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Robert the Bruce - I

Lead: During the late medieval period, English imperial ambitions in Scotland provoked a long and bitter time of warfare and savage cross-border conflict. This gave rise to the successful revolt and triumph of Scottish liberator, Robert the Bruce.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Since ancient times, Scotland has often been the suffering unfortunate in a long and troubled relationship with its southern neighbor, England. The Scots are a

hearty race, independent and at times fierce in defense of home and hearth, but they also inhabit a wild and rugged country, not particularly rich in natural resources. The population was always smaller than England's and suffered a climate that is severe during much of the year. The Clan structure of the Highlands and internal disputes generally prevented Scotland from mounting a united front when facing challenges from the south, a circumstance the English were all too happy to exploit.

English kings often saw Scotland as a rich and ripe target for their imperial ambitions and by 1290 English King Edward I was energetically meddling in Scottish

affairs. His interference inaugurated over two centuries of savage fighting and bitter rivalry. Often the most effective English tactic was to divide the Scottish aristocracy by supporting a family or clan or leader who would advance English interests. In 1290 the Scottish succession ran dry. There was no logical or obvious person to claim the throne. Responding to either a genuine or contrived request, depending on one's point of view, from Scottish nobles, Edward intervened, compelled the Scots to recognize his pre-eminence, and forced them to accept as King, John de Balliol. Edward's blatant intervention, however, provoked a revolt. Under great pressure from his barons, Balliol repudiated his

allegiance to Edward and allied himself with France. Next time: the rise of Robert the Bruce.

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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<http://www.britannia.com/bios/robertbruce.html>

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