Houston Area Model United Nations

Crisis Committee

The War of the Roses: House of Lancaster



Crisis Director | Lillian Sherry

Houston Area Model United Nations 52

February 4 & 5, 2027

Letter from the CD

Welcome Delegates,

My name is Lillian Sherry and I will serve as the Crisis Director for the Lancastertarians or the *red rose* of the conflict. I am technically a sophomore, but my aim is to graduate next winter. In addition to my accelerated course schedule (I am a virtual student), I also work a full time job.

I've been in Crisis committees at HAMUN for three years. As a delegate in 2008 Financial Crisis and Secret Spies committees, and as a staffer for last year's Fall of the Incan Empire. Other than that I did standard committees, one in person and one <gasp> virtually. After staffing last year, I am so excited to take on the crisis director role for this conference!

For those who haven't participated in many crisis committees yet, I and our joint committee's staff were once like you! HAMUN has a variety of resources on the website and there's many more online that can help you. You can also email me any remaining questions you have and I will try to get back to you within three business days.

On position papers, our team expects to see work that is free of AI and well thought out. We want to see you embody your character through the writing, since this is Crisis- feel free to write less formally and in a way that makes sense to your character. I particularly enjoy reading papers that are laid out as a character's letter or diary entry but other forms are allowed. Just make sure you are the one writing as no Ai is tolerated. The team and I have poured so much into this and would hate to see our work and your time wasted. So please no Ai.

MUN is meant to be fun! While awards are nice, they were never the true purpose of MUN, let's embody that in our joint crisis. We already have so much planned for you that we are itching to share, reach out to us if you have any questions so we can best prepare you for February! I am so excited to see how each of you brings your character to life in the joint crisis. Happy writing :)

Lillian Sherry
War of the Roses: House of Lancaster
HAMUN 52

Background

I may be a wee bard, yet I tell the greatest of tales.

Your tale begins in 1456.

However, to understand the present, we must know the past. Let this be a background of sorts to your tale, the actions of the past actively shaping our futures.

England is used to war. The Hundred Years war coming to mind, with the selfish preservation tactics still alive and well. It was not the first war and never the last.

Hundreds Years' War

England and France have long had a tumultuous relationship. The two kingdoms can be seen as rivals, France's riches and fame against the best organized state of England.

Conflict was inevitable between them. This conflict however much like our current day can be explained through succession conflicts and petty power struggles over territorial possessions.

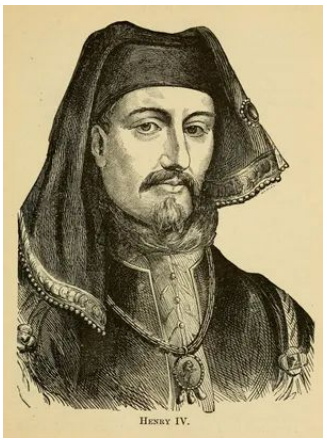




Over the war, differing solutions were explored. Edward III to desiring protect English landholdings and gain a peaceful hold over France. While his many sons and various other claimants instead sought glory and plundering.

Eventually after many long years of tension the war was somewhat over. Richard II had succeeded his grandfather, Edward III, his own father- the Black Prince- dead. Peasant revolts and discontent bringing about truce talks even as boundary disputes continued.

However, few wanted peace. War propaganda and plundering wishes prevented any peace. Henry IV, newly returned from banishment, removed Richard II, setting into motion the first lancastrian king.

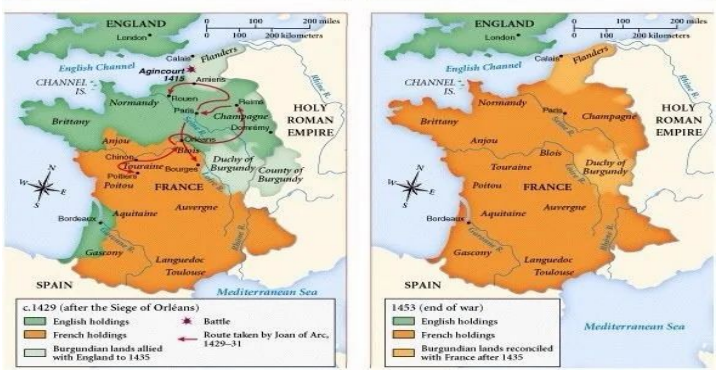

HENRY IV.



Unfortunately for France, this war was never ending, spiralling out into new conflicts. While attempting to retake continental holds with Henry IV focused on England, civil war broke out between the French factions of the Burgundians and the Armagnacs.

Henry V, crowned king after Henry IV died in 1413, renewed the fight on the Continent. Of these, the battles was the Battle of Agincourt. Henry V continuing on to seize back English holds previously lost. His aims driven by his desire for dual monarchy by the English king.

