

Plantagenet Dynasty (England)

Time 1154–1399 (Angevin line); 1399–
Period 1461, 1470–1485 (Lancaster and
York branches)

Notable Rulers **Henry II (r. 1154–1189):** Founder
of the dynasty, established
English common law

Richard I (r. 1189–1199): "The
Lionheart," famous for his role in
the Crusades

Edward I (r. 1272–1307):
Conqueror of Wales, known for
legal reforms

Edward III (r. 1327–1377): Led
England during the Hundred
Years' War

**Henry VI (r. 1422–1461, 1470–
1471):** His weak rule led to the
Wars of the Roses

**Signif-
icance** The Plantagenets oversaw the
development of English law and
governance and were central
figures in the conflicts that
shaped medieval England,
including the Hundred Years' War
and the Wars of the Roses

Habsburg Dynasty (Austria, Spain, Holy Roman)

Time 1273–1918 (Holy Roman
Period Empire); 1516–1700 (Spain)

Notable Rulers **Maximilian I (r. 1493–1519):**
Expanded the Habsburg
influence through strategic
marriages

Charles V (r. 1519–1556): Ruled
a vast empire where "the sun
never set"

Philip II (r. 1556–1598): King of
Spain, led the Spanish Armada
against England

Habsburg Dynasty (Austria, Spain, Holy Roman) (cont)

Maria Theresa (r. 1740–1780):
Last of the direct Habsburg line,
reformed the Austrian Empire

**Signif-
icance** The Habsburgs were one of
Europe's most powerful families,
ruling over vast territories in
Central Europe and Spain. Their
strategic marriages and political
alliances shaped the course of
European history for centuries

Tudor Dynasty (England)

Time 1485–1603
Period

Notable Rulers **Henry VII (r. 1485–1509):**
Founder of the Tudor dynasty,
ended the Wars of the Roses

Henry VIII (r. 1509–1547):
Established the Church of
England

Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603): The "-
Virgin Queen," presided over the
Elizabethan Golden Age

**Signif-
icance** The Tudors oversaw the English
Reformation and the expansion
of English power, laying the
groundwork for the British
Empire. Elizabeth I's reign is
often seen as a high point in
English history

Bourbon Dynasty (France, Spain)

Time 1589–1792, 1814–1830 (France);
Period 1700–present (Spain)

Notable Rulers **Henry IV (r. 1589–1610):** First
Bourbon king of France, issued
the Edict of Nantes

Bourbon Dynasty (France, Spain) (cont)

Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715): "The
Sun King," centralized French
power

Philip V (r. 1700–1746): First
Bourbon king of Spain

Louis XVI (r. 1774–1792): Last
Bourbon king of France before the
Revolution

**Signif-
icance** The Bourbons were a dominant
force in European politics, partic-
ularly in France and Spain. Their
reigns were marked by absolute
monarchy, significant cultural
achievements, and in France, the
eventual fall of the monarchy
during the French Revolution

Romanov Dynasty (Russia)

Time 1613-1917
Period

Notable Rulers **Peter the Great (r. 1682–1725):**
Westernized Russia, expanded
its territory

**Catherine the Great (r. 1762–
1796):** Continued Peter's
reforms, expanded Russian
influence

Nicholas II (r. 1894–1917): Last
Romanov tsar, overthrown during
the Russian Revolution

**Signif-
icance** The Romanovs transformed
Russia into a major European
power and presided over its
expansion across Eurasia. Their
downfall in 1917 marked the end
of the Russian Empire and the
beginning of the Soviet era



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House of Orange-Nassau (Netherlands)

Time 1544-present

Period

Notable Rulers **William the Silent (r. 1544–1584):**

Leader of the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule

William III (r. 1672–1702): Stadtholder of the Netherlands and King of England

Significance The House of Orange-Nassau played a crucial role in the establishment of the Dutch Republic and the fight for Dutch independence. The family continues to rule in the Netherlands today.

House of Hohenzollern (Prussia, Germany)

Time 1415–1918

Period

Notable Rulers **Frederick the Great (r. 1740–**

1786): Expanded Prussian power, reformed the military.

