

Philip IV the Fair

(1268 - 1314)



Grand son of St. Louis, known as, Philip IV the Fair or as in French Philippe the Fair, son of Philip III and his first wife Isabella of Aragon, he will have the enormous task of restoring the Capetian prestige dynasty. Prestige fallen out of stopper rod under the preceding reign, thanks to the weakness of his father and the notorious incompetence of his uncle. The new king took power at the age of 17 years surrounding himself with a string of advisers and lawyers whose importance that given by the sovereign will always be contained and governed by this man hard and pitiless in its judgments. Worthy representative of an absolute monarchy, the elastic conscience comes to getting your hands dirty because if the state requires. King knew he was handsome, impressive, and full of grace, always elegantly dressed. He was especially impenetrable; the immobility of his face was reminiscent of a statue that destabilized his interlocutors. Philippe the Fair was an enigma to his contemporaries and still today, in the History of France Lavisse published in 1900, it is written: "Nobody will ever know who was Philip the Fair, there will never be possible to decide between those who think it was a great man of those who think it was a facade leaving others act in his place." However, all in him forced the respect, fear and admiration. The Beautiful one will not be its only nickname, for all in France, and in Navarre, he is the "iron King".

This is the tone, not a wren that in this day of AD 1285 takes power. The exception that proves the rule: the only tender sentiment of this king will be for his wife whom he

married Jeanne de Champagne in 1284, his life Philip IV love queen sincerely, both during their marriage of twenty-one years, that during her widowhood, which lasted nine years. It will grow loyalty to extend to all women the virtues of his own (the events in his family will sorely disappoint).

Surrounded by intelligent and skillful men such as Guillaume de Nogaret and Enguerrand de Marigny, Philip IV reorganized the management of the state on the model of the Roman Empire, which places the monarch "above all" but require new ways, see new resources.

A new administration is born ancestor of ours, but certainly more effective, no mistake was admitted. Under his reign during the "restructuring" began to appear the Grand Council for Political Affairs, the Chamber of Accounts for finance, justice of course being reserved for the existing Parliament. Philip the Fair took the initiative to set up meetings formed the clergy, nobility, and burghers of Paris. This is reminiscent of future States General. But perhaps sensing the importance they take in the last days of the monarchy, and desiring limited their power rarely convened such meetings were automatically dissolved as soon as we had achieved what was required of them.

And now came the turn of the currency, the council advised of Enguerrand de Marigny, Philippe creates new taxes, first of all a border tax dedicated for goods abroad. The church sees "relieved" of 10% of the revenues of his lands (*tithes*). On all sales made by subjects previously free of any taxes was deducted a penny per pound (*MALTOT*). This did not happen without gnashing of teeth, but their noise did not succeed in the ears of the king. And now we come to the great handling, not to say scam on several occasions King changes the weight or proportion of precious metal coins without changing its value, or until 1295 a royal ordinance changes the course of the tournament (Exhibit created under Louis) which passes from one penny to three cents. Do not see these "malpractices" an immoderate love of money, but simply a great political ambition for France, which will not prevent public opinion, always slanderous, assign to Philip's reputation as a counterfeiter.

The treasury well fed, Philip IV turns his eyes toward the church, still in the idea of greatness of France and infallibility of the king who will oppose the conflict the papacy is the kingdom of France a first in the history of the Capetian. Already in 1296, the pontiff's defense by taking the French clergy who felt too taxed had initiated a controversy that in 1297 had turned in favor of the sovereign. Pope Boniface VIII barons of old family, had what might be called temperament, passion, irritability increased by severe pain due to his poor health. Convinced of the superiority of the papacy on the Christian rulers, the Pope had this terrible diatribe and meaningful: "There are two swords the spiritual and the temporal, the spiritual sword in the hand of the pope, the time in the hands of kings but kings cannot use that service to the church

and on the willingness of the pope and the temporal sword if deviates from its route, it is the spiritual sword of the judge. " One can easily imagine the impact this profession of faith in a sovereign of the caliber of Philip the Fair, the pope did not it took for the king of kings, that for God? It was high time to understand what Pope demagogue and through him to all Christianity was the only captain on board the ship "kingdom of France."

*T*he hostilities begin in 1301 with the arrest by the King to the bishop of Pamiers. Boniface VIII mounts his high horse; cursing Philippe the Fair in a merciless indictment and calling the bishops to Rome in his own words "prepare the reform of the kingdom and punish the king of France." The reaction of the French sovereign will be violent and decisive for the future of the papacy.

