

Episode 9: Italy, Jerusalem, and The Crusades

“Ah, Constantine, how much evil was born,
not from your conversion, but from that donation
that the first wealthy Pope received from you!”

These lines come from Dante Alighieri’s famous *Divine Comedy* in his part on hell referred to as *Inferno*. Dante wrote this in the early 1300s, a century or so ahead in our storyline, but the reference to the “Donation” is an important one. This “Donation of Constantine” is a document forgery that surfaced in the 8th Century Carolingian courts.

According to the document, as Constantine moved his capital of the Roman Empire to Constantinople in the east, he gave the Bishop of Rome, Pope Sylvester I, domain over the west. Now, in contemporary times, the succession of Constantine was a mess and the Pope had nothing to do with it. However, 400 years later, Pepin the Short, son of Charles Martel and father of Charlemagne, was presented the document by Pope Stephen II in seeking support against the Lombards. Under the authority of Constantine, Pope Stephen anointed Pepin as King of the Franks, supplanting the puppet Merovingian kings.

Pepin’s forces defeated the Lombards in 756 leading to a treaty (in part referred to as the Donation of Pepin) whereby the Bishop of Rome was given temporal, that is, secular power and authority over what became known as the Papal States. Despite a few short interruptions, the Papal States persisted until 1870.

Finding a balance between earthly power and spiritual leadership proved a thorny issue for centuries. The popes of the Middle Ages ranged from military leaders to frail hermits and from well-meaning reformers to power-hungry megalomaniacs. This ebb and flow shaped politics and power in many ways from Rome to London and throughout all of Europe and beyond.

Dates: 493 to 1153 - in the Mediterranean

In this episode, we take a detour again away from England to set the scene back in both Italy and the Middle East in order to have the backdrop for events that will occur in England in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. We will have to rewind back to the fall of the Western Roman Empire and look at the history of Italy where we will meet a variety of characters that we have referenced previously. This will all tie in to the growing influence

of the Pope and the beginning of the Crusade--both which have cultural, political, and economic impacts on the people of England.

1. Italy after the breakup of the Roman Empire

- You may recall in episode 5 we briefly mentioned Theodoric the Great of the Ostrogoths. In 493, he personally killed Odacer, the recognized King of Italy who had deposed the final Western Roman Emperor, while at a banquet that was supposed to mark a peace treaty. Around the same time, Theodoric married Audofleda, the sister of King Clovis of the Franks, and subsequently arranged marriages for his two daughters (who were already in their late teens and born of a previous concubine) to the kings of the Visigoths and Burgundians. This set of alliances ultimately allowed Theodoric to have control of territory ranging from Spain to the Balkans rivaling the former extent of the Western Roman Empire by the time of his death in 526.
- The successors of Theodoric were not successful and ran into the talented and ambitious Emperor Justinian the Great of Byzantium. Italy was devastated in decades of war and came under Byzantine rule at the end of the Gothic Wars in 554. However, the eastern grip was tenuous and the Lombards seized the opportunity, gaining control of significant territory in the 560s and 570s. In 584, a new entity, the Exarchate of Ravenna was established by the Byzantines that organized the remaining territory of Italy which remained in their control. It was this “Exarchate” that was again invaded by the Lombards and defended by the Franks as discussed in the introduction to this episode.
- One contributing factor to Byzantium’s loss of Italian lands (and, it should be noted that this also included a massive loss of influence over the Bishop of Rome), was the Arab-Byzantine conflict. As we discussed in the opening of Episode 5, the Umayyad Caliphate rapidly expanded in the late 7th and early 8th centuries--mostly to the detriment of the Byzantine Empire. This distraction opened the opportunity for the Lombards; their triumph was short-lived. Pepin’s son, Charlemagne, sealed their defeat in 774 taking the title of “King of the Lombards” and uniting it with the rest of his Frankish Empire. Ceremonially and symbolically, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as “Emperor of the Romans” in 800. This act is remembered more in history than it likely was in its time (we’ll discuss that more in a bit), but it is a turning point for Latin Christendom and cemented the turn from Constantinople.
- It was around this time as well, that the political structure and dynastic leadership of the Muslim world was going through changes. It is far beyond

the scope to get into details, but we will try to provide some brief summary so that we can set the broader context and bring familiarity with some names and terms that you may come across in deeper research. The Umayyad Caliphate was conquered in the Abbasid Revolution between the years of 747-750. The Umayyads had found exile in the Iberian peninsula setting up the Emirate of Cordoba which went through many iterations but was the foundation of Muslim Spain for centuries.