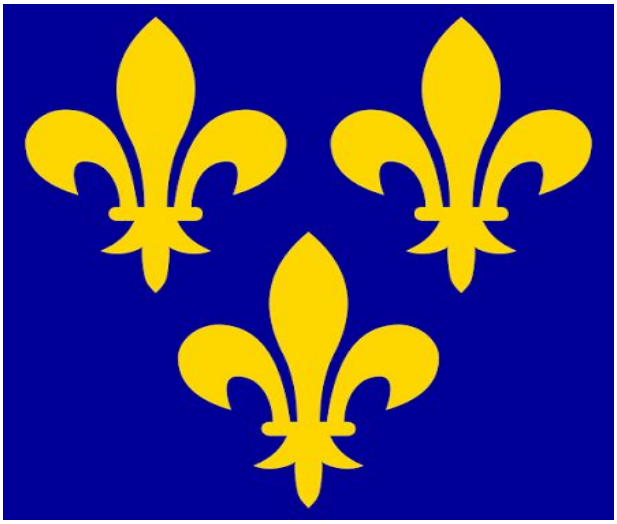
However, before change could be cemented, Henry V died in 1422. Leaving the nine month old Henry VI as successor. Following Henry V's unfortunate death was a downward spiral of English authority on the Continent. Even at the conclusion, slow action of the English court allowed for the French to take back all territories originally held by the English, leaving only Calais before it was also taken.



Hundred Years War Aftermath

Due to the heavy losses faced, much of the public discontent turned to the Henry VI's leadership as the reason for the loss. The public critical over the handling of the war and the inevitable drain on finances that occurred.

Foreign Relations Following the Hundreds Years War



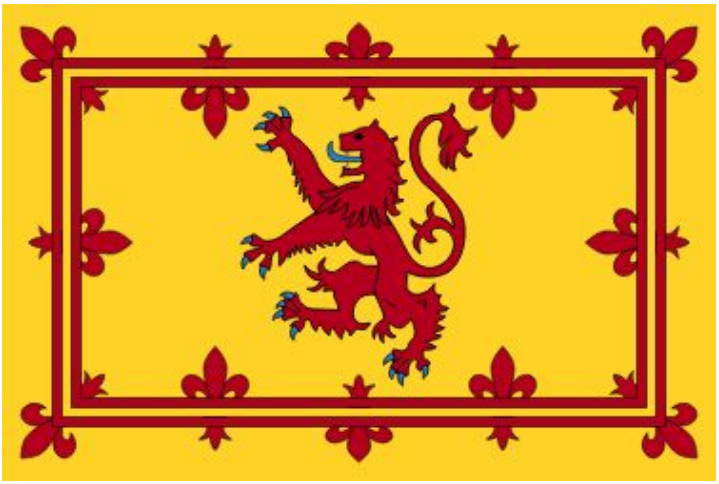
France

After the war, France was left stronger. Holding much of the territories long fought for over the Hundreds Years War.

However, devastation was most felt by the lower class. A wave of new taxes were placed upon the people in order to pay for the decades long war. Innovations in tax collection aiding in

the increasing mountain of taxes as central monarchical power grew. These towns, impacted through low levels of trade, increased taxation, all while recovering from plundering that occurred from both sides of the war were left in discontent. Many of these devastated areas occurred on both sides of the channel, as taxes only continued to grow.

Politically, France continued to entangle itself with England. The marriage of Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou one such example. The outbreak of the War of the Roses allowing for France to more cheaply defend holdings and turn focus towards expansion of the Kingdom towards Italy.



