Houston Area Model United Nations Crisis Committee

The War of the Roses: House of York



Crisis Directors | Brayden Burell
Chair | Fernando Urdaneta
Houston Area Model United Nations 52
February 4 & 5, 2027

Letter for the CD

Howdy Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN, and more specifically, War Roses. My name is Brayden Burell, and I will be your Crisis Director for this year's General Assembly!

My backstory: I am currently a freshman at Texas A&M University at Galveston, studying General Engineering under the A&M College of Engineering. Outside of MUN, I've spent my time as President of my school's Technology Student Association, Project Manager for NASA HUNCH, and an Eagle Scout — experiences that taught me a lot about leadership, staying organized under pressure, and working through problems that don't have a clean answer. Model UN has been a similar kind of challenge. Since starting in 2023, I've participated in a total of 5 conferences and was the crisis director of two and it's continued to shape how I think about conflict, negotiation, and seeing an issue from more than one side.

I chose to be the Crisis Director of War Roses because I enjoy the drama that comes with joint crisis committees, paired with the historical weight of the Wars of the Roses itself. With so many of y'all in the room, virtually any decision can spiral into new alliances, betrayals, or entirely new directions for the crisis. It may seem like a lot to manage, but I expect y'all to rise to the occasion and take full advantage of it.

You're going to hear this a lot from me, your teachers, and other HAMUN staff, but the most important part of this conference is to enjoy it and make it a memorable experience for yourself. We're all here to help y'all grow and prosper. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Brayden Burell
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HAMUN 52
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Letter from the Chair

Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN 52's War of the Roses: House of York Crisis Committee! My name is Fernando Urdaneta, and I have the distinct honor of being your chair for this momentous event!

My first crisis committee was held in the midst of a plague that enveloped the world starting in 2019 (perhaps you've heard of it). In a way, this is a full circle moment for me. My first Crisis Committee was a triple-joint crisis about the War of English Succession, and now my first time being a chair shall be for the most iconic and popular war of English Succession, the War of the Roses! Believe me when I say that all of the relevant staffers and chairs for both the House of York and the House of Lancaster have been putting in so much work to ensure that this crisis is the best one to date! We've been researching the period and the characters since the summer of 2026 to make sure that you all have a fruitful and enjoyable committee this year.

I love history, it is perhaps the second or third most vital of all the studies. To add on to a quote by a certain historian, we study history to know, "our past, our future, the pitfalls, the possibilities…the perils, the promise. Perhaps an answer to that universal question, 'Why?'" (Doctor Emmet Brown, 1989). My biggest hope for all of you for this committee is to be able to think critically about the selected time period, answer some big questions about why things went the way they did and be able to apply the things you learned to your own life, both in terms of understanding your own decisions in the future, and perhaps in understanding the decisions of the people in power around us!

You're going to hear this a lot, but the most important part of this conference is to enjoy it! Put in effort to make a memorable experience for yourself and your peers. We're all here to help y'all grow and prosper. If you have literally any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, I'd love to help you prepare as best you can for February!

Fernando Urdaneta
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War of the Roses: Yorkists
Crisis Director | Brayden Burell
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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.

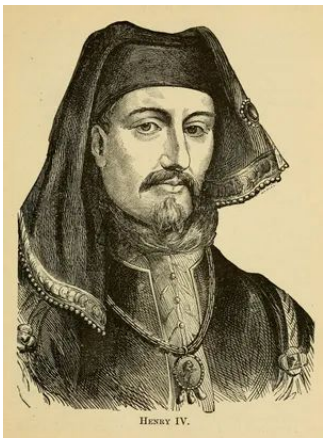




Over the war, differing solutions were explored. Edward III to desiring protect English landholdings and gain a peaceful hold over France. While his many sons and various other claimants instead sought glory and plundering.

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.

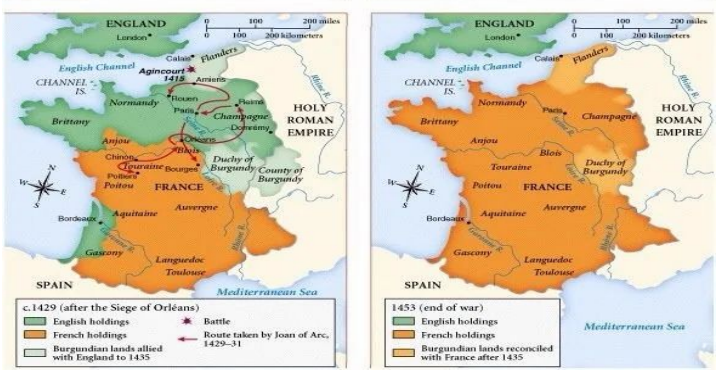

HENRY IV.