- The formation of the Abbasid Caliphate followed which, at least nominally, maintained broad Islamic political leadership for the next 750 years. At the height of its territorial possession in the mid-9th Century, the Caliphate stretched from north Africa, through the Levant and Arabia, and well into Central Asia. The Abbasids could not hold on to such widespread territory and splintered into various administrative and semi-sovereign emirates. The Abbasids were predominantly Sunni Muslims and lost territory in Egypt to the Shia Muslim Fatimid Caliphate in 969. The Fatimids established dominance throughout North Africa and the Mediterranean. A constant throughout each of these caliphates was piracy and raids into the islands of the Mediterranean and the Italian peninsula.
- Now, you'll recall from Episode 5, the divisions of Francia upon the death of Charlemagne's son, Louis the Pious. Lothair I inherited Middle Francia which included the Italian possessions. Upon his death, Louis the Younger inherited the Kingdom of Italy. This territory was essentially the northern half of Italy while the southern half, known as Benevento, was quasi-independent. With the ongoing threat of Muslim invaders, referred to at the time and throughout the Middle Ages as "Saracens", Louis, in alliance with Byzantine Emperor Basil I, secured southern Italy and re-took the Muslim Emirate of Bari which had been established on Italy's western coast. Relations with the Beneventans and Byzantines were tenuous, and Louis ultimately retreated back to the north. When he died, the crown was shuffled around without a strong sense of unity or authority for the next 100 years.
- In the year 931, Adelaide, daughter of King Rudolf II of Burgundy was born. You'll recall that the placename of "Burgundy" is a complex mess--this is in the territory that emerged out the Middle Francia partition. Rudolf simultaneously held the Kingdom of Italy for four years, but lost it to his rival, Hugh of Provence. Ten years after her father's death, King Hugh had his son, Lothair marry the 15 year old Adelaide. Lothair's rule over Italy was weak, and the more powerful King Berengar II took the throne after Lothair died in 950. He then tried to get Adelaide to marry his son, but she refused. She was captured, imprisoned, and then escaped. While under protection and hiding

from Berengar, she sent a message to King Otto I of Germany--asking for his protection and his hand in marriage.

- You might remember King Otto I of Germany from Episode 6 when he had married Edward the Elder's daughter Eadgyth. She had died in 946, and Otto was happy to oblige the rich and supposedly beautiful Adelaide at her request. They were married in 951 and Berengar was deposed. The crown of the Lombards passed to Otto. However, Berengar quickly resumed power as Otto was over-stretched in Italy. But, his rule was cemented in 961 when, at the behest of Pope John XII who was besieged by Berengar, he was victorious over Berengar's forces. In early 962, he was crowned Holy Roman Emperor by the Pope which established the formation of the Holy Roman Empire for centuries to come. Empress Adelaide was canonized by the Catholic Church and was recognized for her devotion to the Church and held close ties with the Cluny Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in France.
- We will talk more about Cluny here shortly, but first we need to wrap up another 100 years of Italian history. In the north, as we discussed, the Kingdom of Italy had been united with the Kingdom of Germany through the Holy Roman Empire and the Ottonian Dynasty. The Ottonian Emperors spent most of their time north of the Alps. Between the absentee ruler, the Papal States to the south, and an economically vibrant merchant class, the north splintered into many quasi-independent city-states. South of the Papal States, the tension between the local nobility (notably the Tusculani and Crescenti families), Byzantine influence, and the ongoing Saracen raids created a similar situation where local control began to strengthen. This was complicated in the south upon the arrival of the Normans.
- Sicily had been raided by Muslims since the mid-7th Century, but in 827, the local Arabs who had been peacefully coexisting on the island, launched a revolt against Byzantine control. The island was fully in Muslim control by 902 and was part of the Fatimid Caliphate in 909. In 1038, the Byzantines launched an attack to retake Sicily. This campaign was led by a Byzantine general but the forces included the elite Varangian Guard which was led by none other than Harald Hadrada and a cohort of Norman mercenaries. The Byzantine led force began retaking territory, but halted their advances in 1040. The Normans then turned against the Byzantines (who were now led by Harald) in a Lombard-led revolt. William of Hauteville emerged as the Norman leader and eventually landed significant territory in southern Italy. The Hauteville family led by seven sons of Tancred of Hauteville established a Norman Dynasty that covered most of southern Italy and eventually took control of Sicily by 1091.

