

PREHISTORY

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Solutre

In 19th century, archaeologists found bone fragments of animals mostly horses which are evidence/proof of the presence of human beings in Burgundy between 18000 & 15000 BC (before christ).

In this place, the people performed sacrifices of horses and this was considered as a ritual. Solutre is actually a rock situated in South of Burgundy where there is a museum about prehistory today. Solutre has become very famous today because a former French president called Francois Mitterand went to this place every year as a pilgrimage during the 1980s.

Important because of: bone fragments, the only evidence of first human beings

When Europe started being inhabited (peopled), Burgundy was one of the main areas of exchange and passage between the Paris area and the Saone (name of the river, people settled where there is river) valley. Besides, Burgundy was also situated between northern Europe and mediterranean (seasides, coasts) Europe. So that is why it is one of the first places being peopled in Europe.

6th century BC, during the Gaulish period, Burgundy was inhabited by a tribe called the Aedui. Their capital was called Bibracte (near Autun) in Burgundy. In Franche-Comte (border with Swiss) which is located in east of Burgundy, in 4th century BC a tribe developed and was called Sequani. Their capital was a fortified camp called Vesontio which today corresponds to Besancon.

In 58 BC, the Aedui tribe in Burgundy was invaded by the people called Helvetii, and asked help from Julius Caesar, the Roman Emperor. Caesar came to help the Aedui tribe and finally defeated Helvetii but took advantage of the situation to invade the region himself. And then later on, Caesar invaded most of the Gaulish territories.

In 52 BC there was an attempt from some Gaulish people to rebel against Caesar but they failed at the Battle of Alesia (the last battle during Gaulish people and Caesar). After this battle, the Gaulish leader called Vercingetorix had to surrender to the Roman Empire.

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In 1st century, the capital city of the north east of France became Autun. The name Autun derives from Augustus who was a general of the Roman Army and this city supplanted (replaced) Bibracte. When the Romans invaded France, christianity developed. In 313, the Emperor Constantine imposed the Christian religion thanks to the Edict (law) of Milan. In 476, the Roman Empire finally collapsed.

In the 5th century, in the meantime people called Burgundians came from the Baltic coast and settled in the Saone (river) plain. That is why this territory around the Saone plain was called Burgundy. In 534, people called the Franks (people from the other territories in France) invaded Burgundy and from that year Burgundy belonged to the Frankish territory.

In 800, someone called Charlemagne became an Emperor of the West which corresponds to what today is Western Europe. Therefore, Burgundy was (integrated to be) part of this empire. But in 814, Charlemagne died. His death plunged the Empire into an instability and the son of Louis the Pious who was King of Franks disputed Charlemagne's legacy.

Louis the Pious became Emperor in 814-843. When he died, the empire was divided into three parts through the Treaty of Verdun. Why? Because he had three sons.

In 987, the King of the Franks was Hugues Capet and he reigned over France until 996. He was the first king of a new dynasty called Capetian Dynasty. Dukes of Burgundy all came from his family & dynasty. In 996, his successor was Robert II the Pious, his son, until 1031.

In 1032, Germanic tribes invaded Burgundy and the German Emperor named Conrad II took control of the region France-Comte. Landowners, people who purchased territories in Burgundy, rebelled against Conrad II and this rebellion was called the Revolt of Chalons.

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The Chalons were the people who possessed the largest territories in Burgundy (big land owners).

From 1031-1060, the King of the Franks after Robert II the Pious was Henri I, his son. He fought the Germans in Burgundy to expel them from the region and when Burgundy returned to him, he actually gave the control of Burgundy to his brother who is called Robert I the Old as an apanage, which means when a king gives a part of his territory to one of his brothers/sisters who did not inherit anything. When the Chalons had rebelled against the Germans, they also had shown their desire for some kind of autonomy or self-rule (distinctive identity)

why did I write this: avoid further conflicts with Burgundy

Robert I the Old became the first duke of the region. At that time, the Duke of Burgundy still had to obey the King of Franks.

Christianity (catholicism?) was the main religion of Capetian Dynasty and under their rule it is developed in France and especially in Burgundy. Indeed, Burgundy became a bastion (?) of Christianity thanks to the construction of big abbeys. Some examples in Burgundy are Cluny, Citeaux, and Clairvaux, built under Capetian dukes.

From big to small (size, and the person who leads it)

Cathedral - bishop
Abbey - monks
Basilica - monks
Church - priest
Chapel

In 1095 was the first crusades that lasted until the middle ages, it corresponded to the development of Christianity.

In 1337, a big war started, the Hundred Years war which lasted until 1453. This war opposed France and England. In France, the dynasty of king was Capetians while for England was Plantagonets. It was started by the English who started taking territories in France. The war took place in France. In 1349, the year of widespread death contagion of black plague which took place in France. France was devastated by the black plague.

