



United Nations Historical Committee





UN Model: United Nations Historical Committee (UNHC).

Topic: *The Wars of the Roses: a medieval succession crisis.*

Written by: M.A. Edwin Boeta Menzel.

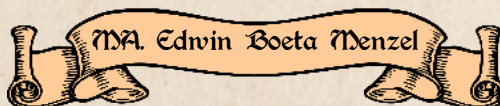


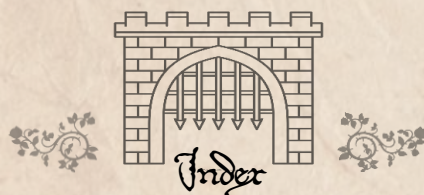
Welcome my Lords & Ladies to our **SPIS Model of the United Nations 2025!** We are very pleased to have you here to participate in this historical *Royal Debate*, on which the fate of the English Throne is now in your hands. My Lords & Ladies, we desire you to have fun and learn while you make use of your best of skills and wits.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have. Your Chairs, or rather your *Royal Counselors* in this noble chamber are: **Directors** *Daniela Santos Elizondo & Sebastián Salinas Reyes*, **Moderator** *Andrés Garza López* & **Secretary** *Ana Carmina Castillo*.

We hope you will have the best of experiences and you learn a bit about history, medieval politics, and about yourself while you participate in this special debate.



Sincerely,





| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| About this Committee..... | 4. |
| I. Introduction to some basics of Medieval Politics..... | 4. |
| II. History behind this topic: “the Wars of the Roses” | 12. |
| III. Royal Parliament sessions: the rules of the debate..... | 23. |
| IV. Succession crisis, characters & factions..... | 32. |
| V. Essential guidelines..... | 42. |
| VI. References..... | 43. |





About this Committee.

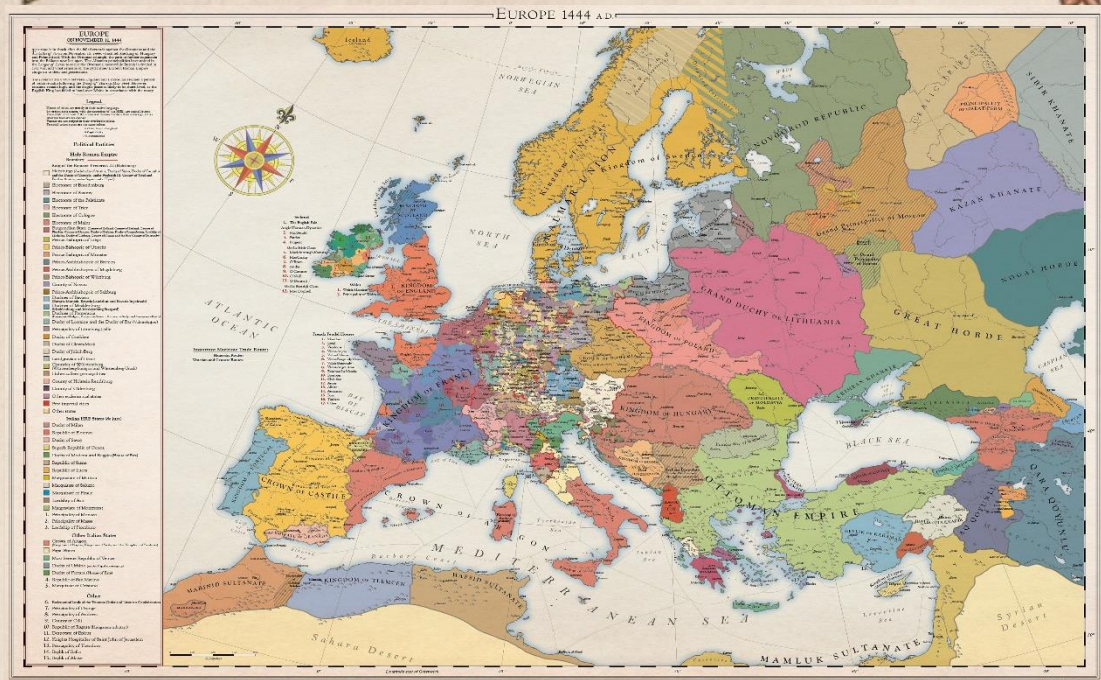
This Historical Committee is set on *The Wars of the Roses*, which is the romanticized name used by historians today to describe a series of conflicts that happened over a succession crisis in late medieval England (1455-1487). Participants would play the role of a representative of a 15th century Noble House, having a Royal Title such as Duke, Baron, Count, Marquis, etc. The scenario for this committee takes place throughout the war; all quorum's representatives have been summoned to a series of emergency "sessions in the Parliament", facing the need to adapt to sudden changes due to events that would be triggered at different moments during the sessions, making this a Crisis Debate. England was divided into two main factions who fought over the Throne; the *Lancaster* and the *York*. The representatives would play the role of one of the most powerful nobles in the Realm, summoned to the Chamber to be part of this Royal Debate in order to find a solution to end the war and thus bestow the Crown on the legitimate King or Queen of England.



I. Introduction to some basics of medieval politics.



During the late Middle Ages in Western Europe, diplomacy was done quite differently. Here you have some basics you would need to know. There were no United Nations or international peace institutions or official delegations. Peace agreements or problem resolutions were made between Monarchs and representatives of other Kingdoms, striking personal deals, pacts or alliances between individuals of different noble families and members of the *Royal family*. Inside a Kingdom, communication and diplomacy were done between representatives of the most influential families and the Monarch. Even if the Monarch was seen as the "most powerful" in the Realm, the nobles and high-rank ministers of the Church wielded also a lot of power and influence themselves because they usually were part of the *Royal Court* -and the *Parliament* in the specific case of England- as advisors to the Monarch, and some nobles were even related or married into the Royal family. Thus, **medieval diplomacy** was kind of like a "family business" based on close relationships, marriages, favors, lineage and personal alliances.





At the time, all people in Western European countries were divided into **three social categories** according to a social system called by historians as *the Ancient Regime*: The Nobility -including the Royal family and the Monarch-, the ministers of the Church & the Commoners. The nobles and high-rank ministers of the Church belonged to the upper class of society while the vast majority of people, the commoners or peasants, were not. The reason why the nobles had much power was based on tradition, they had all kinds of privileges; like *Royal Titles* (such as being a Duke, Count, Baron, Lord, etc.), they had their own *vassals* from whom they were able to *collect taxes* (in some cases, there were powerful nobles as rich as the King), they had *armies* and some *knights* under their service, usually they owned a *castle* and they had control over a lot of the land. In fact, **the King** was also part of the *nobility*; but the special difference between him and the rest of the nobles was that he sat on the *Throne*, and therefore he was believed to be the highest in rank among them -this was according to a medieval political philosophy actually inspired on an ancient Roman concept, of him being seen as the *Primus Inter Pares* or “the first among equals”- and also the one selected by God to rightfully rule. Thus, a **Monarch was believed to have the right by law** to sit on the Throne because he or she had **legitimacy** or a true claim to it, **based broadly on at least some of the following nine arguments**:





1. His or her father, mother or relative was a previous Monarch or important member of the Royal family or lineage; the closer the **consanguinity** or “blood kinship” is, the better.

2. He or she is the **senior member** among his living siblings or relatives of the same generation and lineage. This means that the person is considered to be the “head of the family” at the moment.

3. He or she belongs to a **true noble house**. Usually, to the same house of the previous Monarch or to a house with some connection to it, in some cases even distantly related.

4. His or her parents were married as Christians before is was born, and both belong to a noble house. Also, there must be no doubts about its **ancestry** or real parents.

5. He or she must be a virtuous, pious and **devout Christian**. The Monarch was supposed to be seen as the greatest example of a true Christian to all of its subjects to follow.

6. He or she is **married to an important figure** of a previous or the current Royal family or of the same lineage. This argument usually didn’t work on its own though, because the support of important nobles and the Church to favor its claim to the Throne was crucial. However, this was more convincing if it **had an heir of its own**.

7. Although some women were anointed as Queens, medieval laws were written in a way to give **precedence to bestow the Crown on a man** of the family, even over his elder sisters or female relatives; and only, if no male with a rightful claim to it was available, then a woman was truly considered. Nevertheless, other strong arguments could make her claim more convincing.

8. He or she has the **support of the most powerful nobles and the Church**, is loved in the Realm and is not seen as a *tyrant, greedy, warmonger, corrupt, mad, weak, sick, murderer* or *cruel*.

9. He or she **was named as the heir** to the Throne by the previous Monarch, but this was not always respected as a strong claim if the heir was not married and/or was not loved in the Realm.

Not fulfilling one or some of these nine arguments could mean a potential rival who might have a stronger claim and support, could challenge the King and plot to attempt to take over the Throne. Of course, in order to do this, a pretender should also argue its own claim based on its context. **Some of these reasons could be argued to be far more important than others, hence the plot of this debate;** for instance, being a Christian was an absolute necessity, while a greedy King could be tolerated if the nobles had something to win from all of it. Some examples of historical **unpredictable situations** that could bend the rules a little were: any noble house distantly related to the Royal family or in some cases not even related to them, could try to take the Throne by outright replacing the old Royal house, if they had the sufficient support of key political figures and a stronger claim than the current Monarch; a younger individual could try to take the Throne from his elder relative(s), if the nobles and the Church had a preference for him based on any of the mentioned reasons (for example, when a big brother happens to be crazy, while the little brother is loved by the commoners and the nobles); if a King died leaving a young child as the heir to the Throne, an ambitious uncle could try to usurp the Throne from his nephew if the most influential members of the nobility and the Church let it to happen; there were also relatives of the Royal family married to noble families from other Kingdoms, and due to their lineage they could have press a claim to the Throne, meaning that there were also people outside the Realm who could attempt to rally support from another country to try to seize the Crown of his or her homeland if the claim was strong enough; some external pressures, for example the interference of *the Pope* in the Kingdom's politics could also affect or benefit the position of a King or a noble with a claim to the Throne. Therefore, you should understand most of the mentioned arguments as guidelines or **basis to build a claim to the Throne**, rather than strict rules to follow.



According to late medieval political philosophy in most Western European countries, **the main function of a King** was to be seen as **an example of morality and virtue** (based on Christian values) to all of his subjects to follow & **provide justice** and **protection** to the Realm. It was thought that just as God rules in *Heaven*, a Monarch was designated by the creator to rule on Earth following its divine example. A King was to **rule** and **bring order**, to keep the **harmony** between the different social groups



in the Realm, to **protect** the Kingdom and the Church from any threats or wars, to **defend** the traditions and laws, and to provide **justice** at the highest level. Also, the rest of the nobility had to follow these principles, only at their own level of power and in their respective jurisdiction.

