



Lack of opportunities for Welsh people

Many Welsh Lords, such as Owain Glyndŵr, felt that no matter what they did, they would not be given sufficient reward. Sir Gregory Sais was a very rare example of one given a knighthood by the English crown. Glyndŵr felt he could have done no more to deserve one, given his loyalty and military service to the King.

The Battle of Mynydd Hyddgen in 1401

Taking place on the Pumlumon range in mid-Wales, the Battle of Mynydd Hyddgen was an important victory for the rebels against an Anglo-Flemish army. Owain Glyndŵr's men used their knowledge of the local terrain to defeat the larger English force, killing around 200 of them and taking many captive. It gave the rebels a real hope for success in their campaign for independence.

The impact of Henry IV's Penal Laws

Harsh Penal Laws were passed in Wales in 1401 and 1402. They were devoid of equality and were clearly designed to punish the Welsh population and give advantages to the English settlers in Wales. Rules were set in order to deter Welsh support for Owain Glyndŵr's cause but their severity pushed many to join the rebellion. Anglesey, Meirionnydd and Arfon were loyal to Owain Glyndŵr, with Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion on the brink thanks to the Penal Laws.

The impact of Henry IV taking the throne

Although Richard II could hardly be considered popular in Wales, Henry IV was liked even less. Many doubted his legitimacy and despised his appointment of his son, Henry of Monmouth, as Prince of Wales.

Glyndŵr's dispute with Lord Grey

Reginald de Grey (Lord of Ruthin) and Owain Glyndŵr, who were landowning neighbours, disagreed over a piece of common land. When it was raised in Parliament, the English favoured Lord Ruthin, causing much discontent in Wales. There was much celebration when Grey was captured by the revolt in 1402.

Timeline of Glyndŵr's early successes

16 September 1400	Owain Glyndŵr is proclaimed Prince of Wales in Glyndyfrdwy.
18 September 1400	Welsh rebels attack Ruthin.
Late September 1400	The revolt spreads to Denbigh, Rhuddlan, Flint, Hawarden, Holt, Oswestry and Welshpool.
April 1401	The Tudur brothers take Conwy Castle.
June 1401	The Battle of Mynydd Hyddgen is a success for the rebels and gains Owain Glyndŵr many new followers.
April 1402	Owain Glyndŵr captures Lord Grey of Ruthin and receives a huge ransom for him.
June 1402	The Battle of Pilleth at Bryn Glas takes place. It is one of the most significant military victories in Welsh history.

Glyndŵr's success at Bryn Glas in 1402

Owain Glyndŵr's army of around 1,500 rebels faced Sir Edmund Mortimer's larger force of around 2,000 soldiers in the Battle of Pilleth on 22 June 1402. Due to the advantage of high ground, the Welsh longbows caused significant damage and many English archers defected to the Welsh side as they were outflanked thanks to Owain Glyndŵr's tactics. It was a famous victory for the Welsh as around 1,100 Englishmen were killed. Mortimer was taken hostage and joined the Welsh revolt. Owain Glyndŵr's revolt was then seen as a more serious threat by Henry IV and the victory gained the rebellion many new followers.



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