Scotland

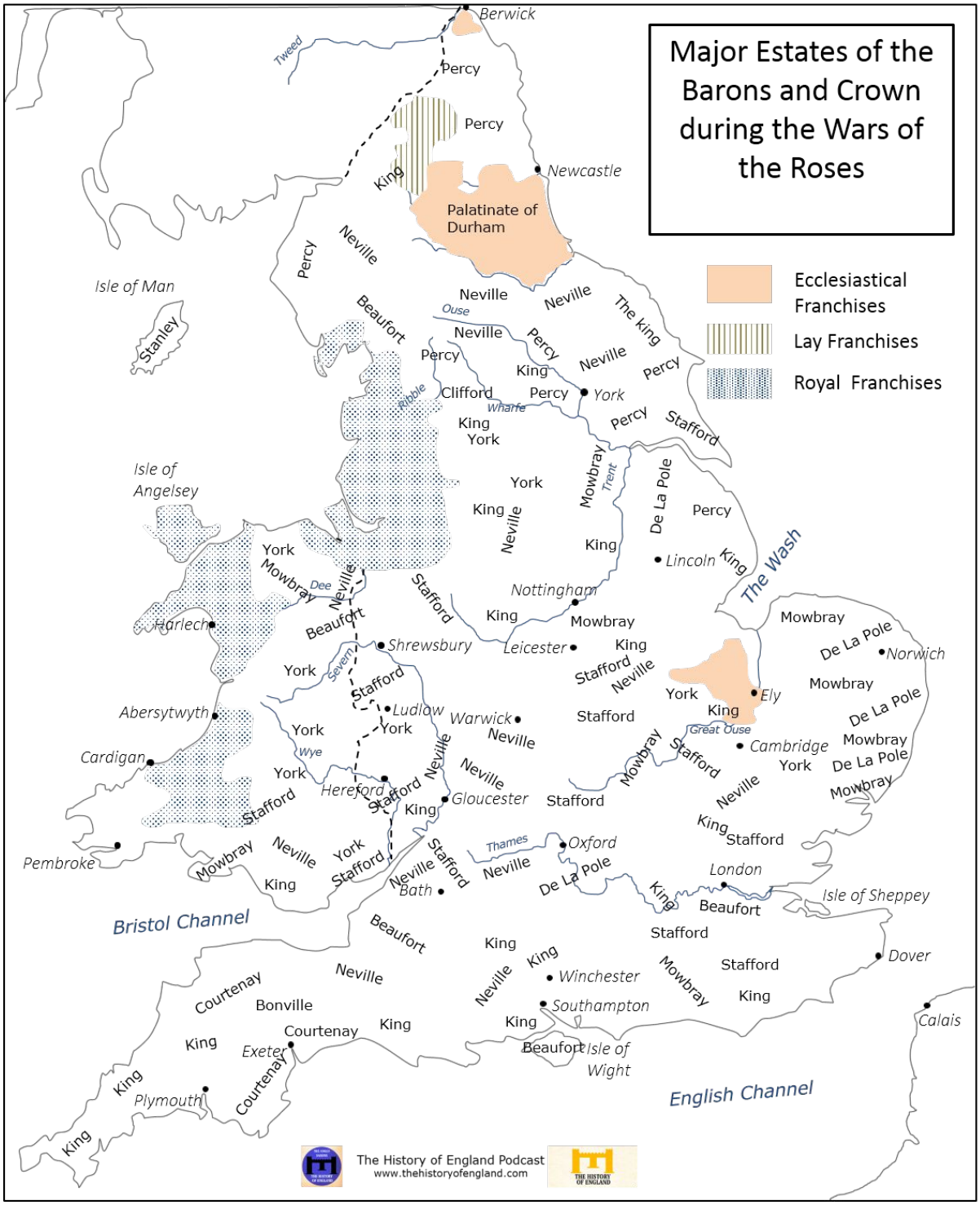
A long standing alliance is held between Scotland and France, called the Auld Alliance. Due to this, throughout the Hundreds Years' War, many Scots served alongside the French as mercenaries. As England's northern neighbors, border disputes were common. Especially against the northern nobility such as the Percies.

With the current unrest, Scotland wants to prevent English recapture of key areas amongst the many shifts in dynasties.

1455 Map Depicting Power Bases

By spreading out where land was held, lords were limited from gaining too much power. This map pictures part of the ever changing power bases at the start of the War of the Roses.

Franchises as they're depicted in the map are more reminiscent of mini kingdoms, with the landholdings consolidated into the single area.



Mini War in the North: Percy V. Neville

The feud between the Percy and Neville families was not the only feud in this time, but it is the most well known. The battles of Heworth Moor in 1453, and Stamford Bridge in 1454, laying down the track towards the inevitable war. Henry VI's inaction in dealing with the feuding families turned the Nevilles away, especially as Lord Protector Richard of York sought to punish the Percies.



Percy
Northumberland

Neville
Westmorland

Neville
Salisbury

However, just because many Nevilles turned to the side of York, did not mean all did.

During this time the Nevilles also suffered internally, with a feud between the children of Ralph Neville. The children of the first wife, inherited the title earl of Westmorland, while the second wife's children inherited most of the land. This latter branch is lead by the Earl of Salisbury, and the land in question holding in part some old Percy properties.

Disputes Within the King's Court

While Henry VI was a lover of peace, architecture, and education, the same could not be said for his royal court. Throughout his childhood and even after he was officially crowned, Henry VI's advisors and aides were constantly fighting and bickering. Humphrey Gloucester, Cardinal Beaufort, and Richard York all had immensely different ideas of what Henry VI's reign should look like. In the end, however, because Cardinal Beaufort and Humphrey Gloucester either were associated with bad crowds or lost public reputation, Richard York was the most capable aide left to help manage the kingdom.



The Other Claimant: Richard, Duke of York

York, once loyal to King Henry VI, found himself turned against the king. His rule as Protector of the Realm alienated the queen, Margaret of Anjou. Choosing to follow what he believed best for the kingdom, Richard's claim to the throne as the descendant of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, brought him credibility. As by primogeniture, his hereditary claim being stronger than that of the current king. Thus, in 1450 and 1451, Richard led revolts against the king in an effort to present himself as the one who should be next in line for the throne! However, this ended with York being placed on house arrest for two weeks before losing his titles 1453.