It's important to keep in mind that all of the Western European countries were part sort of an "international community", called *Christendom*. This means that even if each country had its own characteristics, culture and politics, its people were all Christians. Thus, the **Catholic Church** (at the time the sole dominant Christian denomination in Western Europe) had a lot of power and influence over all of those countries, even impacting the internal politics of a Kingdom, its population's thoughts, values and way of life. **The Pope**



-the supreme head of the Church- had immense influence on the international relationship between countries; a King having a disagreement with him could lead to loss his support or even his legitimacy as the Monarch because as mentioned before, a King is supposed to be the greatest example of a pious and devout Christian in the Realm. In general, it was not a good idea to challenge the Church even being the King. One of the most powerful tools for political and spiritual pressure that technically only the Pope had at its disposal on any Christian was something called *Excommunication*; which was basically, that the "Holy Father" publicly denounced a person as a "false believer" or *unfaithful*, and for as long this was the case that person was excluded from any kind of spiritual redemption, and this could mean that individual would not be allowed to enter into the Heavens once is dead. For a King being excommunicated was a big problem because this led to him losing legitimacy in the eyes of his subjects, and to being a risk of becoming a target to be deposed by someone that may have now a stronger claim to the Throne -keep in mind that during this age **the source of power was God, not the people**- During the late Middle Ages there was a controversial on-off debate about if the political power -such as the Monarch- was supposed to be seen as an extension of the spiritual power and under that level of intervention of the Church or if they rather, should be considered two kinds of unquestionably related powers but each over its own domain -politics and religion-, and thus the Church shouldn't have a lot of saying on purely political issues; but, for a long time, they would





still keep a strong influence on political matters until some centuries later. There were some historical cases of nobles and high-ranking ministers of the Church who asked the Pope to interfere through political means in the Kingdom, and even to use his prerogative of *Excommunication* against a King because of him not respecting **Christian values**. Inside the Church's hierarchy, there were some important and

influential figures, such as the **Archbishops & Bishops**. In a nutshell, both of these *Prelates* -or "religious roles"- represented the highest-ranking positions in the Catholic Church, only surpassed by the authority of the Pope to whom they owe their allegiance. Both Archbishops and Bishops are appointed by the Pope and their seat of power is a *Cathedral* (the central and usually the biggest church of a city), both roles have the purpose of administering religious matters and watching over all Christians in a specific territory -called a *Diocese*- inside a country where **some of their duties are**; to report to the Pope of all relevant information and impose its will in their own jurisdiction, preside over the *Sunday Mass* in the Cathedral, and dispense all *Sacraments* (for example conduct important baptisms and weddings of the nobility, the *eucharist*, absolve a person from its sins, ordain priests, etc.). The difference between an Archbishop and a Bishop is mostly a matter of their ranking in the Church's hierarchy; in other words, at the top is the Pope as the head of the Church, followed by the archbishops, then the bishops, and at the bottom are the priests, monks and other minor ministers of the Church. All of the Church's ministers, from the Pope to a local parish priest, had an immense sway over the commoners, and their opinions could affect or benefit the political position of a noble or even the King. Also, some high-ranking ministers of the Church were direct *Royal advisors*, and others were part of the *Royal Court* or participated in the *Parliament*, where their opinion was taken into consideration by the King or the nobility to make political decisions. Something important to keep in mind is that all of the **ministers of the Church are not allowed to claim the Throne** under any circumstance, because they are part of the "body of the Church" and devote only to the service of God, which means they should never take directly an "earthly political position", such as being the Monarch.




The **Nobility**, as mentioned before, had all kinds of privileges and power. All of this elaborate social system was based on the combination of tradition, and religion and argued explanations about the supposed differences between the social classes. A noble was thought to be an *example of virtue and morality*; sort of as a “more elevated” person and thus seen as touched by a certain *divine purity* making them to be “closer to God”, all of which justifies having its privileges in the first place. The commoners were precisely the opposite, hence the medieval idea of explaining why they belonged at the bottom of society. Basically, the Monarch and nobility were at the top to be seen as role models, and therefore better fit to rule. The nobles were all part of the same social category but there were differences among them according to their title’s ranking and prestige. The Monarch was at the top of the Realm’s **title prestige ranking**, and it was followed by the *Duke*, then the *Marquis*, the *Count* (also named as *Earl*), the *Baron*, and at the bottom there were some minor *Lords* and *Knights* who owned a bit of land. In practice though, this was not a rigid hierarchy; for instance, a Count could be as powerful as a Duke if he had also enough influence, money, advantageous marriages, loyal vassals, properties, alliances, etc. Nevertheless, prestige still is a strong argument by itself to **claim seniority**. Each title was linked to a certain territory, and it could be only granted by the Crown to be administered and protected by the holder of the title and its descendants; thus, the holder of a title contracts a pact called *Investiture* on which the Noble accepts the grace or “gift” of the King in exchange to become its vassal. In a nutshell, a **vassal** is a person who offers obedience, loyalty, services and respect to their Lord at the local level, and above all to the Crown. The nobility played a crucial role in the Kingdom, as the enforcers of the Monarch’s will and as the military branch of the Realm in times of need, in exchange for titles, privileges and lands to rule. Meanwhile, the commoners in exchange received simply the protection of their Lord and/or the King and also, they were allowed to live in and work the land under its Lord’s rule. A **noble’s duties as a vassal** were to: obey and honor their Lord and above all to the King, join his Lord’s wars and defend him, provide the King’s peace and justice, protect the Church, and





rule in the King's name over a certain territory. Although everyone in the Realm was the King's vassal, each noble had their own vassals, just at their respective level of real power and according to their rank, creating sort of a "social pyramid of power and loyalties". For the most part, the **nobles couldn't grant titles** as the Monarch did, but still, depending on their power and context they could have their own vassals by offering payment, some of its lands to work and/or a place in its Castle or town to some minor Lords or Knights to serve him. Also, the nobles were able to collect taxes in their territory and raise temporary armies to serve him, however, all of this was **overlapped by the King's authority often**, creating a conflict of interests, especially in times of war. Also, just like the King, the nobles had to **rely on legitimacy and loyalty** to keep their title(s) and position, only at their own level and adding the fact that for the most part, those titles were created and granted by the Crown at some point in the past. Actually, the Crown had the right to take away any titles and privileges from a disloyal vassal, although it was a very controversial action only possible when the King had a solid argument to do so (such as an *act of treason*). This means a noble's position, unless it was powerful enough to challenge the Crown, heavily relied on having a **good relationship** with its peers, vassals and of course, with the Monarch. However, allegiances could remain or suddenly change on the promise to get a bigger reward (such as titles, land, positions in the Royal Court, to marry someone important, etc.), just to keep in power, or because of a threat of losing all its privileges somehow. Breaking a *vassalage pact* was an extremely negative thing to do, it was done assuming a great risk and with the consequence, if its faction was not successful, to be stained as a traitor, losing all privileges, being exiled or even in extreme cases, executed. Thus, a noble had to think thoroughly and decide wisely where its loyalty lies. Sometimes, choosing between having to support the King or a pretender to the Throne was more about sheer opportunism due to the circumstances in order to **remain in power, make a profit**, serve its **personal interests** and/or **keep or increase their privileges** to rise in the ranks of the social hierarchy.







II. History behind the Topic: "The Wars of the Roses".

This Committee is set in the *Wars of the Roses*, which is the name given by historians today to describe this succession war, that was fought over the control of the Throne in late Medieval England between two main factions. It is called like that due to the fact those two faction's emblems or banners were two roses; the red rose of the Lancaster versus the white rose of the York. Both, Lancaster and York descended from the same Royal lineage, just through different members of the same family. This event was characterized by on-off moments of conflicts over the span of 32 years, between 1455 and 1487. This internal struggle concluded with the end of the rule of the *Plantagenet Dynasty*, the same Royal House both the Lancaster and York descended from. But more than that, this was the closure of the Middle Ages in England and the decline of the old *Feudal system*; because, most of the great noble houses got weakened in the process of internal conflict and plotting against each other and at the end, even if they remained in a privileged position, they lost a lot of its regional power, while the Monarch (and the Parliament) grew more powerful and its government over the Realm got more centralized in London, giving rise to the beginnings of the Early Modern Age in England. Thus, this is based on one of the most important English historical events of the 15th century, and this is a short summary of the origins, most important events, issues and characters of all of it.

In the year 1376 the old King of England, Edward III was informed of some terrible news; his son and heir to the Throne, -also named- Edward "*the Black Prince*", after long years of suffering from a disease he got while being in a military campaign, was at last dead. At the time, England was involved in the *Hundred Years War* against France; a very long and complicated war for both countries and a whole other topic by itself. In any case, the prince is said to have been a great commander and he went to fight the French in the continent to try to turn the war in the English favor, but he returned to Westminster and shortly after he would find his fate. The prince's death was not really a total surprise due to the years he suffered from his sickness and he even got to leave a testament of his last will, but his demise laid the foundations of the complex issues that would spring about 70 years later. It all started due to some complications about the succession after Prince Edward's death; he had a living young son, called Richard, but the issue was that the *Black Prince* was never officially the King like he was






supposed to be after his father, and even while he was still alive his son was named his heir, prince Edward did not wear the Crown himself. To make matters worse one year later after the prince's death, in 1377, King Edward III died and passed down the Crown to his ten-year-old grandson Richard II, leaving an uncomfortable situation due to the fact that the now young King had some influential and powerful uncles around him. King Richard II would reign for 22 years though, until things changed due to the ambition of his rivals.

Richard II had three uncles, the second, third and fourth male descendants of Edward III; Lionel of Antwerp, John of Gaunt, and Edmund of Langley respectively. This succession of seniority is quite important to keep in mind in order to understand the origins of the issues that would start the war decades later. John of Gaunt even being the third son, was a very influential person in the Realm, this was because his elder brother Lionel of Antwerp, was in fact also dead since 1368. John of Gaunt had a lot of power in the Royal court of his nephew; especially during the first years of his reign, because he led the Council formed to rule in the King's name when Richard II was still young of age. John of Gaunt was also the Duke of Lancaster, hence the name of the branch of the family that descended from him. John's eldest son, Henry, would be an important figure in the events that would happen later. Even when Richard II was old enough to be the King, he continued to be under the influence of its counselors, such as of his uncle John of Gaunt. A lot of people, especially other nobles throughout the Realm, start to resent the King's ruling and decisions taken by him, or rather by his counselors behind the scenes. Richard II was considered a weak, manipulated and incompetent King, unaware of the real issues in the Kingdom and this made him rather unpopular. His cousin, Henry, turned the opportunity in his favor and in 1399 when his father -John of Gaunt- died, he acted quickly. He was able to persuade important members of the nobility and other influential figures for its support, accusing his cousin of being a corrupt and tyrant, and therefore unfit to rule. That very same year in 1399, he usurped his cousin's Throne and became King Henry IV. This was the establishment of the Lancaster's claim of legitimacy to the Throne. Although Henry IV had strong arguments for his claim he had one important rival, his nephew Edmund Mortimer; first, because he was named by Richard II as his *heir apparent* some years before (this was because Richard II did not have any children); second and more importantly, Edmund was the grandson of the late Lionel of Antwerp; which means he was descendant of the second son of Edward III, while Henry IV was descendant of the third son in line of succession. Although Edmund






Mortimer would never be King, his ancestry would be very important later on for the York's claim to the Throne. This was because Edmund Mortimer was the grandfather of Richard of York, the person who would start the war several years later.

