



Magna Charta

June 1215 A.D.
The charter of English rights granted by King John at Runnymede under pressure from English barons.



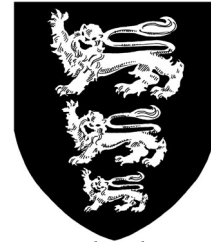
Philip IV

1268-1314 A.D. Known as "Philip the Fair," king of France and of Navarre. Although riddled with disputes with the papacy, his reign was marked by advancement of French monarchy and expansion of royal privilege.



Kublai Khan

1215-1294 A.D. Grandson of Genghis Khan, Mongolian emperor over Mongol dominions in Europe and Asia, and founder of the Mongol dynasty in China. After conquering the Song Dynasty, he established a capital, now Beijing, where he was visited by Marco Polo.



Edward I

1239-1307 A.D. King of England and conqueror of Wales. Battled with Scotland after Robert the Bruce claimed Scottish crown. He made administrative reforms, founding the first Parliamentary system.



Thomas Aquinas

1225-1274 A.D. Italian theologian, philosopher, and Dominican monk. A prominent emissary of Scholastic philosophy, he integrated Aristotelian methods with Christianity. His chief work is *Summa Theologica*.

William Wallace

1272-1305 A.D.
God-fearing, Scottish freedom fighter who led a rebellion against the English, briefly gaining liberation of Scotland in 1298. He died at the hands of the English.



The Inquisition

1227-1834 A.D. A great blight on the history of Christianity, the Inquisition brought about imprisonment, confiscation of property, populations driven from their homes, and the untold torturous deaths of thousands of innocents. Pope Gregory IX initiated the papal inquisition for the seizure and trial of heretics, generally Cathari and Waldenses, however later extending its activity to include sacrilegious persons. The inquisitors or judges were mostly recruited from the Franciscan and Dominican orders, searching out and summoning victims to trial.



Dante Alighieri

1265-1321 A.D. Italian poet known best for his epic *The Divine Comedy*, which takes the reader through the levels of hell and purgatory, guided by Virgil, and finally to Paradise, guided by Beatrice.



Marco Polo

1254-1324 A.D. Venetian explorer who became China's ambassador to India. Due to his excursions, his writings were the only narrative of the Far East accessible to Europeans until the 17th century.



Boniface VIII

1235-1303 A.D.
Pope who issued bulls prohibiting taxation on church property and asserted supremacy over England, France, and Sicily.



The Inca Civilization

1220 A.D. A Peruvian empire extending from northern Ecuador to central Chile. The Inca dynasty of Peru was legendarily founded by Manco Capac and his seven siblings. Having gathered various tribes, the family advanced on Cuzco Valley, conquering the local tribes and establishing their empire for the next 300 years.



Mongol Invasions

13th century A.D. Training up a ruthless, well-disciplined army, Genghis Khan led his Mongolian hordes on a series of brilliant campaigns, creating the largest land empire in history. After dying from a fall, he was succeeded by his son, Ogodaï, and grandson, Kublai Khan, who completed the conquest of China.