**The Rebellion of 1173-74**

Sort the following into causes of the Rebellion against Henry II and reasons for Henry II’s victory.

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| Public opinion believed that the Rebellion was a punishment from God brought upon Henry II because of his involvement in the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170 | The catalyst for the rebellion was the marriage settlement for Prince John. Henry bequeathed 3 castles, Chinon, Loudon and Mirebeau in the heart of Anjou which angered Henry the Young King | Popular opinion was against the rebellion, women and children lined the roads to throw stones at the rebel forces on their march from East Anglia to the Midlands in 1173 |
| Public opinion also pointed the blame for the rebellion on Eleanor of Aquitaine, she was seen to stir her young sons to join the revolt against Henry II | Following Henry II’s pilgrimage to the shrine of St Thomas in July 1174 and public act of penance to ask for absolution the tide turned against the rebel forces | Jones argues that Henry the Young King rebelled because “despite his exalted position as his father’s heir, the Young King was also, paradoxically, denied the real fruits of Kingship.” |
| Jones argues that Eleanor rebelled because, “In 1173 Eleanor was as politically disenchanted as her eldest son.” | Henry II benefited from having highly competent subordinates across his territories who remained loyal and refused to support the rebellion | Henry’s forces were packed with fearsome Barbanter mercenaries; costly but highly skilled, mobile and vicious |
| Carpenter argues that “the explosion within the royal family provided an opportunity for all Henry’s internal and external foes.” The rebel barons supported the Young Henry to settle their own grievances with Henry II. | Barber argues that Louis VII if France “did not wish the new ruler (of Angevin territories) to merely replace the old; he was chiefly interested in weakening the towering edifice of authority built by Henry which now overshadowed his small territories.” | Henry II believed Eleanor bore the responsibility for his sons rebelling against him. He had the archbishop of Rouen write a letter to his wife reminding her of the duty “to return with your sons to the husband you must obey and with whom it is your duty to live.” |
| Henry’s cruel psychological punishment of Eleanor after the rebellion had ended signified that he blamed her. Eleanor was imprisoned in various royal castles in the South of England, exiled from her beloved Aquitaine during Henry’s lifetime | The rebel strategy during 1173 was according to Jones “elementary and unsuccessful.” They tried to open multiple fronts and spread their forces too thinly. This played to Henry’s strengths as he was the master at moving at pace; he crossed Normandy from Rouen to Dol in just 2 days | William of Newburgh claimed Henry’s victory over the rebels owed much to “an abundant hoard of money in the royal treasury”. Henry was able to hire Brabantine mercenaries; therefore Henry’s financial and administrative reforms of the 1160s were key to victory. |
| Louis VII resented the extent of Henry II territory in France. | Louis VII was exposed as a bad general and a dreary and listless leader during the Rebellion | Richard de Lucy, justicair of England supported Henry II through loyalty and bonds of service |
| The use of Flemish mercenaries in England by rebel leaders earl of Leicester and Hugh Bigod resurrected memories of the Anarchy and turned the general population against the rebels | The rebels took full opportunity of Henry II’s disgrace following Becket’s murder. Although the pope pardoned Henry in 1172, Christendom did not. Louis VII and Theobald Count of Blois supported the Young Henry’s rebellion because Beckett’s murder had deprived Henry II his right to rule. | It was a popular misconception that Eleanor rebelled because she had been discarded by Henry for his mistress Rosamund Clifford and that she resented the influence of the Empress Matilda (impossible because she had died in 1167!) |
| The rebellion was hindered by William the Lion’s wild rashness. The Scottish King made little impression on Henry’s northern Castles and he was hampered by a lack of siege engines | Henry was helped to victory due to the loyalty of the towns. The Londoners were praised as men who “never failed their rightful lord”, whilst Rouen held out against the rebels siege. | Chronicler Peter of Blois blamed the rebellion on the Young King’s advisors. Henry the Younger had acted “unadvisedly, by the counsel and suggestions of a treacherous faction.” |
| Henry II’s actions were to blame for the rebellion, he refused to give his sons real power and authority despite bestowing upon them titles and honours. He gave parts of Aquitaine away (Gascony as a dowry for his daughter Eleanor when she married the King of Castile) without consulting his wife. | Barber argues that perhaps the most important factor in Henry II’s victory was that he “showed himself a confident, able, and energetic general, inspiring his followers, dismaying his enemies.” | The rebellion failed because it was a loose coalition of disparate forces enticed into uprising against Henry II by overblown promises of territory and money by Henry the Young King. He promised to give away Kent, Mortan, Touraine and £1000’s in revenue to buy support |
| Henry II’s strategy of castle building and restoration proved to work well during the rebellion. The Scottish King, William the Lion had been unable to take the castle of Wark, Carlisle and Prudhoe and his forces were captured attempting to besiege Alnwick Castle in July 1174 signifying the end of the rebellion in England | Mortimer argues that the rebellion allowed barons to settle their grievances with one another, for example the Mobray’s conflict with the Stutevilles, “old rivalries and specific discontents thus account for many of the participants.” | Barber argues bonds of loyalty worked well for Henry II and enabled him to crush the rebels. Geoffrey, bishop elect of Lincoln (Henry’s illegitimate son) stayed loyal as did his uncle Reginald earl of Cornwall. The earl of Cornwall won the decisive battle at Fornham where the King’s forces were outnumbers 4:1. |
| Henry II’s greater finances enabled him to buy the allegiance of those who may not have offered it freely. Many French barons were won over to the King because he greased their palms. | Ralph Diceto, dean of St Paul’s believed the barons rebelled because Henry II was too heavy handed in his rule, too keen to assert his royal authority through the Assize of Clarendon, Carte Baronum and the Inquest of Sheriffs | William the Lion (King of Scotland) rebelled because there would be no better time to restore the Kingdom of Scotland’s territories to that of King David. |
| Despite his quarrel with the Church, the Church remained supportive of Henry II and did not aid the rebels. | The frustrated masculinity of the young king lay at the central heart of the rebellion. Crowned in 1170 and again in 1172 with his young queen, Henry the Young King took it badly that his father did not assign him any territory where he could live with his wife | Jordan Fantosome (a contemporary poet) noted at the outset of his poem about the war of 1173-74, “a king without a realm is at a loss for something to do: at such a loss was the noble and gracious Young King” |
| Carpenter argues that the grievances of the barons of England and Normandy were “starkly apparent.” Hugh, earl of Chester had not succeeded the lands promised by Henry; Earl William de Ferrers was denied the title earl of Derby; Hugh Bigod had been forced to pay £666 to recover castles and suffered the humiliation of the royal Castle of Orford built and Robert earl of Leicester had to pay scutage | The ambitions of Louis VII lay at the heart of the rebellion; he enthusiastically supported the frustrations of his son-in-law, so much so that Jones argues that “Henry the Young King served mainly as a puppet for Louis VII and those allies who wished to erode Henry II whenever they could.” | Barber argues that a key reason for the barons rebelling was “the movement towards centralisation of government and repression of baronial independence.” Moreover, knowing Henry II’s temper the barons did not envisage a complete reconciliation with his sons and were therefore prepared to exploit the family division for their own ends. |

* **Categorise the reasons for the rebellion and develop them with your own knowledge**
* **Sort the reasons into order of importance**
* **Categorise the reasons for Henry II’s victory over the rebels and develop them with your own knowledge**
* **Sort the reasons into order of importance**
* **How serious was the rebellion of 1173-74 to Henry II’s authority?**