Henry IV and his son, Henry V, both would reign with relative internal stability in the Kingdom, not without its issues but for the most part, their legitimacy to the Throne remained unchallenged. However, the moment that everything changed was during the last years of the real reign of their successor, Henry VI. It is reported that the King by the decade of the 1450's started to experience several episodes of temporary "madness" and cognitive incoherence due to some kind of condition he suffered, possibly inherited from his maternal family. This condition would be one of the main reasons why the York would argue to have a stronger claim to the Throne. Henry VI was married to a very influential French noble lady, called Margaret of Anjou; the daughter of the powerful Duke of Anjou, René of Anjou. She was known for being a very intelligent woman who wielded a lot of influence on the Royal court, and she even ruled the Realm in the King's name when, her husband, had some of its episodes of madness and was unable to perform. Even if she was the consort Queen she was seen as a foreigner, having too much influence in the Royal court and therefore, some nobles got upset and distrustful due to the situation. Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou had a son in 1453, Edward of Westminster, the heir to the Throne. But, because Henry VI suffered from those madness episodes an important character would eventually intervene, the uncle of the King, Richard of York. He was the head of the York family branch, who were the descendants of Edmund of Langley, the fourth son of Edward the III. Richard of York inherited the title of Duke of York through this connection, thus the name of their family branch. Using his cunning and influence, he was able to gain the trust of Henry VI to name him *regent* (which is a title given to a person who temporarily rules in the King's name while he is unable to do so for some reason) while necessary in 1454, instead of his "foreign" wife, Margaret of Anjou. By doing this, Richard of York was also able to outmaneuver another powerful noble family very close to the Lancaster, the Beauford family, holders of the title of the Duchy of Somerset. The Beauford were actually the illegitimate descendants of John of Gaunt and his lover, Katherine Swynford; who were legitimized years after as true descendants of the Lancaster by Richard II, but in exchange they were legally forbidden to claim the Throne ever. Edmund of Beauford, Duke of Somerset, was also considered to be the *regent*, but he was actually arrested by Richard of York. All of this created the first

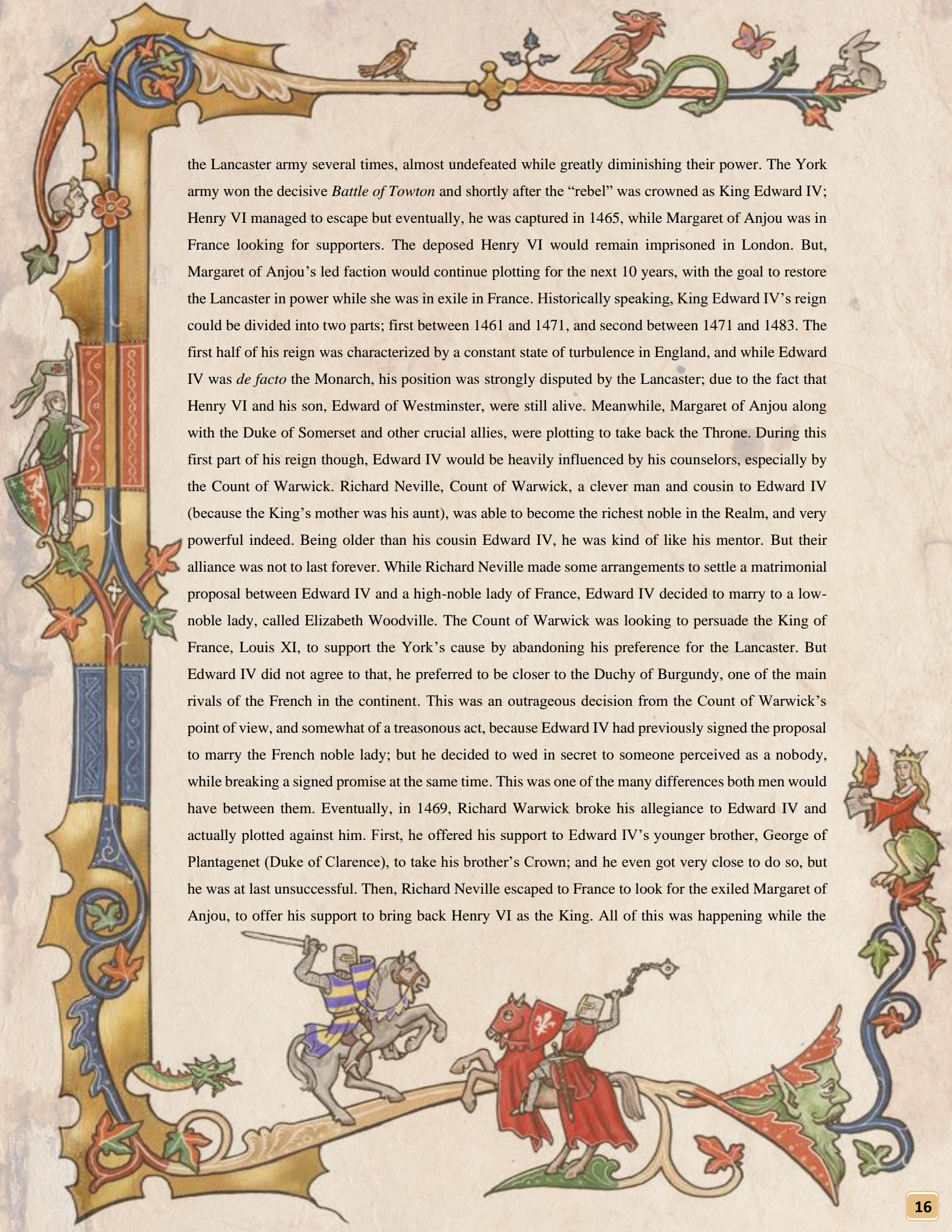






real rift between the two emerging factions, Lancaster versus York. In 1455 Richard of York had immense influence and support of some of the most powerful nobles, only challenged in practice by the Queen, Margaret of Anjou. Once the time was right and Henry VI suffered another of his episodes and was unable to rule, Richard of York turned the opportunity to his favor by directly claiming the Throne, due to the seemingly incurable madness of the King and also, because of York's own arguments to have a stronger claim. In order to understand the basis of the York's claim to the Throne, you need to also keep in mind the ancestry of Richard of York. As mentioned before, the York were the descendants of Edmund of Langley (fourth son of Edward III) through male line; but Richard of York, pointed out he was also the descendant of both Lionel of Antwerp (second son of Edward III) and Edmund Mortimer, through female line because of his mother, Anne Mortimer. Using this argument, Richard of York claimed seniority over Henry VI due to his connection to Lionel, which was a higher-ranking male line of succession than the Lancaster's ancestry (descendants from the third son of Edward III), even if it was claimed through a female line. By doing this, Richard of York started the war against the Lancaster, which defended the legitimacy of Henry VI as the true King but in practice, they were led by the Queen, Margaret of Anjou; who of course, was also defending her son's claim to the Throne. The Lancaster argued to have a more "lawful" claim; Henry VI was even supported by the Pope, Pius II, who sent his *Apostolic Legate* (meaning one of his representatives), Francesco Coppini, to try to mediate the situation. After a series of complex events at the very start of the war, the Lancaster were able to capture Richard of York and he was taken as a prisoner. Although Richard of York would manage to escape and later reorganize his troops to face the Lancaster again in the *Battle of Wakefield*, where he would lose and be slayed in 1460. By then the Lancaster House were once more in power, and now the York House was led by Richard's son, Edward of York, looking for revenge.

Edward would continue his father's cause against the Lancaster after his death, and he was proven to be quite effective. Due to his skills as a military commander, he was actually able to turn the table in his favor by winning decisive battles and having the support of very important nobles; more crucially his cousin's help, Richard Neville, Count of Warwick; also known as the "Kingmaker", because of its decisive role in the process to Edward's eventual enthroning. The Count of Warwick would rise to become the most powerful noble for a while, and his decisions would set the course of the following series of events. Edward and his allies during a very fast military campaign were able to defeat


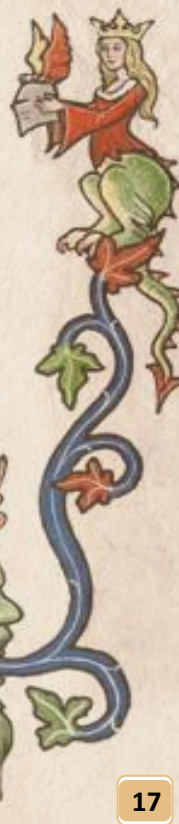





the Lancaster army several times, almost undefeated while greatly diminishing their power. The York army won the decisive *Battle of Towton* and shortly after the “rebel” was crowned as King Edward IV; Henry VI managed to escape but eventually, he was captured in 1465, while Margaret of Anjou was in France looking for supporters. The deposed Henry VI would remain imprisoned in London. But, Margaret of Anjou’s led faction would continue plotting for the next 10 years, with the goal to restore the Lancaster in power while she was in exile in France. Historically speaking, King Edward IV’s reign could be divided into two parts; first between 1461 and 1471, and second between 1471 and 1483. The first half of his reign was characterized by a constant state of turbulence in England, and while Edward IV was *de facto* the Monarch, his position was strongly disputed by the Lancaster; due to the fact that Henry VI and his son, Edward of Westminster, were still alive. Meanwhile, Margaret of Anjou along with the Duke of Somerset and other crucial allies, were plotting to take back the Throne. During this first part of his reign though, Edward IV would be heavily influenced by his counselors, especially by the Count of Warwick. Richard Neville, Count of Warwick, a clever man and cousin to Edward IV (because the King’s mother was his aunt), was able to become the richest noble in the Realm, and very powerful indeed. Being older than his cousin Edward IV, he was kind of like his mentor. But their alliance was not to last forever. While Richard Neville made some arrangements to settle a matrimonial proposal between Edward IV and a high-noble lady of France, Edward IV decided to marry to a low-noble lady, called Elizabeth Woodville. The Count of Warwick was looking to persuade the King of France, Louis XI, to support the York’s cause by abandoning his preference for the Lancaster. But Edward IV did not agree to that, he preferred to be closer to the Duchy of Burgundy, one of the main rivals of the French in the continent. This was an outrageous decision from the Count of Warwick’s point of view, and somewhat of a treasonous act, because Edward IV had previously signed the proposal to marry the French noble lady; but he decided to wed in secret to someone perceived as a nobody, while breaking a signed promise at the same time. This was one of the many differences both men would have between them. Eventually, in 1469, Richard Warwick broke his allegiance to Edward IV and actually plotted against him. First, he offered his support to Edward IV’s younger brother, George of Plantagenet (Duke of Clarence), to take his brother’s Crown; and he even got very close to do so, but he was at last unsuccessful. Then, Richard Neville escaped to France to look for the exiled Margaret of Anjou, to offer his support to bring back Henry VI as the King. All of this was happening while the



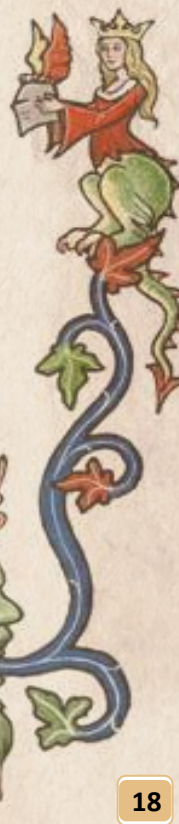
Lancaster were in fact hoping for some kind of miracle; they were delighted to receive the former stronger ally of their main rival. So well received was the encounter that even the young prince, Edward of Westminster, got married to Anne Neville, Richard Neville's daughter. The Count of Warwick, Margaret of Anjou and the Duke of Somerset made preparations, and in 1471 they invaded England. Although this invasion was not as successful as they hoped for. The Lancaster army was once more defeated by Edward IV's forces on the battlefield, and this time the King decided to end all possible rivals to his Crown. Richard Neville was killed in the *Battle of Barnet*, while one month later the York captured the Duke of Somerset and the young prince, Edward of Westminster (including his mother Margaret of Anjou), after the decisive *Battle of Tewkesbury*. The York decided to sentence them to death by hanging, and shortly after Henry VI was also executed in the Tower of London. Only Margaret of Anjou was spared but stripped of all her power and her cause to keep fighting. Thus, all direct male-line successors of John of Gaunt were killed that year. For a moment, in 1471, the war seemed to have ended; nonetheless, the Lancaster were not fully finished, there were some other descendants of John of Gaunt through female-line, and they would have their chance to push for their claim again some years later. These events marked the beginning of the second part of Edward IV's reign. Between 1471 and 1483, seemingly as the undisputed King, he would rule in relative peace. However, his reputation was somewhat damaged for several reasons over the course of the rest of his reign. First, its matrimony to Elizabeth Woodville was not fully accepted by everyone, including Edward IV's younger brothers, Richard of York (Duke of Gloucester) and George of Plantagenet (Duke of Clarence). This was mostly because of the sudden rise of the low-noble family of Woodville in the Royal court. Elizabeth's father, Richard Woodville, wielded a lot of influence on the King because he was his closest advisor at the time; provoking envy and distrust of other powerful nobles. Furthermore, because Edward IV broke his signed promise of betrothal by marrying Elizabeth Woodville instead, it triggered some questions about his children's legitimacy to the Throne. This was not a matter if they were really his children or not, rather it was about some nobles who saw them as being a product of an unlawful wedding in the first place. Another reason why the reputation of the King was tarnished, was because Edward IV executed his brother, George of Plantagenet (Duke of Clarence). This happened because of a long-standing disagreement between the two brothers. First, as mentioned before, George of Plantagenet collaborated with the Count of Warwick when he was plotting to replace Edward IV with him as the King. Although