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.

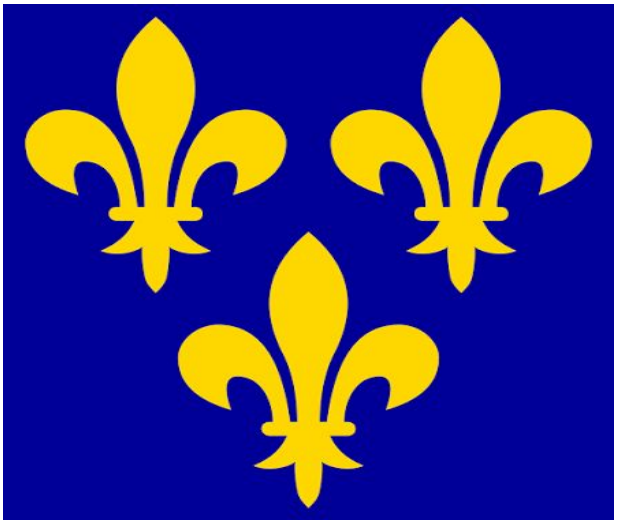
However, before change could be cemented, Henry V died in 1422. Leaving the nine month old Henry VI as successor. Following Henry V's unfortunate death was a downward spiral of English authority on the Continent. Even at the conclusion, slow action of the English court allowed for the French to take 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



