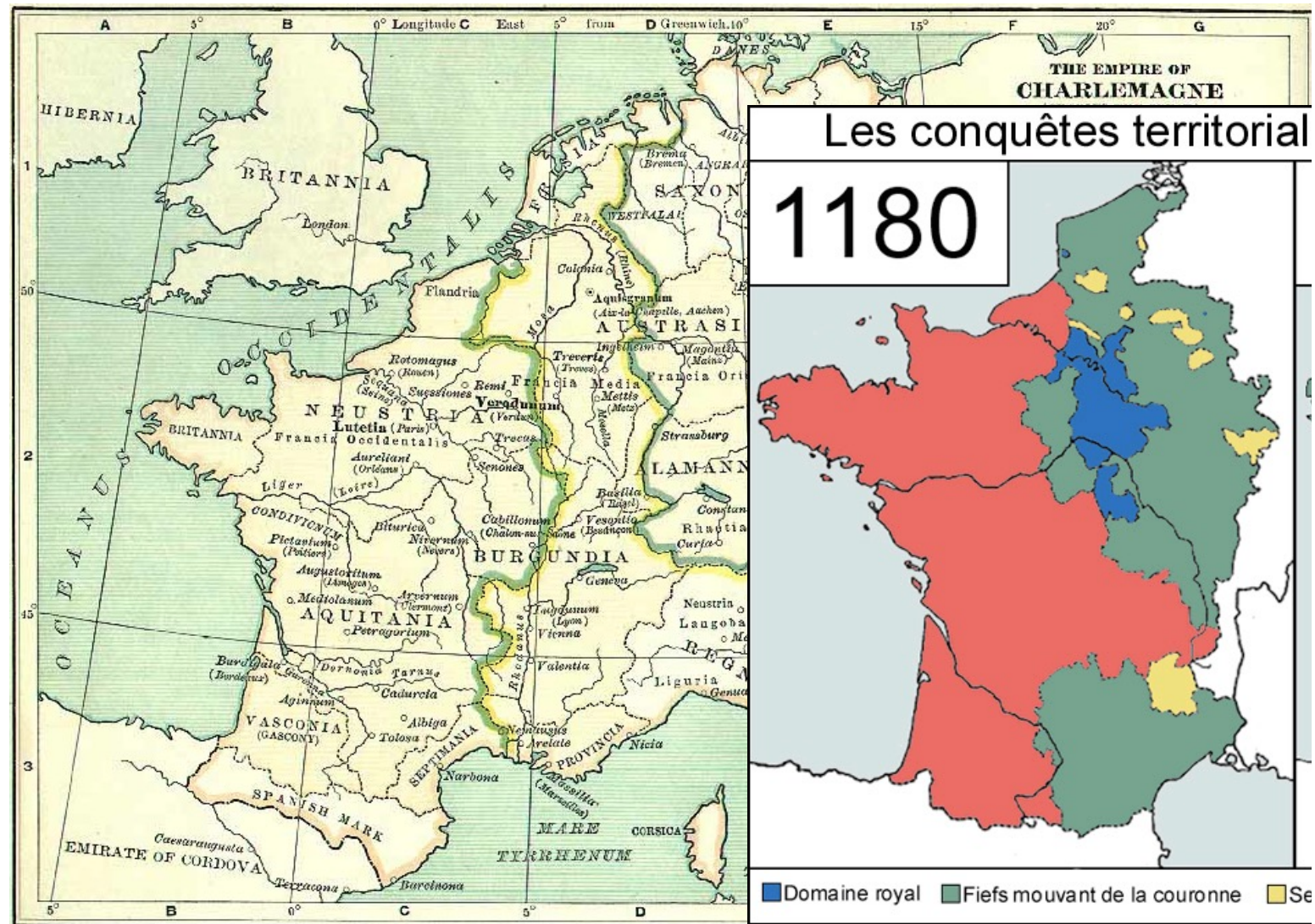
Reforms of Edward I (1272-1307)