Wilhelm I (r. 1861–1888): First German Emperor, oversaw German unification

Wilhelm II (r. 1888–1918): Last German Emperor, his policies led to World War I

Significance The Hohenzollerns were central to the unification of Germany and the establishment of the German Empire. Their reign ended with the abdication of Wilhelm II after World War I

House of Savoy (Italy)

Time 1003–1946

Period

Notable Rulers **Victor Emmanuel II (r. 1861–**

1878): First King of a united Italy

House of Savoy (Italy) (cont)

Victor Emmanuel III (r. 1900–1946): King during both World Wars, abdicated in 1946

Significance The House of Savoy played a central role in the unification of Italy in the 19th century. They ruled Italy until the monarchy was abolished in 1946 following World War II

House of Wittelsbach (Bavaria, Palatinate)

Time 1180–1918

Period

Notable Rulers **Maximilian I (r. 1597–1651):**

Leader of the Catholic League during the Thirty Years' War.

Ludwig II (r. 1864–1886): Known for his extravagant castles, including Neuschwanstein

Significance The Wittelsbachs were influential in both the Holy Roman Empire and later in Bavaria. They were strong supporters of Catholicism during the Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Capetian Dynasty (France)

Time 987–1328 (Capetian direct line);

Period 1328–1589 (Valois branch); 1589–1792, 1814–1830 (Bourbon branch)

Notable Rulers **Hugh Capet (r. 987–996):**

Founder of the dynasty

Philip II Augustus (r. 1180–1223):

Expanded French territories

Louis IX (r. 1226–1270): Saint Louis, led two Crusades

Capetian Dynasty (France) (cont)

Charles V (r. 1364–1380): Valois king, strengthened the monarchy

Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715): "The Sun King," epitome of absolute monarchy

Significance The Capetians established the French monarchy's foundations and expanded France's influence in Europe. The Valois and Bourbon branches continued this legacy, with the Bourbons becoming one of Europe's most powerful royal families.

House of Borgia (Spain, Papal States)

Time 15-16th centuries

Period

Notable Rulers **Rodrigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI) (r. 1492-1503):** Known for his controversial papacy & political machinations

Cesare Borgia (d.1507): Son of Alexander VI, a military leader & political strategist, whose actions influenced Renaissance Italy

Significance The Borgias were known for their political influence & controversies in Renaissance Italy. Their attempts to consolidate power in the Papal States & their familial ambitions were significant in the politics of the era

Significance The Borgias were known for their political influence & controversies in Renaissance Italy. Their attempts to consolidate power in the Papal States & their familial ambitions were significant in the politics of the era

House of Nassau-Siegen (Germany)

Time Period 16th-18th centuries

House of Nassau-Siegen (Germany) (cont)

Notable Rulers **Count John VIII of Nassau-Siegen (r. 1596-1623):** Prominent military leader & diplomat in the Thirty Years' War

Count William of Nassau-Siegen (r.1610-1642): His leadership in various conflicts solidified the family's influence in the region

Significance The Nassau-Siegen family played a notable role in the military & political affairs of the Holy Roman Empire, particularly during the Thirty Years' War

House of Korybut (Poland)

Time Period 14th-15th centuries

Notable Rulers **Wladyslaw II Jagiello (r. 1386-1434):** Founded the Jagiellonian dynasty, which unified Poland and Lithuania

Significance The Korybut family was influential in Polish politics during the late medieval period, particularly through their connection with the broader Jagiellonian dynasty

House of Carafa (Naples)

Time Period 15th-17th centuries

Notable Rulers **Giovanni Carafa (r. 1487-1500):** A prominent noble who served in various administrative and military roles in Naples

House of Carafa (Naples) (cont)

Marcantonio Carafa (r. 1547-1560): Duke of Nocera and influential in the politics of the Kingdom of Naples

Significance The Carafa family was influential in Naples, with significant roles in regional governance and military affairs during the Renaissance and early modern period

House of Báthory (Transylvania)

Time Period 12th-17th centuries

Notable Rulers **Stephen Báthory (r. 1571-1586):** King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, known for his military campaigns and internal reforms

Elizabeth Báthory (1560-1614): Known as the "Blood Countess," infamous for alleged crimes, her actions have become a subject of legend and historical intrigue

Significance The Báthory family was influential in Transylvanian and Polish politics. Stephen Báthory's reign was marked by military and political achievements, while Elizabeth Báthory's infamy contributed to her historical legacy.