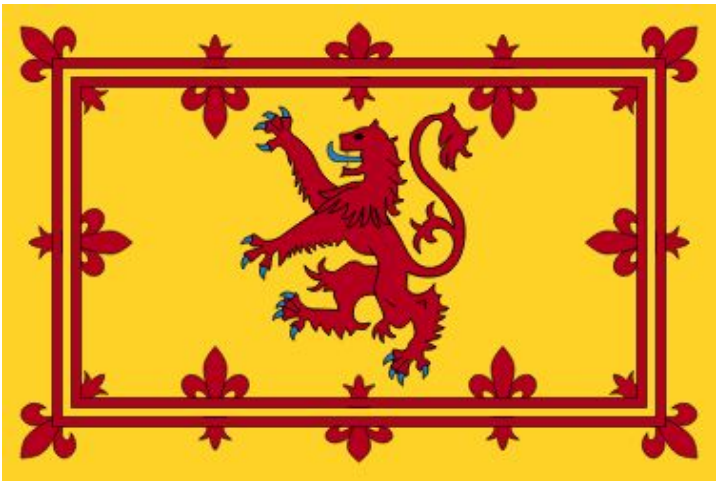
France

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

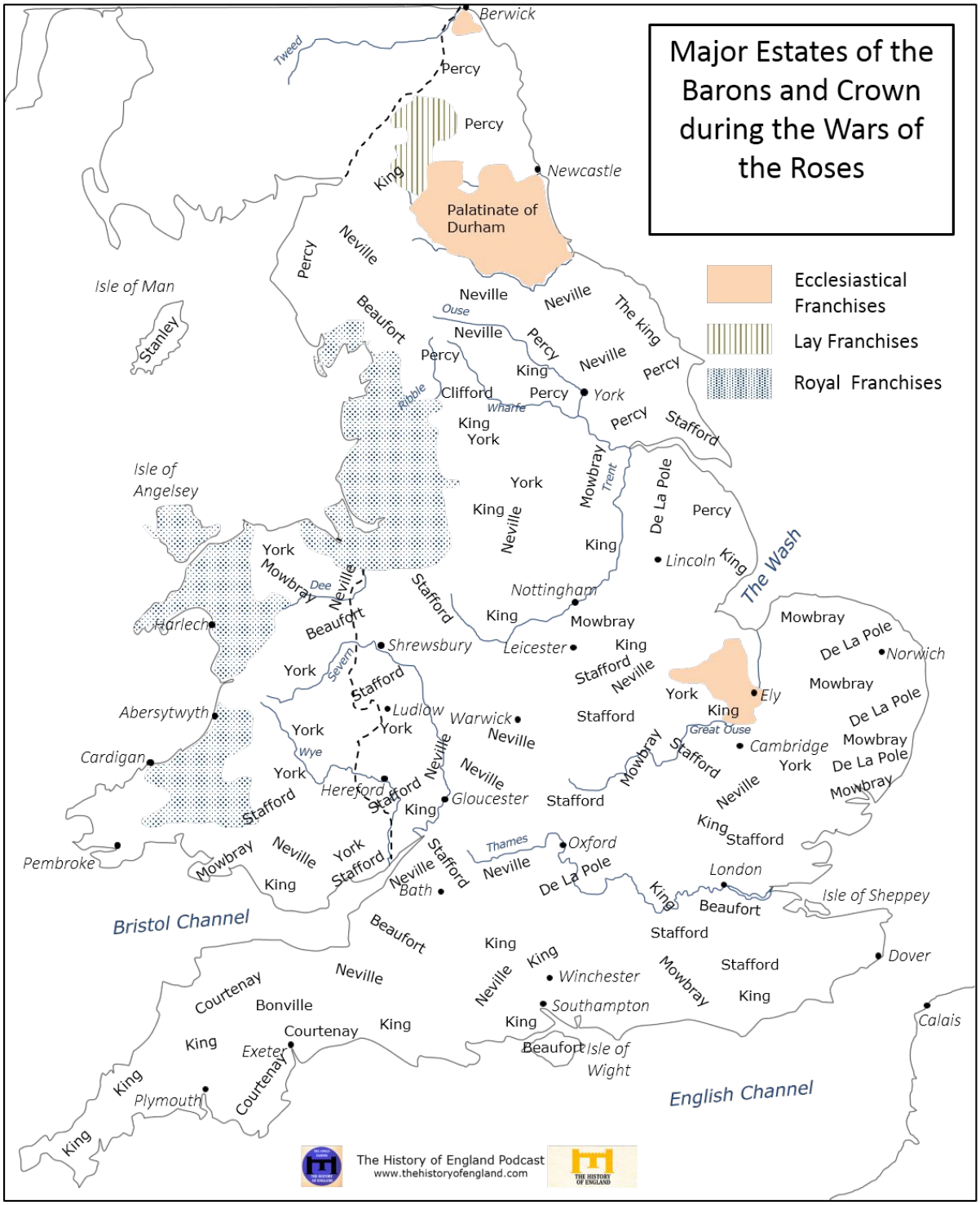
A long standing alliance is held between Scotland and France, called the Auld Alliance. Due to this, throughout the Hundreds Years' War, many Scots served alongside the French as mercenaries. As England's northern neighbors, border disputes were common. Especially against the northern nobility such as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

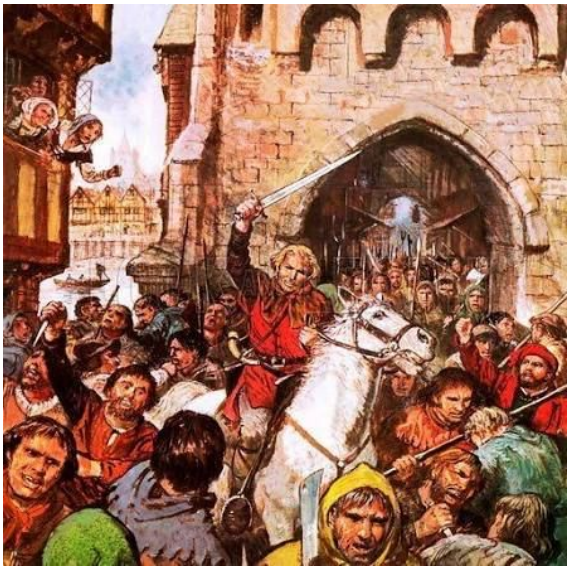




But fear not, noble Yorkists, for fortune did favor York yet. For later that very same year when York was stripped of land and honor, Henry VI fell so ill he could neither speak nor move without assistance. With the king unable to rule, York was made Protector of the Realm. He surely would have remained in power had Henry not eventually recovered and undone all of the good duke's hard work. Thus, with Richard York humiliated time and time again, he finally engaged in full on battle against the crown in the Battle of St. Albans, captured the so-called king and once again became Protector of the Realm. Now, England waits with bated breath to see what shall become of this uneasy truce.

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.

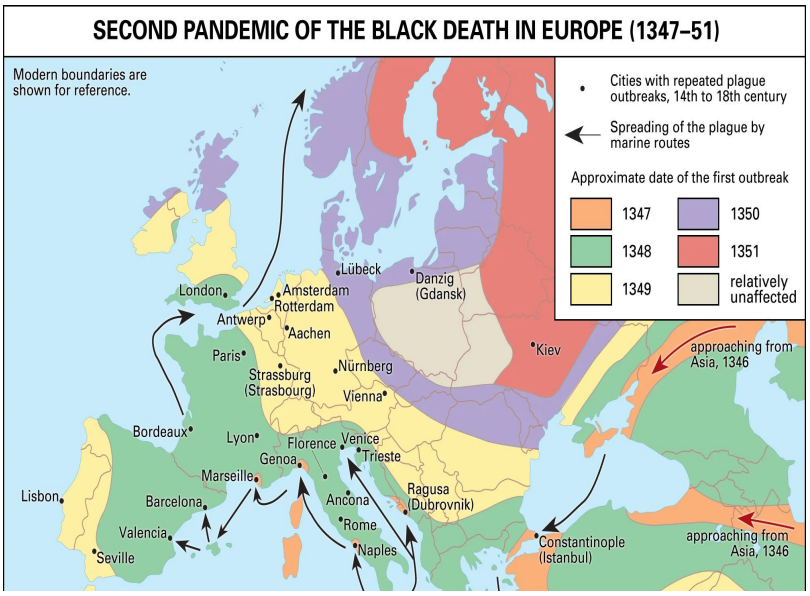
While Cade's Rebellion was easily squashed, the lord treasurer still was killed and lasting effects were had.

