

Peter I of Portugal

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Peter I (Portuguese: *Pedro I* [ˈpedru] (8 April 1320 – 18 January 1367), called **the Just** or **the Cruel**) (Portuguese: *o Justo, O Cruel*), was King of Portugal and of the Algarves from 1357 until his death.^[1] He was the third but only surviving son of Afonso IV of Portugal and his wife, Infanta Beatrice of Castile.

Contents

- 1 Early life
- 2 King of Portugal
- 3 Marriage and descendants
- 4 Ancestors
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 Bibliography
- 8 External links

Early life

In 1328, Peter's father, Afonso IV arranged for the marriage of his eldest daughter, Maria, to Alfonso XI of Castile. In 1334, she bore him a son, who ultimately became Peter of Castile.

However, Maria returned home to her father in Portugal in 1335 because her royal husband soon after their marriage had begun a long affair with the beautiful and newly widowed Leonor de Guzman, which the Castilian king refused to end. Alfonso's cousin, Juan Manuel, Prince of Villena, had been rebuffed by the Castilian king in 1327 when the two-year child marriage between his daughter Constanza (granddaughter of James II of Aragon) and Alfonso had been annulled to clear the way for the marriage to Maria. For two years Juan Manuel had waged war against the Castilians, who had kept Constanza hostage, until Bishop John del Campo of Oviedo mediated a peace in 1329.

Enraged by Alfonso's infidelity and mistreatment of his lawful wife, her father made a new alliance with the powerful Castilian aristocrat. Afonso married his son and heir, Peter, to Constanza, thereby allying himself with Juan Manuel. When Constanza arrived in Portugal in 1339, Inês de Castro, the beautiful and aristocratic daughter of a prominent Galician family (with links albeit through illegitimacy, to the Portuguese and Castilian royal families), accompanied her as her lady-in-waiting.

Peter I



Recumbent effigy on the tomb of King Peter I (c. 1360), Alcobaça Monastery.

King of Portugal and of the Algarve

Reign	28 May 1357 – 18 January 1367
Predecessor	Afonso IV
Successor	Ferdinand I
Born	8 April 1320 <div>Coimbra, Kingdom of Portugal</div>
Died	18 January 1367 (aged 46) <div>Estremoz, Kingdom of Portugal</div>
Burial	Alcobaça Monastery, Portugal
Spouse	Constanza Manuel <div>Inês de Castro</div> <div>(Disputed afterdeath queen)</div>
Issue	Maria, Marchioness of Tortosa <div><i>among others...</i> Ferdinand I, King of Portugal</div> <div>Beatrice, Countess of Alburquerque</div> <div>John, Duke of Valencia de Campos</div> <div>Denis, Lord of Cifuentes</div> <div>John I, King of Portugal</div>
House	House of Burgundy
Father	Afonso IV of Portugal



Peter and Inês, by Ernesto Condeixa

Peter soon fell in love with Inês, and the two conducted a long love affair that lasted until Inês's murder in 1355.

Mother	Beatrice of Castile
Religion	Roman Catholicism

Constanza died in 1345, weeks after giving birth to Fernando, who eventually became the first of Peter's sons to succeed him as king of Portugal. The scandal of Peter's affair with Inês, and its political ramifications, caused Afonso to banish Inês from court after Constanza died. Peter refused to marry any of the princesses his father suggested as a second wife; and the king refused to allow his son to marry Inês as Peter wanted. The two aristocratic lovers began living together in secret. According to the chronicle of Fernão Lopes, during this period, Peter began giving Inês's brothers, exiles from the Castilian court, important positions in Portugal and they became the heir-apparent's closest advisors. This alarmed Afonso. He worried that upon his death, civil war could tear the country apart, or the Portuguese throne would fall into Castilian hands, either as Juan Manuel fought to avenge his daughter's honor, or the de Castro brothers supported their sister. Peter claimed that he had married Inês against his father's orders. In any event, in 1355, Afonso sent three men to find Inês at the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Velha in Coimbra, where she was detained, and they decapitated her in front of one of her young

children. Enraged, Peter revolted against his father. Afonso defeated his son within a year, but died shortly thereafter, and Peter succeeded to the throne in 1357. The love affair and father-son conflict inspired more than twenty operas and many writers, including: the Portuguese national epic *Os Lusíadas* by Luís de Camões, the Spanish "Nise lastimosa" and "Nise laureada" (1577) by Jerónimo Bermúdez and 'Reinar despues de morir' by Luís Vélez de Guevara, as well as "Inez de Castro" by Mary Russell Mitford and Henry de Montherlant's French drama *La Reine morte*.^[2]