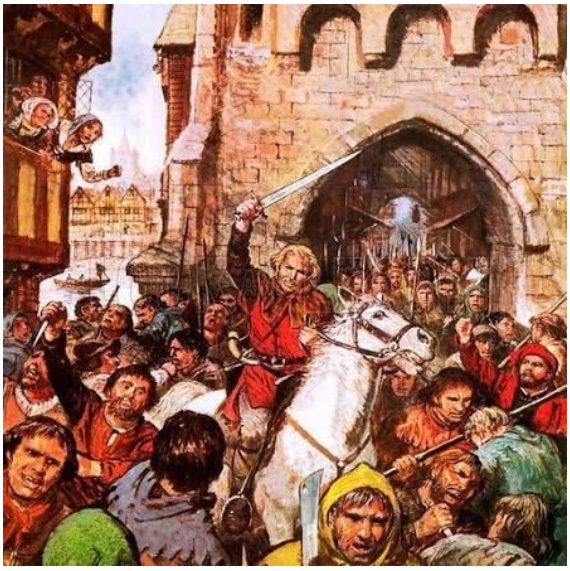




Later that very same year when York was stripped of land and honor, Henry VI fell so ill he could neither speak nor move without assistance. With the king unable to rule, York was made Protector of the Realm. He surely would have remained in power had Henry not eventually recovered, and dismissed York from Lord Protector. Eventually, York was tried of flipping between leading England and humiliation. Engaging in full on battle against the crown in the Battle of St. Albans, where he captured Henry VI and once again became Protector of the Realm.

Jack Cade's Rebellion

When it came to the public's perception of King Henry VI's governance, it was obvious. Throughout the decades the amount of rebellions and attacks grew, spreading from Wales to Scotland. Scotland in particular forcing the Percy lordship back into power to contain Scottish and defend the northern border.



Each of these groups seeing the weakness of Henry VI's leadership as an opportunity to further their own interests.

Jack Cade, an Irishman living in kent, too took the opportunity. Leading a rebellion of the people against the high levels of taxation and prices that were result of the Hundreds Years' War.

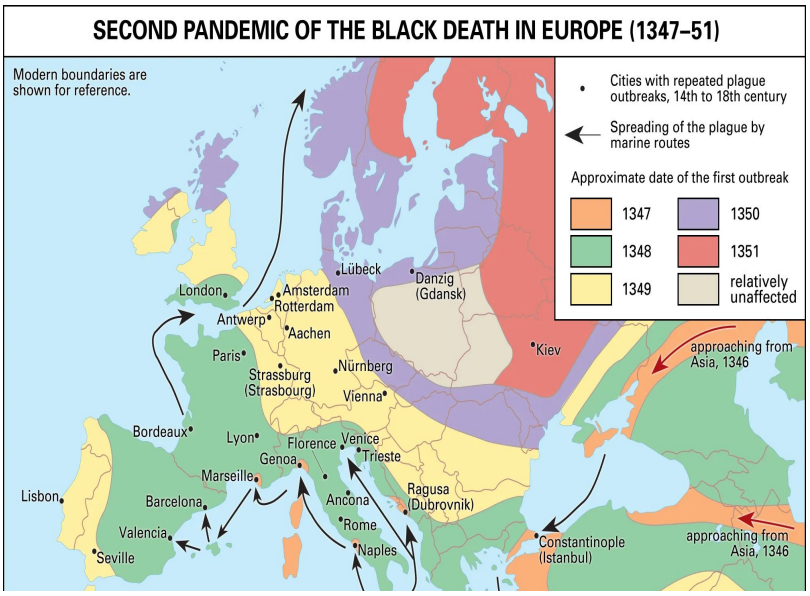
While Cade's Rebellion was easily squashed, the lord treasurer still was killed and lasting effects were had.

Public Order

The England surrounding the War of the Roses was no longer the England it once was.

This England dealing with a multitude of congruent effects. These including the second pandemic of the Black Death, with its labour shortages; bad harvests, these due to record low temperatures that the soothsayers claim to be a little ice age; and increasing distrust towards authority as well as increasing power of a new merchant class.

Each of these something King Henry VI was not equipped to defend against.



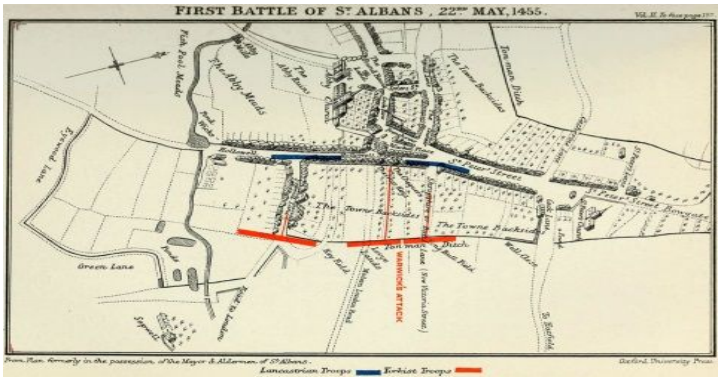


All this occurring amongst the year of the great comet, an omen proclaiming that unrest is near. Even the Heavens pronounce this as a dire time in our kingdom. Yet, in the darkness, a light also shines.

