

The Longman  
Companion to  
Renaissance Europe,  
1390-1530

Stella Fletcher

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Longman Companions To History



*The Longman Companion to*  
Renaissance Europe 1390–1530

## **Longman Companions to History**

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*The Longman Companion to*

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# Renaissance Europe 1390–1530

**Stella Fletcher**

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# Preface

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This *Companion* is designed to be of use to a wide range of students who find themselves under the inter-disciplinary umbrella of Renaissance studies, whether their primary interest lies in history, literature, art history or elsewhere. It is hoped that it will answer straightforward questions of the 'who', 'what', 'where' and 'when' variety. The format does not lend itself, however, to answering 'why' questions, though it is fervently hoped that students of the period will assimilate the raw material provided here and be encouraged to devise questions of their own. If they make connections between the various disciplines represented in this volume, then it will have served its purpose.

The format of the *Companion* has been determined by both the primary and secondary sources available for pre-Reformation Europe. While modern history provides the scholar with a great variety and a great quantity of information that is easily adapted to this type of study, sources for the period labelled, for convenience, 'Renaissance' are considerably less uniform and have survived much more patchily. Thus the secondary literature available in English presents the student with a uneven impression of Europe, in which some regions or topics are covered in immense detail – many aspects of the history of fifteenth-century Florence provide cases in point – while others receive only cursory attention. To some extent these strengths and weaknesses are reflected in the material presented here, though an attempt has been made to create a geographical balance as well as an inter-disciplinary one.

It has not proved possible to create a comprehensive picture of even the western half of Europe during a long fifteenth century, let alone the East. Topics have been selected for the ease with which they suit the format of a work of reference. Thus there are some obvious lacunae in the realm of social history, including gender and domestic life, which have received considerable scholarly attention in recent years. Each of the topics which were finally selected was analysed with a view to deciding on the most immediately useful way of presenting the information. Thus a chronological approach seemed appropriate for some and a biographical approach for others. Biographical material has not been placed in a discrete section, because there was a danger that it would overwhelm and unbalance the volume: a reflection of that much-celebrated Renaissance individualism? Readers should therefore make full use of

the index, in which the principal reference to an individual appears in bold type. Similarly, there is no general glossary of terms, though particular glossaries are provided where appropriate.

The period 1390 to 1530 was chosen for a combination of cultural and political reasons, commencing as it did with the arrival in Florence of the Greek scholar Manuel Chrysoloras in 1397 and the development of civic humanism shortly afterwards, and concluding with the Sack of Rome in 1527 and the death of Pope Clement VII in 1534. These choices may be considered an Italianate indulgence, though it is hoped that the material covered in this volume provides a reasonably balanced coverage of the political and cultural life of western Europe.

Though the term 'Renaissance' has been employed here as shorthand for 'late medieval and early modern' or 'fifteenth- and sixteenth-century', it is nevertheless fitting to say something about its significance, for this explains the cultural emphasis not only of this volume but also of the abundance of literature generated by the word itself. The term 'Renaissance' (literally 'rebirth'), employed by the nineteenth-century French historian Jules Michelet with reference to the history of his own country, but thereafter inextricably associated with the history of late medieval and early modern Italy thanks to Jacob Burckhardt's seminal *Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860), is as evocative as it is nebulous. What was reborn, revived, resurrected? Essentially knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, Greek and Latin literature. The heroes of ancient Greece and Rome lived once more, in the minds, manuscripts and, later, printed books of men of letters. From that root stemmed multi-faceted and interconnected interests in the classical past, its history, personalities, philosophy and ethics, politics, poetry and visual arts. For some, Cicero became the ultimate arbiter of life in civilised society. If Plautus wrote a particular kind of drama, then that was drama to be emulated. In the visual arts, knowledge of classical sculpture was essential to Michelangelo's figures, sculpted and painted; if the ancients emphasised solidity of muscle then he did too, rejecting sinewy, pared-away Gothic. In Rome this obsession was inevitably exceptionally strong, since the Romans lived among or even within the ruins of the ancient civilisation. Yet, in spite of their knowledge of the classical world, devotees rarely deviated from allegiance to Christianity. For the purposes of the present exercise, though, 'Renaissance' is being used to refer to the period of time in which this cultural phenomenon was experienced and any student of the period ought to be able to appreciate the flexibility of the term.

The existence of Rosemary O'Day's *Longman Companion to the Tudor Age* and the more recent *Longman Companion to the European Reformation, c. 1500–1618* by Mark Greengrass means that the politics and culture of early Tudor England, as well as the convulsions of the Reformation, can be dealt with in cursory fashion here. It is, on the other hand, a serious

distortion to divide Renaissance from Reformation in so brutal a manner, a fact which all students of the period should be urged to remember. Two other dangerous distortions are, however, avoided, the first being that of the traditionally over-emphasised divide between late medieval and early modern. It is highly improbable that anyone woke on 1 January (or 1 March or 15 March, depending on the preferred calendar) 1501 and declared himself to be an early modern man. Second, in reaction to the privileging of English history in syllabuses at all levels, many of the distinctive preoccupations of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century English historians find no place in this volume. Instead, emphasis is placed rather on connections, political, ecclesiastical and cultural, between England and its neighbours, both insular and continental.

In the preparation of a volume which attempts to balance so many disciplines, advice was sought about what students might require from it and how their requirements might be met. I am, in consequence, grateful to Francis Ames-Lewis, Michael Hicks, Robert Knecht and Shayne Mitchell for the readiness with which they shared their expertise, but particularly to Michael Mallett for commenting in detail on a earlier version of the text. Encouragement and practical assistance was also provided by Chris Aldous, Elaine Anderson, Brenda and Frank Fletcher, Colin Haydon and Colin Jones. Commissioning Editor Hilary Shaw and General Editor John Stevenson repeatedly quelled the anxieties of a novice author.

Stella Fletcher  
October 1998

Written with Warwick students in mind

# 1 Chronology of public events, 1378–1534

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The emphasis in this general chronology is on politics and inter-state relations. Intellectual life, the visual arts and extra-European exploration are among the themes treated chronologically elsewhere in this volume.

## 1378

**8 Apr.:** Election of Bartolomeo Prignano as Urban VI.

**June–Aug.:** Revolt of the Ciompi: Florentine wool workers reacted to the economic impact of war with the papacy (War of the Eight Saints) and demanded their own guilds, which they enjoyed for a short while.

**9 Aug.:** French cardinals at Anagni declared Urban's election invalid.

**20 Sept.:** Election of Robert of Geneva as antipope Clement VII by rebel cardinals at Fondi created a papal schism.

**29 Nov.:** Death of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV.

## 1381

**June–July:** Peasants' Revolt in England.

**Aug.:** Conclusion of the three-year War of Chioggia against Genoa left Venice as the dominant naval power in the Mediterranean.