King of Portugal



Peter I, King of Portugal

Peter reigned for a decade, and is often confused with his Castilian nephew because of their identical nicknames. Fernão Lopes labels Peter "the Just" and said that the Portuguese king loved justice—especially the dispensing of it, which he enjoyed doing for himself. Inês' assassins received his harshest punishment: the three had escaped to Castile, but Peter arranged for them to be exchanged for Castilian fugitives residing in Portugal with his nephew, Peter of Castile. The Portuguese king conducted a public trial of Pêro Coelho and Álvaro Gonçalves in 1381. After finding them guilty of Ines' murder, the king ripped their hearts out with his own hands, according to Lopes, because of what they had done to his own heart. Diogo Lopes Pacheco escaped and died in 1383.

According to legend, Peter later had Inês' body exhumed and placed upon a throne, dressed in rich robes and jewels, and required all of his vassals to kiss the hand of the deceased "queen". However, contemporary evidence that the event occurred is minimal; Peter did have Inês' body removed from her resting place in Coimbra and taken to Alcobaça where it was reburied in the royal monastery. Peter had two tombs constructed, one for each of them, so they would see each other when rising at the Last Judgment. The tombs show Peter and Inês facing each other, with the words "*Até o fim do mundo...*" ("Until the end of the world...") inscribed on the marble.

Peter was also the father of Ferdinand I of Portugal and John I of Portugal. John was the Master of the military order of Avis, and he would become the founder of the Avis dynasty after the 1383–85 Crisis, defeating rivals who included Beatrice of Portugal and John I of Castile, and Inês's other son.

Marriage and descendants

Before his marriage to Constance, in 1329 he was betrothed to Blanche of Castile but because of her weak mental health and incapacity, the marriage never took place.^[5]^[6]

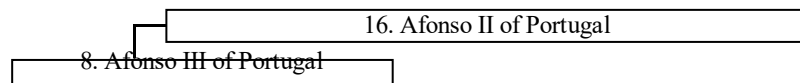
Name	Birth	Death	Notes
Constanza Manuel (c. 1320–1345; married on 24 August 1340)			
Maria	6 April 1342 ^[7]	a. 1367	Marchioness Consort of Tortosa by marriage to Infante Fernando of Aragon, Marquis of Tortosa.
Infante Luís (Louis)	1344	1344 ^[8]	
Ferdinand	31 October 1345 ^[8]	22 October 1383	Succeeded him as Ferdinand I, 9th King of Portugal.
By Inês de Castro (c. 1325–1355; possibly married in 1354)			
Afonso	1350	1350	Died shortly after his birth. ^[9]
John	1352 ^[9]	ca. 1396 ^[10]	Lord of Porto de Mós, Seia and Montelongo, and also Duke of Valencia de Campos. Claimant to the throne during the 1383–85 Crisis.
Denis	1353 ^[9]	ca. 1403 ^[11]	Lord of Villar-Dompardo. And later, Cifuentes, Escalona and Alvar de Tormes. Claimant to the throne during the 1383–85 Crisis.
Beatrice	1354 ^[9]	1381	Countess Consort of Alburquerque by marriage to Sancho of Castile, Count of Alburquerque y Haro.
By Teresa Lourenço (c. 1330–?)			
John	11 April 1357	14 August 1433	Natural son. Grand Master of the Order of Avis. Succeeded his half-brother Ferdinand I after the 1383–85 Crisis as John I, 10th King of Portugal, the first of the House of Aviz.

