

Rangamati Science and Technology University



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Assignment On

Background of Baron's War and Result

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Background of Baron's War

Baron's war can refer to two major conflicts in English history, both of which involved rebellions by barons against the monarchy.

Here's a brief overview of each.

1. First Baron's war:(1215-1217)

Background: the first baron's war was a civil war in English between a group of rebellious barons and king John. The conflict was primarily driven by the baron's dissatisfaction with John's heavy taxation, his failures in foreign policy and his perceived arbitrary and tyrannical rule.

2. Key event:

Magna Carta: The barons forced king John to sign the magna carta, a charter that limited the king's powers and protected the baron's rights. However John soon renounced the charter, leading to open revolt.

Capture of London (1215): The barons captured London and invited prince Louis of France to claim the English throne.

Death of king John(1216): John died in 1216, and his nine year old son Henry III was crowned king. The regency Government led by William Marshal worked to reconcile the barons and reissued the magna carta to gain support.

End of the war:(1217): the war effectively ended with the battle of Lincoln and the naval battle of Sandwich, which were decisive victories for the royalists. The treaty of Lambeth in 1217 saw Louis renounce his claim to the English throne in exchange for a payment.

Background of Second baron's war

The Second Barons' War (1264–1267) was a civil war in England between the forces of King Henry III and a group of rebellious barons led by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The conflict arose from longstanding grievances over Henry III's ineffective and autocratic rule, as well as broader tensions about the balance of power between the monarchy and the nobility. Here's a detailed background to the war:

Causes of the Second Barons' War

Henry III's Weak and Unpopular Rule:

Henry III (r. 1216–1272) was seen as a weak and indecisive monarch. His reign was marked by financial mismanagement, heavy taxation, and reliance on foreign advisors (particularly his wife's Savoyard relatives and his half-brothers, the Lusignans), which alienated the English nobility.

Henry's failed military campaigns in France (e.g., the Poitou Expedition of 1242) and his expensive ambitions, such as the construction of Westminster Abbey, drained the royal treasury and further angered the barons.

Failure to Uphold the Magna Carta:

The Magna Carta (1215) had been a cornerstone of baronial demands during the First Barons' War, but Henry III often ignored its provisions, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the nobility.

The Influence of Simon de Montfort:

Simon de Montfort, a French nobleman who became Earl of Leicester through marriage to Henry III's sister, emerged as a leader of the reformist barons. He was initially a close ally of the king but grew disillusioned with Henry's rule.

De Montfort championed the cause of political reform, advocating for greater baronial control over royal governance and finances.

The Provisions of Oxford (1258):

In 1258, the barons, led by de Montfort, forced Henry III to agree to the Provisions of Oxford, a set of reforms that established a council of 15 barons to oversee the king's decisions and limit his power.

The Provisions also introduced regular parliaments, including representatives from towns and shires, marking an early step toward representative government.

The Provisions of Westminster (1259):

Further reforms were introduced in 1259, addressing grievances related to local governance and the administration of justice. These reforms were supported by the barons but opposed by Henry III and his supporters.

Henry III's Rejection of the Reforms:

In 1261, Henry III repudiated the Provisions of Oxford with the support of Pope Alexander IV, who absolved him from his oath to uphold the reforms. This led to a breakdown in trust between the king and the barons.

The Rise of Armed Conflict:

Tensions escalated, and in 1263, open conflict broke out between the royalists (supporters of Henry III) and the baronial reformers (led by Simon de Montfort).

The barons sought to enforce the Provisions of Oxford and curb the king's arbitrary rule, while Henry III aimed to reassert his authority.

Result of Baron's war

First Barons' War (1215–1217)

The war began after King John of England refused to abide by the Magna Carta, leading to a rebellion by the barons. The barons, with the support of Prince Louis of France, took control of London and much of England. However, King John's death in 1216 shifted the war, as many barons switched allegiance to his young son, Henry III. The French forces were defeated at the Battle of Lincoln (1217) and Battle of Sandwich (1217). The war ended with the Treaty of Lambeth (1217), where Louis renounced his claim to the English throne, and the Magna Carta was reissued under Henry III's rule.

Second Barons' War (1264–1267)

This war was led by Simon de Montfort against King Henry III due to royal misrule and failure to uphold reforms (Provisions of Oxford). De Montfort initially won a major victory at the Battle of Lewes (1264), capturing Henry III and effectively ruling England. However, Henry's son, Prince Edward (later Edward I), escaped captivity and defeated de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham (1265), killing him. Royal authority was restored by 1267, but some reforms influenced later constitutional developments in England.