Edward IV reluctantly forgave his brother's participation in the conspiracy, some years later there was another incident. By 1474, Edward IV was involved in some complex international strategies in a brewing conflict between France and Burgundy, and he was looking for an opportunity to get an advantageous deal for England in the process. France and Burgundy were rival countries, and England usually was involved in their wars in order to help one of them against the other, depending on the situation and interests of the time. Edward IV was very keen on having a good relationship with the Burgundians and actually joined them against France, because of very complex reasons that are not really necessary to know about for the purposes of this summary. In any case, while this was happening, George of Plantagenet because he was a widow by then, he started plotting behind his brother's back in order to send a proposal of marriage to Marie of Burgundy, the only survivor heir of the Duke of Burgundy. This was seen as a highly treasonous action by Edward IV; he accused his brother of scheming and taking advantage of the situation for his own benefit while ruining the King's plan for foreign affairs. Therefore, Edward IV feeling insulted decided to sentence his own brother to be executed in 1478. Although the King was greatly loved among the commoners and the most powerful nobles, other noble families were distrustful because of his decisions; and killing his brother was seen as too much by many. However, Edward IV would keep his Crown without facing any serious threats onwards. His reign was ensured by having two legitimate sons, a guarantee to his succession to the Throne; and even if some nobles were distrustful of him, the King had a lot of power and was able to impose his will quite effectively. However, fate sometimes plays tricks on all of us; and when he was only 41 years old, Edward IV died in 1483, leaving somewhat of a complicated inheritance.

Edward IV had a lot of children, mostly women, some of them were even illegitimate; but with Elizabeth Woodville, he had only two sons. The complicated part about it was that both of them, were still young of age. These boys were Edward (named like his father) aged twelve, and Richard of Shrewsbury who was ten; traditionally, they are called by historians as the "*Princes in the Tower*", due to the series of events that happened right after his father's death. In 1483 the young prince became Edward V, although he would be King for just about three months. When Edward IV died, his younger brother, Richard (Duke of Gloucester) was in the north of the Kingdom, but he returned promptly to London as soon he was aware of the news. Richard was a clever man, a good military commander and loyal to his brother until his death, but when his nephew was named Edward V, he saw an opportunity





to push for a claim to the Throne. As mentioned before, some among the nobility had questions about the true legitimacy of Edward IV's sons; using the occasion, Richard was able to convince powerful individuals to assemble to discuss the matter of succession. Richard and other nobles, like the Duke of Buckingham, decided to act swiftly; they imprisoned all of the Woodville family members and both Edward V and his little brother, in the Tower of London; hence the historical nickname given to them. The assembly declared both Edward V and Richard of Shrewsbury as illegitimate, possibly even having been born from a previous relationship of his father with another woman. In any case, the assembly of nobles decided to escalate the situation, pushing the Parliament to accept it. Eventually, both children were stripped of their rank and titles, while the Duke of Gloucester, was named King Richard III that year in 1483. Shortly after though, both young princes mysteriously vanished, probably assassinated in secret. There is a lot of controversy about it, even today; there is no consensus about who was really the person who did it, but among the suspects were, of course, Richard III himself and Henry Tudor; the latter, a very important character that would intervene to revive the Lancaster claim to the Throne. Richard III was a controversial King, not liked by everyone and he also had somewhat of a bad reputation; Shakespeare, more than a century later, would describe him as a tyrant and very ambitious King who was a hunchback (today we know this is quite exaggerated and he was not really a hunchback). Although in reality, he was not a terrible King, some bad decisions taken during his rule led to a series of unfortunate events during his reign. Richard III was married to Anne Neville, daughter of the late Count of Warwick and widow of Edward of Westminster; something that gave him somewhat of legitimacy. But the general unpopularity of the King would be a perfect opportunity for a pretender to rise in a moment like this, and to attempt to make a move.

Henry Tudor was a noble with a very important and complex ancestry, and he would play a crucial role between 1483 and 1487. The Tudor family was a noble house that originated in Wales, but they had some connections to the Royal lineage through female line, specifically to the Lancaster branch. First, Henry's father, Edmund Tudor was the son of Owen Tudor and more importantly, Catherine of Valois; the widow of Henry V. This complex lineage means that Edmund Tudor was the half-brother of Henry VI, because they shared the same mother. Furthermore, Edmund Tudor got married to Margaret Beauford, a survivor of the Beauford family and daughter to the Duke of Somerset; members of the legitimized offspring of John of Gaunt and his lover, Katherine Swynford. This means



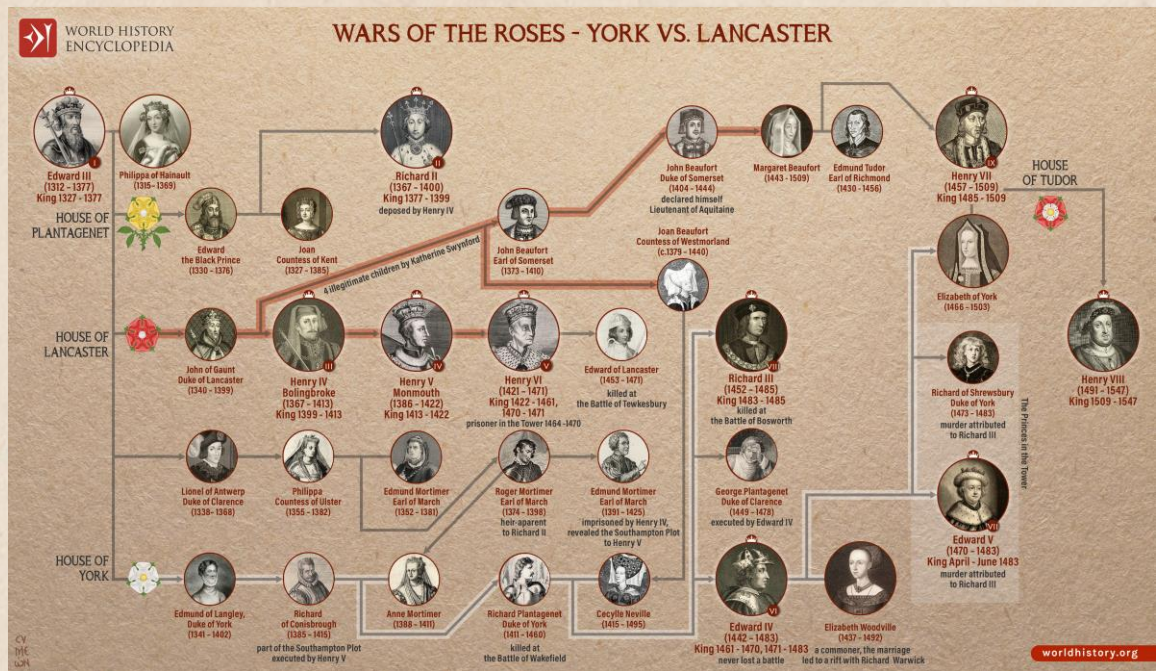


that Henry Tudor was a direct descendant of the Lancaster branch through his mother. When Henry was still very young his father died, and since then he was protected by his uncle, Jasper Tudor; who after the defeat of Margaret of Anjou, he became somewhat of the leader of the Lancaster cause. Jasper Tudor was a strong defender of his nephew's right to the Throne for a long time since Edward of Westminster and Henry VI were executed. Although there were other potential candidates who were also descendants of the Lancaster through female-line, and even when the Tudor was mostly a minor noble family in comparison to others, Henry Tudor was the head of the Lancaster cause since the opportunity to push for his claim presented itself in 1483; when Richard III took the Crown of his nephew, Edward V, and became the King with the help of a divided nobility and a bad reputation of being the likely culprit of his young nephew's deaths. Between 1484 and 1485, both Anne Neville and his young son died, suddenly leaving Ricard III a widow and without an heir, a critical blow to his legitimacy as the King; and to make matters worse, then he made a public consideration to marry his niece, Elizabeth of York; daughter of his late brother, Edward IV. This was considered outrageous by many among the conservative nobles of the York faction, because it was perceived as an abuse of power, pushing a lot of them to declare their allegiance to Henry Tudor; including a proposal for him to marry Elizabeth of York, not Richard III. Thus, Henry Tudor rallied his allies and supporters, even from other places outside the Realm, such as the Duchy of Brittany; the place from he actually launched his invasion of England in 1485. The King responded by calling his vassals and supporters to join him to meet the pretender on the battlefield. Eventually, after a summer of fighting, both armies met in the decisive *Battle of Bosworth*, where Richard III would face his final fate. Thus, Henry Tudor arrived in London and shortly after he was crowned Henry VII. Most historians argue the war technically continued until 1487, because there was another pretender who tried to take the Crown, Margaret of York, sister to both Edward IV and Richard III; she sent a mercenary army from the continent to invade England, but she did not receive almost any support from the English nobility, thus her army was easily defeated. Henry VII would marry Elizabeth of York, which represents the union of both the Lancaster and York in matrimony, joining their houses (symbolized by the merging of their "family red & white roses" emblems), finally ending the long succession war under a new ruling dynasty, the House of Tudor.



This very well-made illustration shows the family connections between the main characters of the Royal Lineage, mentioned throughout this Chapter. It is the Family Tree of the protagonists of the House of Plantagenet, and their respective branches: Lancaster and York.

This image was published by the *World History Encyclopedia*, made by Simeon Natchev. For more details see the reference.



Reference:

Natchev, Simeon.


"Wars of the Roses - York vs. Lancaster."

World History Encyclopedia.

Last modified February 07, 2020.

