

# RENAISSANCE FRANCE

**1380 TO 1560 A.D.**

**MAD KING CHARLES VI TO END OF ITALIAN WARS**

## CHARACTERS – RENAISSANCE FRANCE

### **KINGS OF FRANCE: HUNDRED YEARS WAR**

<u>Charles VI (the Mad)</u> 1368-1422	King who was controlled by his uncles and queen after he went insane. Reigned for forty years during the Armagnac-Burgundy Civil War.
<u>Philip the Bold</u> 1342-1404	Duke of Burgundy who founded the Burgundian-Valois dynasty. Served as primary Regent for Charles VI until his death in 1404. Feuded with his nephew, the Duke of Orleans.
<u>Charles VII (the Victorious)</u> 1403-1461	Disinherited as Dauphin until Joan of Arc escorted him to Rheims to be crowned. As king, ruled wisely and brought the 100 Years' War to a close.
<u>Henry V of England</u> 1403-1461	Led a victorious army of longbowmen against France at Agincourt. Made regent of France by Treaty of Troyes, but died shortly afterward.

### **ARMAGNAC-BURGUNDIAN WAR**

<u>Isabella of Bavaria</u> 1370-1435	Wicked queen of the Mad king Charles VI. Betrayed former allies and even her son Charles VII to make alliance with the English.
<u>Count of Armagnac</u> 1360-1418	Constable of France and leader of the Armagnac pro-Charles VII faction during the later years of the Hundred Years War.
<u>Yolande of Aragon</u> 1384-1442	Mother in law of Charles VII who supported Joan of Arc and protected the king in his wars against the English.
<u>John the Fearless</u> 1371-1419	Duke of Burgundy and leader of the Burgundian faction until he was assassinated by the Armagnac faction..
<u>Joan of Arc</u> 1412–31	Led French Army to victory at the Siege of New Orleans. Burned at the stake by English.

### **KINGS OF FRANCE: RENAISSANCE PERIOD**

<u>Louis XI (Spider)</u> 1423-83	Wily and treacherous king. Increased power of the throne; took vengeance on enemies.
<u>Charles the Bold</u> 1433–77	Duke of Burgundy, enemy of Louis XI, fought the Swiss. Domains passed to Hapsburgs.
<u>Louis XII</u> 1462-1515	Valois-Orleans king. Married Anne of Brittany; became involved in the Italian Wars.
<u>Francis I</u> 1494–1547	Valois-Angouleme king. Patron of arts, won Milan for the crown, captured at Pavia..
<u>Henry II</u> 1519-59	Ended the Italian Wars. Influenced by “sorceress” mistress and queen..

### **QUEENS AND MISTRESSES**

<u>Catherine de Medici</u> 1519–89	Conniving queen. Responsible for the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, other murders.
<u>Maria de Medici</u> 1573–1642	Queen of Henry IV, and regent following his assassination.
<u>Anne of Brittany</u> 1477-1514	Heiress to Duchy of Brittany. Compelled to marry two kings: Charles VIII, Louis XII.

- Diane de Poitiers 1500-66 Influential courtier during the reign of Francis I, and chief mistress of Henry II.
- Mary of Burgundy 1457-82 Daughter of Charles the Bold, and heiress to Duchy of Brittany. Married Maximilian I.
- Anne of France 1461-1522 Shrewd, powerful daughter of the 'Spider King'. Served as regent for her brother. Won Brittany for France, supported Henry Tudor in England.

### MINISTERS AND REGENTS

- Jacques Coeur 1395-1456 Exceedingly wealthy merchant of Bourges. Chief advisor, diplomat, master of the mint during the reign of Charles VII. Eventually disgraced, accused of crimes, and exiled.
- George Amboise 1488-1550 Cardinal from a powerful family who served Louis XII .
- Duke of Guise 1519-63 Cousin, supporter, and Chamberlain of Henry II, prominent during the Italian Wars. Recaptured Calais for France. Ardent Catholic and enemy of the Huguenots.
- Henry of Guise 1550-88 Assassinated Coligny in retribution for murder of his father. Founded Catholic League.
- Chevalier Bayard 1476–1524 Renowned French knight who was thought to embody the ideals of chivalry.
- Jacques Cartier 1491–1557 Discovered St. Lawrence Seaway and great lakes, searched for Northwest Passage.

### HUGUENOTS

- Admiral Coligny 1519–72 Protestant military hero who was assassinated at the Massacre of St. Bartholomew.
- William of Orange 1533–84 Hero of the Dutch Revolt. Led resistance to the Inquisition and Spanish tyranny.
- Jeanne de Albret 1528-72 Mother of Henry IV, leader of French Huguenots. Possibly poisoned by C. de Medici.

## Timeline—Renaissance France

AD Year	Event
<b>REIGN OF THE MAD KING: ARMAGNAC-BURGUNDIAN WAR</b>	
1380-1422	Reign of Charles VI. Regents were Uncles, called 'Princes of the Lilies'.
1382	French victory at <i>Roosebeke</i> ends rebellion of Ghent. (Death of van Artevele)
1385	Charles VI marries Isabella of Bavaria.
1392	First bout of insanity inflicts king soon after releasing regents, forming new privy council.
1394	Expulsion of Jews from France (second time, first time under Philip IV).
1407	Duke of Orleans (brother of King) murdered by John the Fearless Duke of Burgundy.
1415	Battle of Agincourt, victory for Henry V of England over Armagnacs.
1415-17	Death of two eldest sons of king, probably by poisoning.
1417	Count of Armagnac, Constable. Regent for Dauphin Charles. Queen mother Isabella imprisoned.

