• Therefore, Edward takes a military force up to Scotland 30th March to Berwick
• 4th April John Balliol formally renounces his allegiance to Edward I
• In response Edward sieges Berwick and marches to Dunbar and reaches Elgin in late July- crazily quick!
• By late July the whole of Scotland has been military conquered by Edward I
• John Balliol knows this before Edward reached Elgin, and on 10th July John Balliol abdicates as King
• Late August- Edward received the submissions of thousands of Scots – recorded in Ragman Rolls
• 1296- Edwards ambitions have moved up a gear- legally binding military conquest
• Late summer- Scottish governmental records and regalia are taken down to Westminster

The Campaigns (1296-1314):

• Three periods of the Wars of Independence:
  o 1296-1306: Conquest period (William Wallace)
  o 1306-14: Scottish resurgence, seizure of Kingship by Robert Bruce (grandson of the competitor in 1291)- he kills his rival on the 10th February 1306- John Comyn in a church (very frowned upon)
  o 1314-28: War carries on but increasingly fought at the papal curia. Truce agreed in 1328
• Battle of Bannockburn- 1314 very important win for Scotland and some of Robert Bruce’s rivals died in battle- John Comyn’s son
• 1314 Robert held a huge parliament saying that Scottish nobles could no longer hold land in England and therefore he held the complete loyalty of all Scottish nobles and they didn’t have to pay homage to the English King- genius move- disinherits a lot of people and brings a lot of money and resources into his hands for patronage but annoys plenty of people (but the Scots were already annoyed with Robert)
• Edward I dies in 1307 and his successor Edward II less interested in wars in Scotland

History, Legitimacy and Conquest:

• 1299 Pope Boniface sends a bull to Edward I called Scimus fili- he says that Edward has no right to invade Scotland and this worries English nobles but- Edward was determined to find historical evidence that he did as he was the Lord of Scotland set out to write to monasteries
• After 1299- takes a totally different turn- Edward uses his history of Britain- Arthur King of Britons- suggesting that kings of Scotland’s had been superior to English Kings in response to the pope- with that move to easily respond over to
• Pope John XXII 1316-34 refuses to acknowledge Robert Bruce as King

Robert I’s Kingship and the Community of the Realm:

• Easy to see why these wars were called the Wars of Independence- Scotland fighting an outsight threat
• Robert uses that idea of the community much more than any other Scottish King with declarations written in the names of its barons (community) not just the King
• Robert never had the unified support of his nobles- especially when he disinherits half of them in 1314
• He was also not recognized by the Pope who calls him Lord Robert
• Robert not a crowned and anointed King- his authority very under threat all the time
• Excommunicated three times by the Pope and places his entire Kingdom under interdict- literally putting the community’s souls in peril (cant go to heaven)
• People also thought his illegitimacy meant people didn’t recognize him as their king leading to rebellions
• 1318 Roberts brother dies and until his son was born much later did not had a legitimate heir to the throne
• Whereas John Balliol the popular choice for Kingship in Scotland did have a son Edward Balliol
• Similar difficulties within the Scottish political community- 1320 Soules Conspiracy (a plot against his life by a number of the barons who signed the Declaration of Arbroath)
• Very few high status executions in Scotland
• 1328 end of the first phase of the wars of independence