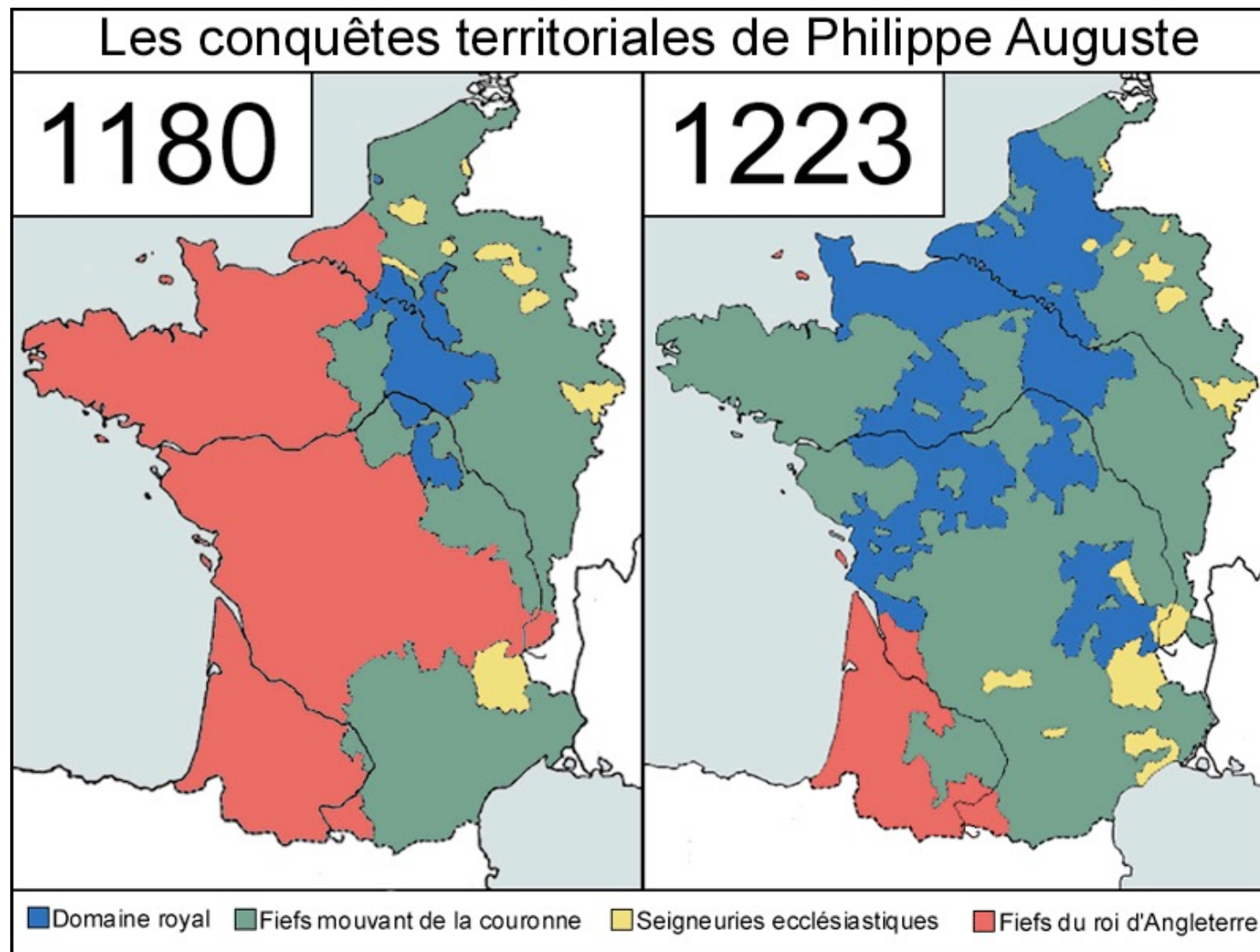
- Shift from feudal manpower to financial dues
- Paid army
 - Banneret (commander of 10 mounted men): 2s per day
 - Footman: 2d
 - Pay every 3 or 6 days (bought their own supplies---as the Romans)
- New army
 - Professional (not a band)
 - New technology: long bow
 - New tactical maneuvers
 - Training in the the campaigns against Wales, Scotland.
- Introduction of customs
- Loans from foreign lenders
- Collaboration with representative assemblies

Public finance in France

- No centralization as in England
- Regional interests
- Long drive toward centralization and the ‘reconstitution of the country’