## 1384

Florentine conquest of Arezzo.

**20 Aug.:** Death of Geert Groote, founder of the quasi-monastic Brethren of the Common Life at Deventer and the spiritual revival known as the *Devotio moderna* (modern devotion), with both of which Erasmus was later associated.

**31 Dec.:** Death of Oxford philosopher and theologian John Wycliffe, whose attacks on ecclesiastical authority and the doctrine of transubstantiation were condemned by the Church, but inspired English Lollards and Bohemian Hussites.

## 1385

Ottoman conquest of Sofia.

**14 Aug.:** Portuguese victory at the battle of Aljubarrota ensured their independence from Castile.

**1386**

**18 Feb.:** Marriage of Władysław Jagiełło of Lithuania, who converted from paganism to Christianity, and Jadwiga of Poland resulted in the creation of a united Poland–Lithuania, though formal union did not occur until 1401.

**May:** Giangaleazzo Visconti's coup against his uncle Bernabò, lord of Milan, secured him the entire Visconti inheritance.

**1387**

War between the khan of the Golden Horde and the Mongol ruler Timur (Tamerlane, d. 1405) until 1396.

**9 Apr.:** Ottoman conquest of Salonica, the second largest city of what remained of the Byzantine empire.

**1388**

**19 Aug.:** Scots defeated the English at the battle of Otterburn.

**27 Aug.:** Ottomans defeated at Ploshnik by Bosnians allied with Serbia and Bulgaria.

**1389**

**Feb.:** Building on Scandinavian fears of German dominance in the region, Margrete of Denmark conquered Sweden and thereby engineered the union of the crowns of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, embodied in the 1397 Union of Kalmar.

**15 June:** Sultan Murâd I assassinated on the morning of the first battle of Kosovo, in which the Serbians and their allies were massacred, a victory which confirmed Ottoman rule in the Balkans while leaving Constantinople even more isolated.

**15 Oct.:** Death of the Roman pope Urban VI.

**2 Nov.:** election of Pietro Tomacelli as Boniface IX.

**1390**

For four months from **Apr.**, John VII Palaeologos reigned as Byzantine emperor in defiance of his grandfather John V, but with the support of Sultan Bâyezîd. Florentine acquisition of Montepulciano. Outbreak of war between republican Florence and Gian Galeazzo Visconti's Milan, the latter being in expansionist mode; Hans Baron (d. 1988) interpreted this conflict, which lasted until 1402, as a war for the defence of liberty against a tyrannical regime, a Florentine David versus a Milanese Goliath.

**1392**

League of Bologna formed by Florence, Padua, Ferrara, Mantua and Bologna in an attempt to halt Milanese expansion.

**5 Aug.:** Charles VI of France suffered his first bout of mental incapacity, after which his uncle Philip the Bold, duke of Burgundy, became the

dominant figure in French political life until 1400, when civil war erupted between rival noble factions.

### 1393

Danubian Bulgaria annexed by the Ottomans.

### 1394

**Sept.:** Beginning of the Ottoman land blockade of Constantinople which lasted until 1402, but which Venetians were able to break by sea.

**16 Sept.:** Death of the Avignonese antipope Clement VII.

**28 Sept.:** Election of Pedro de Luna as Benedict XIII, the second antipope at Avignon.

### 1395

Gian Galeazzo Visconti of Milan purchased the title of duke from Emperor Wenceslas.

### 1396

**9 Mar.:** Twenty-eight years' truce signed at Leulinghen between England and France, under which no further hostilities occurred until 1403, and Charles VI's daughter Isabel married Richard II of England.

**25 Sept.:** Battle of Nicopolis in Bulgaria, in which the Christian forces of Sigismund of Hungary, Venice and France were led by John the Fearless, future duke of Burgundy, to a decisive defeat at Ottoman hands; Burgundian leadership and financing of this 'crusade of Nicopolis' increased the international standing of these semi-detached French dukes; Sigismund escaped unscathed.

**25 Oct.:** Charles VI of France became overlord of Genoa until 1409.

### 1397

**20 July:** Union of Kalmar formally united the crowns of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

**1 Oct.:** Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici transferred his main banking office from Rome to Florence, thereby founding the Medici Bank as generally understood.

### 1398

French obedience to the Avignonese antipope withdrawn, leaving the kingdom with allegiance to neither claimant until 1403.

**Sept.:** Henry Bolingbroke, duke of Hereford, and Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk banished by Richard II as a result of a dispute between them.

### 1399

**5 Aug.:** Lithuanians defeated by Mongols at the River Vorskla.

**29–30 Sept.:** Deposition of Richard II and Bolingbroke's succession as Henry IV of England.

**10 Dec.:** After fighting through the Ottoman blockade of Constantinople, Jean le Meignre, the 'worthy' Marshal Boucicaut (1365–1421), began the return journey to the West, joined by the Byzantine emperor Manuel II Palaeologus; Manuel's nephew and co-emperor John VII was left in command in Constantinople.

### 1400

In the course of continued Milanese expansion, Perugia accepted Gian Galeazzo Visconti as its *signore*. Beginning of a campaign by Louis, duke of Orléans, to acquire greater power in France, taking advantage of Charles VI's periodic mental incapacity.

**14 Feb.:** Richard II murdered at Berkeley Castle.

**Apr.:** Manuel II's arrival in Venice, from where he travelled to Milan, reaching Paris by June and London in Sept., seeking support for beleaguered Byzantium.

**21 Aug.:** Disputed election of Rupert of the Palatinate to replace Emperor Wenceslas; the votes came from the three ecclesiastical electors and Rupert himself in a move opposed by the other three imperial electors.

**From Sept.:** The Welsh under Owain Glyn Dŵr repeatedly revolted against English rule until 1410.

**Oct.:** Paolo Guinigi effectively became *signore* of otherwise republican Lucca.

### 1401

**18 Jan.:** Formal union of Poland and Lithuania under a single crown.

**Sept.:** The army of Rupert of the Palatinate, king of the Romans and uncrowned Holy Roman Emperor, descended into Italy in traditional imperial fashion, only to be repulsed by a Milanese victory near Brescia (21 Oct.) and retreat back over the mountains in Apr. 1402.

### 1402

**26 June:** Significant Milanese victory over Florence at Casalecchio, leading to the submission of Bologna to Gian Galeazzo Visconti and the effective encirclement of Florence by Milanese forces.

