

Philip Augustus, King of France: The Medieval World from 1180-1223

Philip Augustus, King of France, was one of the most influential and successful rulers of the Middle Ages. His reign saw the expansion of the French kingdom, the strengthening of the royal power, and the establishment of a new era of cultural and intellectual achievement.



Philip Augustus: King of France 1180-1223 (The Medieval World) by Jim Bradbury

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Early Life and Accession to the Throne

Philip Augustus was born in 1165 to King Louis VII and Adele of Champagne. He was the second son, and his elder brother, Henry, was expected to succeed their father. However, Henry died in 1179, and Philip became heir to the throne.

Philip was crowned King of France in 1180 at the age of 15. He was a strong and ambitious ruler, and he quickly set about consolidating his power.

Expansion of the French Kingdom

One of Philip's primary goals was to expand the French kingdom. He accomplished this through a combination of warfare and diplomacy.

In 1189, Philip launched the Third Crusade, which was aimed at recapturing the Holy Land from the Muslims. Philip was successful in capturing the city of Acre, but he was unable to retake Jerusalem.

In addition to the Crusades, Philip also engaged in a number of wars against his neighbors. He conquered the Duchy of Normandy in 1204, the County of Anjou in 1206, and the County of Poitou in 1214. These conquests significantly expanded the French kingdom.

Strengthening of the Royal Power

Philip Augustus also worked to strengthen the royal power. He established a new system of royal justice, which centralized the administration of justice and increased the power of the king.

Philip also reformed the French army, making it one of the most powerful in Europe. He created a standing army of mercenaries, which allowed him to fight wars more effectively.

Cultural and Intellectual Achievement

In addition to his military and political achievements, Philip Augustus was also a patron of culture and learning. He founded the University of Paris, which became one of the leading centers of learning in Europe.

Philip also commissioned the construction of a number of cathedrals and churches, including the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. These buildings

are still standing today and are some of the most famous examples of Gothic architecture.

Philip Augustus was one of the most important figures in the Middle Ages. His reign saw the expansion of the French kingdom, the strengthening of the royal power, and the establishment of a new era of cultural and intellectual achievement. Philip's legacy continues to this day, and he is considered one of the greatest kings of France.



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