<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/11846/wars-of-the-roses---york-vs-lancaster/>





III. Royal Parliament Sessions: the rules of the debate.



This debate's scenario takes place in the Chambers of the **English Parliament**, where all of the representatives were summoned to argue their points of view about the situation of the war in the Realm and, of course, with the ultimate goal of deciding who is the legitimate Monarch of England. The representatives would be part of a series of four *Parliamentary Sessions*, which all together make the whole debate. Each *Session* takes place at a "different moment" during the war, between 1455 and 1485; so, the representatives would feel the flow of history happening around them due to the changing scenario. This committee is a crisis and therefore it's important to keep in mind **you should be open to adapting your arguments and position** to the changing circumstances of this scenario, which would be affected by several events that would be triggered at certain points throughout the debate, altering some of the key aspects of the overall situation you are all facing. This means you should use your wits and the best of your abilities during the debate as the noble you are roleplaying to be and adapt to the **changing circumstances** to keep you in power, and your privileges, looking to achieve your goals even facing sudden forced decisions that you didn't expect as part of your original plans. Throughout the debate, all the representatives would have the opportunity to cast a vote during a series of three *Parliamentary Voting Sessions*, which would be announced by the moderator at the beginning of said session; this vote would represent a big decision passed by the Parliament, related to the main issues of this debate with the ultimate goal of choosing the rightful Monarch of England. You should know that from this point forward this paper although is strongly based on historical facts, certain little details have been somewhat fictionalized, simplified or changed for this "UN parliamentary procedure" to work and flow in the desired direction. The actual historical events behind it all were far more intricate and complicated for the purposes of this committee; for instance, some of the noble titles displayed in this quorum in reality changed ownership between different rival families and others were even taken by the Crown over the course of the war. The reason behind this is to allow you to use the broad historical context of late Medieval England to play the role of important political figures but, at the same time for you to have some liberty and to not feel committed to recreate history as it was. In other words, **you may change history by your decisions** and also, you should be aware there were some creative liberties taken by the writer to make this special committee.





How to address others during the debate.

Something different from other UN models is that during this debate all representatives should know **how to address others** according to their title, rather than using the term “delegates”. For example, when talking to other representatives, you should address him/her the first time as “*My Lord Count of ...*” or “*My Lady Duchess of ...*”, and onwards just as “**My Lord/Lady**” would be sufficient. When you’re referring to the moderator, you should address him/her as “*My Lord/Lady Speaker of the House*” or simply “*My Lord/Lady Speaker*”, while for the rest of the Chairs you should address to them as “*My Lord/Lady*” as well. When you are **talking about your position**, you should say “**My House position is...**” rather than “My delegation...”; the term “House” refers to either the Lancaster or the York, the two teams that makes up the whole quorum.

About the flow of this debate.

The whole committee is divided into four sessions or parts. **Each one of the sessions follows the same process**; first, it starts as a *Moderated debate*, and then always everyone proceeds to an *Unmoderated debate*. All of the four sessions in Parliament would follow this same procedure, due to the way the crisis would be presented throughout the debate. Each session would be about debating one of the aspects of the general goal of this debate, in order to get close to the conclusion, which is of course finding the legitimate Monarch of England and ending the war. You would only know about the broad objective of the sessions here though, and the moderator would remind everyone about it at the start of each session. The **sequence** of the whole debate’s sessions and its respective parliamentary voting phases is as follows:

1. A matter of allegiances in a Realm at war (1461-1471): about discussing who to support as the true King of England and choosing a side.

**First Parliamentary Voting Session: Allegiances.*

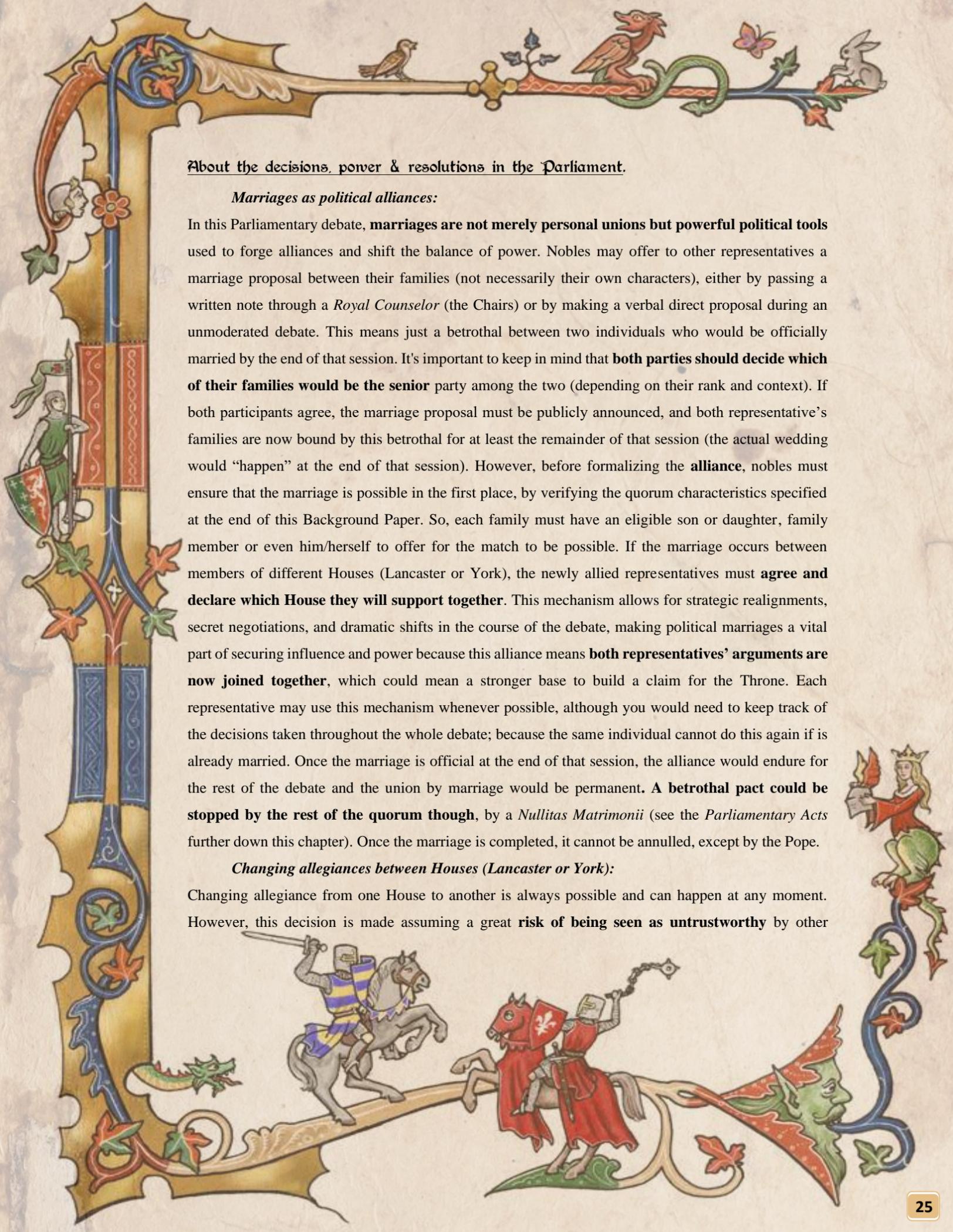
2. A matter about the pretenders to the Throne (1471-1483): about defending their respective claims to the Throne due to royal scandals and court intrigues.

3. A matter about the legitimacy of the Claimants (1483-1485): about finding the rightful claimant to the Throne for each House and the effects of long years of conflict.

**Second Parliamentary Voting Session: True claimants.*

4. A matter of who to bestow as the Monarch of England (1485): about finding an end to the war and choosing the rightful Monarch of the Realm.

**Third and final Parliamentary Voting Session: Legitimate Monarch of England.*




About the decisions, power & resolutions in the Parliament.

Marriages as political alliances:

In this Parliamentary debate, **marriages are not merely personal unions but powerful political tools** used to forge alliances and shift the balance of power. Nobles may offer to other representatives a marriage proposal between their families (not necessarily their own characters), either by passing a written note through a *Royal Counselor* (the Chairs) or by making a verbal direct proposal during an unmoderated debate. This means just a betrothal between two individuals who would be officially married by the end of that session. It's important to keep in mind that **both parties should decide which of their families would be the senior** party among the two (depending on their rank and context). If both participants agree, the marriage proposal must be publicly announced, and both representative's families are now bound by this betrothal for at least the remainder of that session (the actual wedding would "happen" at the end of that session). However, before formalizing the **alliance**, nobles must ensure that the marriage is possible in the first place, by verifying the quorum characteristics specified at the end of this Background Paper. So, each family must have an eligible son or daughter, family member or even him/herself to offer for the match to be possible. If the marriage occurs between members of different Houses (Lancaster or York), the newly allied representatives must **agree and declare which House they will support together**. This mechanism allows for strategic realignments, secret negotiations, and dramatic shifts in the course of the debate, making political marriages a vital part of securing influence and power because this alliance means **both representatives' arguments are now joined together**, which could mean a stronger base to build a claim for the Throne. Each representative may use this mechanism whenever possible, although you would need to keep track of the decisions taken throughout the whole debate; because the same individual cannot do this again if is already married. Once the marriage is official at the end of that session, the alliance would endure for the rest of the debate and the union by marriage would be permanent. **A betrothal pact could be stopped by the rest of the quorum though**, by a *Nullitas Matrimonii* (see the *Parliamentary Acts* further down this chapter). Once the marriage is completed, it cannot be annulled, except by the Pope.

Changing allegiances between Houses (Lancaster or York):

Changing allegiance from one House to another is always possible and can happen at any moment. However, this decision is made assuming a great **risk of being seen as untrustworthy** by other



representatives. At the beginning of the debate, all representatives belong to a specific House (Lancaster or York). Before switching sides, it is crucial to consider whether **your title and positions are tied to a specific House**; turning against your benefactors may lead to grave consequences such as accusations of treason. Most of the representatives in the Chamber owe their titles and position to the House they belong. While you have the freedom to realign your loyalties, such a move comes with risks, as it could cost you influence, alliances, or even you're standing in the Parliament. **Weigh your choices carefully**, as betrayal in a Realm at war is rarely forgiven; but, sometimes it's worth the gamble.


Parliamentary Acts.



At any point during a session in the Chambers of Parliament, all the representatives have the right and privilege to call upon the *Parliamentary Acts*, which are proclamations or laws that affect different aspects of the flow of the debate. **Each House** (Lancaster and York) **may call for a maximum of two Parliamentary Acts per session**, and **after a particular act passes it cannot be invoked again during the same session by anyone in the Chamber**. There is no specific order on how the Houses are supposed to ask for the acts, it may be called upon in any order based on the particular initiative of the representatives. **They may be used as to other actions in a UN-debate**; whoever wants to call for it, first would address the *Lord Speaker of the House* (the moderator) and ask for a "*Motion to vote a Parliamentary Act*". **The motion passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum's Houses** (Lancaster or York). Then he or she would address the quorum stating the name of the Act and a clear argument based on the purpose of the specific proclamation, to try to win their support to vote for the expected outcome. Thus, each *Parliamentary Act* has its perks, downsides, and ways to be called upon and/or different voting processes:



Justitia - Order the arrest of a representative for treason, infamy, or abuse of power, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, before voting whoever calls for it should announce a quorum's representative as the target that would be imprisoned in the *Tower of London* for a while. It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect**: While in prison, the target loses its right to vote (-1 Vote) for that specific *Voting Session of Parliament*. *Note: The target would be able to continue a complete and normal participation in the debate though; while this is active, it only has the consequence of taking away its right to vote at the end of that specific session. This action can only be used once per person for all the debate.





Lex Regia – Demand the respect of the King’s laws, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, only if a *Justitia Act* has already been passed during the session. It passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum’s Houses (Lancaster or York). **Effect:** By issuing a *Royal Pardon*, a target who was affected by a *Justitia Act* is released from imprisonment at once. Furthermore, the House (Lancaster or York) of whoever called for the *Justitia Act* previously, would be stained as *Unjust* and *Cruel*.