**28 July:** Timur's decisive defeat of Ottoman forces at Ankara meant a reprieve for blockaded Constantinople and prevented the Turks renewing their European advance for some years; there followed a power struggle among sons of Sultan Bâyezid I until 1413.

**3 Sept.:** Death of Gian Galeazzo Visconti meant the relief of Florence.

### 1403

**28 May:** France returned to the obedience of Benedict XIII in Avignon, a sign of Philip the Bold's loss of control over policy.

**9 June:** Manuel II returned to Constantinople.

**July-Aug.:** Rebellion in England by the Percy earl of Northumberland and his allies.

**21 July:** Percys defeated at the battle of Shrewsbury by Henry IV; Northumberland's son, Henry Percy, called 'Hotspur', was killed in this encounter.

**Nov.:** Resumption of war between England and France.

#### 1404

**Apr.:** Venetian conquest of Vicenza, previously held by the Della Scala of Verona.

**27 Apr.:** Death of Philip the Bold at Hal, near Brussels, left Louis, duke of Orléans, as the dominant force in French government.

**1 Oct.:** Death of the Roman pontiff Boniface IX.

**17 Oct.:** Election of Cosimo de' Migliorati as Innocent VII.

#### 1405

**June:** Venetian conquest of Verona.

**14 Sept.:** League of Marbach united princes and Free Imperial Cities against Rupert of the Palatinate.

**19 Nov.:** Venetian conquest of Padua, previously held by the Carrara family, after a siege of more than a year.

#### 1406

**30 Mar.:** James I of Scotland taken prisoner and held in England until 1424.

**9 Oct.:** Florentine conquest of Pisa, the city having previously been held by Louis of Orléans.

**6 Nov.:** Death of the Roman pope Innocent VII.

**30 Nov.:** Election of the Venetian Angelo Correr as Gregory XII.

**25 Dec.:** Accession of Juan II of Castile, a minor, sparked off a period of instability in which his mother, Catalina of Lancaster, and paternal uncle, Fernando, were joint but mutually hostile regents; Muhammad VII of Granada took this opportunity to invade Castile.

#### 1407

**23 Nov.:** Louis, duke of Orléans, assassinated in Paris by supporters of John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy.

#### 1408

Rebellion in Liège against Burgundian rule.

**21 Apr.:** Rome occupied by Ladislas of Durazzo, king of Naples.

**May:** French neutrality again declared in the papal schism debate.

**29 June:** Thirteen cardinals, from Rome and Avignon, summoned a General Council at Pisa to resolve the schism; Benedict XIII left Avignon and retired to his native Aragon.

**1409**

Death of Martí of Sicily and Sardinia resulted in the rule of those islands by the kings of Aragon. Rule over Genoa passed from France to Teodoro da Monferrato. War between Florence and Naples until 1414.

**18 Jan.:** Czech ‘nation’ granted control of the University of Prague, leading to it becoming a Hussite stronghold.

**Mar.:** Opening of the General Council of the Church at Pisa.

**5 June:** Council of Pisa deposed both Gregory XII and Benedict XIII.

**26 June:** Election by the Council of Pisa of the Cretan Petros Philargis, archbishop of Milan, as Alexander V.

**1410**

League of French princes, headed by Bernard, count of Armagnac, formed to counter the ambitions of John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy, thereby fuelling civil war between Armagnacs (Orléanists) and Burgundians. Capture of Antequera from Granada after a five-month siege by the Castilian regent Fernando (thereafter known as ‘Ferdinand of Antequera’) was an important Christian victory in the ongoing *reconquista*.

**9 Mar.:** Alexander V published an anti-Wycliffite Bull aimed at Jan Hus, who advocated some of the Englishman’s heretical opinions.

**3 May:** Death of the Pisan pope Alexander V.

**17 May:** Election of Baldassare Cossa as antipope John XXIII in succession to Alexander.

**18 May:** Death of Rupert of the Palatinate.

**19 May:** Victory in a naval battle led to Louis II, duke of Anjou, temporarily occupying the throne of Naples, though he was soon forced out by Ladislas of Durazzo, who had been crowned king in 1390.

**31 May:** Death of Martí I created a succession crisis in Aragon, his son having predeceased him in 1409.

**15 July:** Battle of Tannenberg (Grünwald), in which the Teutonic Knights were defeated by Polish forces, thereby heralding a decline in their fortunes.

**20 Sept.:** Sigismund, king of Hungary, elected Holy Roman Emperor.

**1 Oct.:** Election of Jost of Moravia to the same post created a schism in the Empire.

**1411**

Constantinople again besieged by Ottomans.

**18 Jan.:** Death of Jost of Moravia ended the imperial schism.

**1 Feb.:** First peace of Toruń (Thorn) resulted in territorial losses for the Teutonic Order.

**Feb.:** Hus excommunicated.

**19 May:** Battle of Roccasecca, a victory over Ladislas of Durazzo by a papal–Florentine–Angevin alliance; addition of Cortona to the expanding Florentine state, the city having been held by Ladislas since 1409.

**21 July:** Re-election of Sigismund of Luxemburg as Holy Roman Emperor focused attention on the continuing papal schism.

**Oct.:** Peace agreed between Castile and Portugal.

#### 1412

**16 May:** Assassination of Giovanni Maria Visconti, duke of Milan.

**June:** Occupation of Rome by Ladislas of Durazzo caused John XXIII to flee to Florence.

**24 June:** By the Compromise of Caspe the throne of Aragon was offered to the Castilian prince Ferdinand of Antequera, who thereafter ruled as king of Aragon and regent of Castile until his death in 1416; this measure was an important step along the road to the ultimate unification of Aragon and Castile.

#### 1413

Deposition of Heinrich von Plauen, High Master of the Teutonic Knights, after his unsuccessful attempts to reform their order.

**23 May:** Anglo-Burgundian alliance.

**5 July:** A battle near Sofia confirmed Mehmet I as victor in the Ottoman internecine power struggle.

**30 Oct.:** Emperor Sigismund initiated a proposal for a General Council at Constance to solve the papal schism.

#### 1414

In England, Lollard revolts led by Sir John Oldcastle were decisively quashed.

**6 Aug.:** Death of Ladislas of Durazzo, thereby ending his dream of creating an Italian kingdom.

**5 Nov.:** Opening of the Council of Constance, in session until 1418.

#### 1415

**Feb.:** Council of Constance instructed all three papal claimants to resign.

**20 Mar.:** Flight of John XXIII from Constance, but he was soon caught.

**29 May:** Deposition of John XXIII at Constance ended the confusion created by the Council of Pisa.

**4 July:** Reluctant abdication of Gregory XII.

**6 July:** Jan Hus burned for heresy at Constance, where he had gone under an imperial safe-conduct to defend his orthodoxy.