2. The influence of monasticism and drive for church reform

- In Episode 5, we talked about four influential church leaders of the 4th and 5th Centuries; as the Western Roman Empire fell, Constantinople and the Byzantine Emperors had the most influence over the selection and actions of the Bishop of Rome. This continued until the era of the Carolingians who then wielded power. This did not last long. Earlier in this episode, we mentioned the period of Italian instability after Louis the Younger. The chaos began to escalate in 887 when Charles the Fat (if you remember, he was the Carolingian “last man standing” at the end of Episode 5) was deposed. Italy was far from the nexus of political power that dominated the power battles in western Europe. Factions fought from 887 until Otto I came into control in 962. It was during this era that the Papacy, now vested with temporal power of the Papal States, reached its low point. From 882 until 984, at least seven popes were murdered or assassinated. The office became embroiled with corruption and greed as it was fought for by powerful Roman, aristocratic families for power. One pope’s dead body was famously dug up, dressed and put on a show trial, reburied, dug up again, and thrown into the Tiber River. Throughout the reign of the first few Ottonian emperors, aristocratic Roman families battled each other, the Holy Roman Emperor, and a growing movement of church leaders from outside of Rome who pushed for reform.
- The drive for reform largely came out of the monasteries of western Europe. The foundational influence for western monasticism came from Benedict of Nursia. He was well-educated and born into a noble Italian family in the late 5th Century. He went on to found about a dozen monasteries including the famous Monte Cassino. He wrote an extensive essay known as the Rules of Saint Benedict which provided a framework for monastic life and the operation of monasteries. In 910, William I, Duke of Aquitaine, founded Cluny Abbey in east-central France. Cluny rapidly became one of the most influential forces in the church seeking to reduce interference from the lay nobility and return to a stronger adherence of Benedictine rules. Prior to Cluny, many monasteries had been founded by the wealthy feudal overlords which created, at times, some tension between strict monastic practice and the influence of money and power. Lords interfered in the operation of the monasteries and often extracted taxes or other feudal obligations from the monastery. Cluny was founded with independence and asserted this successfully. But, the leaders of Cluny went a step further and established a network of monasteries that would be, more or less, followers of the Cluniac approach. This notion of “federated” monasteries was new and cemented Cluny with strong influence over new Cluniac monasteries that emerged throughout western Europe. This “Congregation of Cluny” had over a thousand monasteries by the 12th Century.

- Aside from a few popes that were installed due to the direct influence of the Holy Roman Emperor, the office remained mired and embattled in the struggle for power by the Roman aristocracy. This reached a peak in 1046 when the would-be Holy Roman Emperor Henry III came to Rome to be coronated. The problem was that no less than three men claimed to be the rightful pope. Henry deposed all three of them, held an election, and had his own candidate installed. In the next decade or so, the Holy Roman Emperor still mostly controlled papal elections. However, these popes and their most trusted advisors had close ties (or were squarely a part of) the reform movements.
- The reformers won out in 1059 after the election of Pope Nicholas II when a papal decree was passed that cemented the process whereby the senior clergy nearby Rome would elect the pope--this is the forerunner to today's "College of Cardinals". In 1073, the reformer and papal cleric, Hildebrand of Sovana, was elected and took the name Pope Gregory VII. Under Pope Gregory VII, many reforms moved forward including: reforming the rules for the clergy (which pressed for celibacy and against drunkenness), a heightened focus to root out heresies against orthodox beliefs, solidifying the primacy of the pope over all of Christendom, and, perhaps most famous of all, the fight against simony.
- Simony is the selling of church offices and was a close cousin of what is known as the investiture controversy. The central point of this struggle was who would have the authority to appoint or elect individuals to key church offices--really, any church office. As we've stated, wealthy landowners often sponsored churches and monasteries and used this influence to control who would serve as abbots or other key members of the clergy. This also applied to the offices of bishop, archbishop, and, as we've seen, even the pope. While the influence of the Holy Roman Emperors may have helped rescue the papacy from the aristocratic battles of the Roman elite, it was still seen as meddling. Gregory VII was at the forefront of this battle, and his newest target was Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV.
- Henry IV came to the crown as a child when his father, Henry III, died in 1056. During his time as a minor, conflict dominated with a struggle between various factions. He came to rule in his own right in 1065 at the age of 14. He had lost power in northern Germany and any time focus turned to the north, new struggles with the Italians in the south would sprout. He sought to continue the right to name bishops in his kingdoms but now faced a reformed papacy. His first conflict with Gregory VII came with excommunication in 1076 over blatant disregard for the selection of bishops from Rome. Henry repented and in 1077 came his famous Walk to Canossa