Each passing meeting had tensions growing tighter, not only between the two claimants but of the differing England's they stood for. In short, the battle of St. Albans was inevitable.

The Battle of St. Albans

Reflecting the earlier scrimmishes of the Percy-Nevilles, was the first battle of the War of the Roses. The battle a result of the fracture between the court. In Richard York and Richard Neville seeking to better the Kingdom, instead tear it into two by meeting Lancastrian forces at St. Albans.



Bloody fighting followed failed attempts to negotiate, with the battle ending with numerous casualties on both sides and the capture of King Henry VI.

However, the aftermath is where our tale truly starts. Queen Margaret of Anjou, and Prince Edward of Westminster escaped, allowing for the calling of this current Great Council.

Good luck on the embankment of ye tale, thy wee bard will always be there to tell it.

~ Wee Bard

Ye CD



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War of the Roses: Lancastrians
Crisis Director | Lillian Sherry
Houston Area Model United Nations 52
February 4 & 5, 2027

Timeline

1399: Henry IV usurps Richard II and becomes the King of England, the first to be from the House of Lancaster.

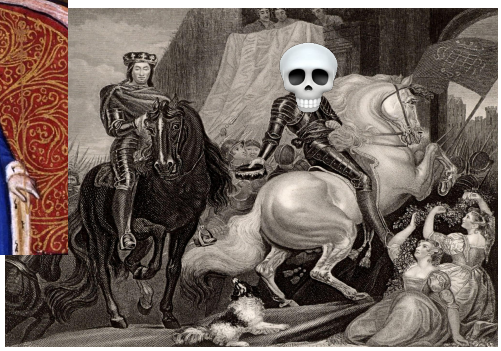


1420: Henry marries Catherine of Valois and signs the Treaty of Troyes, thus becoming the heir and regent to the Kingdom of France.



1421: Henry VI is born, son of Henry V and Catherine of Valois, the future King of both England and France. Officially becomes king at nine months, after Henry VI succumbs to illness.





1337-1453: The Hundreds' Years War





1415: Henry V reignites hostilities with France. War proceeds for 5 years until 1420.



1429: Henry VI is officially crowned King of England while in London. King Charles VII is crowned King of France.

1431: Henry VI is officially crowned King of France in Paris.

1445: Henry VI marries Margaret of Anjou, the niece of the French Queen.



1453-1454: Henry VI falls into a period of mental instability. During this Parliament placed Richard of York as Protector of the Realm. Prince Edward of Wales, is born to Henry VI and Margaret. Removing Richard as the heir to the throne.

Also during this time are several "battles" or scrimmishes among the Percies and Nevilles. These being the battle of Heworth Moor in 1453, and Stamford bridge in 1454.

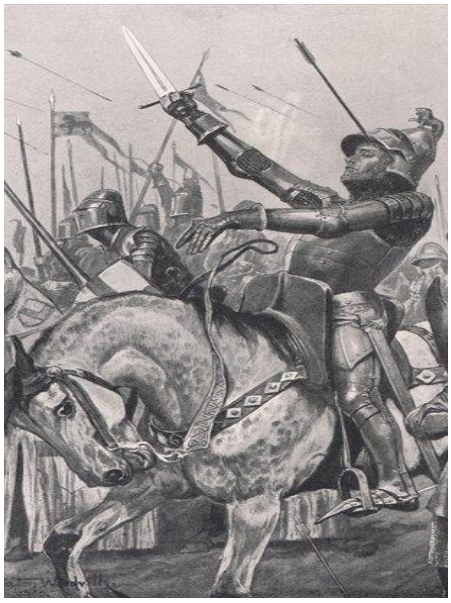


1456: Henry VI remains as nominal king with Richard of York once again Protector of the Realm under uneasy truce.





1447: Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, dies, placing Richard next in line to the throne. Subsequently he was banished to Ireland to act as Lord Lieutenant.



1455: A Great Council is called, excluding Richard of York. Then facing off against Richard's forces in the **1st battle of St. Albans.** Yorkists win.

1456: Present Day

Crisis Name
Crisis Directors | Your Name(s)
Houston Area Model United Nations 50
February 6 & 7, 2025

Committee Brief

Currently, uneasy truce stretches between the houses of Lancaster and York. Given these troubled times, Queen Margaret has called upon a great council amongst the great house of Lancaster.

You are one of those involved in this committee of important people deeply involved in the life and times of the house of Lancaster.

The soothsayers have foretold that mighty bloodshed shall grace many within the house of Lancaster. That the winning of the war ends in the death of both noble houses involved in its creation. However, not all is set in stone. Already, some doomed to have died, live amongst us. Not all that is foretold comes true.