**11 Aug.:** Invasion of France by Henry V of England.

**22 Sept.:** Fall of the strategically important port of Harfleur in Normandy to the English.

**25 Oct.:** Battle of Agincourt, south of Calais, a remarkable English victory, late in the campaigning season, against vastly superior French numbers; the English were not in a position to build on this success and merely returned home, though not without important prisoners including Charles, duke of Orléans, and Marshal Boucicaut.

**1416**

**Jan.:** Benedict XIII, at Peñíscola in Aragon, lost the support of Ferdinand of Antequera, a decision which precipitated the end of the papal schism.

**1 May:** Emperor Sigismund, allied with the Iberian monarchs, arrived in England on a peace mission which also took him to France, with the aim of uniting the Christian powers to counter the Ottoman threat.

**29 May:** In a war lasting until 1419, the Ottoman fleet was defeated at Gallipoli by Venetian naval forces under Pietro Loredan.

**30 May:** Hussite Jerome of Prague burned as a heretic at Constance.

**15 Aug.:** Treaty of Canterbury between Henry V and Emperor Sigismund.

**Sept.:** Anglo-French truce.

**Oct.:** Secret Anglo-Burgundian alliance formed.

**1417**

**12 Jan.:** Rouen, capital of Normandy, taken by Burgundians.

**26 July:** Benedict XIII deposed by the Council of Constance, as he had been at Pisa eight years earlier.

**Aug.–Sept.:** Many towns around Paris fell to Burgundian forces.

**8 Sept.:** English capture of Caen in Normandy.

**9 Oct.:** Decree *Frequens* called for regular General Councils of the Church.

**18 Oct.:** Death of Angelo Correr, formerly Gregory XII.

**11 Nov.:** Election of Oddone Colonna, a member of the powerful Roman baronial family, as Martin V effectively healed the schism.

**1418**

War between Venice and Hungary until 1420, from which the former emerged with territorial gains in Friuli and Istria.

**16 Mar.:** Coutances taken by the English.

**22 Apr.:** Conclusion of the Council of Constance.

**Late May:** Burgundian troops took control of Paris and, with it, of Charles VI.

**28 May:** Meaux fell to the Dauphin Charles (the future Charles VII).

**June:** Bernard, count of Armagnac, killed, after which the dauphin became leader of the Armagnac faction.

**24 June:** Constitution of the Hanseatic League agreed by cities engaged in Baltic trade.

**21 July:** Compiègne fell to the dauphin.

**19 Sept.:** Publication of the treaty of Saint-Maur-des-Fossés between the dauphin and John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy.

**Oct.:** Papal court in residence at Mantua until Feb. 1419, after which it moved to Florence.

**30 Dec.:** Tours taken by the dauphin.

**1419**

Ottoman war with Hungary.

**19 Jan.:** Rouen fell to the English.

**30 May–30 June:** Negotiations between Henry V, the dauphin and Burgundians at Melun, but no general agreement reached.

**29 July:** Peace of Melun agreed between the dauphin and the Burgundians.

**13 July:** Pontoise fell to the English.

**30 July:** Acts of violence marked the beginning of the Hussite Revolt in Bohemia, where a state of war existed until 1433.

**10 Sept.:** Supposed parley between Dauphinists and Burgundians on the bridge at Montereau, south-east of Paris, was the opportunity for the dauphin's supporters to assassinate John the Fearless, in consequence of which Philip the Good became the third Valois duke of Burgundy; Philip soon allied with Henry V against the dauphin.

**22 Nov.:** Death of John XXIII, whose body was placed in a magnificent tomb in the Florentine Baptistery at the expense of Cosimo de' Medici.

**2 Dec.:** Anglo-Burgundian alliance.

## 1420

Emperor Sigismund crowned king of Bohemia, but rapidly driven from Prague by Hussite rebels led by Jan Žižka; between 1420 and 1436 the Hussites refused to recognise Sigismund as their king; as early as 1420, though, divisions grew among the Hussites between extreme Taborites and moderate Calixtines. Venice extended her *terraferma* possessions by acquiring Belluno and Feltre.

**Feb.:** Martin V reached agreed terms with the *condottiere* Braccio da Montone (Fortebraccio), who controlled much of central Italy and was therefore a key to the papacy returning to Rome.

**21 May:** Treaty of Troyes, by the terms of which Henry V of England married Catherine, daughter of Charles VI, and was acknowledged as her father's regent and heir, while the dauphin was disinherited.

**July:** The four Articles of Prague defined Hussite beliefs on freedom of preaching, communion in both kinds (Utraquism) for the laity, an end to the Church's secular powers and the punishment of serious sins committed by clerics.

**Aug.:** Arrival in the kingdom of Naples of Alfonso 'the Magnanimous', king of Aragon and Sicily, adopted as heir to Giovanna II, last of the so-called first Neopolitan House of Anjou; between 1420 and 1434 Louis III, duke of Anjou, campaigned for the Angevin cause in Naples.

**Sept.:** Martin V entered Rome.

## 1421

Renewed dynastic conflict in the Ottoman empire followed the death of Sultan Mehmet I. Philip the Good acquired Namur by purchase. Florentine purchase of Livorno on the Tuscan coast.

**22 May:** The dauphin ended Henry V's run of military success with victory at the battle of Baugé in Anjou.

**2 Nov.:** Filippo Maria Visconti of Milan conquered Genoa.

**1422**

Territorial war between Florence and Milan until 1426.

**2 June–6 Sept.:** Constantinople once more besieged by the Ottomans, but resisted due to the city's strong defences and the weakness of the Ottoman navy.

**31 Aug.:** Death of Henry V left his brother John, duke of Bedford (d. 1435), as English regent in France while another brother, Humphrey, duke of Gloucester (d. 1447) and their uncle Cardinal Henry Beaufort (d. 1447) were the infant Henry VI's chief councillors in England.

**21 Oct.:** Death of Charles VI resulted in the ten-month-old Henry VI being king of both England and France by the terms of the treaty of Troyes, though this was disputed by Charles VII, the former dauphin and *roi de Bourges*, so called from his power base in the southern half of the kingdom.

**1423**

Salonica ceded to Venice by its Byzantine rulers, the city thereafter becoming the focus of war between Venice and the Ottomans until 1430. Loss of the Morea to the Ottomans.