House of Guelph (Germany, England)

Time Period 9th-19th centuries

Notable Rulers **Henry the Lion (r. 1142-1195):** Duke of Bavaria and Saxony, influential in the politics of the Holy Roman Empire

House of Guelph (Germany, England) (cont)

George I of Great Britain (r. 1714-1727): First monarch from the House of Hanover, established the Hanoverian dynasty in Britain

Significance The Guelphs were prominent in both German and British history, with significant roles in the Holy Roman Empire and British monarchy

House of Capet (France)

Time Period 987-1328

Notable Rulers **Hugh Capet (r. 987-996):** Founder of the Capetian dynasty, establishing a long-lasting royal house

Philip IV (r. 1285-1314): Known for his centralization of royal power and conflicts with the nobility

Significance The Capetian dynasty was crucial in establishing and consolidating the French monarchy, shaping the governance and territorial expansion of medieval France

House of Battenberg (Germany, UK)

Time Period 19th-20th centuries

Notable Rulers **Prince Louis of Battenberg (1854-1921):** Prominent naval officer and father of Earl Mountbatten of Burma

Earl Mountbatten of Burma (1900-1979): Key figure in the independence of India and prominent in British royal and political circles



House of Battenberg (Germany, UK) (cont)

Significance The Battenberg family, later known as Mountbatten, played a notable role in British and European politics, particularly through its connections with the British royal family

House of Gonzaga (Mantua)

Time Period 1328–1708

Notable Rulers **Ludovico III Gonzaga (r. 1444–1478)**: Marquess of Mantua, known for his patronage of the arts and involvement in Italian politics

Ferdinand Gonzaga (r. 1612–1626): Duke of Mantua, known for his role in the Thirty Years' War

Significance The Gonzaga family played a crucial role in the politics of Renaissance Italy, known for their patronage of the arts and involvement in military conflicts

House of Visconti (Milan)

Time Period 13th-15th centuries

Notable Rulers **Gian Galeazzo Visconti (r. 1378–1402)**: First Duke of Milan, known for his expansion of Milanese territories and attempts to create a unified northern Italian state

Significance The Visconti family was a dominant force in Northern Italy during the late Middle Ages, known for their military conquests, political influence, and patronage of the arts.

House of Farnese (Parma)

Time Period 16th-18th centuries

Notable Rulers **Alessandro Farnese (r. 1586–1592)**: Duke of Parma and Piacenza, known for his military leadership during the Eighty Years' War and his efforts in the Counter-Reformation

Significance The Farnese family was a powerful ducal house in Italy, known for their military achievements and significant contributions to the arts and architecture, including the construction of the Farnese Palace

House of Stuart (Scotland, England, Ireland)

Time Period 1371–1603 (Scotland); 1603–1714 (England and Ireland)

Notable Rulers **James I (r. 1603–1625)**: First Stuart king of England, oversaw the union of the English and Scottish crowns

Charles I (r. 1625–1649): His conflicts with Parliament led to the English Civil War

Mary, Queen of Scots (r. 1542–1567): Her turbulent reign and execution had lasting impacts on English-Scottish relations

Significance The Stuarts ruled during a period of significant religious and political upheaval in Britain, including the English Civil War, the Restoration, and the Glorious Revolution, which led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy

House of Bagrationi (Georgia)

Time Period 888–1810 (in various forms, earlier roots claimed)

Notable Rulers **David IV the Builder (r. 1089–1125)**: Known for his military victories and cultural achievements, significantly expanded the Kingdom of Georgia

Tamar the Great (r. 1184–1213): The first female ruler of Georgia, led the kingdom into a golden age