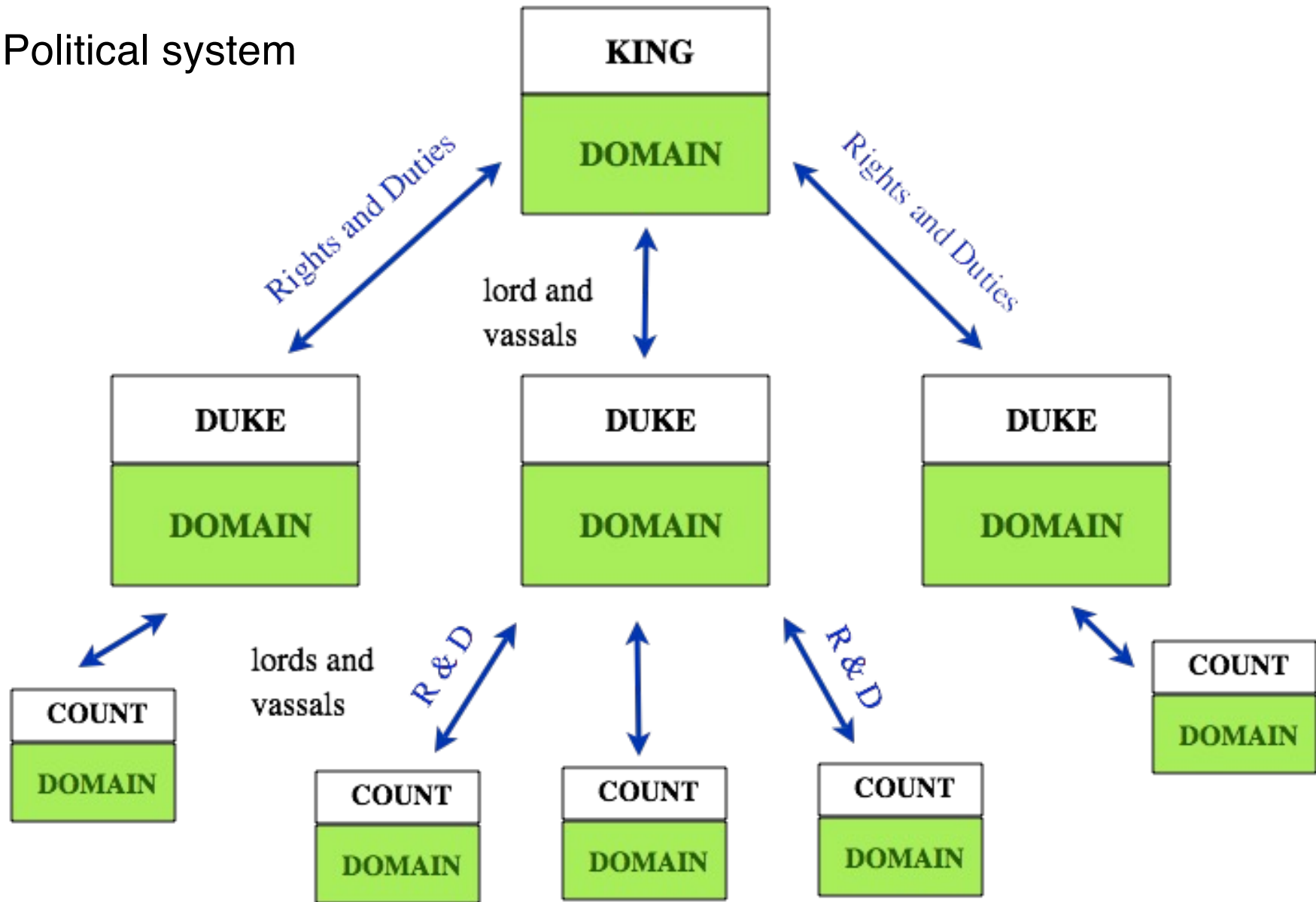
The construction of France





“Textbook” feudalism

Political system



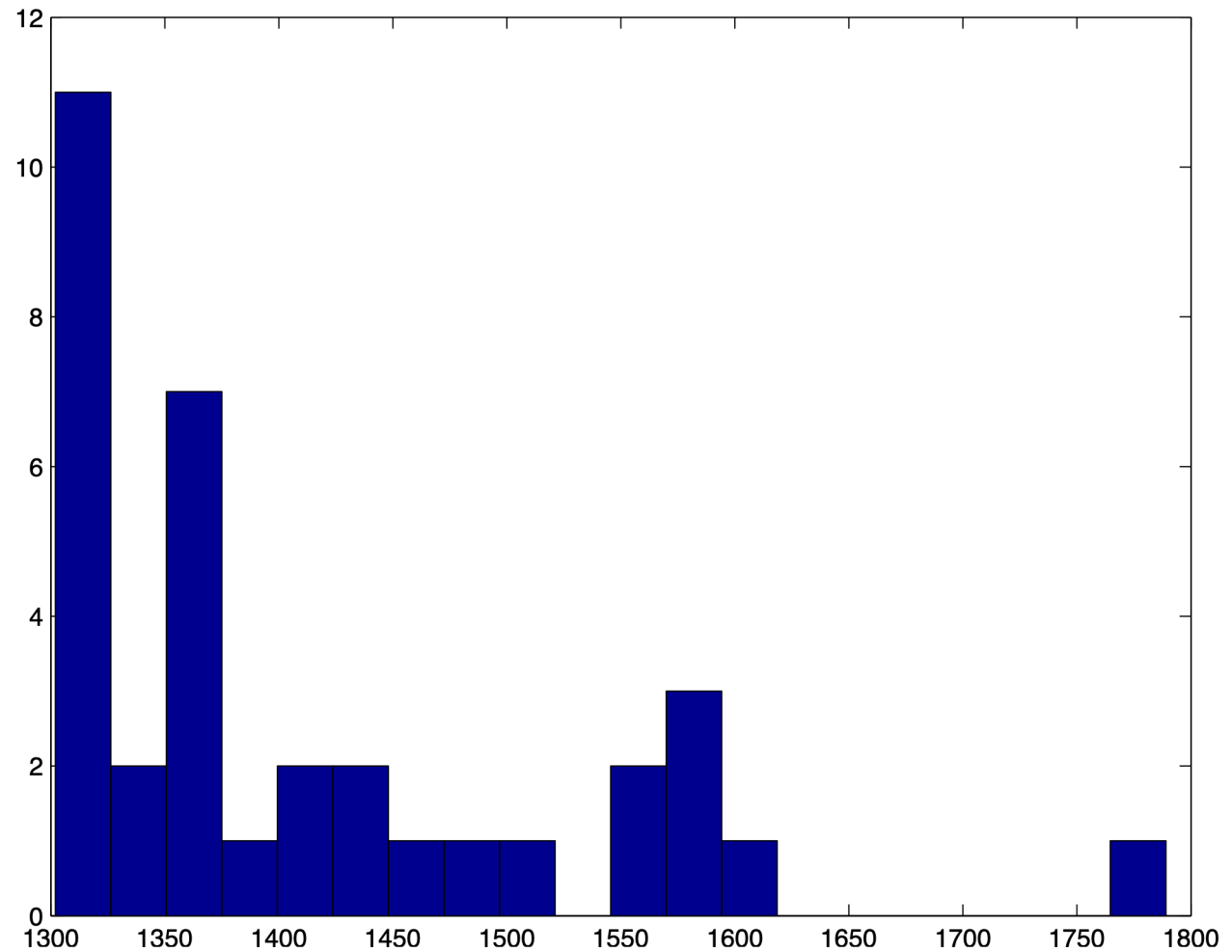
- Poor geography for the collection of taxes
 - More rural country, less trade
 - Few harbors
- Economy is much larger than England, but surplus (?), public finance relatively smaller.
- In the South, towns refused to contribute shortly before the invasion by the English in 1345.
 - Problem of information

Parliaments in France

- Given the size of the country, division:
 - approximatively
 - North (Paris)
 - South (Languedoc)
- Meeting in time of crisis
 - Tax could be granted only with effective war going on
 - Doctrine of necessity applied by regions
 - Some grants to be spent locally

Estates Generals in France

- Number of meetings (time interval of 25 years)



England and France

Comparison

Country	England	France
Geography	moderate size base (England) to conquer adjacent states within the envelope (Wales, Scotland, island)	country is “too large” with strong semi-independent close neighbor: Burgundy
Public finance resources	good potential for taxation: type of trade, harbors	low potential for taxation
Institutions	monetization of the feudal dues	persistence of in-kind services for the feudal dues
Shocks and technology	stimulus from conquests and military innovations	old military technology, main stimulus from king ransom
Personalities	very strong kings: Edward I (1273-1307) : Wales, Scotland Edward III (1327-1277) : France	weak kings