*T*he three meetings will be convened for the first time, they are simply asked to approve the royal policy, it was done. Boniface then published his famous bull "*Unam Sanctam*" outlining the theory of two swords but also threatens the king of France with excommunication. Seeing Philip IV accused the pope of usurpation of its function and practice of simony (trafficking in goods and ecclesiastical offices) and demanded his deposition by a council. The pope then unties the French oath of loyalty to the king. Now the dispute cannot find the conclusion by the victory of on party, since no reconciliations seems possible, is the point of no return the stakes are too high.

*D*ecision is taken to arrest the pope. Guillaume de Nogaret responsible for high and low work of the kingdom goes so in Italy, joined by the Colonna family Italian enemy of Boniface VIII. Nogaret went with his army to Anagni summer residence of the Pope who cowardly abandoned by his followers was arrested and abused by the attackers. Legend says that Boniface was even slapped by Guillaume de Nogaret that that day could not obey the king his master, the people of Anagni rose in favor of the sovereign pontiff; the invaders had barely time to flee all legs. However Boniface VIII, aged nearly 70 years, could never recover from this humiliation. He died September 11, 1302, four days after the attack on the French, who lost his head.

*T*he successors of Boniface VIII probably cooled by the king's determination to continue to prudently gave up the fight. Benedict XI around political rather than religious issues rose without any prosecution conducted by his predecessor against the sovereign, but asked anyway wilt, moral course, Nogaret. As to Clement V, former Archbishop of Bordeaux, who owed his appointment largely to Philip the Fair, he simply cancel all decisions of the previous two, including those involving William of Nogaret during a discharge in 1311. From 1309, the new pope feared for his safety forsook Italy to Avignon. The palace of the French popes now became the residence of the Holy Father and, until 1377.

Philippe IV had won, the absolute independence of the Christian princes vis-à-vis the papacy was established, this situation leads to complete freedom of kingdoms.

The king then embarked on a policy of expansion of his kingdom and subjugation of what remained of the great feudal. County of Champagne being royal estate since her marriage, Philip bought the county of Chartres; the powerful and restless house of Blois-Champagne disappeared as a result. La Marche and Angoulême soon rejoined the dominions of the King of France. To the east who received the homage of the Count of Bar former vassal of the emperor, the largest part of the land became French. The burghers of Lyons followed soon impressed by the personality and power of the king, Lyons was therefore partially attached. It was not the same in spite of the Guyenne troops invaded in 1294 remained the royal stronghold of the new King Edward 1st of England. The king and his troops, whose appetite was ferocious, attacked Flanders. It was not counting with the Flemish people; the riders of the King suffered the humiliation of being utterly defeated by the infantry in Flanders in Kortrijk in 1302. Two years later thanks to the victory of Mons-en-Pévèle and the Treaty of Athis sur Orge signed with the Count of Flanders in 1305, humiliation was partially washed, removing the king of France in French cities namely Lille, Douai, Bethune and their districts. The French sovereign can now rest on its laurels, as nay say his contemporaries, there is the kingdom of France a power unbearable for the monarch absolute power enthusiast, a state within a state, an order respected as much as the king itself and far too rich not to defy the authority of Philip IV. And above all debts contracted with the kingdom of this order prevented him from sleeping the king, who did not intend to pay and feared his influence.

The founded order in the 12th century after the first crusade is the Templar's Knight. Its destruction will be decided by the king in his council and the ensuing trial will be conducted smoothly by the evil genius of Philip the Fair, the ever dedicated Guillaume de Nogaret. During 7 years of torture to force abominable false denunciations of fabricated evidence, and especially with the complicity of the pope, the Knights Templar was destroyed and his property forfeited to the crown. This trial is the most important in the history of the dynasty, it enriches the treasure will not add to the glory of Philip IV and his devoted minions.