Significance The Bagrationi dynasty was one of the longest-reigning dynasties in the world, ruling over Georgia for centuries. They presided over a period of cultural and political prosperity, particularly under David IV and Tamar

House of Aragon (Spain, Naples, Sicily)

Time Period 1305-1707

Notable Rulers **Ferdinand II of Aragon (r. 1479–1516)**: His marriage to Isabella I of Castile unified Spain and laid the foundation for the Spanish Empire

Alfonso V of Aragon (r. 1416–1458): Expanded Aragonese influence into Italy, becoming King of Naples

Significance The House of Aragon was pivotal in the formation of a unified Spain through the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, known as the Catholic Monarchs. They also played a crucial role in Mediterranean politics, particularly in Sicily and Naples



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House of Bourbon-Parma (Parma, Spain, Italy)

Time Period 1731-present (in various forms)

Notable Rulers **Philip, Duke of Parma (r. 1748–1765)**: Established the Bourbon-Parma line, which ruled over Parma, Piacenza, and later other territories

Charles III of Spain (r. 1759–1788): Also Duke of Parma before becoming King of Spain, known for his reforms and enlightened rule

Significance The Bourbon-Parma line is a cadet branch of the Spanish Bourbons. It played a significant role in the politics of the Italian Peninsula, particularly in the Duchy of Parma. The family continues to claim various titles, although their political power has significantly diminished

House of Valois (France)

Time Period 1328-1589

Notable Rulers **Philip VI (r. 1328-1350)**: First Valois king, his claim to the throne sparked the Hundred Years' War

Charles VII (r. 1422–1461): Recovered France from English control with the help of Joan of Arc

Henry II (r. 1547–1559): His reign was marked by the beginning of the French Wars of Religion

House of Valois (France) (cont)

Significance The Valois dynasty steered France through the turbulent period of the Hundred Years' War and the subsequent Wars of Religion. Their reign saw the consolidation of royal power in France, despite the challenges of internal conflict and external war

House of Hohenstaufen (Holy Roman, Sicily)

Time Period 1138-1254

Notable Rulers **Frederick I Barbarossa (r. 1155–1190)**: Holy Roman Emperor, sought to restore imperial authority in Italy and led the Third Crusade

Frederick II (r. 1220–1250): Known as "Stupor Mundi" (Wonder of the World), he was a scholar and reformer who clashed with the Papacy

Significance The Hohenstaufens were central to the medieval conflict between the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire, known as the Investiture Controversy. Their rule marked a high point in the empire's influence over Italy, though it eventually led to prolonged conflicts that weakened the imperial power.

House of Jagiellon (Pol-Lith, Hungary, Bohemia)

Time Period 1386-1572

Notable Rulers **Władysław II Jagiełło (r. 1386–1434)**: Founder of the Jagiellonian dynasty, united Poland and Lithuania

House of Jagiellon (Pol-Lith, Hungary, Bohemia) (cont)

Sigismund I the Old (r. 1506–1548): Strengthened the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Significance The Jagiellons were instrumental in the formation and stability of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which became one of the largest and most powerful states in Europe during the Renaissance

House of Anjou (Naples, Hungary, Poland)

Time Period 1266–1442 (Naples); 1308–1387 (Hungary); 1370–1382 (Poland)

Notable Rulers **Charles I of Anjou (r. 1266–1285)**: King of Naples, established the Anjou rule in southern Italy

Louis I of Hungary (r. 1342–1382): Expanded Hungary's territories, ruled over Poland as well

Significance The Angevins were a powerful force in Southern Italy, Hungary, and Poland during the late medieval period, playing a significant role in European politics and warfare

House of Luxembourg (Bohemia, Holy Roman)

Time Period 1308-1437

Notable Rulers **Charles IV (r. 1346–1378)**: Holy Roman Emperor, oversaw the Golden Age of Bohemia

Sigismund (r. 1410–1437): Last Luxembourg emperor, presided over the Council of Constance



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House of Luxembourg (Bohemia, Holy Roman) (cont)

