

Henry V and Hundred Years War

100 yrs war = series of three wars 1337-1453 fought between Eng and France

Causes of Henrician War

Personal

- a) Ambition - Henry wanted to be king of France. This would make him the most powerful monarch in Europe.

Financial

- a) He wanted reclaim lands lost during earlier fighting. This would bring increased money.

Religious

- a) Henry religious- Dream about crusade (Free Jerusalem)

Political

- b) France had helped Wales and Scotland to rebel against England during Henry IV's reign.
- c) English barons getting agitated with each other. A war against France would refocus them
- d) France was divided by Civil War and therefore weaker. An ideal time to go to War with France.

Henry's First Campaign August – October 1415

- a) Henry sails from Southampton to Harfleur. A vital port for Henry to capture
- b) Siege expected to take 2 weeks but in fact last six weeks at a cost of 4,000 men.
- c) Henry has to change original plan (can't back down – Tennis balls) and decides to march to Calais causing as much damage as possible. Chevachée
- d) March should have lasted 1 week but French blocked river crossings – delay added another 4 days. Henry's army weak, diseased and hungry.
- e) French army block route to Calais. Henry forced to fight battle of Agincourt which he wins against all the odds.
- f) After Agincourt Henry marches to Calais and Sails back home.

Agincourt 25th October 1415

- French army of 25,000; the English numbered a mere 6,000
- However despite being outnumbered and despite many English soldiers being ill, the longbow again came to the salvation of the English as the French repeated the mistakes of Crécy and Poitiers and relied on cavalry charges
- The English were well positioned however since the French had to come through a narrow strip of open land, with thick forest on either side
- This meant that the cavalry charge was slowed down as the French knights charged chaotically into a crowded space
- The confusion in their ranks was used to good effect by the English archers, who fired at an almost static enemy and cut them down
- The first wave of the French attack was slaughtered and the dead knights and horses made the already narrow road even more blocked for the next two waves of French attacks
- The next two waves were cut down with equal ease by the English
- By the end of the battle, 7000 French were dead and only 500 English
- The French had lost many of their finest knights and military leaders

Why Henry won

- a) Henry an inspirational leader , led from front, - French had no central leadership – a feudal army
- b) Henry's use of tactics and strategy was excellent – Archers, protected by men at arms and stakes – Woods used to protect flanks – Narrowing battle field funnelled French – Slight slope added advantage to English. Henry took fight to the French - Longbow decisive.
- c) French arrogance led to mistakes. Impatience and lack of leadership led to defeat.
- d) English army fought as an English army under Henry's command.
- e) French army disunited, many fled battlefield without even fighting.

Results of Henry's victory

- a) In 1417 and 1418 Henry returned for a second/third successful campaign capturing several important towns.
- b) In 1420 France agreed to Treaty of Troyes. Henry named as heir to French throne and married to daughter of French king.
- c) Unfortunately Henry died within two year and failed to realise his dreams.

Why England lost Hundred Years War or Why France won?

- France had constant advantage of larger population = more troops and money to fight war
- France fighting on home soil – shipping/supplying troops in France was difficult for Eng kings

What happened at begin/middle i.e Crécy. Agincourt counted for nothing. What happened at end did. England had weak and mad king (Henry VI) whereas France had strong king (Charles VII)

French had better leaders at end - English leaders argued amongst each other – rivalry meant that English army was not equipped as it should have been

French changed tactics after Agincourt – Stopped relying on Knights and started to use Canons and gunpowder and firearms – English continued to rely on Longbow – French army better organised

When the Duke of Burgundy left the English side and joined the French, France became too strong for England as it got all his men and supplies. France no longer had to fight on two sides. This was a major turning point.

The irony of it all is that the madness that was to affect Henry VI and lead to England's downfall was inherited through his grandfather the French king Charles VI.

How did the loss affect England and the win on France?

France became a stronger country slowly becoming an important power in Europe. France, which had started the war as a small kingdom had gained more land and was now a large, united country under the control of one king. This land brought more trade, taxes, rents etc. However, it took a long time for France to recover from the war

England became weaker. Firstly she lost land controlled before. Only Calais remained in English hands (till 1558 when another war would prove costly). England was now very weak in France. Secondly England lost money. The cost of war combined with the loss of wine growing areas and trade was financial crippling. Finally England lost power both in France and England.. Failure in the war added to some barons' anger at Henry VI, and so helped to start the Wars of the Roses.

The war led to the development of new weapons and changes in military strategy and tactics. New weapons such as cannons and guns emerged. Cannons signalled the end of castles as an effective means of resistance. The introduction of gunpowder led to changes in the make up of armies and consequently meant fewer knights and cheaper, easily trained gun carrying footsoldiers.

In conclusion the war was a disaster for England leaving it with very little land abroad and much poorer. The barons sensing Henry VI as weak would now involve themselves in more fighting, in the Wars of the Roses.