Now raise your voices to discuss, and make decisions carefully. The survival of the noble house of Lancaster depends on the decisions made by this great council.



HAMUN

Your Goals

Succession: They say all is fair in love and war. When family stretches upon both sides of the conflict the effect is two fold. As members of the Lancastrian party, the ultimate goal is to establish the House of Lancaster as the rightful heir to the throne. There must be thought beyond Henry VI, as multitude of potential heirs could be selected. Plans must be made for Lancastrian supremacy.

Power: As members of the Lancasterian party, a diverse range of opportunities to build power exist. How will you use the war to further your own interests? Influence can be built over a multitude of areas, including regions, trade, one's family and other people. What are you willing to do to achieve these? No one is immune to power's call so be prepared to fight to strengthen your powers.

Protection: Even on the same party, opposers exist. Who is against you? As a party filled with many of the northern factions, old battles cast shadows upon current members. Additionally, those who already have power must work to strengthen it. Foreign nobles operating to expand territorial claims, merchants to achieve greater trade networks, and appointments to both court and battle. No goal is entirely unique, protect what is yours.





Characters



King Henry VI

Was crowned king from a young age, relies on ministers to rule. While once headstrong, Henry prefers to remain preoccupied with religion and education over political matters. This has turned him into somewhat of a recluse, especially as he is known to have bouts of mental illness. Married to Margaret of Anjou. Would prefer to make peace with the Yorkists in order to end the fighting, while still keeping himself on the throne.



Queen Margaret of Anjou

Married Henry VI as part of concessions from the Hundred Years war, daughter of Rene I, she is the niece of the French queen. Strong willed and ambitious, she leads the House of Lancaster. She is relentless in her efforts to secure her son's placement as heir to the throne, drawing her connections from France to fulfill her aims.

Characters



Edward of Westminster ~ Prince of Wales

Born the Prince of Wales to King Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou. His succession is not set in stone with his recognition as heir up in the air because of the war. He Is a mama's boy, spending most of his time with his mother and works hard to please her. He is willing to do what it takes to make his mother happy.



Henry Percy ~ Earl of Northumberland

Part of Percy Family, he holds strong hatred towards the Nevilles. A veteran of the Hundreds Years War, he holds the title of rear guard commander, yet has never seen the battle ground. He wants to see devastation to the Neville family, a family which has betrayed the crown and lies with the Yorkists. He cannot reason with Nevilles as he has hated them for decades. He attends the Great Council to plot against the Nevilles specifically.

Characters



Thomas Percy ~ Lord Egremont

Son of Henry Percy and is known as a trouble maker. His actions specifically escalating the Percy-Neville feud by his actions at the Battle of Heworth and conducting raids on Neville properties. Like father like son, he cannot see reason with any Neville. Currently, he has just escaped from debtor's prison where he was placed after the Battle of Stamford Bridge. He is attending the Great Council with his father.



Ralph Neville ~ 2nd Earl of Westmorland

Son of Ralph Neville, 1st earl of westmorland, he is related to Richard Neville, but from a different branch of the Neville family tree. This side of the family holds a history of supporting the House of Lancaster, his father being the brother-in-law to Henry Bolingbroke- who began the Lancastrian dynasty. He does not quite like the other Neville branch but refuses to plot their downfall. He attends to support the Lancastrian aims.

Characters



Henry Beaufort ~ 3rd Duke of Somerset

Eldest son of Edmund Beaufort, serves as a commander for the house of Lancaster. Like his father, has poor communication skills. However, unlike his father he has never engaged in battle before. Eager to prove himself to his father who nearly died and to King Henry VI. Attending the Great Council alongside his father.



Edmund Beaufort ~ Duke of Somerset

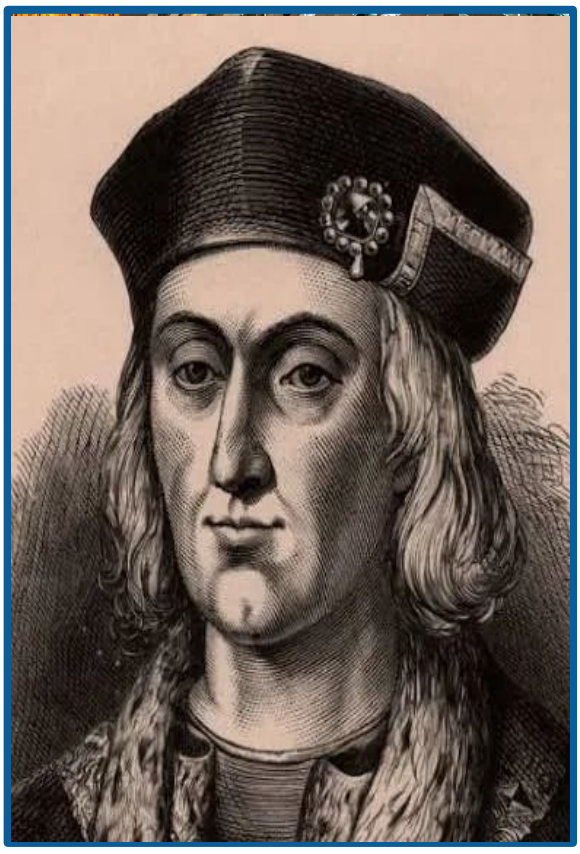
Has been an advisor to King Henry VI for many years. Prior to this he engaged in battle, serving as captain general in France before becoming duke of Somerset. While a leader, he has poor leadership skills, somehow still became the chief minister despite his failures in the reconquest of Normandy. His greatest rival is Richard, Duke of York, who had imprisoned him and who's forces had nearly killed him at the battle of St. Albans. Due to his injuries, he now remains unable to enter battle again. It was a miracle he survived. He is attending the Great Council to provide advice on battle strategy.