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.



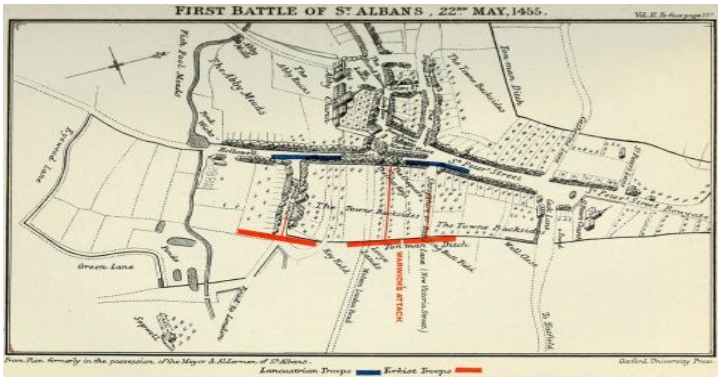


All this occurring amongst the year of the great comet, an omen proclaiming that unrest is near. Even the Heavens pronounce this as a dire time in our kingdom. Yet, in the darkness, a light also shines.

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. Ending with 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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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.



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.

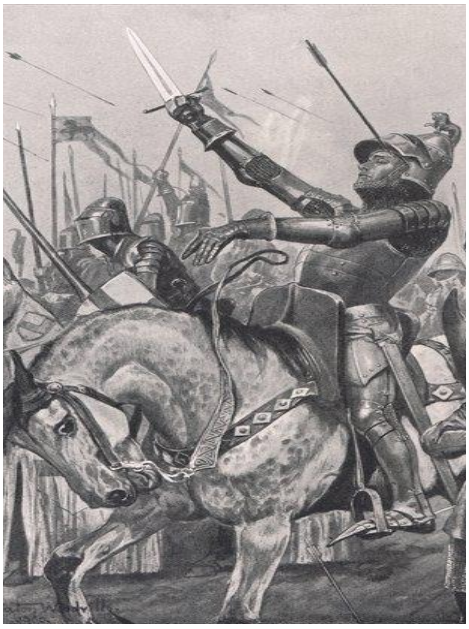


1456: Henry VI remains as nominal king with Richard of York once again Protector of the Realm under uneasy truce.





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

Committee Brief

After the total victory of the Yorkists at the Battle of St. Albans, the Lancastrians fled to lick their wounds while we enjoyed our new power over the royal court. As the current state of affairs can only be described as an uneasy truce, noble Richard York has called upon a great council amongst the House of York and its supporters.

You are one of the individuals selected to participate in this committee of people of great repute who shall decide the fate of the House of York.

Blasted fate has turned against the House of York, perhaps in some sort of a divine prank! Should not many of the Lancastrians perished upon the field of St. Alban when our victory was secured? Still, the future is not set in stone. While the Lancastrians may have luck on their side, we Yorkists shall show that fortune helps those who help themselves.

Now prepare yourselves to discuss and make decisions. The future of not just the Houses York and Lancaster, but that of all of England, are now in the hands of this council.

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Your Goals

Succession: They say all is fair in love and war. When family stretches across both sides of the conflict, the stakes are doubled. As members of the Yorkist party, your ultimate goal is to see the House of York recognized as the rightful heir to the throne. Prince Edward of Westminster stands in the way, and York's sons are still boys. How far will you press the claim, and how quickly? Will you act openly, or work through Parliament and the council until the moment is right? Plans must reach beyond Richard himself.

Power: The war offers a wide range of chances to build your own influence. How will you use it to further your interests? Power can be built through land and regions, trade and money, marriages, family ties, and the people who owe you favors. Titles, appointments to court and command in the field are all up for grabs. No one is immune to power's call, so be prepared to fight to strengthen yours.