Significance The House of Luxembourg was influential in the Holy Roman Empire and Central Europe during the late medieval period. Their rule was marked by cultural and architectural achievements, particularly in Bohemia

House of Vasa (Sweden, Poland-Lithuania)

Time 1523–1654 (Sweden); 1587–

Period 1668 (Poland-Lithuania)

Notable Rulers **Gustav I (r. 1523–1560)**: Founder of the Vasa dynasty, liberated Sweden from Danish rule

Sigismund III (r. 1587–1632):

King of Poland and Sweden, attempted to unify the two countries

Significance The Vasa dynasty was central to the establishment of the Swedish Empire and its role in European conflicts, such as the Thirty Years' War

House of Hohenberg (Swabia)

Time 12th-14th centuries

Period

Notable Rulers **Count Ulrich IV (r. 1191-1230)**: Expanded the family's influence in Swabia

Count Hartmann III (r. 1271-1291): His reign marked significant territorial & political changes in Swabia

House of Hohenberg (Swabia) (cont)

Significance The Hohenbergs were a prominent Swabian family, influential in the region's politics & territorial disputes during the late medieval period. Their influence declined after the 14th century

House of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha (UK, Belgium)

Time 1840-1917 (UK); 1831-present

Period (Belgium)

Notable Rulers **Queen Victoria (r. 1837-1901)**:

Originally from the House of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, her reign saw the expansion of the British Empire

King Leopold I (r. 1831-1865):

First of Belgium from the Saxe-Coburg & Gotha family

Significance The House of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha was a key player in European politics, influencing both British & Belgian history. The British branch was renamed the House of Windsor in 1917 due to anti-German sentiment during WWI

House of Saxe-Weimar (Germany)

Time 1572-1920

Period

Notable Rulers **Duke Wilhelm IV (r. 1572–1592)**: Established the Saxe-Weimar line within the larger Wettin dynasty

Grand Duke Wilhelm Ernst (r. 1903–1918): Last ruling Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, his reign ended with the abdication of the German monarchy

House of Saxe-Weimar (Germany) (cont)

Significance The Saxe-Weimar branch was significant in the German principalities, known for its contributions to education, arts, and military. The dynasty's influence continued until the end of World War I

House of Poniatowski (Poland)

Time 16th-18th centuries

Period

Notable Rulers **Stanisław August Poniatowski (r. 1764–1795)**: Last King of Poland, known for his efforts to reform the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and his role in the country's eventual partition

Significance The Poniatowski dynasty played a crucial role in the final years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, with Stanisław August's reign marking the end of Polish independence before the partitions

House of Welf (Germany)

Time 9th-13th centuries

Period

Notable Rulers **Henry the Lion (r. 1142–1195)**: Duke of Bavaria and Saxony, influential in the Holy Roman Empire's politics and military

Significance The Welf dynasty was significant in medieval German history, particularly in the Holy Roman Empire, and played a role in regional politics and conflicts

House of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (Romania)

Time Period 1850-1947

Notable Rulers **Karl I of Romania (r. 1914–1927):** Known for his efforts to maintain Romanian neutrality during World War I and his attempts at domestic reform

Significance The Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen dynasty played a crucial role in Romanian history, particularly during the early 20th century, influencing Romanian politics and society

House of Yngling (Norway, Sweden)

Time Period 8th–10th centuries (mythical origins to historical rule)

Notable Rulers **Harald Fairhair (r. 872–930):** Traditionally regarded as the first King of Norway, credited with unifying the country

Eric the Victorious (r. 970–995): Considered the first King of Sweden, credited with consolidating the kingdom

Significance The Yngling dynasty is legendary in Scandinavian history, credited with the early formation and unification of Norway and Sweden, influencing the region's medieval development

House of Pálffy (Hungary)

Time Period 15th–19th centuries

House of Pálffy (Hungary) (cont)

Notable Rulers **Miklós Pálffy (c. 1560–1604):** Notable for his role in the military and political spheres of Hungary

Paul Pálffy (1727–1805): His work in administration and military matters was significant during his time

Significance The Pálffy family was influential in Hungarian politics and military affairs, contributing to the governance and military organization of the Kingdom of Hungary

House of Holstein-Gottorp (Russia, Sweden)

Time Period 18th century-present

Notable Rulers **Peter III of Russia (r. 1762):** Born into the Holstein-Gottorp family, became Emperor of Russia through his marriage to Catherine the Great

Gustav III of Sweden (r. 1771–1792): Known for his efforts in reforming Swedish government and for his support of the arts

Significance The Holstein-Gottorp dynasty connected German nobility with the thrones of Russia and Sweden, playing significant roles in the politics and cultural developments of both countries.