Auctoritas – Recognize publicly the claim of the Monarch or pretender to the Throne as legitimate by the Parliament, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, but before voting whoever calls for it should announce the name of one beneficiary among the quorum’s nobility -even him or herself- or one of the background characters (NPC); remember, ministers of the Church (such as Bishops) cannot claim the Throne. It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect:** Whoever called for it and its House (or internal faction) receive +1 Vote (sort of as a “phantom extra vote” in favor) for that specific *Voting Session of Parliament*. Also, the beneficiary’s claim is recognized as legitimate by the Parliament, and therefore it’s now seen as holding a great deal of *Authority*; a very strong political argument for its claim to keep or take the Throne. Although, the beneficiary is also branded in the Realm as a *Tyrant* during the rest of the session, a strong argument may now be used against it.



Manu Militari – Rally the support of your allies and vassals to continue the war against the usurper or pretender, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone only if an *Auctoritas Act* has already been passed during the session. It passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum’s Houses (Lancaster or York), although at least one *Duke/Duchess* & one *Count/Countess* of the same House should vote in favor for it to pass. **Effect:** Due to the unleashed conflicts all over the Realm against the *Tyrant*, all effects of an *Auctoritas Act* passed previously during the same session of Parliament are annulled. Although, this is considered a very negative action to do, and during the rest of the session the House (Lancaster or York) of whoever called for it, would be stained in the Realm as *Warmongers*, a fact it may be used against them.





Potestas – Use the Parliament’s legislative power, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, who before voting should name a specific *Parliamentary Act* among those that have not yet been called during the session. It passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum’s Houses (Lancaster or York). **Effect:** The selected *Parliamentary Act* by whoever called for this proclamation is now banned from being called upon by anyone for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament. Although, it could be argued this action is an *abuse of power* and the House (Lancaster or York) of whoever called for this is branded in the Realm as *Corrupt* during the rest of the session, a fact it may now be used against them.



Irruptio – Call for an inrush by force of your House’s knights into the Parliament to stop an abuse of power, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone. It passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum’s Houses (Lancaster or York), although at least one *Duke/Duchess* & one *Count/Countess* of the same House should vote in favor for it to pass. **Effect:** Due to the armed irruption in the Parliament, all effects of a *Potestas Act* passed previously during the session of Parliament are annulled. However, this is considered a very negative action and for the rest of the session the House (Lancaster or York) of whoever called for it, would be stained in the Realm as *Dishonorable*, a fact may be used against them.



Tributum – Call for a much-needed rise in taxes and levies on the *Commoners*, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone. It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect:** First upon passing, this *Tributum Act* would not count as having taken one of the 2 basic possible acts each House may normally call upon; Second, because of the extra coins in the *Royal Treasury*, the House (Lancaster or York) of whoever called for this act is now able to call upon +1 more Act if they wish to (resulting in 3 possible passing acts for that House in total), for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament. However, during the rest of the session, whoever called for it would be the *most hated* among the *Commoners* and its whole House would be severely *blamed for the war’s devastation* in the Realm, a fact that may be used against them. *Note: It cannot be called upon by a representative from a House (Lancaster or York) that benefits from a previously passed *Liberalitas Act*, during that session of Parliament.





Privilegium – Demand the respect of the traditions and privileges of the *Nobility*, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, but before voting whoever calls for it should announce the name of one beneficiary among the quorum's nobility -even him or herself- or one of the background characters (NPC). It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect:** First upon passing this act, the selected beneficiary would be cleared of all infamy and bad reputation attributed to it due to the effects of any previously passed *Parliamentary Act* up until that moment (except for the effects of an *Excommunication*), reminding all in the Chamber the true meaning of being a noble; Second, only if there is still an active *Auctoritas Act* related to the same beneficiary, now it cannot be annulled by any means for the duration of that session of Parliament; and Third, the beneficiary's House receives the public recognition and support of most of the *lower-nobility* in the Realm, all of which are NPCs, representing minor Barons, Earls and Lords which may not be that powerful by themselves but, their support is a strong argument it may now be used in their favor, for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament.





Liberalitas – Call to perform a virtuous Christian charity to appease and win the support of the *Commoners* of the Realm, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon by anyone, except for someone from a House (Lancaster or York) that benefits from a *Tributum Act* passed previously. It passes by winning a majority of votes within only one of the quorum's Houses (Lancaster or York). **Effect:** Due to the generosity of the Parliament to ease the impacts of the war, the House of whoever called for this would be *greatly loved* by the *Commoners* and is therefore branded as an *example of Virtue*, which means for a moment there is a popular acclamation and support for them and their decisions by the majority of the people in the Realm; a strong argument it may be used in their favor. Also, if one of the Houses (Lancaster or York) has passed a *Tributum Act* previously to this, they would be further branded as *Greedy* and *Corrupt*, for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament.




Benedictio - Ask for the intervention of the Church to give its blessing to a Monarch or pretender to the Throne, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon only by a Bishop, before voting whoever calls for it should announce the name of







one beneficiary among the quorum's representatives or one of the background characters (NPC). It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect:** The Church gives its *blessing* and support to the claim to the Throne of the beneficiary, which means it is now branded publicly in the Realm as a *devout Christian* and an *example of Morality*, a very strong argument that may now be used in its favor. Also, due to this blessing, the selected beneficiary cannot be condemned by an *Excommunicatio Act* for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament.



Nullitas Matrimonii – Ask the Church the prohibit of a betrothal (arranged marriage) between two individuals, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon only by a Bishop, who before voting should announce the representatives or background characters (NPC) involved as the targets. It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum. **Effect:** The Church demands that any betrothal or matrimony arrangements between the targeted persons is invalid and should be broken (annuls a proposal of marriage between two representatives), for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament. *Note: You would realize when it would be possible to target a background character, by paying attention to the events and news announced between the sessions of Parliament. This only works on marriage proposals (before the wedding); an official and already well-established marriage cannot be annulled, except by the Pope.



Excommunicatio – Send a formal request to the Pope to condemn an unfaithful Christian to seek spiritual redemption, based on an argument presented to the quorum. It may be called upon only by a Bishop, who before voting should announce one of the quorum's nobility or any background character (NCP) as the target. It passes by winning a majority of votes within the quorum, but the unanimous vote in favor of both quorum's Bishops must be included. **Effect:** The target is now been investigated and under threat of being *Excommunicated* if it's found guilty, which means is stained in the Realm as an *unfaithful Christian*. If the target is already the Monarch it would make it difficult to defend its position while managing the situation with the Church. But if the target is a pretender to the Throne, its claim is stained and cannot be submitted for a voting process during that specific session of Parliament. The effects of this act linger for the rest of the duration of that session of Parliament. *Note: If the target was previously blessed by a *Benedictio Act*, it cannot be selected as a target of this act though.



Plotting and conspiracies.

The following action may only be carried out **during the unmoderated debate**, as this phase allows for the necessary discretion and flexibility required for political maneuvering. Unmoderated sessions provide the ideal setting for backroom negotiations, broker deals, secret plotting, and the forging of strategic alliances that could shift the balance of power, making it a crucial moment for advancing one's ambitions in the struggle for the Throne. **This action can only be used against one specific target once** (this means it can only be used once per person). It works like this:



Conspiratio – Form a conspiracy against a specific target among one of the representatives to maybe slip some sort of “medicine” into his cup, or to get it lost in a hunting expedition in the forest, or perhaps to get sure it would perish in a battle somewhere; in any case, at in end, he or she will meet its fate... This action is resolved at the end of the unmoderated debate. **How it works:** First, this can be used only to target a representative of the Quorum, not an NPC. All representatives would have the chance to discuss in secret during the unmoderated debate phase the... possibility of forming a conspiracy against a common rival. When this phase is about to be finished, the *Lord Speaker* (moderator) would pass along the representative's tables; each would have the right to cast a piece of paper on a ballot box which should contain the name of one selected target, or it could be an empty piece of paper just for appearances, or you may not cast anything. Each representative can only cast one piece of paper, and they cannot change their mind once it is cast. The written name should be just the title name of the one target. **Effect:** All written names would be counted, and if half of the Quorum +2 agrees on one single name, that target would meet its fate... and therefore, the target loses its right to vote (-1 Vote) for that specific *Voting Session of Parliament*. *Note: The target would be able to continue a complete and normal participation in the debate though; while this is active, it only has the consequence of taking away its right to vote at the end of that specific session. ** The needed number in order to be successful is half of the Quorum representative's total plus two (+2); for example, out of 24 members it would need 12+2:14 to be on board to be successful. Odd figures are always rounded upwards; for instance, 11,5 would be counted as a 12.

IV. Succession Crisis, Characters & Factions.

The scenario of this debate revolves around a question of legitimacy, a discussion among two or more parties who have the same goal; to take over the Throne. This kind of political issue has the historical name of “*succession crisis*”, which happens when a Monarch leaves after its death a very fragile, divisive, unclear, and/or controversial inheritance to the Crown. Throughout history there have been a lot of examples of this kind of issue, triggered by internal divisions in the Realm; factions in the Royal court who want more power and have rivals with the same goal; a new Monarch who is weak, unlawful, or is perceived as unfit to rule; or somehow there is an argument to discredit the heir or to increase another’s claim to the Throne. As mentioned before, this debate is set in a complex historical period in England which was driven into a civil war and divided into two factions who had a claim to the Throne over 32 years. Legitimacy is based on laws and traditions, but it also depends on perception and solid arguments to defend one position.

Faction starting claims (1461-1471):




Lancaster: they descend (male line) from John of Gaunt, the third son of King Edward III. Their claim is based on their ancestry, and it was established when Henry IV -son of John of Gaunt- took the Throne from his cousin, Richard II in 1399. They claim seniority, as the true eldest surviving male line of Edward III, since the death of Richard II. To them, the rightful Monarch -at the starting date of this debate in 1461- is Henry VI (grandson of Henry IV), married to Margaret of Anjou, who already has a son as his heir, the young Edward of Westminster. They argue to have a more “lawful argument” and the foreign support of the Pope and of the King of France, Louis XI. They dispute that York’s claim is unlawful, even if they descend from Lionel of Antwerp (second son of Edward III) this connection was claimed through a female line, unlike the long well-established, and true male line of the Lancaster. They see York’s claim as treasonous and hostile.



York: they descend (male line) from Edmund of Langley, the fourth son of King Edward III. Their claim is based on their ancestry, and it was established when Richard Duke of York -Edward IV’s father- challenged Henry VI’s legitimacy and started the war in 1455. Richard claimed to descend also from Lionel of Antwerp (second son of Edward III) through his mother, Anne Mortimer. Thus, the York were the descendants of both Edward III’s second





and fourth sons. They claim seniority due to their connection to Lionel, a higher-ranking male line of succession than the Lancaster's ancestry, even if it is claimed through a female line. Furthermore, they discredit the way the Lancaster took the Throne from Richard II in the first place; also, the mental sanity of Henry VI was put into question. To them, the rightful Monarch is Edward IV, since 1461. The York has somewhat foreign support from the Duchy of Burgundy (due to its rivalry with France), and some minor lords in Ireland and Flanders. They see Lancaster's claim as corrupt and weak.

Quorum:

Keep in mind, that you would find three categories of information for each of the quorum's representatives. These categories are: Historical background, Family, and Position & Power. The first category is just for you to understand the historical context behind the character, not to strictly follow it; while the second and third categories are about the made-up adaptations, which of course, are somewhat fictionalized or simplified for this debate to work as intended. Also, "Background characters" would play a crucial role throughout the debate's crisis; they are, basically, non-playable characters who you may interact with indirectly through your decisions and announcements during the debate.