**Apr.:** Opening of the General Council of Pavia–Siena in compliance with *Frequens*.

**23 May:** Death of Benedict XIII.

**10 June:** Election of the Catalan Gil Sanchez Muñoz as Clement VIII, in succession to Benedict.

**1 July:** Louis III of Anjou adopted as heir to the throne of Naples by Giovanna II.

**Nov.:** John VIII Palaeologus left Constantinople to seek support for Byzantium in Venice, Milan and Hungary.

**1424**

**22 Feb.:** Peace treaty between the Ottomans and Byzantium took pressure off Constantinople, while attention was still fixed on the Venetian defence of Salonica.

**7 Mar.:** Dissolution of the Council of Pavia–Siena.

**2 June:** Battle of Aquila, a victory by Francesco Sforza for Giovanna of Naples over Alfonso's commander Braccio da Montone, who died three days later.

**July:** Milanese military dominance over Florence confirmed by victory in the battle of Zaganara in the Romagna.

**17 Aug.:** Defeat of Charles VII by the English, led by John, duke of Bedford, at the battle of Verneuil completed the English conquest of Normandy.

**11 Oct.:** Death of Jan Žižka, leader of the Taborite Hussites.

**Oct.:** Until Nov. 1425, Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, was engaged in military ventures in Hainault in support of his wife Jacqueline of Bavaria's claim, which were threatened by Philip of Burgundy.

**1 Nov.:** John VIII returned to Constantinople having failed to secure support for Byzantium in Latin Christendom.

#### 1425

Rise of Procopius the Bald as a Hussite leader in Bohemia. An obscure cleric called Bernard Garnier took the name Benedict XIV in a French reaction against the Spanish antipope Clement VIII.

**4 Dec.:** Alliance between Florence and Venice led to a sequence of wars between Venice and Milan for territorial domination of northern Italy.

#### 1426

**20 Nov.:** Capture of Milanese-held Brescia for Venice by Francesco Bussone, count of Carmagnola.

#### 1427

Institution of the Florentine *catasto*, a means-test for property taxation. Escalation of conflict in the Balkans between Ottomans and Hungarians. Cardinal Henry Beaufort's ineffective crusade against the Hussites.

**11 Oct.:** Battle of Maclodio, a victory over Carlo Malatesta for Milan by the Venetian forces of Carmagnola, with the consequence that Bergamo passed into Venetian hands.

#### 1428

**26 May:** Treaty of Ferrara agreed peace between Florence, Venice and Milan, Brescia and Bergamo being ceded to Venice by Milan.

**3 July:** By the treaty of Delft Philip the Good reinforced his claim to Hainault, Holland, Freisland and Zeeland; it was to counter this claim that Philip's cousin Jacqueline, countess of Bavaria, had married Humphrey, duke of Gloucester.

**12 Oct.:** English troops began to besiege the strategically important city of Orléans.

#### 1429

**20 Feb.:** Death of Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici, leaving his son Cosimo as head of the family and its business interests.

**23 Feb.:** The teenage girl known as Jeanne d'Arc (hereafter Joan of Arc) from Domrémy, near the French border with Lorraine, prompted by heavenly voices to save the French cause, identified Charles VII among a crowd of courtiers at Chinon – this was regarded as a positive omen; although her subsequent career was not militarily important, her presence was crucial to the raising of French morale.

**29 Apr.:** Entry of Joan of Arc into Orléans.

**8 May:** Relief of Orléans from the besieging Anglo-Burgundian forces, who retreated.

**18 June:** Joan's victory over the English, under the command of John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, and Sir John Fastolf, at Patay, west of Orléans.

**17 July:** Charles VII crowned at Reims with Joan at his side: the climax of her career.

**26 July:** Resignation of the Spanish antipope Clement VIII.

**Nov.:** Florentine declaration of war on Lucca, the small neighbouring Tuscan republic which Florence had long sought to conquer; Lucca received support from Milan in a conflict which lasted until Apr. 1433.

### 1430

Philip the Good acquired Brabant and Limburg upon the death of their ruler, Philip of Saint Pol.

**10 Jan.:** Philip announced the foundation of the Order of the Golden Fleece, membership of which came to act as a focus for supporters of the Valois dukes of Burgundy against French kings.

**29 Mar.:** Ottoman capture and sack of Salonica after the seven-year Venetian occupation of the city.

**23 May:** Joan of Arc captured by Burgundians at Compiègne.

### 1431

Republic of Genoa controlled by Milan until 1435.

**9 Jan.:** Joan of Arc's trial by pro-Burgundian French clergy opened at Rouen, capital of English-ruled Normandy.

**20 Feb.:** Death of Martin V.

**3 Mar.:** Election of the Venetian patrician Gabriele Condulmer as Eugenius IV.

**30 May:** Joan of Arc burned as a relapsed heretic.

**23 July:** Opening of the General Council of the Church at Basel, again in compliance with *Frequens*.

**Aug.:** Cardinal Giuliano Cesarini's crusade against the Bohemian Hussites defeated on the battlefield at Tauss.

**16 Dec.:** Coronation in Paris of the ten-year-old Henry VI of England as king of France.

**18 Dec.:** Eugenius IV attempted to dissolve the Council of Basel, but its members abided by the spirit of Constance and it remained in session until 1449, but was in schism from 1437.

### 1432

**5 May:** Execution of the *condottiere* Carmagnola for treason against the Venetian state; he had previously been employed by Milan and maintained strong contacts there, regardless of his contract (*condotta*) with Milan's Venetian enemies.

**1 June:** Battle of S. Romano, west of Empoli, in which the forces of Niccolò da Tolentino and Micheletto Attendolo for Florence bettered the Sienese allies of Milan led by Niccolò Piccinino, an encounter later depicted by Paolo Uccello (see p. 212).

**1433**

Confusion over the possession of Hainault was resolved when Jacqueline of Bavaria abdicated in favour of Philip of Burgundy.

**28 Jan.:** Florentine victory against the Lucchese at Collodi, between Lucca and Montecatini.

**26 Apr.:** Conclusion of the war between Florence and Lucca and a temporary peace signed by participants in the Lombard wars.

**31 May:** Emperor Sigismund crowned at Rome.

**7 Sept.:** In Florence, Rinaldo degli Albizzi and his faction had leading members of the Medici family arrested, accusing them of inciting the disastrous war with Lucca; the Medici were exiled to Ancona, Fano, Padua, Rimini, Rome and Venice; exile was a common feature of faction-ridden Italian politics.

**30 Nov.:** Reconciliation at Prague between moderate Hussites and representatives of the Council of Basel.

**15 Dec.:** By the Bull *Dudum sacrum* Eugenius revoked his 1431 decision about the Council.

**1434**

Increased Ottoman aggression in the Balkans countered Hungarian influence in the region.

**29 May:** Short-lived republican revolution in Rome led to the flight (4 June) of Eugenius IV to Florence.

**30 May:** Defeat by Catholics and moderate Hussites of Taborite extremists led by Procopius the Bald at Lipany, east of Prague.

