

Chapter 1 : Henry IV of Castile - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

Henry IV of Castile (Castilian: Enrique IV) (5 January - 11 December), King of Castile, nicknamed the Impotent (ruled), was the last of the weak late medieval kings of Castile. During Henry's reign the nobles increased in power and the nation became less centralised.

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Henry IV of Castile, King of Castile, King of León, King of Galicia, King of Toledo, Prince of Asturias, Count of Barcelona, was born 5 January to John II of Castile () and Maria of Aragon () and died 11 December of unspecified causes.

He displaced his older sister, Eleanor , and became heir apparent to the Castilian throne as the Prince of Asturias. The companions of his own age included Juan Pacheco , who became his closest confidant. His other main concerns were the possibility of intervention from King John II of Navarre , establishing peace with France and Aragon, and pardoning various aristocrats. It was not popular with the aristocracy or the people. This process resulted in the formation of a League of Nobles in March . Charles was the heir to Navarre, and he revolted against his father John II in when he refused to cede the throne of Navarre. But he was unsuccessful, and the Castilian economy would suffer from an enmity with France, who had supported John II with the Treaty of Bayonne. During his reign as king, Henry IV spent a lot of time at the Royal Alcazar of Madrid where he would stay there for long periods of time. The cardinal Juan de Cervantes presided over the official ceremony. The marriage had been agreed in as part of the peace negotiations between Castille and Navarre. Other women, prostitutes from Segovia, testified that they had had sexual relations with Henry, which is why he blamed his inability to consummate the marriage on a spell. Blanche and Henry were cousins, and he was also a cousin of Joan of Portugal , whom he wanted to marry instead. Therefore, the reason he used to seek the annulment was the sort of spell that only affected his ability to consummate this one marriage, and would not cause any problems for him with other women. According to Palencia, Henry demonstrated "most extreme abhorrence" to his wife, and indifference to the confines of marriage. Joan of Portugal[edit] The remoteness of Aragon led to an approach to Portugal. In March , before his divorce from Blanche was finalised, there was no record of negotiations for the new marriage between Henry and Joan of Portugal , sister of the king Alfonso V of Portugal. On 28 February , the queen gave birth to a daughter Joanna la Beltraneja , whose paternity came into question during the conflict for succession to the Castilian throne when Henry died. Henry IV was twenty-six years old when his half-sister Isabella was born. Henry made a number of attempts throughout his reign to arrange a politically advantageous marriage for his much younger sister. Civil war[edit] Before the birth of his daughter, Henry convened the Court in Madrid and Joanna was sworn in as Princess of Asturias. Alfonso then became Prince of Asturias, a title previously held by Joanna. Henry agreed to the compromise with the stipulation that Alfonso someday marry Joanna, to ensure that they both would one day receive the crown. The nobles in league against him conducted a ceremonial deposition-in-effigy of Henry outside the city of Avila and crowned Alfonso as a rival king. This event is known in history as the Farce of Avila. Shortly thereafter, Alfonso began handing out land and titles as if he were already uncontested ruler. A civil war began. The most notable clash was at the Second Battle of Olmedo in , which concluded as a draw. However, in at the age of only 14, Alfonso died of a sickness, most likely the plague. Although poison and slit throat as alternative causes of death have been suggested. Shortly thereafter at the negotiation of Toros de Guisando , in which she and her allies received most of what they desired, Henry agreed to exclude Joanna la Beltraneja from the succession, and to recognize Isabella as his official heir. Though Henry continued to resist this decision when possible, his actions were ineffective, and he remained at peace with Isabella for the rest of his reign. Death[edit] After the death of the king, war broke out in Castile. France initially supported Joanna, yet in , after losing the Battle of Toro , France refused to help Joanna, further and in signed a peace treaty with Isabella. In , at the age of fifteen, he was married to Blanche II of Navarre. The marriage was never consummated. In , after thirteen years, Henry sought a divorce. An official examination confirmed the virginity of Blanche, and a priest questioned the prostitutes of Segovia , who confirmed that Henry was sexually capable. Blanche was sent home; eight years later, she became de iure Queen of Navarre and died under strange circumstances. After six years of marriage, in , she gave birth to a daughter, Joan , nicknamed "La Beltraneja". This hypothesis was reinforced when the Queen had another two children with the nephew of a bishop. Though many contemporary historians and chroniclers believed Henry was impotent , even

homosexual, [18] the royal chronicles of his reign were all written or revised during the reign and under the influence of Isabella I , his half-sister and ultimate successor, whose strong interest in proving Joan illegitimate renders these accounts at least partially suspect. After a long period of conflict between the rival factions, Henry finally agreed to name Isabella his successor, in Guisando Avila , provided she allow him to arrange her strategic marriage. Isabella would go on to break this stipulation of the agreement. Appearance[edit] Henry was a striking man. Tall, blonde and well-built, he had broken his nose as a child. The accident left him with an adult face that made him look, depending on whom you listened to, like either a terrifying lion or a foolish monkey.

