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# The Lowlands in Scottish Wars of Independence



In the late 13th and early 14th centuries, the \_\_\_\_\_ played a crucial role in the Scottish Wars of Independence. Unlike the Highlands, the Lowlands were rich in \_\_\_\_\_ and populated with bustling towns. This area was strategically important, as controlling it meant having access to \_\_\_\_\_ and wealth. The English, under Edward I, sought to assert their dominance over Scotland by occupying these \_\_\_\_\_. In response, Scottish leaders like William Wallace and later Robert the Bruce rallied their \_\_\_\_\_ to resist English rule. The Lowlands became a backdrop for significant \_\_\_\_\_, such as the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, where Wallace achieved a remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ against a much larger English force. However, the \_\_\_\_\_ was not only about battles. It also involved diplomatic efforts and the support of the common \_\_\_\_\_, who were deeply affected by the war. Their support was crucial for the Scots' efforts to regain \_\_\_\_\_. The Declaration of Arbroath, a letter sent to the Pope in 1320, highlighted the collective struggle for \_\_\_\_\_ and emphasized the importance of the Lowlands to the Scottish identity. Despite the devastation brought by the \_\_\_\_\_, the Lowlands' resilience and strategic significance greatly contributed to the eventual Scottish \_\_\_\_\_ in securing independence.

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