House of Orléans (France)

Time Period 17th century-present

House of Orléans (France) (cont)

Notable Rulers **Louis Philippe I (r. 1830–1848):** King of the French during the July Monarchy, known for his moderate policies and eventual overthrow during the 1848 Revolution.

Significance The Orléans family played a significant role in French history, particularly during the 19th century, with their attempts to balance republican and monarchical principles

House of Bonaparte (France)

Time Period 19th century

Notable Rulers **Napoleon Bonaparte (r. 1804–1814, 1815):** Emperor of the French, known for his military conquests across Europe and his legal and administrative reforms, including the Napoleonic Code

Napoleon III (r. 1852–1870): Emperor of the French, known for modernizing Paris and his role in the Franco-Prussian War, which led to the fall of the Second French Empire

Significance The Bonaparte family was instrumental in shaping European history in the 19th century, with their influence extending across France, Italy, and beyond, particularly through Napoleon's conquests and reforms



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House of Piast (Poland)

Time Period 960-1370

Notable Rulers **Mieszko I (r. 960-992)**: First ruler of Poland, converted to Christianity, laying the foundation for the Polish state

Casimir III the Great (r. 1333-1370): Last Piast king, known for his legal reforms & expansion of Polish territory

Significance The Piast dynasty was the first ruling family of Poland, establishing the nation's Christian identity & laying the foundations for the future Polish state. Their rule saw Poland become a significant power in Central Europe

House of Oldenburg (Den, Norway, Sweden, Greece)

Time Period 1448-1863 (in Denmark & Norway); continued in various European countries

Notable Rulers **Christian I (r. 1448-1481)**: First Oldenburg king of Denmark, Norway & later Sweden

Frederick III of Denmark (r. 1648-1670): Transitioned Denmark-Norway from an elective to a hereditary monarchy

George I of Greece (r. 1862-1913): Established the Oldenburg dynasty in Greece

Significance The Oldenburgs were instrumental in shaping Scandinavian history, particularly in Denmark & Norway. Their influence extended into the Greek monarchy & other European states, with descendants still holding royal titles today

House of Wettin (Saxony, Poland)

Time Period 1089-1918

Notable Rulers **Frederick Augustus I of Saxony (r. 1806-1827)**: First king of Saxony, also ruled as king of Poland

Albert of Saxony (r. 1873-1902): His reign marked the industrialisation & modernisation of Saxony

Significance The Wettin family ruled Saxony for centuries & were influential in Central European politics. Their reigns were marked by cultural patronage & political stability, particularly in the Electorate & later Kingdom of Saxony

House of Savoy-Carignano (Italy)

Time Period 1831-1946

Notable Rulers **Charles Albert of Sardinia (r. 1831-1849)**: Promoted the cause of Italian unification

Victor Emmanuel II (r. 1861-1878): First king of a united Italy

Significance The Savoy-Carignano branch was crucial in the unification of Italy in the 19th century. They played a central role in the Risorgimento, leading to the establishment of the Kingdom of Italy

House of Braganza (Portugal, Brazil)

Time Period 1640-1910 (Portugal); 1822-1889 (Brazil)

House of Braganza (Portugal, Brazil) (cont)

Notable Rulers **John IV of Portugal (r. 1640-1656)**: Restored Portuguese independence from Spain, founding the Braganza dynasty

Pedro I of Brazil (r. 1822-1831): First Emperor of Brazil, declared Brazil's independence from Portugal

Maria II of Portugal (r. 1834-1853): Known for her progressive reign & stabilisation of Portugal after civil wars