Protection: Even inside the same party, rivals exist. Who is against you? The Neville family is divided against itself, the northern lords carry old feuds, and a party of ambitious nobles will not always agree on who leads. Those who already hold power must work to defend it, while those who are rising must find protectors. Merchants must keep their trade routes open and their lenders paid. No goal is entirely unique, so guard what is yours, and remember that the House of Lancaster is watching from across the table.

Characters



Richard, Duke of York

As the Head of the House of York and Protector of the Realm, he commands the unwavering loyalty of the entire Yorkist faction. Proud, meticulous, and deeply frustrated by a decade of being deliberately marginalized by the Lancastrian court, he has grown increasingly convinced that his claim to the throne is not merely valid, but inherently owed to him. Backed by formidable familial alliances—serving as the husband to Cecily Neville, brother-in-law to the Earl of Salisbury, and father to a crucial next generation including Edward, Edmund, George, and Richard—his primary immediate goal is to solidify his precarious position as Protector. While relentlessly outmaneuvering Lancastrian loyalists, he carefully bides his time, quietly testing the political waters to determine exactly how far his ultimate claim to the crown can realistically go.



Cecily Neville, Duchess of York

As the formidable matriarch of the House of York, known throughout the court as "Proud Cis," she carries herself with the undeniable bearing of a queen despite never having officially held the title. Connected to the powerful Neville family by birth and serving as the wife of Richard, Duke of York, she is fiercely protective of her family's legacy and deeply ambitious on her children's behalf. Her primary goal is to protect their dynastic claims at all costs, meticulously managing the Yorkist public image while quietly but persistently pushing her husband toward bolder, more decisive action in his pursuit of the throne.

Characters



Edward, Earl of March

As the thirteen-year-old eldest son of Richard, Duke of York, and Cecily Neville, he is being carefully groomed for future leadership and heavy dynastic responsibility. Despite his youth, he is already remarkably charismatic, physically impressive for his age, and fiercely eager to prove his worth. Closely sharing his father's bold temperament and grand ambitions, he represents the living future of the Yorkist bloodline. Although he is currently too young to undertake major independent military or political action, his overarching role is to serve as a potent, unifying symbol for his faction to rally around—a status that simultaneously makes him a highly valuable, high-stakes target whom the Lancastrians will undoubtedly seek to capture or control.



Edmund, Earl of Rutland

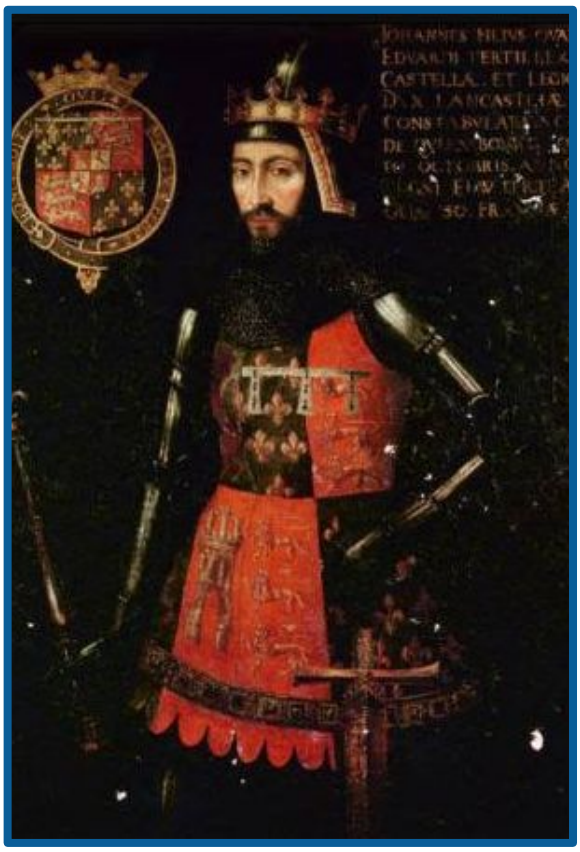
As the twelve-year-old second son of Richard, Duke of York, and Cecily Neville, he is a quieter, less documented figure whose identity is largely defined by his proximity to his father and his older brother, Edward. Possessing limited independent agency at this early stage of the conflict, he currently plays a passive role in the faction's grand strategy; however, his safety and royal bloodline are highly likely to become a crucial, high-stakes bargaining chip between the warring houses as the dynastic struggle continues to escalate.

Characters



Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick

As the son of the Earl of Salisbury and nephew by marriage to the Duke of York, he is a bold, ambitious rising star who famously led the decisive charge at the First Battle of St Albans—setting him on the path to becoming the legendary "Kingmaker." Acutely aware of his own rapidly growing importance to the Yorkist cause, he leverages his formidable battlefield reputation to aggressively accumulate political capital and direct influence over royal policy. While his current loyalty to York is genuine, it remains highly conditional, firmly rooted in his ultimate goal of dictating the future of the English crown rather than merely serving it.