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In 1361, the duke of Burgundy Philippe de Rouvres died and he did not have inheritors/successors which put an end to the Capetian Dynasty of dukes. At that time, the king of France was John the Good from 1350-1364. In 1361, the Duchy returned under the rule of the King of France. In 1364, when John the Good died, his eldest son became the new king. He was called Charles V and gave Burgundy in apanage to his younger brother who became the Duke of Burgundy under the name Philip the Bold. He was the first "Great Duke of Burgundy".

181022

Philip the Bold

He married Margaret of Flanders. As her name says, she was the inheritor of some territories of Flander. Through this marriage, Philip the Bold extended his territory as he integrated Flanders in the Duchy (north of France, Luxembourg but yet to exist at that time, and parts of the Netherlands).

Philip the Bold was the first Great Duke of Burgundy whose power came to exceed that of the King of France, his brother. He actually controlled a set of feudal lords, who rule some different parts of his territories. He also created a Burgundian parliament as well as state bodies (ministries today) and he became a patron of art. He was succeeded by 3 other Great Dukes:

- John the Fearless
- Philip the Good
- Charles the Bold

The whole family/lineage of the Dukes of Burgundy participated to the greatness of this new position. They created a new House (dynasty) called the House of Valois which was a derivation from the Capetian Dynasty. Under this House of Valois, Burgundy reached the height of its power where it remained for more than a century (1364-1477).

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Philip the Bold (1364-1404)

When he was a child, he fought alongside his father, John the Good, against the English. During a famous battle called the Battle of Poitiers which took place in 1356, Philip the Bold was taken prisoner by the English and when an English soldier insulted his father, he reacted by hitting this soldier in his face hence his nickname, the Bold because he was bold in this situation.

When he became Duke of Burgundy in 1364, Philip had been a knight with an experience of war and he started devoting himself to his duchy. In 1369, he married Margaret of Flanders who was the inheritor of Flemish territories. This inheritor was the richest heiress in Europe and Philip the Bold took advantage of this marriage to become the most powerful ruler in Christendom (all territories with Christianity as its major religion). He lived in great splendour and built a palace in Dijon for his administration. This palace is called the Palace of the Great Dukes of Burgundy. In the construction of the palace, Philip the Bold commissioned many artists from both Burgundy and Flanders.

Besides building a palace in Dijon, he also built the Chartreuse De Champmol (a religious monument) in Dijon which was a mausoleum for himself and his descendants. This mausoleum was built by Jean de Marville and Claus Sluter. Jean de Marville started the construction of the monument and the (???) of the duke which was made with alabaster (white, the mourners) and marble (stone, black). These stones came from France and Italy. This monument was partially destroyed during French Revolution.

When Philip the Bold died in 1404 his successor was his son, John the Fearless.

John the Fearless (1404-1419)

John the Fearless was not very nice looking but he was very intelligent and ambitious. When he became Duke of Burgundy, he started to fight against the cousin of the King of France whose name was Louis d'Orleans because the King of France, Charles VI (1380-1422), was a mad king and could not rule the country properly. So he was helped and controlled by his cousin against the Duchy of Burgundy. Finally, John the Fearless had Louis d'Orleans assassinated and John the Fearless sent his army to Paris but he was opposed by the Orleanist faction/army which still controlled the King through another cousin of the King who was Charles d'Orleans. In 1415, during the Battle of Agincourt Charles d'Orleans was taken by the English to England where he remained a prisoner for 25 years. During this time, the Orleanist faction was led by his father in law who was Count Bernard VII of Armagnac.

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During the fight between the Burgundians and Orleanists, the French were fighting each other. And as this conflict was very expensive in the context of a wider war which is the Hundred Years war, John the Fearless tried to reach a peace agreement with the King of France. What John the Fearless did is that he asked for an appointment with the King of France, Charles VI who sent his son, the future king who was called Dauphin. In the end, the future king, Charles

VII (1422-1461) met John the Fearless on a bridge in Montceau in 1419 and the dauphin murdered John the Fearless.

Philip the Good (1419-1467)

Philip the Good succeeded his father in 1419 and he was Duke of Burgundy from 1419 until 1467. When he became duke, his priority was to avenge his father. In order to do this, he decided to ally himself with the English. In 1430, his most famous action against the French King was when he gave Jeanne d'Arc to the English and in return, he obtained support and a large amount of money from the English.

Why did the English want Jeanne d'Arc? She was considered to be a war hero, leading the French army against them for she thought that she had a religious mission to fight against the English and to liberate French people from the English invasion. When Jeanne d'Arc was taken by the Burgundians, it took place in a forest called Compiègne.

