

Dawson, Isabelle – Period 1

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### Joan of Arc's effect on France.

There have been many people in history who have accomplished great tasks. One Of those people is Joan of Arc. She was a young woman during the 14th century who played many main roles in France's history. Joan lived her life serving God, carrying out what she believed to be his wishes. She fought for France till her very end when she was taken by the English and executed for hearsay and witchcraft, among other things. She had accomplished things that, at the time, women could not do, she influenced many decisions and outcomes that came with the Hundred Year war, and she has become a symbol to many.

Joan of Arc started her life just being a peasant girl. However, at the age of 13 she began to start hearing voices she claimed to be from God. These voices told her to push the English out of France. She followed these orders and went to battle, donning mens clothes and cutting her hair short.<sup>1</sup> At this time, it was unheard of for a woman to fight in battle. Her strength and confidence for what she was doing provided an example as to how women could do the activities that men could do, providing her with the time of many others who, otherwise, would not have listened to her.

She left an impact on many decisions and actions, while alive and while in death. One such effect was on Charles VII, who was the Dauphin at the time. Charles valued Joan of Arc's advice due to the fact that Joan had displayed multiple times how she was carrying

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<sup>1</sup> Rizzo, J. (2021, February 16). *Joan of arc*. History. Retrieved December 1, 2022, from <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/joan-of-arc>

out God's wishes, knowing things that she would only know if she was indeed telling the truth.<sup>2</sup> If it were not for Joan being able to prove she was a messenger of God, Charles would not have listened to her. This led to him allowing Joan to lead battles, taking back land and fighting the English. Her efforts changed how the 100 year war turned out, placing multiple victories under the french side of the battle.

As of today, Joan of Arc is remembered by many. Her actions have shaped how history has turned out. Her personal connection with God allowed for many people to begin to question whether or not they needed the church to be connected to God.<sup>3</sup> Her actions helped lead the development of consciousness in France. People began to question the church's actions, and whether or not they should follow the church if they really did not have to go there to be one with God. Due to Joan's spreaded popularity, the idea spread around France a lot quicker than it would have originally. Today, she is seen as a symbol of consciousness in France and has been declared a saint, her sentence lifted after her death.

Joan of Arc was a woman who served under God until her very end. Her efforts changed how the Hundred Year turned out. Joan is now remembered today as someone who was firm in her beliefs, a saint who never let go of her faith. She was able to accomplish things that, at the time, no other woman could do.

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<sup>2</sup> A&E Networks Television. (2021, May 6). *Joan of arc*. Biography.com. Retrieved December 6, 2022, from <https://www.biography.com/military-figure/joan-of-arc>

<sup>3</sup> Lanhers, Yvonne and Vale, Malcolm G.A.. "St. Joan of Arc". Encyclopedia Britannica, 9 Nov. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Joan-of-Arc>. Accessed 2 December 2022.

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