Significance The Braganza dynasty was central to Portuguese & Brazilian history. They led Portugal during its recovery of independence from Spain & established the Empire of Brazil, one of the longest-lasting monarchies in the Americas

House of Hesse (Hesse, England)

Time Period 1264-1918 (in various forms)

Notable Rulers **Philip I (r. 1509-1567)**: Known as Philip the Magnanimous, he played a key role in the Protestant Reformation

Victoria, Princess of Hesse (1863-1950): Granddaughter of Queen Victoria, became the last Empress of Russia as Alexandra Feodorovna

Significance The House of Hesse was influential in German & European politics, particularly during the Reformation. The family also intermarried with other European royal families, linking them to the British, Russian & other royal lines

House of Lorraine (France, Austria)

Time Period 1473-1737 (Duchy of Lorraine); continued as House of Habsburg-Lorraine

Notable Rulers **Francis I (r. 1745-1765)**: Holy Roman Emperor, husband of Maria Theresa, co-founded the Habsburg-Lorraine line

Leopold II (r. 1790-1792): Holy Roman Emperor, presided over significant political reforms

Significance The House of Lorraine became a major force in European politics through its union with the Habsburgs. The Habsburg-Lorraine dynasty played a central role in the Holy Roman Empire & later in the Austrian Empire, influencing European history for centuries

House of Medici (Florence, Tuscany)

Time Period 1434-1737

Notable Rulers **Cosimo de'Medici (r. 1434-1464)**: Founder of the Medici political dynasty, a patron of the arts & humanism

Lorenzo de'Medici (r. 1469-1492): Known as "Lorenzo the Magnificent", his reign marked the peak of the Florentine Renaissance

Cosimo de'Medici (r. 1569-1574): First Grand Duke of Tuscany, expanded Medici power

House of Medici (Florence, Tuscany) (cont)

Significance The Medici family were not monarchs in the traditional sense but were rulers of Florence & later Grand Dukes of Tuscany. They were patrons of the Renaissance, contributing to the cultural & artistic development of Europe

House of Aviz (Portugal)

Time Period 1385-1580

Notable Rulers **John I of Portugal (r. 1385-1433)**: Founder of the Aviz dynasty, secured Portuguese independence & expanded overseas exploration

Manuel I (r. 1495-1521): His reign saw the height of the Portuguese Age of Discovery, with Vasco da Gama's voyage to India & the colonisation of Brazil

Significance The Aviz dynasty was instrumental in establishing Portugal as a leading maritime & colonial power during the Age of Discovery. Their reign marked the expansion of European influence across the globe

House of Beaufort (England)

Time Period 1397-1471

Notable Rulers **John Beaufort, 1st Earl of Somerset (d. 1410)**: Founder of the House of Beaufort, a cadet branch of the House of Lancaster

House of Beaufort (England) (cont)

Margaret Beaufort (1443-1509): Mother of Henry VII, played a crucial role in the Wars of the Roses & the establishment of the Tudor dynasty

Significance The Beauforts were a significant family in the Wars of the Roses, contributing to the establishment of the Tudor Dynasty. Their political influence extended into the early Tudor period

House of Nassau (Netherlands, Luxembourg)

Time Period 16th century-present

Notable Rulers **William of Orange (William I) (r. 1555-1584)**: Leader of the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule, instrumental in establishing Dutch independence

Prince Henri of Luxembourg (b. 1955-present): Current Grand Duke of Luxembourg, symbolising continuity & stability in the Grand Duchy

Significance The House of Nassau has played a pivotal role in Dutch history, particularly in the struggle for independence from Spanish rule. The family continues to hold significant positions in the Netherlands & Luxembourg

House of Bernadotte (Sweden)

Time Period 1818-present



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House of Bernadotte (Sweden) (cont)

Notable **Charles XIV John (r. 1818-1844):**
Rulers Founder of the Bernadotte dynasty, initially a Marshal of France under Napoleon

Gustaf VI Adolf (r. 1950-1973): King of Sweden, known for his contributions to archaeology & cultural affairs

