

How did John Balliol become king?

Before John became king, Scotland had been left without a ruler. The search for a new king would lead to war:

- In 1286 King Alexander III died
- In 1290 the next in line, Alexander's granddaughter Margaret, Maid of Norway, died aged only seven
- In 1291 the Scottish nobles asked King Edward I of England to help choose a new king
- In 1292 John Balliol was picked as the new King of Scotland



What happened to John?

Before he made John king, Edward I, King of England, forced John to recognise him as his superior. Edward expected John to be loyal to him.

England was at war with France. Edward demanded that the Scots took his side against the French. The Scottish nobles were so angry at this that they made John stand up to Edward.

In 1295, John signed a treaty (an agreement) of friendship and support with the King of France. The two countries promised to defend each other against England. The treaty became known as the **Auld Alliance**.

Why was he called 'Toom Tabard'

Edward was furious about the treaty between Scotland and France. In 1296 he marched a large army into Scotland and beat a Scottish army at the Battle of Dunbar.

John surrendered. To punish him, Edward stripped John of his royal status - he was no longer king! He even ripped the royal badge from John's tunic. As a result John got the nickname '**Toom Tabard**' - meaning empty jacket. He was taken to London on a donkey and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Edward took the **Stone of Destiny** to England. This was the stone on which all Scottish kings were crowned. Without it the Scots could not make another king. The **Wars of Independence** had started!



Tasks:



Why was he called Toom Tabard?



What do you notice about John Balliol in the picture on the left?



Make a glossary of the **keywords** in your jotter. Write down their meanings as well if you can.