Characters



Lady Margaret Beaufort

Daughter of John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset and great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. She has recently married Edmund Tudor, a half-brother to Henry VI, with their marriage political in nature. She has recently fallen pregnant and wants to see where in the succession of her future child lies. She is attending the Great Council with her brother-in-law and guardian, Jasper Tudor in place of her husband who has been captured.



Jasper Tudor - Earl of Pembroke

Second son of Owen Tudor, and half-brother to Henry VI, he leads the house of Lancaster's supporters in Wales. As one of Henry VI's advisors, he is working to increase the lancastrian influence. Holds a strong knowledge in strategy from experience as a knight. Very protective of his family members and seeks to find a way to protect them. Attending the Great Council to understand how he can stop the infighting between his half-brother and York.

Characters



Richard Woodville ~ 1st Earl Rivers

Previously was a knight, married the widowed duchess Jacquetta, who's previous husband he had been in service to. He became Baron Rivers while serving with Richard Duke of York, however does not feel a strong alliance with him. Uses his children's marriages to establish his legitimacy with high aspirations despite his low birth. Attending with his son and daughter due to his son-in-law's alliance as well as to see if the war would benefit him.



Anthony Woodville

Son of Richard Woodville and eldest brother of Elizabeth Woodville. He is studious with a strong education derived from his mother's library. This library being acquired from her first marriage. Outside of studying he is known for his jousting. Honestly he is just along for the ride, and wants peace so he can return to studying.

Characters



Elizabeth Woodville

Daughter of Jacquetta duchess of Bedford and Richard Woodville, a minor noble. Her brother is Anthony Woodville. She is currently married to Sir John Grey of Gorby, with two sons together. Despite this she has high ambition, wanting more from her life. Her husband is a knight under the Lancastrian house but has fallen ill. She is attending the Great Council alongside her father and brother in his place.



James Tuchet ~ 5th Baron of Audley

Veteran of the Hundreds Years War. He is itching to fight and raise troops for the Lancastrian cause. Due to the long battles he faced during the Hundred Years' War, he has a strong disdain for the French. Attending the Great Council so he can know when he can raise troops and where the next battle will be.

Characters



Henry Holland ~ 3rd Duke of Exeter

While holding blood ties to the crown, his family's duchy did not provide much income When he was married to Anne of York, he was forced to live with his father-in-law the Duke of York after his father's death in order to shape him as a young man. Despising his father-in-law, he wants to remove him from power, and was subsequently punished and held captive. Rebelling against his match, he aligns with the house of Lancaster, and is now estranged with his wife.



John "the Butcher" Clifford ~ 9th Baron Clifford

Desperate to destroy the Yorkists to get revenge for his fathers death at the 1st battle of St. Albans. He is prone to violence, and as a cousin of the Percys, he despises the Nevilles. and has participated in the ambushes.

Characters



John Talbot ~ 2nd Earl Shrewsbury

Son to the Chief English military commander during the final phase of the Hundred Years' War. He is part of the commission to guard the sea. Serves as a commander, however did not make it to the Battle of St. Albans with it ending while he was on his way. He is attending the Great Council as he does not want to miss out on another great battle.



James Butler ~ 1st Earl of Wiltshire & 5th Earl of Ormond

From an important Irish family, he was knighted by King Henry VI. He holds multiple estates in England, that were inherited after his grandmother's death and through his marriage to Avice Stafford. While he was bound to the Duke of York, he choose to stand in the King's army instead. Currently holding the rank of Lord Treasurer.

Characters



Thomas Stanley ~ 1st Earl of Derby

Recently became a squire to King Henry VI. He is interested in law and aspires to become chief justice, wanting to follow anyone who will help him achieve this aim as he will need funding.



William Stanley

Younger brother of Thomas Stanley. Doesn't want to commit to either side, but is leaning towards choosing the Yorkists despite his brother's loyalty to the house of Lancaster. Currently, as he is close with his brother, is with him for this great council session.