John Neville

As the son of the Earl of Salisbury and the younger brother to the famously powerful Earl of Warwick, he is a highly capable and fiercely loyal rising military commander. Though inevitably somewhat overshadowed by his more prominent sibling, he is driven by a deep-seated desire to step out of Warwick's shadow and decisively prove his own independent worth on the battlefield. His primary goal is to carve out his own martial legacy, actively taking command of northern levies to ruthlessly defend the region against ongoing Lancastrian incursions.

Characters



Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury

As York's brother-in-law, closest political ally, and the commander of the left flank at St Albans, he is a calculating and patient strategist. Married to Alice Montacute and father to Warwick, John Neville, and George Neville, his primary motivation lies not in York's specific claim to the throne, but rather in preserving and expanding his own family's immense power. His ultimate goal is to fiercely protect Neville landholdings and regional influence, carefully maneuvering behind the scenes to ensure that his sons' fortunes rise inextricably alongside York's broader political ascent.



George Neville

As the youngest son of the Earl of Salisbury and a clergyman on the rapid rise, he is a highly politically minded figure who views his religious vocation as a crucial lever of statecraft rather than a retreat from worldly affairs. Brother to Warwick and John Neville, he seamlessly blends his family's dynastic ambition with his own ecclesiastical authority. His primary goal is to expertly wield his growing network of Church connections to legitimize and steadfastly support the Yorkist cause, providing vital spiritual cover and institutional backing for his faction's pursuit of the throne.

Characters



Sir Robert Ogle

As a hardened veteran commander who famously led the Yorkist archers and vanguard at the First Battle of St Albans, he is a pragmatic soldier forged by decades of brutal combat in the Hundred Years' War. Serving directly under the command of the Earl of Salisbury and the Duke of York, he eschews lofty political idealism in favor of cold, tactical reality. His primary goal is to continue anchoring the Yorkist forces with his highly sought-after military expertise, driven far more by the tangible promises of wealth, land, and the maintenance of his formidable martial reputation than by the complex dynastic struggles of the nobility.



Sir John Wenlock

As a courtier and notorious double-dealer who switches allegiance multiple times throughout the wars, he is fiercely self-preserving and driven entirely by opportunism. A former Lancastrian who has now strategically aligned himself with the Yorkist faction, his loyalty strictly follows his own personal advantage. His primary goal is to carefully position himself to survive and thrive no matter which side ultimately claims the throne, making him a dangerous, built-in wildcard capable of upending alliances during any major political crisis.

Characters



Sir William Oldhall

As a former Speaker of the Commons and the chief political fixer for Richard, Duke of York, he is a sharp, highly effective political operator driven by deep personal loyalty to his patron. Serving as a longtime advisor and trusted ally, his primary goal is to expertly manage complex Parliamentary affairs and behind-the-scenes maneuvering on York's behalf. Ultimately, he works tirelessly to advance the faction's political agenda while carefully shielding the Duke from dangerous accusations of treason or royal overreach.



Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury

As a senior clergyman who valiantly attempted to mediate before the outbreak of battle, he serves as a crucial moral and diplomatic anchor in a deeply divided realm. Though genuinely invested in securing lasting peace and avoiding bloodshed, he remains sharply pragmatic about where true military and political power actually lies. Navigating the delicate line between his ecclesiastical duties and his worldly ties as the brother to Henry Bourchier, his overarching goal is to actively broker truces between the warring factions wherever possible. Above all, he seeks to carefully maneuver through the dynastic chaos to fiercely protect the Church's neutrality, wealth, and lasting influence regardless of which side ultimately claims the throne.

Characters



Henry Bourchier, Viscount Bourchier

As the brother to Thomas, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the future Earl of Essex and Treasurer, he is a highly administratively minded figure who prioritizes long-term financial stability far above battlefield glory. Rather than seeking fame in combat, he leverages his bureaucratic expertise to meticulously manage Yorkist finances behind the scenes. His primary goal is to ensure that the faction's war chest remains secure, acting as the crucial economic anchor that ensures the Yorkist alliance can actually afford to sustain its sweeping political and military ambitions.



William Herbert

As a rising member of the Welsh gentry destined to become the Earl of Pembroke, he is an ambitious and regionally powerful figure driven by an eagerness to aggressively expand his influence across Wales. Operating in close alliance with Walter Devereux, his primary objective is to dominate Welsh territory and command its local levies in the name of the Yorkist cause. He views his unwavering service not merely as duty, but as a calculated investment, fully expecting that his loyalty will be handsomely rewarded with elevated rank and unprecedented regional authority once York secures power.

