



# **Robert the Bruce and the Wars of Scottish Independence: The History of the Famous King of Scots' Rise to Power**

*Charles River Editors*

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\*Includes pictures \*Includes accounts of some of the most famous battles, including at Stirling and Bannockburn \*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents

From their very beginnings, England and Scotland fought each other. Emerging as unified nations from the early medieval period, their shared border and inter-related aristocracy created endless causes of conflict, from local raiders known as border reivers to full blown wars between their monarchies. Every century from the 11th to the 16th was colored by such violence, and there were periods when not a decade went by without some act of violence marring the peace. Out of all of this, the most bitterly remembered conflict is Edward I's invasion during the late 13th century. After Edward's death, the English were eventually beaten back at the famous Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and thus the early 14th century was a period featuring some of Scotland's greatest national heroes, including William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. It still resonates in the Scottish national memory, all the more so following its memorable but wildly inaccurate depiction in the 1995 film Braveheart, which had Scottish audiences cheering in cinemas. Though it's often forgotten today, Robert the Bruce was a bit shiftier, if only out of necessity. Robert the Bruce has become a figure of Scottish national legend, renowned as the man who threw off the shackles of English oppression, but prior to 1306, this Anglo-Scottish nobleman did little to cover himself in glory or to earn a reputation as a hero of the national cause. A member of one of Scotland's leading noble families, Bruce inherited his grandfather's claim to the right to be King of the Scots. That older Bruce had been one of the two leading competitors in the Great Cause, and the family still held ambitions toward the throne. They also held resentments dating back to that disputed inheritance against the Balliol clan and their supporters the Comyns. Of course, this was all forgiven and forgotten after Bannockburn and Bruce's rise to the Scottish throne, which he held for over two decades. Robert the Bruce and the Wars of Scottish Independence: The History of the Famous King of Scots' Rise to Power analyzes the life of Robert the Bruce and the events that led to his rise as the most famous Scottish king of the Middle Ages. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about Robert the Bruce and the Scottish Wars of Independence like never before.

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