**28 Aug.:** Important victory by Piccinino for Milan over Gattamelata and Niccolò da Tolentino for Venice at Castel Bolognese, between Imola and Faenza.

**29 Sept.:** Cosimo de' Medici recalled to Florence following the appointment in Aug. of a Signoria weighted in his favour; opponents of the Medici, including the Strozzi and Albizzi, were exiled or received alternative penalties.

**9 Oct.:** Cosimo arrived at Florence.

**Oct.:** Cardinal Giovanni Vitelleschi imposed papal authority in Rome, as he did throughout the Patrimony of the Church in subsequent years.

**Dec.:** Treaty between Emperor Sigismund and France precipitated the former's declaration of war on Burgundy, but this came to little.

**1435**

**2 Feb.:** Death of Giovanna II of Naples, bequeathing her kingdom to René of Anjou, who had succeeded to the claim of Louis III upon the latter's death three months earlier; however, within weeks Alfonso of Aragon entered the city of Naples as king.

**4 Aug.:** Battle of Ponza, off Gaeta, a naval confrontation in which a Catalan fleet was defeated by the Genoese, themselves then subject to

Milan; Alfonso of Aragon was captured but came to an agreement with Filippo Maria Visconti.

**5 Aug.:** Congress of Arras opened as tripartite negotiations between England, France and Burgundy, but the English delegation left on 6 Sept.

**15 Sept.:** Death of John, duke of Bedford, English regent in France.

**21 Sept.:** Treaty of Arras marked the apparent reconciliation of Charles VII and Philip the Good, though the French were primarily interested in detaching the Burgundians from their English alliance; France ceded territory to Burgundy, including the controversial 'Somme towns', Saint-Quentin, Corbie, Amiens, Abbeville, Doullens, Saint-Riquier, Crèvecoeur, Arleux and Mortagne.

### 1436

Anglo-Flemish war launched by Humphrey of Gloucester. Genoa rebelled against Milanese rule.

**21 Jan.:** Alfonso of Aragon and Naples placed his brother Joan (Juan) in control of Iberian policy, leaving himself free to concentrate on his Italian interests.

**13 Apr.:** Paris abandoned by the English and recovered by the forces of Charles VII.

**5 July:** Compacts of Prague agreed between Hussites and the Council of Basel, by which the Bohemians were received back into the Church.

**23 Aug.:** Emperor Sigismund's return to Prague after sixteen years in which rebels had kept him out.

### 1437

Flemish revolt against the monetary policies of Philip the Good. Cardinal Vitelleschi's invasion of Naples on behalf of Eugenius IV, the kingdom's nominal overlord, and of the Angevin claim.

**21 Feb.:** James I of Scotland assassinated at Perth by a disaffected subject.

**18 Sept.:** Dissolution of the Council of Basel by Eugenius.

**Nov.:** Byzantine emperor John VIII and Patriarch Joseph II, leading a party which included the young Bessarion, bishop of Nicaea, the Platonist Gemistos Plethon and anti-unionist Markus Eugenikos, left Constantinople for the ecumenical Council at Ferrara, though partisans of the Council at Basel urged them to go there instead.

**12 Nov.:** Entry of Charles VII into Paris.

**9 Dec.:** Death of Emperor Sigismund.

### 1438

Trade war between Holland and the Hanseatic League until 1441.

**8 Jan.:** Opening of the ecumenical Council of Ferrara.

**24 Jan.:** Schismatic Council of Basel suspended Eugenius IV from office, but was powerless to enforce this decision.

**8 Feb.:** John VIII Palaeologus and his party arrived at Venice, from where he proceeded to Ferrara for the Council, arriving 1 Mar.

**18 Mar.:** Election of Albert, Sigismund's son-in-law, as Holy Roman Emperor, the first Habsburg to hold that office.

**From Apr. until June 1442:** René of Anjou in Italy, campaigning for acknowledgement of his claims to the kingdom of Naples and assisted by Francesco Sforza, son of the *condottiere* Muzio Attendolo.

**7 July:** French clergy meeting at Bourges enacted the Pragmatic Sanction to defend Gallican liberties and limit papal authority, particularly with regard to appointments to vacant benefices.

**From July until 1440:** Piccinino's siege of Venetian-held Brescia for Milan, while the Venetian captain, Gattamelata, made a remarkable retreat through the Alpine foothills.

### 1439

Erik of Pomerania, king of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, deposed and exiled.

**10 Jan.:** Ecumenical Council transferred from Ferrara to Florence due to plague and the threatening presence of Piccinino, who invaded the Veronese and Vicentino between Mar. and May.

**25 June:** Eugenius IV formally deposed by the schismatic Council of Basel.

**5 July:** Reunion of the Eastern and Western churches proclaimed in Florence but later rejected by the Orthodox hierarchy in Constantinople.

**Sept.:** Meeting of the French Estates General at Orléans.

**19 Oct.:** Greek delegation left Florence for the journey home.

**27 Oct.:** Death from plague of Emperor Albert, then on campaign against the Turks.

**5 Nov.:** Election by Council of Basel of Amédée VIII of Savoy as Felix V.

### 1440

Rhodes besieged by Egyptian Mamluks until 1444. Ottoman conquest of Serbia checked by their failure to take Belgrade, which encouraged George Castriotes (known as Scanderbeg or Iskender Beg), Hungarians and others. Eugenius IV called for crusade.

**1 Feb.:** John VIII Palaeologus arrived at Constantinople.

**2 Feb.:** Election of Frederick of Styria as Holy Roman Emperor.

**Feb.–July:** French revolt known as the Praguerie (the name deriving from the centre of Hussite rebellion), in which senior nobles, led by the duke of Bourbon and including the Dauphin Louis (the future Louis XI) and duke of Brittany, took arms against Charles VII; Philip of Burgundy was also implicated; revolt suppressed by the king.

**19 Mar.:** Arrest of Cardinal Vitelleschi by order of Eugenius on the grounds that he was becoming too powerful and was thought to be over-ambitious.

**2 Apr.:** Death of Cardinal Vitelleschi.

**14 June:** Siege of Brescia relieved by Francesco Sforza for Venice, after defeating Piccinino's Milanese army.

**29 June:** Battle of Anghiari, near Arezzo, in which Piccinino, for Milan and with Florentine anti-Medicean exiles, was defeated by papal–Florentine forces commanded by Francesco Sforza; this battle was later celebrated pictorially by Leonardo, but caricatured by Machiavelli in arguments against the employment of mercenaries.