Significance The House of Bernadotte was established in Sweden through a change of dynasty & had since provided stability & continuity. They continue to play a role in Swedish monarchy today

House of Cavour (Italy)

Time Period 19th century

Notable Figures **Count Camillo di Cavour (1810–1861):** Prime Minister of Sardinia and a key figure in the Italian unification, working closely with Giuseppe Garibaldi and King Victor Emmanuel II

Significance Although not a ruling dynasty, the House of Cavour was crucial in the political unification of Italy, influencing the formation of modern Italy through diplomacy and statecraft

House of Trastámara (Spain)

Time Period 1369-1516

House of Trastámara (Spain) (cont)

Notable Rulers **Henry II of Castile (r. 1369–1379):** Founder of the Trastámara dynasty in Castile, established a new ruling family after the overthrow of the previous line.

Ferdinand II of Aragon (r. 1479–1516): His marriage to Isabella of Castile unified Spain and marked the beginning of Spain's dominance in European and global affairs

Significance The Trastámara dynasty was central to the unification of Spain and the establishment of Spanish dominance in the late 15th and early 16th centuries

House of Arpad (Hungary)

Time Period 9th–14th centuries

Notable Rulers **Stephen I (r. 1000–1038):** First King of Hungary, established the Kingdom of Hungary and its Christian foundations

Louis I (r. 1342–1382): King of Hungary and Poland, known for his military campaigns and consolidation of Hungarian power

Significance The Arpad dynasty was instrumental in the early history of Hungary, establishing the kingdom and shaping its medieval development

House of Montfort (England, France)

Time Period 13th-14th centuries

Notable Rulers **Simon de Montfort (r. 1265–1267):** Leader of the baronial revolt against King Henry III of England, known for his role in the establishment of the English Parliament

Amaury VI of Montfort (r. 1271–1314): Count of Montfort, involved in the political conflicts of the time

Significance The Montfort family had a significant impact on English politics during the 13th century, particularly in the context of the struggle for baronial rights and the development of parliamentary governance

House of Alençon (France)

Time Period 13th-16th centuries

Notable Rulers **Charles, Duke of Alençon (d. 1475):** Notable for his role in the Hundred Years' War

Marguerite of Alençon (d. 1549): Known for her marriage into the French royal family and her influence in French politics

Significance The House of Alençon played a role in French politics and military affairs during the late medieval period

House of Bruce (Scotland)

Time Period 1306-1371



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House of Bruce (Scotland) (cont)

Notable Robert the Bruce (r. 1306–1329):

Rulers King of Scots, renowned for leading Scotland during the First War of Scottish Independence against England, culminating in the Battle of Bannockburn

Significance The Bruce dynasty was pivotal in Scottish history, particularly in securing Scottish independence from England during the late medieval period

House of Sforza (Milan)

Time 15th-16th centuries

Period

Notable Francesco Sforza (r. 1450–1466):

Rulers Condottiero who became Duke of Milan, known for his military prowess and patronage of the arts

Ludovico Sforza (r. 1494–1499):

Known as "Il Moro," he was a significant patron of Leonardo da Vinci and played a major role in the Italian Wars

Significance The Sforza family was central to Renaissance Italy, known for their patronage of the arts and their military and political influence in Northern Italy.

House of Trencavel (France)

Time Period 11th–13th centuries

House of Trencavel (France) (cont)

Notable Raymond Roger Trencavel (r.

Rulers 1194–1209): Viscount of Béziers and Carcassonne, notable for his resistance against the Albigensian Crusade

Significance The Trencavel family was influential in Southern France, particularly in the context of the Albigensian Crusade and the Cathar heresy

House of Este (Ferrara, Modena)

Time 13th-19th centuries

Period

Notable Ercole I d'Este (r. 1471–1505):

Rulers Duke of Ferrara, known for his patronage of the arts and his efforts to strengthen his duchy through strategic marriages.

Significance The Este family was a major force in the politics and culture of Northern Italy, known for their patronage of the arts, architecture, and their involvement in Italian politics during the Renaissance



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