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# The Clan System During Scottish Wars



During the Scottish Wars of Independence, the \_\_\_\_\_ system played a crucial role in shaping the conflict's outcomes. Each clan, a group of families connected by blood and led by a \_\_\_\_\_, controlled its own territory within Scotland. Loyalties were not to a central government but to the clan and its \_\_\_\_\_. This made Scotland a tapestry of fiercely independent warriors, ready to defend their lands and honor.

The \_\_\_\_\_ began when England's King Edward I attempted to take control over Scotland, leading to widespread rebellion. Figures like William \_\_\_\_\_ and later Robert the Bruce rallied the clans against the English. Clans would gather their \_\_\_\_\_ at short notice, using the Highland charge to break enemy lines, a tactic deeply embedded in their \_\_\_\_\_ of warfare.

The terrain of Scotland, with its rugged \_\_\_\_\_, dense forests, and deep lochs, favored the guerrilla tactics of the clans. These natural defenses were well known to the \_\_\_\_\_ but proved challenging for the English armies to navigate and conquer.

Additionally, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Arbroath in 1320, a letter sent to Pope John XXII, highlighted the role of the clans in defending Scotland's \_\_\_\_\_. It stated that as long as but a hundred of them remained, they would never submit to the rule of England. This \_\_\_\_\_ underscored the collective resolve and the central importance of the clan system in the fight for \_\_\_\_\_.

Despite internal conflicts and rivalries, the common threat of English domination often united the \_\_\_\_\_. This unity was instrumental in eventual Scottish victories, such as the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1314, where Robert the Bruce led Scots to a decisive win. The clan system, with its strong sense of identity and \_\_\_\_\_, significantly contributed to Scotland's ability to resist and ultimately repel English \_\_\_\_\_ during the wars.

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