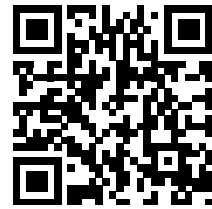


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Henry II's Reign and Legacy



During the High Middle Ages, England saw significant transformations under the rule of _____ . Born in 1133, he came to the throne in 1154, marking the beginning of the _____ dynasty. Henry II was not only a king of England but also ruled over large parts of what is now France, thanks to his marriage to _____ of Aquitaine. This union brought him vast territories, but also led to conflicts with his sons and the _____ king.

Henry II is perhaps best remembered for his legal reforms. He established the principle that the _____ was above everyone, including the nobility and himself. This was a revolutionary idea at the time. He also developed the _____ of common law, which relied on court decisions and customs as opposed to the fixed written laws of the Roman _____. Furthermore, Henry II introduced the jury system, which allowed local people to play a part in judicial _____, laying the groundwork for modern legal processes.

His relationship with the Church was complex. Henry's attempt to control the _____ led to a bitter dispute with Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of _____. This conflict culminated in Becket's murder in 1170, a deed that shocked _____ Europe and forced Henry to reconcile with the Church.

Despite his achievements in law and _____, Henry's reign was marred by familial strife. His sons, encouraged by their mother Eleanor, rebelled against him several times. These _____ weakened his rule towards the end of his life, casting a shadow over his accomplishments.

Henry II died in 1189, but his _____ lived on. His legal reforms laid the foundation for English common law, affecting the development of _____ systems worldwide. His reign was a pivotal moment in English history, representing the complex interplay between _____, law, and family.

French system decisions justice Christian legacy Canterbury tradition
law Henry II clergy Plantagenet power rebellions Eleanor governance