**9 Nov.:** Thanks to the intervention of Philip the Good, Charles, duke of Orléans, the noted poet, was released from captivity in England, where he had been held since being captured at Agincourt in 1415.

### 1441

János Hunyadi, *voyvode* of Transylvania, checked the otherwise steady Ottoman advance through the Balkans, doing so again in 1442. English driven out of the Seine valley by their French adversaries.

**10–11 Feb.:** Extravagantly celebrated marriage of Jacopo, son of Venetian doge Francesco Foscari, to Lucrezia Contarini, one of the acts by which this doge appeared to behave in the manner of a non-Venetian prince.

**21 Feb.:** Ravenna seized by Venice from the papal vicar Ostasio da Polenta.

**21–31 Aug.:** *Condottiere* Francesco Sforza and Bianca Maria Visconti, illegitimate daughter of and heir to the duke of Milan, married near Cremona.

**10 Dec.:** Publication of the peace of Cavriana between Venice and Milan, confirming the River Adda as the boundary between them and acknowledging Venetian possession of Ravenna.

### 1442

**Spring:** General Council meeting at Florence transferred to Rome, after which little business was transacted.

**2 June:** Alfonso V entered the city of Naples, which had been besieged since November 1441; René of Anjou's cause was thereby lost, though Eugenius IV later (20 Sept.) invested him with the kingdom, which was a papal fief.

**From June:** French recovered some Gascon lands from the English.

**30 Nov.:** Milanese–papal–Neapolitan alliance against Florence and Venice signalled the pope's rejection of René, who had returned to France in Oct.

### 1443

**From June:** Crusade launched by Władysław of Poland, János Hunyadi and the Serbian despot George Branković. Anti-Turkish resistance in northern Albania continued to be led by Scanderbeg, who was friendly with Hunyadi and supported by Alfonso of Naples, but who was regarded as a threat and an annoyance by Venice.

**6 July:** Eugenius IV formally invested Alfonso with the kingdom of Naples.

**28 Sept.:** Eugenius returned to Rome after ten years in exile.

**Nov.:** Philip of Burgundy acquired Luxemburg by peaceful conquest, though he was already heir to his aunt, Elizabeth of Görlitz.

**3 Nov.:** At the battle of Nisch, near Sofia, crusaders defeated Ottoman forces.

#### 1444

**28 May:** Truce agreed at Tours between the English and French, under the terms of which Henry VI was betrothed to Marguerite (hereafter Margaret), daughter of René of Anjou; negotiations were led on the English side by William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk.

**12 June:** Ten-year truce agreed at Edirne near Constantinople between Christians and Ottomans, by which an independent despotate was restored in Serbia and the Hungarians undertook to keep to their side of the Danube.

**10 Nov.:** Battle of Varna on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, where Hungarian crusaders and their allies were heavily outnumbered by Turks and suffered a serious defeat which ultimately sealed the fate of Byzantium in 1453.

#### 1445

**19 May:** Victory for Álvaro de Luna, Constable of Castile, and the future Enrique IV at Olmedo over an Aragonese force, which had invaded Castile in reaction to Luna's control of government.

#### 1446

**28 Sept.:** In the battle of Casalmaggiore, near Cremona, Venetians under Micheletto Attendolo, cousin of Francesco Sforza, were victorious against Milanese forces.

**29 Dec.:** Alliance between Charles VII of France and Filippo Maria Visconti of Milan.

#### 1447

**Jan.–Feb.:** In view of Venetian expansion in northern Italy, Charles VII of France sought to strengthen his position in that region, but his intervention in Genoa failed.

**18 Feb.:** Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, arrested for treason at Bury St Edmunds, where he died a few days later, probably of natural causes.

**23 Feb.:** Death of Eugenius IV.

**6 Mar.:** Election of the humanist Tommaso Parentucelli as Nicholas V.

**19 Mar.:** With Venetian forces close to Milan itself, an agreement was made between Filippo Maria Visconti and his son-in-law Francesco Sforza.

**11 Apr.:** Death of Cardinal Henry Beaufort left power in England in the hands of Henry VI's favourites.

**13 Aug.:** Death of Filippo Maria Visconti, after which the Ambrosian Republic was proclaimed in Milan.

**30 Aug.:** Sforza allied with the Ambrosian Republic.

**16 Oct.:** Battle of Bosco Marengo, south of Alessandria, at which Bartolomeo Colleoni and Astorre Manfredi for Milan defeated French forces allied with Venice.

### 1448

János Hunyadi campaigning in Serbia.

**17 Feb.:** Concordat of Vienna between the papacy and Frederick, King of the Romans, defused the power of nationalism in the German church; this had been preceded in 1447 by the Concordat of Nuremberg between the papacy and the imperial electors.

**11 Mar.:** England surrendered Maine by the treaty of Lavardin, which extended the Anglo-French truce until Apr. 1450.

**July:** Remnants of the Council of Basel moved to Lausanne.

**19 July:** Battle of Caravaggio, a victory for Francesco Sforza's Milanese over the Venetians commanded by Micheletto Attendolo.

**17–19 Oct.:** Ottoman victory in the second battle of Kosovo was part of their campaign against Scanderbeg; Hunyadi escaped.

**18 Oct.:** Treaty of Rivoltella between Venice and Sforza, the republic acknowledging the latter's lordship of Milan.

### 1449

**24 Mar.:** English raid on Fougères breached the Anglo-French truce and led to the French invasion of Normandy.

**7 Apr.:** Abdication of antipope Felix V.

**25 Apr.:** Council of Lausanne (formerly of Basel) finally dissolved itself.

**10 Sept.:** Fall of Rouen to French forces.

**24 Sept.:** Venice and republican Milan allied against Florence and confirmed their respective territorial holdings.

**24 Nov.:** Port of Harfleur fell to the French.

**27 Dec.:** Francesco Sforza laid siege to Milan.

### 1450

Jubilee year witnessed multitudes of pilgrims in Rome. Sultan Murâd campaigning in Serbia.

**25 Feb.:** Milanese invitation to Francesco Sforza to assume power marked the end of their republican experiment.

**26 Mar.:** Sforza invested as duke of Milan, a position he held with financial support from Cosimo de' Medici, who engineered friendly relations between their respective states after decades of conflict and suspicion.

**2 May:** Death at sea of the duke of Suffolk, following his impeachment as a result of English defeats in France. Further French victories over the English, including the fall of Avranches in May and that of Caen on

24 June, led to the complete French recovery of Normandy, though England yet retained Gascony and Calais.

**Summer:** Rebellions in southern England associated with Jack Cade, Captain of Kent.

**Aug.:** Richard, duke of York, returned to England from Ireland to lead opposition to alleged royal misgovernment.

#### 1451

**28 Apr.:** Defensive league agreed between Venice, Naples, Savoy and Monferrato.

**30 July:** Alliance between Florence and Milan against Venice, which was widely regarded as a threat to neighbouring powers due to her acquisition of a *terraferma* empire at their expense.