The English were allied with the Burgundians and the King of France who was Charles VII was frightened by the power acquired by Philip the Good. Charles VII finally asked for a peace agreement with Burgundy and in 1435 this peace agreement took place through the Treaty of Arras. Thanks to this treaty, the Duchy of Burgundy was widened and acquired new territories located in Artois, Henaut, Picardy (northern), Loire, Jure (southern).

Philip the Good was famous for having even greater taste for magnificence than his predecessors and lived like a king. That is why he created new administrative positions to help him rule over his territory. For example, he appointed a Marshall of Burgundy and Admiral of Flanders (ministers). Moreover, he created positions which corresponded to those of ministers like a Master of the Horse "at the head of the knights", a Chancellor "responsible for the finances".

In 1429, he married Isabella of Portugal who came from the Aviz dynasty and on the day of his marriage he created a chivalry order called the Order of the Golden Fleece (Toison d'Or). When the order was created, 31 members were appointed. These members were either influential merchants or politicians (commerce & politics) and they had to meet once every three years. The members of the order wore a golden necklace with a dead sheep as a medallion.

The dead sheep is a reference to the Greek myth of Phrixos and Helle. They also wore a red cloak which represented luxury as it was trimmed with squirrel fur. The headquarters of the order were located in Dijon in the Holy Chapel which was destroyed during the French Revolution. Philip the Good died in 1467. When he died, he was succeeded by his son Charles the Bold.

Charles the Bold (1467-1477)

Charles the Bold was very interested in history and wanted to be remembered as a Great Duke. Therefore, he started to fight against the King of France again and he spent most of his time as

a duke fighting against Louis XI (King of France, 1461-1483). In his turn, Louis XI did everything possible to undermine the power of Charles the Bold. His main objective was to break up the Burgundian Duchy. Charles the Bold was a warrior and died during a battle against the French King which took place in Nancy in 1477.

In 1477, after the death of Charles the Bold, Louis XI invaded the Duchy of Burgundy because he wanted to take advantage of the situation to annex the Duchy of Burgundy to the French kingdom. That being said, Charles the Bold had a daughter who married Maximilian of Habsburg, the Holy Roman Emperor. Although Mary of Burgundy had been deprived of a part of her territory by Louis XI, some territories like the ones situated in Flanders remained part of the Duchy.

The fight for independence from Burgundians continued under Charles V, grandson of Maximilian of Habsburg against Francois I, King of France (1515-1547)

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Return to French Crown

In 1556, Charles V died and his son became the next ruler of Burgundy, Philip II (from the same dynasty, Habsburg).

In 1589, Francois I died and was succeeded by Henri IV. Henri IV became the King of France but he was not the direct successor of Francois I. He remained king until 1610.

(2 dynasties parallel in the same time)

In 1589, when Philip II died, the region of Burgundy passed to his daughter, Isabelle who married the Archduke (aristocratic position > duke?) of Austria and the region of Burgundy remained independently until it was entirely seized by the French in 1678. All along its independence from France, Burgundy was part of a wider territory which belonged to the Holy Roman Empire but within this empire Burgundian people become used to managing their own affairs (they have some autonomy).

In 1601, Henri IV acquired some Italian territories which were next to Burgundy (Bresse, Bugey, Valromey, and Gex). As a consequence it was easier for the French King to have an access to Burgundy and to try to invade it.

In 1610, Henri IV was succeeded by Louis XIII who died in 1643. During his reign, a major war broke out. This war was called the Thirty Years War and lasted until 1648. This war opposed Catholics to Protestants throughout Europe. For example, Austria was allied with Spain whereas Sweden was allied with Germany. Paradoxically, the French stood beside the Protestants because as time went by, the war turned from a religious war into a political war.

In 1648, at the end of the war, a major treaty was signed between the leaders of the European countries, called the Treaty of Westphalia. Its major objective was to ensure peace in Europe while redefining the frontiers at European countries (exchange some part of territories). During the war, Burgundy was opposed to France because Burgundy was part of the Holy Roman Empire (catholics).

During the war in 1634, Richelieu who was the Cardinal of Louis XIII fought against the Burgundians for one particular reason because Burgundy had given refuge to one of his enemies who was accused of plotting against the King, because according to the accusation he wanted to overthrow/destitute Louis XIII. His name was Gaston d'Orleans. A cardinal corresponds to a minister of the King who was in charge of religious matters.