Background characters (non-playable characters):



- **Henry VI** of Lancaster, King of England.
- **Margaret of Anjou**, Queen consort of England, the "*she-wolf of France*".
- **Edward of Westminster** (or Lancaster), the young heir to the Throne.
- Jean de Montluc, **legate of Pope Sixtus IV**.
- **Edmund of Tudor**, Count of Richmond & **Margaret Beaufort**.
- **Henry of Tudor**, son of Edmund of Tudor.
- Thomas Bourchier, **Archbishop of Canterbury**.
- **Diplomatic foreign support** to the Lancaster: *Papal States, Kingdom of France, Kingdom of Scotland & County of Brittany*.



Representatives in the Chamber:

- Duke/Duchess of Somerset.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Beauford family, which were the illegitimate descendants of John of Gaunt and his lover, Katherine Swynford. Eventually, they were legitimized as true descendants of the Lancaster by Richard II, but in exchange, they were legally forbidden to claim the Throne. Although due to their heritage, they had strong arguments in their favor to try to claim it. They were the most important supporters of the Lancaster right until the end.

Family: As the head of the Beauford family, you're married. You have one adult son as your heir, not yet married. You also have two adult daughters, not married yet. You're connected to the Lancaster family, sharing the same bloodline. You're the half-brother/sister to the King, Henry VI.

Position & power: You belong to one of the most powerful families in the Realm. You owe your position and title to the Lancaster, since the time of Henry IV. Your family is one of the wealthiest in the Kingdom. The Duchy of Somerset was one of the most important and prestigious titles.

- Count/Countess of Devon.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Courtenay family. At the beginning of the war, they were full supporters of Henry VI, but later on, they would change their allegiance to support the York. William Courtenay was married to Catherine of York, one of the daughters of Edward IV.

Family: As the head of the Courtenay family, you're a widow. You have an adult daughter, as your only offspring and heir, not yet married. You also have a younger adult sister, who is not married yet.

Position & power: You belong to a powerful family. You owe your title and position to the late King, Edward III, not specifically to the Lancaster. Your family is considered one of the best examples of virtue among the nobility.

- Bishop of Winchester.



Historical background: William Waynflete was the holder of the title for most of the war. At first, he supported the York, but he changed his mind to support Henry VI's "more lawful" argument.

Family: As a minister of the Church, you are not allowed to marry. You're only devoted to the service of God.

Position & power: You're a high-ranking minister of the Church, of one of the most important dioceses of the Realm. You were appointed by the late Pope, Pius II, as Bishop with the mission to assist Henry VI. You have a very good relationship with Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou, as his confessor and close advisor to both of them. You also have a good relationship with the Archbishop of Canterbury; and also with the new Pope, Sixtus IV, who sent his legate to the Royal court.

- Count/Countess of **Shrewsbury**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Talbot family. They were Lancaster supporters for most of the war. One of its members even rose to the position of *Lord Chancellor of Ireland & Lord High Treasurer of England*, during Henry VI's reign. This gave the Talbot family a lot of influence in the Royal court, due to the fact they were in charge of the finances of the Realm. They owed their position to the Lancaster.

Family: As the head of the Talbot family, you're married. You have three adult daughters, not married yet. The eldest among them is your heir.

Position & power: You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI. Your family is one of the wealthiest in the Realm; you also have contacts in France and Scotland.

- Baron/Baroness of **Clifford**.



Historical background: This title was granted by the Crown to the Clifford family in the 13th century. Their family was in charge of protecting the border between England and Scotland. For the most part, they were loyal supporters of the Lancaster throughout the war.

Family: As the head of the Clifford family, you're married, but you don't have any children. You have a younger adult sister, not married.

Position & power: Your title was granted so far ago to your family, that your loyalties are to the Crown itself, not to a particular branch of the Royal lineage. Although, your family has a better relationship with the Lancaster because the Queen, Margaret of Anjou, has sympathies for you. You are one of the close advisors to the King, Henry VI.

- Duke/Duchess of **Bedford**.



Historical background: This title had different holders throughout the war, but one of the most important was Jasper Tudor. This character was related to the Lancaster. Jasper Tudor was the half-brother of Henry VI, because they shared the same mother, and he was also a very important figure during the last years of the war. However, specifically on this title, when Edward IV became King, William Herbert was his holder; because, Jasper Tudor was a Lancaster supporter and was exiled from the Realm, and the King (Edward IV) took his title and gave

it to the Herbert family.

Family: You're the fictional son/daughter of Jasper Tudor. Your cousin, Henry Tudor, is the official head of the family, and you owe your allegiance to him. You're not married yet, and don't have any children. You may try to offer a marriage proposal to someone, but it would be done without waiting for your cousin's blessing; by doing so, you would break your allegiance to him.

Position & power: Since your father was exiled to France, he decided to pass the title to you, as a way to keep it in the family. Your family owes originally your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI (your half-uncle). However, you also have a relatively good relationship with Edward IV. You're related to Henry VI, but only because you share the same ancestor, your grandmother Catherine of Valois, who is also his mother.

- Baron/Baroness of **Hungerford**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Hungerford family. They were supporters of the Lancaster for most of the war. They were also holders of other titles, such as the *Barony of Moleyns*. Their members had a permanent seat in the Parliament.

Family: As the head of the Hungerford family, you're not married. You don't have any children.

Position & power: You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI. Your family has a very good reputation among the commoners in the Realm; they trust the decisions taken in Parliament when you're involved.

- Baron/Baroness of **Roos**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Roos family. They were loyal supporters of the Lancaster throughout the war. When Edward IV started his campaign to take over the Throne, Thomas Roos defended Henry VI, and some years later he would die in battle. His title was taken by York for a while until it would be given back to the Roos family by the end of the war.

Family: As the head of the Roos family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI. You were appointed by the Queen, Margaret of Anjou, as the personal protector of sin son, the heir to the Throne, Edward of Westminster.

- Baron/Baroness of **Percy**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Percy family. During the war Henry Percy was his holder, who was also the *Count of Northumberland*. They were supporters of the Lancaster for most of the war. This family had somewhat of a rivalry with the Neville family.

Family: As the head of the Percy family, you're married. You have one adult daughter, your heir, and it's not married.

Position & power: You belong to a very powerful family. You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI. You're considered an excellent military commander; you have almost won every battle in your life.

- Count/Countess of **Pembroke**.



Historical background: This title was actually linked to the Duchy of Bedford. There were different holders of this title during the war, but most notably Jasper Tudor and William Herbert (see the Duke of Bedford's historical background).

Family: You're the fictional younger brother/sister to Jasper Tudor. Your nephew, Henry Tudor, is the official head of the family, and you owe your allegiance to him. You're married. You have one adult daughter, your heir, and it's not married.

Position & power: Since your brother, Jasper Tudor, was exiled to France, he decided to pass the title to you, as a way to keep it in the family. Your family owes originally your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI (your half-brother). Although, you also have a relatively good relationship with Edward IV. You're related to Henry VI, but only because you share the same mother, Catherine of Valois.

- Baron/Baroness of **Dacre**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Dacre family. They were loyal supporters of the Lancaster throughout the war. When Edward IV started his campaign to take over the Throne, Ralph Dacre defended Henry VI, and some years later he would die in battle. His title was taken by York for a while until it would be given back to the Dacre family by the end of the war.

Family: As the head of the Dacre family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI. Your family has one of the strongest and biggest Castles in the Realm.

- Count/Countess of **Ormonde**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Butler family. This family was from Ireland and especially loyal to the Lancaster (most notably to Queen Margaret of Anjou). During the early stages of the war, James Butler was his holder. He was married to Leonor of Beauford, daughter of the Duke of Somerset, although they did not have any children.

Family: As the head of the Butler family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the Lancaster, specifically to Henry VI's wife, Margaret of Anjou.



Background characters (non-playable characters):



- **Edward IV** of York, King of England.
- **Richard Neville**, Count of Warwick, the "*Kingmaker*".
- **Richard**, Duke of York, father of Edward IV (killed in battle in 1460).
- **Richard of York**, Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of Edward IV.
- **George Plantagenet** (or York), Duke of Clarence, younger brother of Edward IV.
- **Anne Neville**, daughter of Richard Neville.



- **Edward Prince of Wales** (the heir) & **Richard of Shrewsbury**, sons of Edward IV.
- **Elizabeth of York**, daughter of Edward IV.
- George Neville, **Archbishop of York**.
- **Diplomatic foreign support** to the York: *Duchy of Burgundy, County of Flanders & Lordship of Ireland*.

Representatives in the Chamber:

- Count/Countess of **Rivers**.



Historical background: This title was actually created during the war by Edward IV, for the benefit of Richard Woodville around 1466. Richard Woodville was an important figure during the war; although he belonged to the lower-nobility, Edward IV was married to his daughter, Elizabeth Woodville. Therefore, the Woodville family had a lot of influence in the Royal court. Richard Woodville was the closest advisor to his son-in-law, the King.

Family: As the head of the Woodville family, you're married. You have two adult daughters not yet married. You're the father/mother-in-law of Edward IV, because your daughter Elizabeth Woodville is married to him. Your heir, Anthony Woodville, is already married. Your grandson, young Edward of York, is the heir of Edward IV.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. Your family rose from being members of the lower-nobility to be married to the Royal family. You're the closest advisor to the King and have direct access to him.

- Duke/Duchess of **Suffolk**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the de la Pole family. They were supporters of the Lancaster at first, while William de la Pole ascended from the rank of Marquis to a Duke by Henry VI. But some years later his son, John de la Pole, changed his total allegiance to the York due the fact he got married to Elizabeth of York, the younger sister of Edward IV and Richard III. John de la Pole was a close advisor to his brother-in-law, Edward IV.

Family: As the head of the de la Pole family, you're married. You have one adult daughter, your heir, and it's not married. You're the brother/sister-in-law to Edward IV, because you're married to his younger sister/brother.

Position & power: You are among the most loyal and dear families to the York; specifically, to Edward IV. Your family is considered one of the best examples of virtue among the nobility. Your daughter has a claim to the Throne because of your spouse's York heritage.

- **Bishop of Bath & Wells.**



Historical background: Robert Stillington was the holder of the title for most of the war. Although he was a supporter of the York, he did not have a good relationship with Edward IV specifically. He had some important positions in the Parliament several times. He was a supporter of Richard III.

Family: As a minister of the Church, you are not allowed to marry. You're only devoted to the service of God.

Position & power: You're a high-ranking minister of the Church. You were appointed by the Pope, Sixtus IV, as Bishop. You have a good relationship with the Archbishop of York. Even if the Pope favors the Lancaster, the York are closer to you; specifically, you have a good relationship with Richard (Duke of Gloucester). You were first the confessor of Richard Duke of York and now to his son, Edward IV.

- **Marquis/Marchioness of Montagu.**



Historical background: Its first holder was John Neville, younger brother of Richard Neville, Count of Warwick (aka the "Kingmaker"). They were loyal to the York at the start of the war, but after the disagreements his elder brother had with Edward IV, the situation was more complicated for them. John Neville due to his ancestry was the cousin of Edward IV, because the King's mother (Cecylle Neville) was John's aunt.

Family: You're the younger brother/sister to Richard Neville. Your brother, Richard Neville, is the official head of the family, and you owe your allegiance to him. You're not married yet. You don't have any children. You may try to offer a marriage proposal to someone, but it would be done without waiting for your brother's blessing; by doing so, you would break your allegiance to him.

