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People prior to 1400 are alphabetized by first name or, if not, are cross-referenced. Rulers are alphabetized by name of kingdom or people ruled and then by numerical sequence (so Henry I of England precedes Henry I of Germany and Louis VI precedes Louis IX, though the kings of Leon and Castile are listed as a continuous sequence). Roman emperors down to Justinian are termed 'Roman emperor', thereafter 'Byzantine emperor'. Western emperors are termed 'emperor'; rulers elected 'king of the Romans' are termed 'German king'; their dates are always those of their reign as king. For a note on the term 'Holy Roman Emperor', see pp. 437–8. Smaller places in (modern) France are identified by department, smaller places in the British Isles by historic county.

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