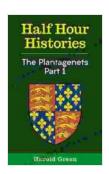
# The Plantagenets Part 1216-1307: A Historical Exploration



#### **Background**

The Plantagenets were a family of French origin who first came to England in the 12th century. They were descended from Geoffrey of Anjou, who married Matilda, the daughter of King Henry I. Through this marriage, the Plantagenets claimed the English throne, and in 1154, Henry II became the first Plantagenet king of England.



The Plantagenets Part 1: 1216-1307 (Half Hour

**Histories**) by Harold Green

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar 5$  out of 5

Language : English
File size : 279 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 12 pages
Lending : Enabled



The Plantagenets were a powerful and ambitious dynasty. They expanded their territories through conquest and marriage, and they established a strong central government in England. They also played a major role in the Crusades, and they were patrons of the arts and learning.

#### The Early Plantagenets

The early Plantagenets were a turbulent and warlike group. Henry II was a ruthless and ambitious king who spent much of his reign fighting wars against his rivals. He also clashed with the Church, and he was excommunicated by Pope Alexander III.

Richard I, Henry's son, was known as the Lionheart for his bravery and military prowess. He spent much of his reign fighting in the Crusades, and he died in 1199 while besieging a castle in France.

John, Richard's brother, was a weak and unpopular king. He lost Normandy to the French, and he was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, which limited the power of the monarchy.

#### The Later Plantagenets

The later Plantagenets were more stable and prosperous than their predecessors. Henry III was a pious and peace-loving king who rebuilt

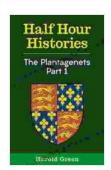
Westminster Abbey and founded the University of Oxford.

Edward I was a great warrior and administrator. He conquered Wales and Scotland, and he established a system of common law that is still used in England today.

Edward II was a weak and indecisive king who was deposed and murdered by his wife, Isabella of France.

Edward III was a strong and successful king who restored the power of the monarchy. He fought a series of wars against France, and he won the Battle of Crécy in 1346.

The Plantagenets were a powerful and influential dynasty that ruled England for over two centuries. They left a lasting legacy on English history, and they helped to shape the course of European history.



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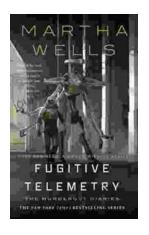
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