Characters



Walter Devereux

As a border-hardened and pragmatic Marcher lord, he is primarily focused on maintaining regional stability along the volatile Welsh Marches. Operating as a steadfast ally to William Herbert, he recognizes that their political and territorial fortunes are deeply intertwined. His overarching goal is to secure the borderlands and actively support Herbert's continued rise to power, understanding that elevating his key ally will ultimately bring greater security, influence, and mutual benefit to them both.



Humphrey Stafford

As a young Yorkist loyalist destined to become the Earl of Devon, he is an eager yet untested figure deeply driven by the need to prove himself. Though currently only loosely aligned with the broader network of Yorkist gentry, he views the escalating conflict as a prime vehicle for his own elevation. His primary goal is to aggressively seek out opportunities for advancement, determined to secure his future rank and reputation through unwavering loyal service and undeniable battlefield merit.

Characters



William Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel

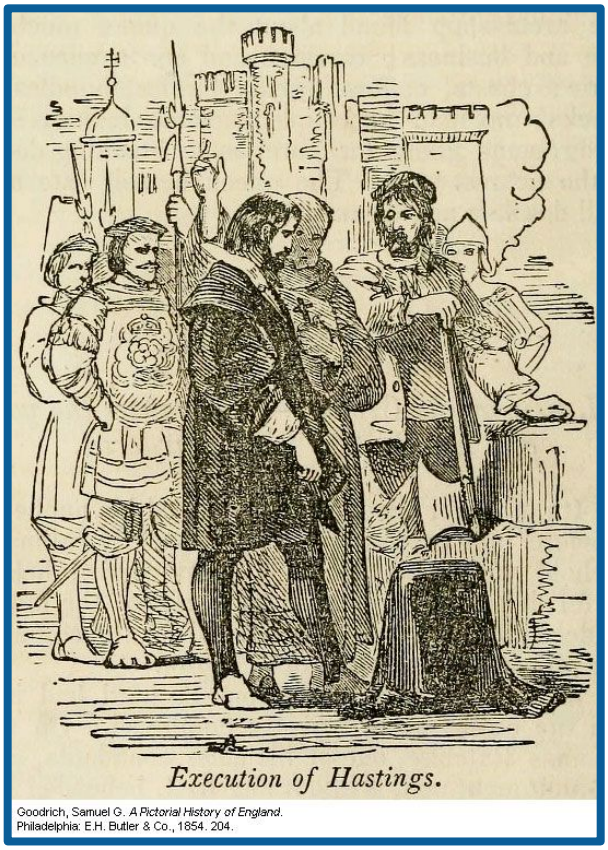
As an elder statesman among the Yorkist nobility, he is a cautious and measured figure who remains wary of overcommitting to any single faction. Drawing his strength from a formidable, independent power base in southern England, he prioritizes his own security over absolute political loyalty. His primary goal is to support the Yorkist cause only as far as it is safe to do so, making him a pragmatic but conditional ally who is highly likely to waver or withdraw his backing entirely if the Yorkist position begins to weaken.



John Mowbray, 3rd Duke of Norfolk

As a major East Anglian noble and prominent Yorkist sympathizer, he is fiercely proud of his ducal status and driven primarily by a desire to secure undisputed regional dominance. Backed by one of the largest and most formidable private armies in England, he views his immense military strength not just as a tool for war, but as his greatest bargaining chip. His ultimate goal is to wield this martial power to extract maximum political gain and influence from within the broader Yorkist coalition, ensuring that his local supremacy translates into national authority and rich rewards.

Characters



Goodrich, Samuel G. *A Pictorial History of England.* Philadelphia: E.H. Butler & Co., 1854. 204.

Sir William Hastings

As a young Yorkist retainer destined to become Lord Hastings, he is a loyal, socially adept, and quietly ambitious figure. Recognizing where the future of the faction lies, he focuses intensely on cultivating deep personal ties with Edward, Earl of March. His primary goal is to build an unbreakable relationship with this next generation of Yorkist leadership, positioning himself as an indispensable confidant and securing his own upward trajectory alongside Edward's rise to power.



William Neville, Lord Fauconberg

As the brother to the Earl of Salisbury and uncle to Warwick, he is a battle-tested veteran commander of both land and naval forces. Pragmatic and valued far more for his hard-won military experience than for political maneuvering, his primary role within the faction is to provide crucial tactical expertise. His unparalleled knowledge of coastal and naval warfare makes him an indispensable military asset to the Neville-Yorkist alliance, particularly when securing English waterways, defending against piracy, or planning complex campaigns along the coast.