where he walked barefoot in the snow wearing sackcloth to apologize to Pope Gregory VII in person. This is one story that inspired the “walk of shame” by Cersei Lannister in Game of Thrones. Henry IV would ultimately be excommunicated four times--the fourth would be issued by Pope Urban II who became pope in 1088.

3. The First Crusade

- The Byzantine Empire had some minor resurgence despite their losses in Italy (which we discussed earlier) during the 11th Century. A new threat from the east was also advancing--another Turkic people known today as the Seljuk Turks. The Byzantine forces took a heavy defeat at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071 which opened Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) to Seljuk occupation. By 1092, the Seljuks had an empire from Central Asia to the Levant in the Mediterranean and nearly all of Anatolia. The Seljuks had adopted Sunni Islam as the state religion and now collided with the Shi'a Islam state of the Fatimid Empire. This conflict was centered at the edges of the two empires: the Levant.
- In 1095, Pope Urban II held the Council of Piacenza to reassert the church opposition to simony as the investiture controversy still continued. In attendance were ambassadors of Byzantine Emperor Alexius I Comnenus who pleaded with the western attendees to give aid to their fellow Christians in their battles against the Seljuks. Later that year, the Council of Clermont was held in the Duchy of Aquitaine where what is considered to be the first official call for western Christians to wage war in support of the east and in an effort to restore the Levant to Christian authority. This war is referred to as the First Crusade. The speech of Urban II does not survive in direct account, but there are several sources that help us piece together his message. We'll quote here, in part, from the account of Fulcher of Chartres which is considered to be the most reliable source:
 - Pope Urban II speaking: "Although, O sons of God, you have promised more firmly than ever to keep the peace among yourselves and to preserve the rights of the church, there remains still an important work for you to do... For your brethren who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid ... as the most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory ... They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire... On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers

and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends... All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested... Let those who have been accustomed unjustly to wage private warfare against the faithful now go against the infidels and end with victory this war which should have been begun long ago. Let those who for a long time, have been robbers, now become knights. Let those who have been fighting against their brothers and relatives now fight in a proper way against the barbarians. Let those who have been serving as mercenaries for small pay now obtain the eternal reward. Let those who have been wearing themselves out in both body and soul now work for a double honor... as soon as winter is over and spring comes, let them eagerly set out on the way with God as their guide."

- The news spread quickly and was disseminated throughout the regions most loyal to the Pope--notably, France and Italy. The time was right and the promise of eternal rewards was compelling to many.
- The crusading efforts started with what is known in history as the "People's Crusade". This was a disaster with thousands of Jews being massacred by would-be Crusaders and a humiliating defeat of the Christians by the Seljuk Turks. The anti-Jewish actions were condemned by the Catholic church and are viewed in history as the beginning of anti-Semitic campaigns in Europe that culminated with the Holocaust of WWII. The People's Crusade was unorganized and did not include many in the way of trained knights or soldiers. It was more like a "spur of the moment" militarized pilgrimage of the masses. The more "proper nobility" of the crusading effort were putting formal war plans into action and recruiting their ranks. By August of 1096, the four primary armies began their journey to the east.
- Now, our goal here is to put the story of the Crusades in the context of political history. So, we are not going to dive too deep into the details of any of the Crusades. The points of interest are how the activities of the Crusades shaped the political realities of western Europe with a particular focus on England. With that caveat aside, we will review the key players who departed western Europe to fight in the east and the results of the campaigns.
- The armies which took part in the First Crusade were largely from the west but included a military contingent from the Byzantine Empire. The war was a success for the Christians. Much of Anatolia and the Levant was conquered and new political states were founded which were known to the French as "Outremer" or generally described today as "The Crusader States".