- 1418 By treachery, Paris is handed over to Burgundians. Isabella makes alliance with English.
- 1419 Duke of Burgundy slain by Armagnacs. Armagnacs retreat south, make Capital at Bourges.
- 1420 Treaty of Toyes, Henry V marries Catherine of Valois, made regent of France.
- 1422 Death of Henry V of England, Charles VI of France. Birth of Henry VI of England.

**REIGN OF THE CHARLES VII (THE VICTORIOUS): END OF HUNDRED YEAR'S WAR**

- 1422 Marriage of Charles VII to Marie of Anjou (daughter of Yolande of Aragon).
- 1429 Joan of Arc leads French to victory at Orleans, Charles VII crowned at Reims.
- 1431 John of Arc burned at the stake.
- 1435 Burgundians desert the English, sign the Treaty of Arras, Isabella of Bavaria dies.
- 1436 Jacques Coeur of Bourges, made Master of the Mint, advisor to Charles VII.
- 1438 Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges: Charles VII granted privilege to nominate bishops in France.
- 1440 Dauphin Louis takes part in "Praguerie" rebellion against his father Charles VII.
- 1449 Reconquest of Normandy with new 'professional' army. Roenun recaptured.
- 1451 Downfall of Jacques Coeur, wealthiest man in France. Property seized.
- 1453 English driven out of all French cities but Calais. End of Hundred Years' war.
- 1461 Death of Charles VII by starvation. Refused food for fear of poisoning.

**REIGN LOUIS XI-SPIDER KING: BURGUNDIAN WARS**

- 1461-83 Reign of [Louis XI](#), "Spider-king". Cunning, treacherous, and vengeful king.
- 1465 Enemies of Louis XI form "League of the Public Good", besiege Paris; he pretends to submit.
- 1468 Charles the Bold and Louis XI meet at Peronne, and together crush the rebellion at Liege.
- 1469 Louis XI founds chivalric "Order of St. Michael".
- 1477 Louis XI establishes Postal service controlled by the crown (used for spying on enemies).
- 1477 Louis XI adversary, Duke of Burgundy, killed at Battle of Nancy. Louis confiscates Duchy of Burgundy.

**CHARLES VIII AND LOUIS XII: ITALIAN WARS: 1495 TO 1515**

- 1483-98 Reign of Charles VIII. Regent is older sister, Anne of France.
- 1488 Dukes of Orleans and Brittany conspire against Charles VIII and regent; declared traitors.
- 1491 After war between France and Brittany, Anne of Brittany marries Charles VIII.
- 1494 Charles VIII invades Italy to claim Naples, but is repulsed by the League of Venice.
- 1498 Charles VIII dies of head injury. No issue, so crown passes to cousin.
- 1498-1515 Reign of Louis XII. Marries Anne of Britany, widow of Charles VIII.

- 1499 Louis XII renews Italian Wars. Sends army to press claims in Milan and Naples.
- 1508 Papacy, France, Spain, Germany, establish **League of Cambrai** to defeat Venice.
- 1510 War in Italy takes a turn for the worse. Pope Julius II deserts alliance.
- 1515 Louis XII dies without heir. Crown passes to second cousin from Valois-Ange
- FRANCIS I AND HENRY II: ITALIAN WARS: 1515 TO 1560**
- 1515-47 Reign of [Francis I of France](#); married to Claude, daughter of Louis XII.
- 1515 With help of Venetians, Francis wins Milan at at Marignano, 1515. Knighted by Bayard.
- 1516 [Leonardo da Vinci](#) enters the service of Francis I after Milan is captured.
- 1520 **Field of the Cloth of Gold**, tournament between [Francis I of France](#) and [Henry VIII](#).
- 1524 Death of Chevalier de Bayard, great French general of the Italian Wars.
- 1525 Francis defeated by Imperial forces at the Battle of Padua in Italy and captured.
- 1529 "The Ladies Peace" of Cambrai negotiated between Valois and Hapsburgs.
- 1536 Eldest son of Francis dies "suddenly" soon after Catherine de Medici arrives at court.
- 1545 Francis's captain Montmorency slays Waldensians, sells children as slaves.
- 1520-47 Construction of Paris landmarks: Louvre, Fontainebleau, Hotel de Ville, etc. Royal Library.
- 1547 Reign of Henry II of France, married to Catherine de Medici.
- 1559 Henry II renounces claims in Italy, ends Italian Wars, dies at tournament celebrating peace.

## Recommended Reading—Renaissance France

Book Title	Selected Chapters (# chapters)
<b>CORE READING ASSIGNMENTS</b>	
Guerber - <a href="#">The Story of Old France</a>	<a href="#">Charles VI</a> to <a href="#">Reign of Henry II</a> (18)
Marshall - <a href="#">A History of France</a>	<a href="#">The Madness of Charles VI</a> to <a href="#">Calais Returns to France</a> (13)
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
Macgregor - <a href="#">The Story of France</a>	<a href="#">The Battle of Roosebek</a> to <a href="#">Prince of Conde Prisoner</a> (22)
Morris - <a href="#">Historical Tales: French</a>	<a href="#">Joan of Arc</a> to <a href="#">The Life of a Traitor</a> (6)
<b>EASY READING SELECTIONS</b>	
Finnemore - <a href="#">France: Peeps at History</a>	<a href="#">House of Valois (cont.)</a> to <a href="#">House of Valois (cont.)</a> (2)
Evans - <a href="#">Old Time Tales</a>	<a href="#">The Story of Joan of Arc</a> to <a href="#">Field of the Cloth of Gold</a> (3)
Stein - <a href="#">Gabriel and the Hour Book</a>	<i>entire book</i>