



From the Archives

Joan of Arc's Letter to the English

When Joan of Arc was brought to trial in 1431, a letter she had written to the King of England was introduced in evidence.

King of England, and you Duke of Bedford, calling yourself regent of France . . . do right in the King of Heaven's sight. Surrender to *The Maid* sent hither by God the King of Heaven, the keys of all the good towns you have taken and laid waste in France. She comes in God's name to establish the Blood Royal, ready to make peace if you agree to abandon France and repay what you have taken. . . . And to you, King of England, if you do not do thus . . . whenever I meet your followers in France, I will drive them out; if they will not obey, I will put them all to death. I am sent here in God's name, the King of Heaven, to drive you body for body out of all France. If they obey, I will show them mercy. Do not think otherwise; you will not withhold the kingdom of France from God, the King of Kings, Blessed Mary's Son.



The end of the Hundred Years' War had three major consequences. First, the French victory ended England's costly attempts to conquer France, leaving both nations free to concentrate upon solving their internal problems. Second, the war worked to encourage patriotism on both sides. Lastly, because of new methods of warfare, the Hundred Years' War helped end the long supremacy in battle of knights mounted on horseback.

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Spain, Portugal, and other nations formed in Europe.

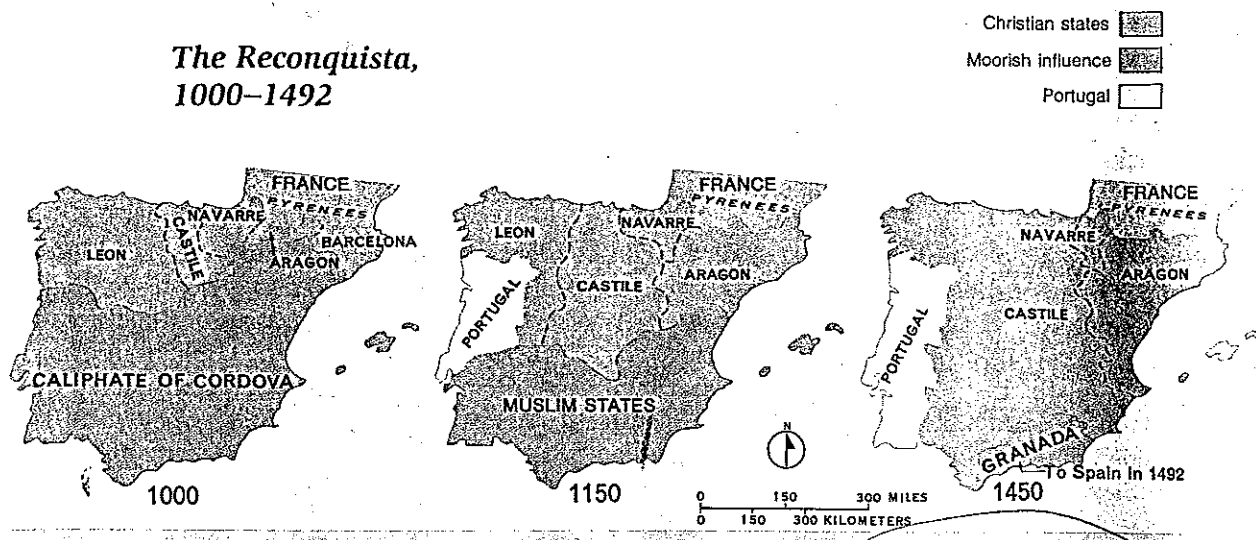
While England and France were growing stronger and more unified, nations were also developing in other parts of Europe. Keep in mind, however, that the boundaries of these nations would change many times before the map of Europe that we see today was established.

Portugal and Spain became separate nations.

A Germanic tribe, the Visigoths, had settled in the **Iberian peninsula**—which includes modern-day Spain and Portugal—during the German invasions of the Roman Empire. Their kingdom lasted until 711, when an invasion force of Muslims known as Moors crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and conquered most of the Iberian peninsula. Small groups of Christians held out near the Pyrenees [pir'ə nēz'] Mountains, but their forces were so insignificant that the Moors made only half-hearted efforts to subdue them.

As you will learn in Chapter 14, the Moors built up a Muslim kingdom, called Cordova, that reached a high level of culture. In 1031, however, quarrels inside the kingdom caused it to break up into more than 20 small states. The breakup helped strengthen the Christians in the north, who began a crusade to regain Spain for Christendom.

The Reconquista, 1000–1492



MAP STUDY

This map shows three stages in the Reconquista, the 500-year struggle of Christian nobles to conquer the Iberian peninsula from the Moors. Approximately when did Portugal first emerge as a nation? When did Spain conquer Moorish Granada?

In this task they were aided by nobles from many parts of Europe.

Alphonso I of Portugal was the son of a French knight who had helped the king of Castile reconquer Toledo from the Moors in 1085. In return the knight was granted Portugal as a fief. In 1129 Alphonso declared Portugal an independent kingdom, and in 1143 peace was arranged between Portugal and Castile, which had ruled Portugal.

Gradually, the Christian kingdoms in the north drove back the Moors. By the late 1200s, only Granada remained in Muslim hands. You can see the general course of these wars on the three maps on this page.

In 1469 Ferdinand, the future king of Aragon [ar'ə gon], and Isabella, later queen of Castile-[kastēl'], were married. The marriage joined the two leading Christian kingdoms of the area and strengthened the Christian goal of driving all Moors out of Spain. The **Reconquista** [rā kon-kēs'tə], or reconquest, succeeded, and in 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella conquered Granada and united Spain.

Ferdinand and Isabella believed that national unity required religious conformity. They revived the **Inquisition**, a medieval procedure for punishing heretics, or nonbelievers, and they burned thousands of people at the stake. In 1492 they also

expelled all Spanish Jews who, for seven centuries, had played a major role in Spanish economic and intellectual life. Although the Inquisition greatly enhanced the power of the Spanish crown, it also caused many talented and educated people to flee the land of persecution. About 150,000 Spanish Jews, mainly merchants and professional people, fled to Holland, England, North Africa, the West Indies, and the Ottoman Empire. Calling themselves "Sephardim" [sə far dēm'], which is Hebrew for "Spanish," these exiles retained their Spanish language and customs into the 20th century, especially in Greece and Turkey.

Other Europeans began to build nations.

In the north of Europe, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes were becoming separate peoples. Although the Danish queen Margaret I (1353–1412) forged Denmark, Norway, and Sweden into one of the largest empires in Europe, the empire lasted only a century. Sweden revolted and broke away from the empire in 1523, but Norway remained a Danish province until the 1800s.

In eastern Europe, around 900, Magyar tribes from west of the Ural Mountains occupied a fertile region along the Danube River and formed the kingdom of Hungary. In the mid-900s, Polish tribes were united under one king. To the west, the