This position from Cardinal Richelieu added to the context of the war which already opposed Burgundy to France. The fight led by Richelieu against Burgundy gave way to a conflict called Ten Years War (1634-1644) which took place during the Thirty Years War (two wars in parallel, this one was a minor war (geographically) between France & Burgundy)

In 1643, during both wars, Louis XIII died and was succeeded by Louis XIV. Therefore, both wars finished during the reign of Louis XIV. Louis XIV left a major influence on the French kingdom because he ruled until 1715, which was a long reign for the time. He was famous as the "Sun King". During Louis XIV reign, his Cardinal called Mazarin decided to withdraw the French forces from Burgundy and put an end to the conflict opposing France & Burgundy in 1648 (at the end of the Thirty Years War). After that, Burgundy enjoyed a long period of peace with France which lasted until 1668.

In 1668, Louis XIV decided to invade Burgundy again because he considered that the region was part of the inheritance of his wife, Marie-Therese. Indeed, Marie-Therese came from Austria and was a successor of the Habsburg dynasty. This attempt from Louis XIV to invade the Burgundy eventually failed but he tried again in 1674 and this time was successful.

In 1678, a treaty of peace was signed between France & the Holy Roman Empire, called "Peace of NIMEGUE" and after the ratification of this treaty the history of Burgundy followed that of France. Through this treaty Burgundy became French.

French Revolution to Modern Times

In 1715, Louis XIV died and was succeeded by Louis XV who reigned over France until 1774 and was succeeded by Louis XVI who reigned over France until 1793. During Louis XVI reign, the French Revolution broke out and one of the major incident during this revolution was the Fall of the Bastille in 1789, a prison in Paris.

The French Revolution corresponded to a rebellion from the French lowest classes against the Monarchy and the Aristocracy. Many members of the Aristocracy were guillotined (beheaded).

When Louis XVI tried to flee from Paris, he was arrested in Varennes and was guillotined in 1793. The end of the revolution corresponded to the end of the French monarchy as it was.

In 1804, Napoleon I was consecrated Emperor of France.

In 1822, in Burgundy photography was invented by Nicephore Niepce in Saint-Loup-de-Varenne in Chalon-sur-Saône.

During the 19th century, there were conflicts between the French and the Prussians (an empire in Germany). In 1870, a French colonel called Colonel Denfert Rochereau resisted an attack from 40,000 Prussians in Belfort. Belfort is a fortified place built by an architect called Vauban. One year later, in 1871, General Bourbaki was defeated by the Prussians in Hericourt although he had won a major battle in Villersexel. As a consequence, the French Army had to retreat to Besançon.

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In the 19th century, in Burgundy one of the main economic resources was the production of wine. But in 1878, the vineyards were devastated by the phylloxera aphid (little insects). As a consequence, most of the production of wine disappeared. Nevertheless, thanks to American vines the Burgundians could carry on producing wine in Burgundy, because the American vines imported in Burgundy were resistant to the phylloxera aphid.

Another main economic resource in the 19th century was the production of steel especially in Le Creusot and the extraction of coal especially in Montceau-les-Mines. Besides, the 19th century corresponded to the emergence of the Industrial Revolution. This revolution started in Britain and Germany and was followed by most European countries like France. It accelerated in the late 19th century.

In Franche-Comté, the clock-making industry was progressively replaced by the car industry as big car brands like Peugeot started to operate in this region. These industrial revolutions continued in the early 20th century until the two world wars.

The First World War broke out in 1914 and ended in 1918 while the Second World War lasted from 1939 until 1945. During this Second World War, the French were invaded by Nazi Germany and Burgundy and Franche-Comté were used as major places for the French Resistance Movement.

Especially in the Chatillonnais forest, the French Resistance Movement was very active because they used this forest as a hideout to plan their attacks. The Chatillonnais forest are the forest around a Burgundian town called Chatillon-sur-Seine.

In September 1944, General Leclerc joined the army of General De Lattre De Tassigny near Châtillon-sur-Seine and liberated the area from the Nazi invaders. Therefore, Burgundy became

free in September 1944. One month later in November 1944, the French army liberated France-Comte.

After the two world wars, the main objective for the French government was to rebuild parts of the country which had been destroyed because of the wars and especially because of the bombings of the second world war. Moreover, another main objective was to increase the standard of living of French people.

In 1970, when French people started to travel more and to go on holidays because they could benefit from paid vacations, major motor ways were built and Burgundy opened itself to tourism thanks to the creation of the A6-A7 motorways which linked Paris to Marseille while going through Burgundian cities like Auxerre, Beaune, and Macon.

In 1981, TGV which corresponds to high-speed rail service was created and it linked Paris to Lyon while going through Le Creusot and Macon as well as Paris to Besancon while going through Dijon. As a conclusion, traveling in France became easier and some main Burgundian towns like Dijon and Beaune became major touristic places. Today, Burgundy is visited because of its production of wine, its historical traditions, its food, and its architectural and artistic identity.