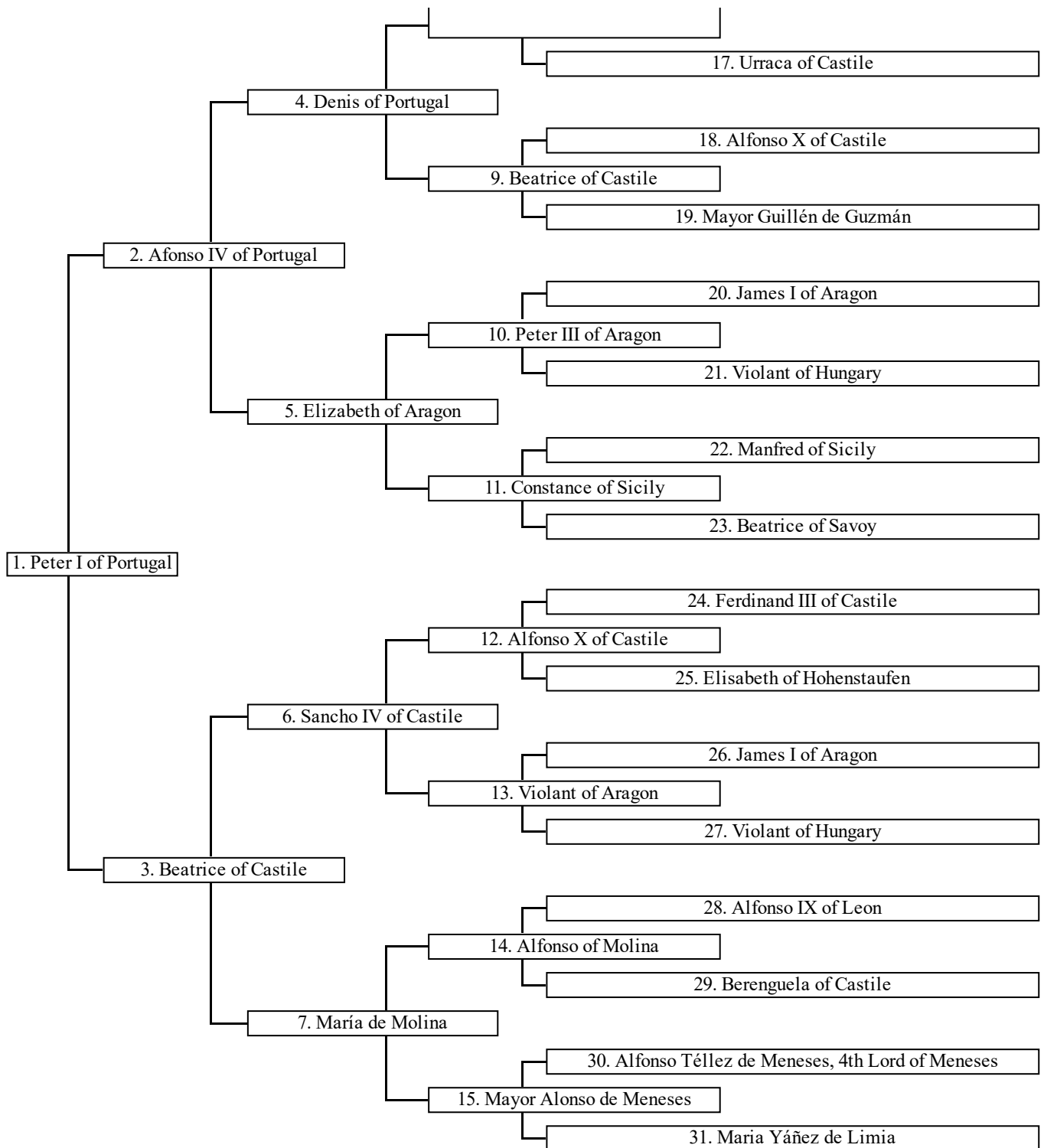


Peter allegedly had Inês de Castro's body exhumed and crowned Queen of Portugal, forcing the clergy and nobility to kiss the bones of her hands.^[3]^[4]

Ancestors

Ancestors of Peter I of Portugal





See also

- Quinta das Lágrimas

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5. Rodrigues Oliveira 2010, p. 223.
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7. Rodrigues Oliveira 2010, p. 249.
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10. Romero Portilla 2002, p. 521.
11. Olivera Serrano 2005, p. 130.

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External links

Peter I of Portugal House of Burgundy Cadet branch of the Capetian dynasty Born: 8 April 1320 Died: 18 January 1367		
Regnal titles		
Preceded by Afonso IV	King of Portugal and the Algarve 1357–1367	Succeeded by Ferdinand I

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