Position & power: You have a very good reputation among the commoners in the Realm; they trust the decisions taken in Parliament when you're involved. You owe your title to your elder brother, Richard Neville, the Count of Warwick. Although, this was done during Edward IV's reign. You're a cousin to Edward IV because his mother is also your aunt. You have a decent relationship with him, but he is somewhat distrustful of you.

- **Count/Countess of Kent.**



Historical background: This title had different holders throughout the war, but one of the most important was William Neville, younger brother of Richard Neville, Count of Warwick (aka the "Kingmaker"). They were loyal to the York at the start of the war, but after the disagreements his elder brother had with Edward IV, the situation was more complicated for them. After 1463 this title was passed to the Grey family, who were loyal to the York right until the end.

Family: As the head of the Grey family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. You were appointed by the Queen, Elizabeth of Woodville, as the personal protector of his son, the heir to the Throne, Edward of York.



- Duke/Duchess of **Buckingham**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Stafford family. At the beginning of the war, his first Duke was Humphrey Stafford, loyal to Henry VI. But after 1460 his son, Henry Stafford would change his allegiance to the York. This was because Henry was actually the son of Katherine of Woodville, younger sister of Elizabeth Woodville; which made him the nephew-in-law to the King, Edward IV.

Family: As the head of the Stafford family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married.

Position & power: You're Edward IV's nephew/niece-in-law. You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. Your family is considered one of the best examples of Morality, as true Christians among the nobility.

- Duke/Duchess of **Norfolk**.



Historical background: This title belonged to the Mowbray family. At the beginning of the war its holder was John Mowbray, loyal to the York. He would be its holder until 1476 when he died, leaving a girl as his heir. But she would die very young, and the title would go back to the Crown since.

Family: As the head of the Mowbray family, you're married. You have one adult daughter, your heir, and it's not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. Your family is one of the wealthiest in the Realm; you also have contacts in Burgundy and Flanders.

- Count/Countess of **March**.



Historical background: This title had a lot of different owners, and one of their most important holders was the Mortimer family. However, this title would pass to Edward IV himself by 1460, and the Crown would keep it since.

Family: As the head of the Mortimer family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married. Because of your ancestry, you're a distant cousin to Edward IV (your grandfather was brother to his grandfather).

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. You're considered an excellent military commander; you have almost won every battle in your life.

- Baron/Baroness of **Bourchier**



Historical background: This title belonged to the Bourchier family. This family was very influential in the Royal court and it was related to other important families, such as the Woodville, and even to the York themselves. During the war, they were loyal to the York. One of their most notable members was Henry Bourchier, named Count of Essex by Edward IV. Henry Bourchier was a nephew to Queen Elizabeth Woodville, so the King was his uncle-in-law.

Family: As the head of the Bourchier family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married. Edward IV is your uncle-in-law.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. You are one of the closest advisors to the King.

- Baron/Baroness of **Harrington**



Historical background: This title originally belonged to the Harrington family until around 1460, but because of their allegiance to the Lancaster, their title was taken away by Edward IV and given to the Bonville family. Although its first holder would leave a girl as his heir, the title ended up in the Hasting family due to matrimonial connections to them.

Family: As the head of the Bonville family, you're married. You have two adult daughters; the eldest is your heir. One of your daughters (your heir) is married to the Hastings. Your other daughter is still not married.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. You are the owner of one of the strongest and biggest Castles in the Realm.

- Baron/Baroness of **Wenlock**.



Historical background: His first and only holder was John Wenlock, during the war. Because of his loyalty to Edward IV, he was granted with this title, but he did not have any heirs, and therefore it went back to the Crown after his death in 1471.

Family: As the head of the Wenlock family, you're not married yet. You don't have any children.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. Your family is considered one of the best examples of virtue among the nobility.

- Baron/Baroness of **Hastings**.




Historical background: This title originally belonged to the Hastings family. One of their most notorious members was William Hasting, a loyal supporter of Edward IV and his close advisor.

Family: As the head of the Hastings family, you're married. You have one adult son, your heir, and he's not married. One of your sons is married to the Harrington.

Position & power: You owe your title to the York, specifically to Edward IV. You have a very good reputation among the commoners in the Realm; they trust the decisions taken in Parliament when you're involved.

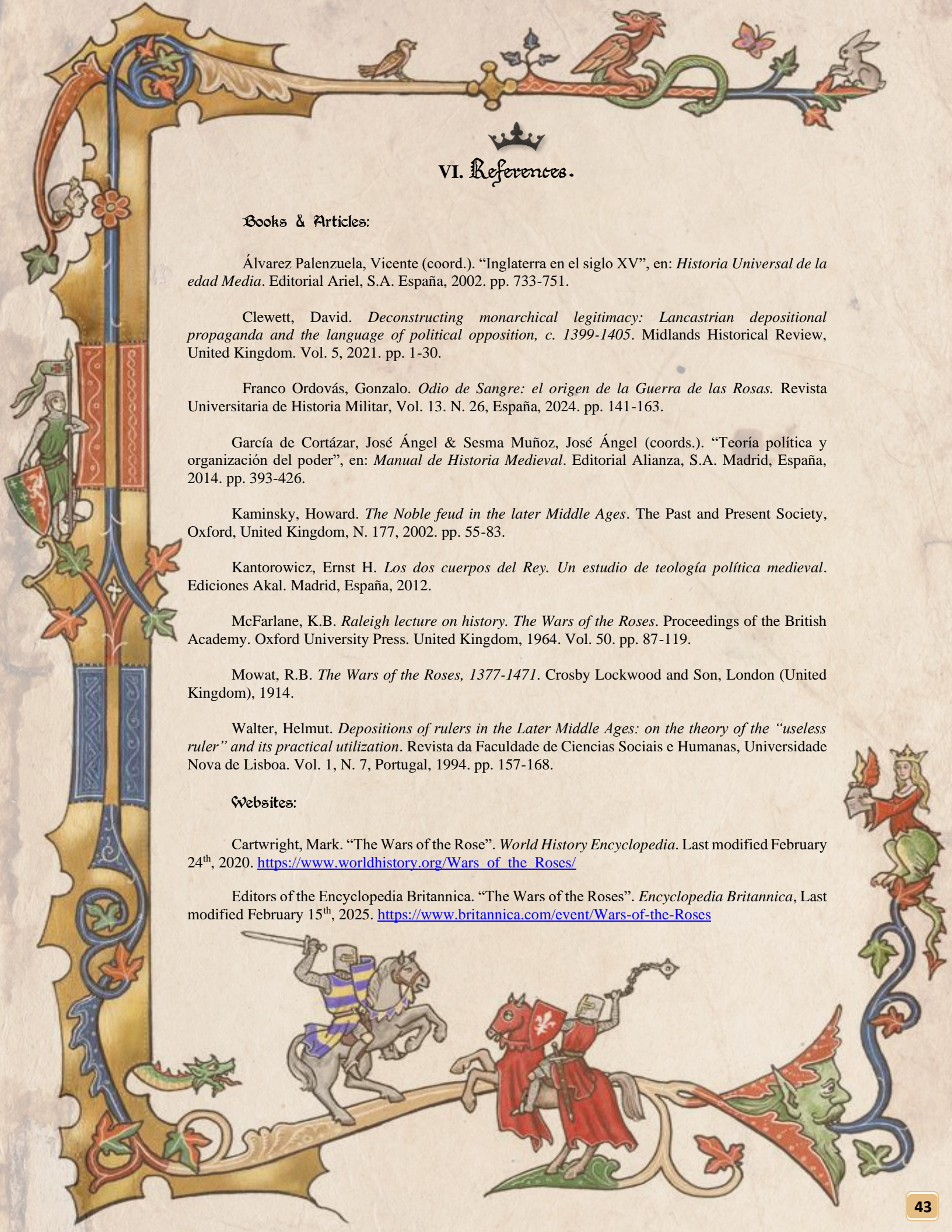




V. Essential Guidelines.

You should keep in mind a couple of things for this debate:

- This whole debate revolves around **a question of legitimacy**; in this case, based on the arguments to build a rightful claim to the Throne, following the medieval ways of thinking, laws, and diplomacy. Thus, keep in mind that **legitimacy is the key word** here. Remember **this still is a UN committee**, which means that showing leadership during the debate is the real “way to win”, and even if your team’s candidate did not become the King, he or she may still be able to **win the overall debate by showing leadership** and being a protagonist throughout the debate.
- This Special Committee does not require a Position Paper.
- While drafting and passing a Resolution Paper is common in committees, it will not be a requirement here. Instead, focus on thoroughly understanding this background paper, as you will need to use strategic thinking and diplomacy to demonstrate your leadership.
- It is encouraged to act and exaggerate during your speech to enhance the historical atmosphere, but be mindful to avoid misconduct or disrespect.
- We strongly recommend that you print this Background Paper or the sections you consider important according to your character, it could be black and white and printed on both sides to save paper. **We will provide a set of cards per person that includes the 9 acts.**
- Important note: Do not take anything personally; whether you are imprisoned, “killed,” betrayed, or divorced, remember that this is a dynamic, immersive game designed to determine the rightful King of England. Embrace every twist and turn, as your active participation is crucial to shaping the course of the debate. Be bold in your decisions, adapt to changing alliances, and seize every opportunity to advance your House’s interests. Every move you make could tip the scales of power in this high-stakes struggle for the Throne.



VI. References.

Books & Articles:

Álvarez Palenzuela, Vicente (coord.). "Inglaterra en el siglo XV", en: *Historia Universal de la edad Media*. Editorial Ariel, S.A. España, 2002. pp. 733-751.

Clewett, David. *Deconstructing monarchical legitimacy: Lancastrian depositional propaganda and the language of political opposition, c. 1399-1405*. Midlands Historical Review, United Kingdom. Vol. 5, 2021. pp. 1-30.

Franco Ordovás, Gonzalo. *Odio de Sangre: el origen de la Guerra de las Rosas*. Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar, Vol. 13. N. 26, España, 2024. pp. 141-163.

García de Cortázar, José Ángel & Sesma Muñoz, José Ángel (coords.). "Teoría política y organización del poder", en: *Manual de Historia Medieval*. Editorial Alianza, S.A. Madrid, España, 2014. pp. 393-426.

Kaminsky, Howard. *The Noble feud in the later Middle Ages*. The Past and Present Society, Oxford, United Kingdom, N. 177, 2002. pp. 55-83.

Kantorowicz, Ernst H. *Los dos cuerpos del Rey. Un estudio de teología política medieval*. Ediciones Akal. Madrid, España, 2012.

McFarlane, K.B. *Raleigh lecture on history. The Wars of the Roses*. Proceedings of the British Academy. Oxford University Press. United Kingdom, 1964. Vol. 50. pp. 87-119.

Mowat, R.B. *The Wars of the Roses, 1377-1471*. Crosby Lockwood and Son, London (United Kingdom), 1914.

Walter, Helmut. *Depositions of rulers in the Later Middle Ages: on the theory of the "useless ruler" and its practical utilization*. Revista da Faculdade de Ciencias Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Vol. 1, N. 7, Portugal, 1994. pp. 157-168.

Websites:

Cartwright, Mark. "The Wars of the Rose". *World History Encyclopedia*. Last modified February 24th, 2020. https://www.worldhistory.org/Wars_of_the_Roses/

Editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica. "The Wars of the Roses". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Last modified February 15th, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Wars-of-the-Roses>