**Aug.:** Serious French attempt to reconquer Gascony.

**10 Sept.:** Ottoman peace with Venice.

**20 Nov.:** Ottoman peace with Hungary renewed.

**Winter:** Beginning of insurrection in prosperous Ghent against the rule of Philip the Good, though conflict over tax had existed since 1447.

#### 1452

Year of military preparations for the final Ottoman assault on Constantinople.

**16 Mar.:** Emperor Frederick III crowned in Rome, the last imperial coronation there.

**26 Oct.:** Papal legate Cardinal Isidore of Kiev arrived in Constantinople as a gesture of support from Latin Christendom, after which Catholic and Orthodox liturgies were celebrated in S. Sophia in accordance with the Union agreed at Florence in 1439 (12 Dec.).

**31 Oct.:** Opening of war between Venice, Milan and their allies, which eventually ended in stalemate in 1454.

#### 1453

**Early Jan.:** Stefano Porcari's failed republican conspiracy in Rome, leading to the rapid arrest and execution of its leader.

**6 Apr.–29 May:** Siege and fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks, led by Sultan Mehmet II, known as 'the Conqueror' from this time on.

**29 May:** The last Byzantine emperor, Constantine XI, died in the final assault; Ottoman capital transferred from Edirne (Adrianople) to Constantinople.

**3 June:** Following his arrest in Apr., Constable of Castile, Álvaro de Luna, executed at Valladolid by order of Juan II, having effectively ruled Castile since 1431.

**June–Oct.:** Second French expedition to Gascony.

**17 July:** John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, defeated at Castillon, a landmark in the English loss of Gascony.

**10 Aug.:** Henry VI ‘lost his wits’ for the first time, three days before the birth of Edward, prince of Wales.

**From Aug.:** René of Anjou undertook a fresh Italian campaign, no more successful than earlier initiatives.

**20 Oct.:** Fall of Bordeaux marked the end of the Hundred Years War, the English having lost all their French possessions except Calais and the Channel Islands.

#### 1454

Polish aggression initiated the Thirteen Years War with the Teutonic Knights, which lasted until 1476 and included the surrender of the Knights’ headquarters at Marienburg and their retreat into German-speaking lands.

**17 Feb.:** Philip the Good’s exceptionally extravagant Feast of the Pheasant at Lille, committing Burgundy to a crusade.

**27 Mar.:** Beginning of Richard, duke of York’s first Protectorate in England, brought to an end when Henry VI ‘recovered his wits’ nine months later.

**9 Apr.:** Peace of Lodi, a settlement between Venice and Milan; Venice lost no *terraferma* possessions.

**18 Apr.:** Ottoman peace with Venice.

**30 Aug.:** Defensive league signed between Venice, Milan and Florence, to which Alfonso of Aragon and Naples and Nicholas V adhered early in 1455: thus the five major Italian powers were bound by a twenty-five-year mutual non-aggression pact.

**Nov.:** The Polish Charters of Nieszawa introduced significant constitutional changes.

#### 1455

**26 Jan.–25 Feb.:** Peace of Lodi ratified by Alfonso of Naples and Nicholas V, thereby establishing the ‘Lega Italica’, which was important for the deceptive notion that the powers were balanced, and that the Italian states were at peace with each other until the French invasion of 1494. Confirmation of Francesco Sforza’s ducal title by Emperor Frederick III contributed to the sense of a new era in Italy.

**24 Mar.:** Death of Nicholas V.

**8 Apr.:** Election of the Catalan Alonso de Borja as Calixtus III.

**22 May:** First battle of St Albans, a brief affray which marked the beginning of the Wars of the Roses, was a victory for Richard, duke of York, with his associates the Neville earls of Salisbury and Warwick, and saw the death of the royal favourite, Edmund Beaufort, duke of Somerset.

**Late June:** Scanderbeg’s defeat at Berat.

**5 Oct.:** Moldavia formally subject to Ottoman control.

**19 Nov.:** Richard of York’s second Protectorate, until Mar. 1456.

**1456**

Ottoman conquest of Athens.

**May–June:** Official rehabilitation of Joan of Arc, overturning the verdict of 1431 and following enquiries undertaken in 1450 and 1452.

**22 July:** Ottomans failed to take Belgrade after a three-week siege, the defence being led by János Hunyadi after inspirational preaching by the Franciscan Giovanni da Capistrano, who had previously been a notable preacher against the Hussites.

**11 Aug:** Hunyadi's death from plague, to which Giovanni da Capistrano also succumbed (23 Oct.).

**31 Aug:** After nine years' experience as ruler of Dauphiné and of poor relations with his father Charles VII, Dauphin Louis, the future Louis XI, fled to the court of Philip of Burgundy.

**1457**

**1 Nov.:** Death of Francesco Foscari, less than a week after being deposed as Venetian doge.

**23 Dec.:** Scanderbeg, 'Soldier of Christ', appointed captain-general by Calixtus III for a crusade against the Ottomans.

**1458**

French overlordship of Genoa until 1464, after having been under French protection since 1456 on account of an Aragonese naval attack.

**24 Jan.:** Matthias Corvinus, son of János Hunyadi, elected king of Hungary.

**2 Mar.:** George of Poděbrady, a moderate Hussite noble who favoured *rapprochement* with Rome, elected king of Bohemia.

**6 Aug.:** Death of Calixtus III.

**19 Aug.:** Election of Sieneese humanist Enea Silvio Piccolomini as Pius II, the central feature of whose pontificate was the renewed call for a crusade.

**1459**

Turks overran Serbia. Campaign by the Angevin duke of Calabria, son of René of Anjou, to recover Naples for his father, until 1463.

**1 June:** Congress of Mantua opened by Pius II, but delegates were so slow to arrive that the first sitting was not possible until 26 Sept., after which diplomatic disputes prevented progress towards a crusade being achieved.

**23 Sept.:** Indecisive battle at Blore Heath, Shropshire, between followers of Margaret of Anjou and those of the earl of Salisbury.

**12–13 Oct.:** Battle of Ludford, also in Shropshire, a Lancastrian victory after which Richard, duke of York, retreated to Ireland and Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, to Calais.

**1460**

Baronial rebellion against King Ferrante I of Naples, until 1464.

**19 Jan.:** Pius II left Mantua in disappointment, issuing at this time the Bull *Execrabilis*, which forbade appeals to General Councils.