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### **Extrait de l'article**

When Philip II of France summoned King John of England to appear before his court in 1202, it was clear that he acted as feudal overlord, treating John as his vassal, who had to defend himself against the charge that he had denied justice to one of his men. Two years before, in the treaty of Le Goulet, John had acknowledged that he was to hold his inherited continental possessions as fiefs (*sicut feoda debent*) from the king of France. It seems that this concession was not at all new, since several of John's predecessors had done homage to the French king. What was new in 1202 was the fact that Philip II made use of his suzerainty in a formal procedure which legitimized his political and military actions against the English king. By 1202 feudal custom was obviously recognized as an enforceable law and doing homage had become an act clearly defining the legal relationship between lord and vassal.

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