Henry IV, byname Henry the Impotent or Henry the Liberal, Spanish Enrique el Impotente or Enrique el Liberal, (born January 25, , Valladolid, Castile [Spain]—died December 11, , Madrid), king of Castile from to , whose reign, though at first promising, became chaotic.

He displaced his older sister, Eleanor , and became heir apparent to the Castilian throne as the Prince of Asturias. The companions of his own age included Juan Pacheco , who became his closest confidant. King John II died on 20 July Henry was proclaimed king the following day. One of his first priorities was the alliance with Portugal. He achieved this by marrying a second time, to Joan of Portugal in , and by meeting Afonso V of Portugal in Elvas in His other main concerns were the possibility of intervention from John II of Navarre , establishing peace with France and Aragon, and pardoning various aristocrats. It was not popular with the aristocracy or the people. This process resulted in the formation of a League of Nobles in March Charles was heir to Navarre, and he revolted against his father in when he refused to cede the throne of Navarre. This caused the Catalans to be abandoned. The cardinal Juan de Cervantes presided over the official ceremony. The marriage had been agreed in as part of the peace negotiations between Castille and Navarre. Other women, prostitutes from Segovia, testified that they had had sexual relations with Henry, which is why he blamed his inability to consummate the marriage on a spell. Blanche and Henry were cousins, and he was also a cousin of Joan of Portugal , whom he wanted to marry instead. Therefore, the reason he used to seek the annulment was the sort of spell that only affected his ability to consummate this one marriage, and would not cause any problems for him with other women. According to Palencia, Henry demonstrated "most extreme abhorrence" to his wife, and indifference to the confines of marriage. The remoteness of Aragon led to an approach to Portugal. In March , before his divorce from Blanche was finalised, there was no record of negotiations for the new marriage between Henry and Joan of Portugal , sister of the king Alfonso V of Portugal. On 28 February , the queen gave birth to a daughter Joanna la Beltraneja , whose paternity came into question during the conflict for succession to the Castilian throne when Henry died. Henry IV was twenty-six years old when his half-sister Isabella was born. Henry made a number of attempts throughout his reign to arrange a politically advantageous marriage for his much younger sister. Alfonso then became Prince of Asturias, a title previously held by Joanna. Henry agreed to the compromise with the stipulation that Alfonso someday marry Joanna, to ensure that they both would one day receive the crown. The nobles in league against him conducted a ceremonial deposition-in-effigy of Henry outside the city of Avila and crowned Alfonso as a rival king. This event is known in history as the Farce of Avila. Shortly thereafter, Alfonso began handing out land and titles as if he were already uncontested ruler. A civil war began. The most notable clash was at the Second Battle of Olmedo in , which concluded as a draw. However, in at the age of only 14, Alfonso died of a sickness, most likely the plague Although poison and slit throat as alternative causes of death have been suggested. Shortly thereafter at the negotiation of Toros de Guisando , in which she and her allies received most of what they desired, Henry agreed to exclude Joanna la Beltraneja from the succession, and to recognize Isabella as his official heir. Though Henry continued to resist this decision when possible, his actions were ineffective, and he remained at peace with Isabella for the rest of his reign. After the death of the king war started in Castile. In , at the age of fifteen, he was married to Blanche II of Navarre. The marriage was never consummated. In , after thirteen years, Henry sought a divorce. An official examination confirmed the virginity of Blanche, and a priest questioned the prostitutes of Segovia , who confirmed that Henry was sexually capable. Blanche was sent home; eight years later, she became de iure Queen of Navarre and died under strange circumstances. After six years of marriage, in , she gave birth to a daughter, Joan , nicknamed "La Beltraneja". This hypothesis was reinforced when the Queen had another two children with the nephew of a Bishop. Though many contemporary historians and chroniclers believed Henry was impotent , even homosexual,[29] the royal chronicles of his reign were all written or revised during the reign and under the influence of Isabella I , his half-sister and ultimate successor, whose strong interest in proving Joan illegitimate renders these accounts at least partially suspect. After a long period of conflict between the rival

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Chapter 4 : About: Henry IV of Castile

Before this book by Townsend Miller, practically nothing of historical value had been written about Henry IV of Castile, the step-brother of the famous Queen Isabella of Castile (who "unified" Spain by her marriage with Ferdinand of Aragon and the Conquest of Muslim Granada).