Friday morning, October 13th 1307 thunder in the kingdom of France: the Templar's belongings on French soil were stopped, starting with the Grand Master Jacques de Molay. In a manifesto of infinite violence Guillaume de Nogaret are accused of heresy, which was not well seen by the right people, the church, she knew what to expect on that charge, but the menacing authority of Philip the Fair will close it loosely eyes. Furthermore heresy, monstrous crimes for the time they are accused, among them sexual practices against nature, and of course sodomy. I used the word trial, it was a dramatic and filthy joke, but it is well known that the best "shenanigans" and political

crimes are always made with the consent of the innocent people who were throwing a bone to gnaw. By accusing the Knight Templars of the worst crimes abhorred at the time and by giving these Knight Templars of the Inquisition (the bishop of Sens will burn 54 of them unhappy), Philippe true protector of the faith clear himself from any action trial. Yet a small grain of sand will for a time blocked the well oiled cogs of this machine. The Grand Master Jacques de Molay and the commander of Normandy Geoffroy de Charnay retract invoking the nullity of their confessions under torture. We must make a decision, this is done, the Inquisition cannot rule on these two lifers who have the insolence to rebel against the injustice done to them. She gave them to the royal authority, angrier and disappointed by these events, Philip suddenly becoming involved in this trial, condemned to the stake. They will be burned alive March 18, 1314 in Island Jewish (Ile de la Cité).

*I*t is there on the place of execution as the Grand Master Jacques de Molay of the Knights Templar launches his famous curse against his three tormentors: Pope Clement, Sir William de Nogaret and finally Philip citing them to appear before the tribunal of God before one year and cursing them and their descendants until the thirteenth generation. According to a historian whose name I have forgotten the curse started with the last direct Capetian Louis XVI had to end.... Well, this majestic order, it only remains of bones mixed with the charred logs, smoke drawing tears and a horrible odor on clothing. That smell never leaves the nostrils of the three characters cursed by their victim.

*I*n spring 1314, the flames of the stake are hardly extinct; the court of France will witness a domestic drama that will have disastrous consequences on the future of the dynasty. The daughter of Philip the Fair, Isabella of England, queen and wife abandoned by her husband Vice practicing Italian, will denounce his sisters-accusing them of adultery find in the pleasures that she herself would like to know. The Queen of England will struggle to convince the king his father, Philip thought all women dressed in under his own dearly loved. When the sovereign has the evidence in hand, lightning will affect the court of France.

*W*ho are these princesses that will change the course of history? : Marguerite de Bourgogne daughter of Duke Robert II, Queen of Navarre and especially future Queen of France by her marriage with Louis heir to the throne. Followed Jane and Blanche of Burgundy, daughters of Countess Mahaut of Artois, and first cousins, respectively married to Philip and Charles also son of Philip the Fair. Two of the princesses will be declared and adulterers Margaret White for Jeanne doubt remain, but accused of complicity and complacency guilty will be punished equally. The three princesses were shaved following the fate of guilty female, and Margaret White will be sentenced to rot for life in the fortress of Château-Gaillard (thank you Richard), Joan will be locked in the castle of Dourdan indefinitely, it will eventually return and be queen of France with the

future Philippe V. The princesses must first and before leaving for their charming residences, attend the torture of their young lovers and the brothers Philippe Gaultier Aunay squires Philippe de Poitiers and Charles of Valois, son and brother of the king. The day will be tough and very interesting for the people of Paris enjoyed those executions as spectacles of choice before television was invented. Youth guilty of leze majesty will be tortured, castrated (or punished by the sins they had), skinned alive and then beheaded and hanged by his feet from a gallows.

*T*he cruel punishment applied to the guilty shocked public opinion at the time and may seem disproportionate, but we must not lose sight of that respect for the sovereign person often depends on the conduct of its relatives. By becoming princesses of royal blood the three young women needed to take the lead and knew well that their marriages were not marriages of love. By accepting the benefits of such a position, they accept the constraints necessary for the preservation of the dynasty. At a time when one in four children die at birth and where three women died in childbirth, where malnutrition and disease decimated the people between the wars, the least that could be payable by the wealthy, pampered and admired all, was the respect of his word and majesty. Moreover, the conduct of future queen is weighing heavily on his descendants; we will see in later chapters it will prohibit any woman ever to rule the kingdom of France. As for the brothers Aunay they knew what they were at risk by deceiving their princes, their youth is an excuse today, was not an argument for the time.

*T*ired of the power he wanted absolute Philip IV died November 29th 1314. Less than a year, he was preceded in the afterlife by Pope Clement and William of Nogaret..... Impressed the people thought that the curse began. An anecdote is that through the centuries before the King could not be closed and he had a headband to hide his eyes. Philip IV the Fair came in with eyes wide open into eternity

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