Characters



Charles VII ~ King of France

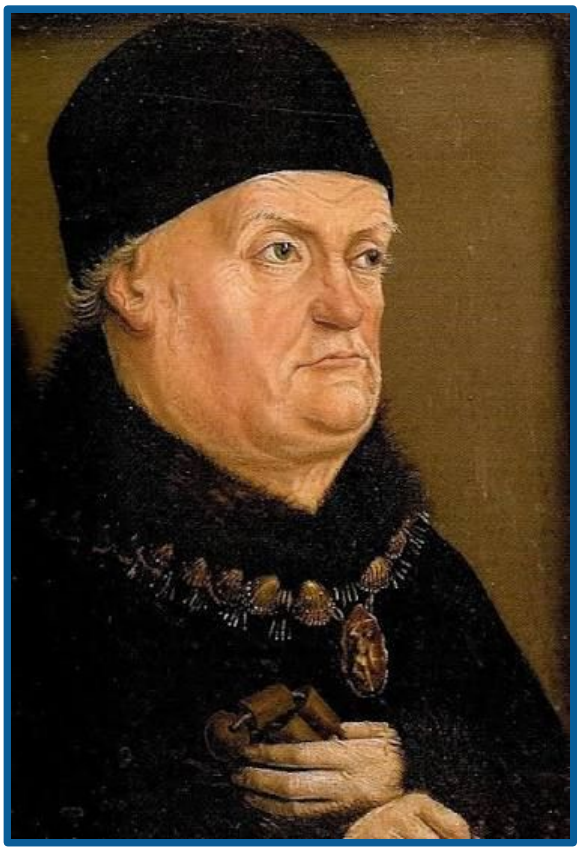
11th child of King Charles VI and Isabella of Bavaria. He indulges in luxury at any opportunity but understands when sacrifice is needed. He has experience dealing with crisis caused by a monarch's insanity from his time as regent to his father. He has a bit of a personal connection to England due to the later battles of the Hundred Years' War. He is married to Margaret of Anjou's aunt, the sister of Rene I of Anjou. Additionally, he prefers peace to war. He has joined the Great Council to offer advice.



James II ~ King of Scotland

The only surviving son of King James I. He is currently working to seize power over the once strong central monarchy that had since collapsed after his father's death. While he is preoccupied currently with internal power struggles, he still has attention on English, seeking to prevent the English from claiming Scotland. He is attending the Great Council in order to see the aims and motivations of the Percy family, the group most interested in taking Scottish lands.

Characters



Rene I ~ Duke of Anjou

French noble, his daughter is Margaret of Anjou. He is heavily involved in the arts and literature, much more so than in gaining power or building his dynasty. He holds power among French nobility, sister is married to French King, Charles VII. He is attending this Great Council to support his daughter where needed.



Pierre II de Breze

Trusted soldier under Rene I and King Charles VII. He is a French veteran of the Hundred Years War. With some tension existing between him and the English veterans. He has history with Margaret of Anjou, pledging to come to her aid as a knight if she ever needs it. Attending the Great Council along with Rene I.

Characters



John Fortescue

Knighted and is chief justice of the King's Bench. Also a jurist and interested in writing legal treatise for the layman. Under Henry VI's court, he wants the peace to be found as Henry VI is the rightly heir. With concessions for the next available but not the removal of the current. He believes it is "better that the guilty escape than the innocent be punished."



William Brown ~ of the Callis Staple

A Merchant of the Staple, his family controls the wool merchants and staplers in Calais France. This group holds immense power financially as the most prominent family in the Staple. He also engages in money lending to nobles for favors or land, to gain a hold in England and France. He wishes for peace with and end to the battles, so trade goes up.

Characters



Reginald Ely ~ Master Mason

An English Master Mason specifically working on the King's College Chapel, Cambridge. He was commissioned by King Henry VI to build, and selected the craftsmen to build the chapel. He is attending the Great Council as he needs to know how the path forward for the momentous building will continue. Desires peace so he can go back to his beautiful structure.



Thomas Courtenay ~ 6th / 14th Earl of Devon

Eldest son of Thomas Courtenay, 5th/13th Earl of Devon. Family is currently in a feud with another southern lordship- the Bonvilles. While his family had shifted alliances multiple times previously, they are looking to ally with Lancaster as the Bonville family has selected the Yorkists. Though he is tired of the feud and supports peace. He is attending the Great Council to support his wife's cousin- Margaret of Anjou.

Characters



John de Vere ~ 13th Earl of Oxford

Second son of John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford. His father and older brother are leaning towards the Lancastrian aims. His father having a history in battle from holding lieutenant-general and governor of France and Normandy from the end of the Hundreds Years' War. He is attending to determine if the de Vere family should take the side of the Lancastrians in the war.



John Morton ~ Chancellor

As a chancellor, he works directly with King Henry VI, Lady Margaret of Anjou, and Prince Edward of Westminster. He also actively supports and teaches the young prince. He believes in doing what is best for the country, even if it is controversial. He is attending the Great Council to address some of his ideas for betterment of the kingdom.

Sources

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