- We planned to go into more detail about some of the key players in the First Crusade and leaders of the Crusader States. That's just going to be too much. But, we do want to present an ultra-short version of this to highlight the tight connections between the Crusades and the affairs of England and France.
 - Two of the French leaders of armies were Robert Curthose, the oldest son of William the Conqueror who we talked about last episode, and Stephen, Count of Blois. This Stephen fled the battles early which brought some shame to his family. He returned in the “part two” Crusade of 1101 and died in battle in 1102. His son is one of the stars of Episode 8, King Stephen of England who battled Empress Matilda in The Anarchy.
 - Another army leader who was accused of fleeing the battlefield early was Hugh, Count of Vermandois, the son of King Henry I of France and brother of King Philip I of France who ruled from 1059 until 1108 spanning the reigns of Edward the Confessor, Harold Godwinson, William the Conqueror, William Rufus, and Henry I. Hugh also returned in 1101 and died in battle.
 - Last, we will talk a bit about the establishment of rule of the Kingdom of Jerusalem--the most important of the Crusader States. Godfrey of Bouillon (which was a region north of Burgundy, east of Champagne, and subject to the Holy Roman Empire) led forces from the western Holy Roman Empire. Godfrey was installed as the first King of Jerusalem (though, he chose to take the title “Defender of the Holy Sepulchre). He died in 1100 and was succeeded by his younger brother Baldwin I and then cousin Baldwin II who were both key members of his army. Baldwin I had previously held the title of Count of Edessa ruling over the Crusader State known as the County of Edessa. Godfrey and Baldwin I were sons of Eustace of Boulogne--a key ally of William the Conqueror.
 - Baldwin II had no male heirs but a daughter named Melisende who was poised to inherit the throne. Baldwin II wanted to safeguard the dynasty and turned to King Louis VI of France who helped arrange the marriage of Melisende to Count Fulk of Anjou. So, in 1129, Fulk left Anjou in the hands of his son, Geoffrey, and moved to Jerusalem where he was married. Baldwin II died in 1131 leaving the crown to Queen Melisende and King Fulk who ruled together until Fulk's death in 1143. Queen Melisende continued ruling along with their son, King Baldwin III until she died in 1153 after the Second Crusade. You should remember Fulk and his son. This is the same Fulk who sparred with

King Henry I of England and ultimately arranged for his son Geoffrey Plantagenet to marry Empress Matilda. As Empress Matilda was pressing her claim for the English throne, her husband's stepmother was jointly ruling Jerusalem. In fact, she probably had the upper hand. Contemporary historian William of Tyre wrote:

- "... the rule of the kingdom remained in the power of the lady queen Melisende, a queen beloved by God, to whom it passed by hereditary right."
 - "Fulk did not attempt to take the initiative, even in trivial matters, without [Melisende's] knowledge."
 - "Melisende was no mere regent-queen for her son Baldwin III, but a queen regnant, reigning by right of hereditary and civil law."
- In the following decades, the Crusader States had mixed success in establishing friendly relations with the Byzantines and the Muslims. Sometimes things would be calm, and other times small conflicts and battles would emerge. There would also be a near constant stream of western Christians coming to the Holy Land for pilgrimage or new "crusading" efforts. While the historical labels of the First Crusade and Second Crusade speak specifically to the series of conflicts in 1096-1099 and 1147-1150 respectively, there were about four or five minor Crusades in this same timeframe (depending, of course, on how you define a "Crusade") and that doesn't even count the battles and conflicts in Spain which are very similar in objective. (Note: If you've heard the term "Reconquista", that is what we are talking about here. In fact, the Spanish Reconquista is defined as broadly as from 718 until 1492.)
 - Also, before we get into the Second Crusade, it is in this interwar period when the Knights Templar are founded. This order of knights was founded in 1119 and established headquarters on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Other contemporary Catholic military orders include the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Knights Hospitaller.
4. The Second Crusade and Eleanor of Aquitaine
- As we shift to the Second Crusade, we will primarily use this as a vehicle to introduce another extraordinary woman of history, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Her life and legacy includes being the wife of two kings, the mother of three kings, mother-in-law of two more kings, and the grandmother of: a king of England, a Holy Roman Emperor, a king of Germany (who was never coronated as HRE), a king of Castile (in Spain), a queen of Castile and Leon (both in Spain as well), a queen of Portugal, a queen of France, a queen of

Aragon (Spain again), a queen of Sicily, a queen of Scotland, a Holy Roman Empress, and a Latin Empress of Constantinople. Wow!