He displaced his older sister, Eleanor, and became heir apparent to the Castilian throne as the Prince of Asturias. The companions of his own age included Juan Pacheco, who became his closest confidant. John II died on 20 July Henry was proclaimed king the following day. One of his first priorities was the alliance with Portugal. He achieved this by marrying a second time, to Joan of Portugal in , and by meeting Afonso V of Portugal in Elvas in His other main concerns were the possibility of intervention from John II of Navarre, establishing peace with France and Aragon, and pardoning various aristocrats. The campaigns of and developed into a war of attrition based on punitive raids and avoiding pitched battles. It was not popular with the aristocracy or the people. This process resulted in the formation of a League of Nobles in March Charles was heir to Navarre, and he revolted against his father in when he refused to cede the throne of Navarre. The campaign was a military success, but the Castilian king made peace with the League of Nobles in August to ward off the power of the Mendozas, which had allowed John II of Aragon to intervene in Castille. So he agreed a settlement in the Judgment of Bayonne. This caused the Catalans to be abandoned. The cardinal Juan de Cervantes presided over the official ceremony. The marriage had been agreed in as part of the peace negotiations between Castille and Navarre. The dowry included territories and villas that had previously belonged to Navarre but had been won by the Castilian side during the war, and the Castilians agreed to hand the lands back provided they would be given them back again as part of this dowry. This neatly reflected the recent political changes: Henry alleged that he had been incapable of sexually consummating the marriage, despite having tried for over three years, the minimum period required by the church. Other women, prostitutes from Segovia, testified that they had had sexual relations with Henry, which is why he blamed his inability to consummate the marriage on a spell. Blanche and Henry were cousins, and he was also a cousin of Joan of Portugal, whom he wanted to marry instead. Therefore, the reason he used to seek the annulment was the sort of spell that only affected his ability to consummate this one marriage, and would not cause any problems for him with other women. According to Palencia, Henry demonstrated "most extreme abhorrence" to his wife, and indifference to the confines of marriage. However, in Blanche gave up her right to the Navarre throne so Henry could take it, and selected him as her protector, against her own father John II of Aragon. The remoteness of Aragon led to an approach to Portugal. In March , before his divorce from Blanche was finalised, there was no record of negotiations for the new marriage between Henry and Joan of Portugal, sister of the king Alfonso V of Portugal. According to chroniclers of the time, Joan did not provide a dowry and would not have to return anything even if the marriage turned out to be a failure. The wedding was celebrated in May , but without an affidavit of official bull authorizing the wedding between them, although they were first cousins their mothers were sisters and second cousins their paternal grandmothers were half-sisters. On 28 February , the queen gave birth to a daughter Joanna la Beltraneja, whose paternity came into question during the conflict for succession to the Castilian throne when Henry died. Henry IV was twenty-six years old when his half-sister Isabella was born. Henry made a number of attempts throughout his reign to arrange a politically advantageous marriage for his much younger sister. This arrangement, however, did not last long. This caused a change in alliances: Alfonso then became Prince of Asturias, a title previously held by Joanna. Henry agreed to the compromise with the stipulation that Alfonso someday marry Joanna, to ensure that they both would one day receive the crown. The nobles in league against him conducted a ceremonial deposition-in-effigy of Henry outside the city of Avila and crowned Alfonso as a rival king. This event is known in history as the Farce of Avila. Shortly thereafter, Alfonso began handing out land and titles as if he were already uncontested ruler. A civil war began. The most notable clash was at the Second Battle of Olmedo in , which concluded as a draw. However, in at the age of only 14, Alfonso died of a sickness, most likely the plague Although poison and slit throat as alternative causes of death have been suggested. Shortly thereafter at

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Chapter 9 : - Henry IV of Castile, by Townsend Miller

Henry IV of Castile, by Townsend Miller (Book) Enrique IV and the crisis of fifteenth-century Castile, by William D Phillips (Book).