Growth of royal power in England and France

1. Medieval England: Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Danish invasions, and the Norman Conquest
   1. Inhabitants of Britain: Celts, Romans (after conquest)
   2. Invasion of the Anglo-Saxons (5-6th c)
   3. Danish (Viking) invasions (8-9th c)
   4. Norman Conquest from France (William the Conqueror), 1066
2. Norman rule of England
   1. Centralized rule under William I of England
      1. Liege lord to all nobles
      2. The Domesday Book (1086)
      3. Comment on English social structure under the Norman rulers
   2. The rule of the Angevin kings
      1. Henry II (r.1154-89)
         1. Circuit court (Justices in Eyre).
         2. Trial by jury: 12 witnesses agreeing unanimously on a verdict.
         3. Common law.
      2. John I (r.1199-1216) and nobles’ rebellion.
         1. Interests of the nobles and their descendants
         2. Protection of the commoners from sheriffs and bailiffs
         3. Nobles’ consent needed to raise taxes
         4. Nobles’ presiding over judicial matters
      3. Edward I (1272-1307) and the parliament
3. Expansion of royal power in France

The rise of Capetian rulers (Hugh Capet, 987) and the steady centralization of the French kings.

Philip Augustus (1180-1223):

* took Normandy, Maine, Anjou, Touraine;
* Hired salaried officials, mostly graduates of the University of Paris.

Louis IX (1226-1270) (St. Louis):

* strengthened the French court.
* Continued a close alliance with the church; assisting in the crusade against Holy Roman emperor Frederick II disfavored by the pope.
* His father Louis XIII had reconquered southern France by championing a crusade against the Cathars (heretic Christians who wanted to do away with the church and have direct communication with God).

Philip IV (r.1285-1314)

* Philip IV got into a ferocious fight with Pope Boniface VIII over taxing the clergy. From then on, the French king subdued the popes.
* Philip also started the practice of summoning the Estates General: church, nobility, and towns, to raise money to aid him in 1302 against Pope Boniface VIII. He also used the estates to get money for the Hundred Years’ War.

The French Estates-General

Excerpts from Magna Carta:

12. No scutage nor aid shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by commoncounsel of our kingdom, except for ransoming our person, for making our eldestson a knight, and for once marrying our eldest daughter; and for these thereshall not be levied more than a reasonable aid. In like manner it shall bedone concerning aids from the city of London.

14. And for obtaining the common counsel of the kingdom anent the assessing ofan aid (except in the three cases aforesaid) or of a scutage, we will cause tobe summoned the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, and greater barons,severally by our letters; and we will moreover cause to be summoned generally,through our sheriffs and bailiffs, all others who hold of us in chief, for afixed date, namely, after the expiry of at least forty days, and at a fixedplace; and in all letters of such summons we will specify the reason of thesummons. And when the summons has thus been made, the business shall proceedon the day appointed, according to the counsel of such as are present, althoughnot all who were summoned have come.

61. Since, moreover, for God and the amendment of our kingdom and for thebetter allaying of the quarrel that has arisen between us and our barons, wehave granted all these concessions, desirous that they should enjoy them incomplete and firm endurance for ever, we give and grant to them theunderwritten security, namely, that the barons choose five-and-twenty barons ofthe kingdom, whomsoever they will, who shall be bound with all their might, toobserve and hold, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties we havegranted and confirmed to them by this our present Charter, so that if we, orour justiciar, or our bailiffs or any one of our officers, shall in anything beat fault toward any one, or shall have broken any one of the articles of thepeace or of this security, and the offense be notified to four barons of theforesaid five-and-twenty, the said four barons shall repair to us (or ourjusticiar, if we are out of the realm) and, laying the transgression before us,petition to have that transgression redressed without delay.