- If you recall from our French geography lesson in Episode 8, Aquitaine is a large duchy in southern France that actually contains several counties in its domain. The language in Aquitaine was also different from the language spoken in central and northern France. The ancestors of Eleanor had ruled the Duchy of Aquitaine in a continuous line since 962 starting with William III who, incidentally, married Rollo's daughter (do you remember Rollo from Episode 6?). We fast-forward to William IX, Duke of Aquitaine, who was born in 1071. He joined the Crusade of 1101 and was far more famous for being a poet and one of the first "French troubadours" than for his military prowess. He was also a bit of a womanizer; one source states: "He was one of the most courtly men in the world and one of the greatest deceivers of women. He was a fine knight at arms, liberal in his womanizing, and a fine composer and singer of songs. He traveled much through the world, seducing women." This is a little relevant as it paints a bit of the cultural picture of central and southern France (obviously a generality) and led to on-again/off-again battles between William and the Catholic church. His oldest son, William X was born in Toulouse as, by this time, the family had expanded its territories to include Aquitaine, Gascony, and Toulouse. William IX took up a mistress that continued his scandals with the church and led to the loss of Toulouse--it was a strained relationship with William X which oddly resulted in William X marrying the daughter of his father's mistress. It was this couple that brought Eleanor of Aquitaine into the world in 1122.
- We will now fast-forward to 1137. William X dies, Eleanor inherits the Duchy of Aquitaine and is arranged to be married to the heir to the French throne. She is married just a few months later, and not but a week later, the King of France, Louis VI died. At the age of 15, Eleanor became Queen of France along with her husband King Louis VII. Louis VII was originally raised for a life in the church, but those plans changed when his older brother died unexpectedly. This led to him being quieter while Eleanor was high-spirited. A quote attributed to Eleanor states that, "she had thought to marry a king, only to find she had married a monk." Louis tried to please his wife, however. When her sister tried to marry a high-ranking noble (who was already a married man), Louis defended the lovebirds despite armed opposition from other key houses. He personally got involved in the burning of a town which killed around 1500 people who had sought refuge in a church. Louis was devastated and sought reconciliation with the church. At the urging of the influential abbot, Bernard of Clairveaux, King Louis VII announced on Christmas Day of 1145 that he would lead a new Crusade to the Holy Land.

- The excitement of a Crusade was just what Eleanor wanted. She joined her husband on their journey to the Holy Land eventually coming to the Principality of Antioch in 1148 where her uncle, Raymond, was Prince of Antioch by way of his marriage to Princess Constance (a direct descendent from both her father and mother of key leaders in the First Crusade--her ancestry, which was of mixed Italo-Norman/French/Armenian, shows the melting pot that started to develop in the Crusader States). By the 1140s, Antioch was torn between allegiances to Jerusalem and Constantinople. A debate followed as to where the Crusader armies should next focus. Louis wanted to focus on completing his journey to Jerusalem and proceed to attack Damascus. Raymond felt that an attack on Aleppo would be a more prudent strategy.
- Louis continued to Jerusalem and the attack on Damascus was a disaster. The Second Crusade was seen as a failure. Louis and Eleanor returned to France, and Eleanor began to press for an annulment. We will shortcut the details, but the annulment was finally granted in March of 1152. To the surprise of King Louis, Eleanor married Henry, the Duke of Normandy, in May of 1152. Who is this Henry? Well, of course, this is the Henry we met at the end of Episode 8 when we introduced him as Henry FitzEmpress.
- The Treaty of Winchester in 1153 secured Henry's succession to the throne. He and his wife Eleanor were coronated King and Queen of England in late 1154 after the death of King Stephen.
- From 1153 to 1166, Henry and Eleanor had eight children together. Most of Henry's reign in England in the 1150s and 1160s was preoccupied with restoring order and building a stronger system of government in England after the civil war of The Anarchy. However, Henry spent most of his time in France consolidating power and engaging in gambits against King Louis VII and other powerful nobles in territories of interest. In 1162, King Henry appointed his adviser Thomas Becket to be the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and that is where we will pick things up in our next episode.

Reading List

Podcasts

- The British History Podcast - <https://www.thebritishhistorypodcast.com/>
- The History of England - <https://thehistoryofengland.co.uk/>

Video

Books

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