Characters



Edward Neville, Baron Bergavenny

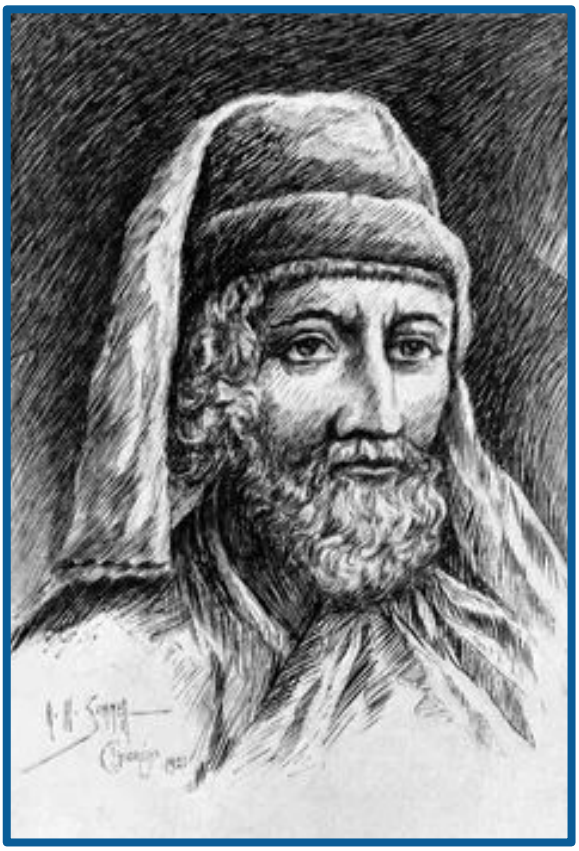
As the younger brother of the Earl of Salisbury, he is a steadfast, Yorkist-aligned noble who prioritizes the broader interests of his family far above his own personal ambition. Rather than seeking the spotlight or individual glory, his primary goal is to quietly and consistently support the Neville-Yorkist alliance, serving as a reliable, behind-the-scenes asset to his more prominent relatives during their political and military maneuvers.



Alice Montacute, Countess of Salisbury

As the wife of the Earl of Salisbury and the controller of a vast inheritance, she is a shrewd manager of the family's extensive wealth and lands. Mother to key political figures including Warwick, John Neville, and George Neville, her primary focus is protecting and growing this financial foundation, which ultimately serves to underwrite much of the Yorkist war effort.

Characters



William Caxton

A Flemish printer and author invited by the Yorkist court to document and write the things that transpire. A formal member of the Merchant Adventurers of London, his primary goal is to write propaganda for the House of York to help legitimize them in the eyes of foreign parties. What is a court without a scribe?



John de la Pole

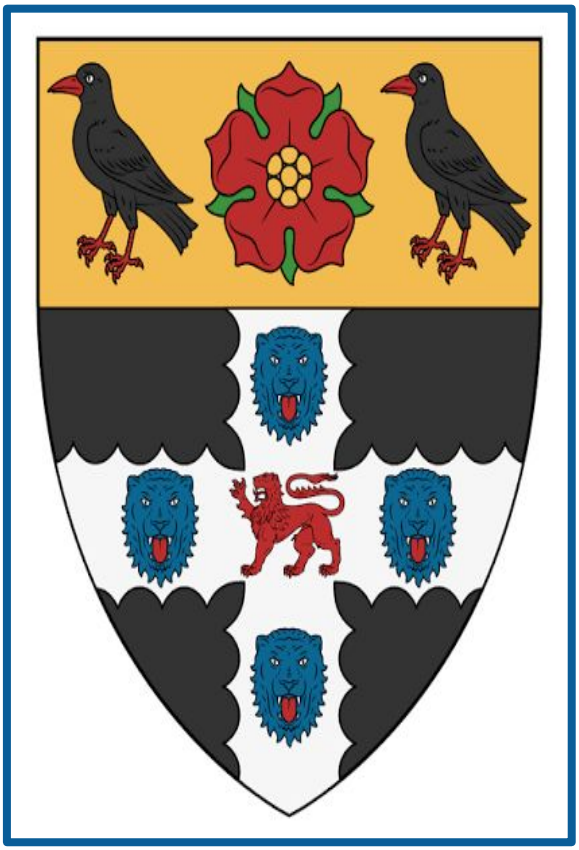
After the murder of his father in 1450, John de la Pole was made the 2nd Duke of Suffolk earlier than anticipated. As he is now the poorest duke and not popular amongst the court, he has come to make a name for himself. His primary goal is to become as rich as he was before the death of his father and gain glory.

Characters



William Bonville

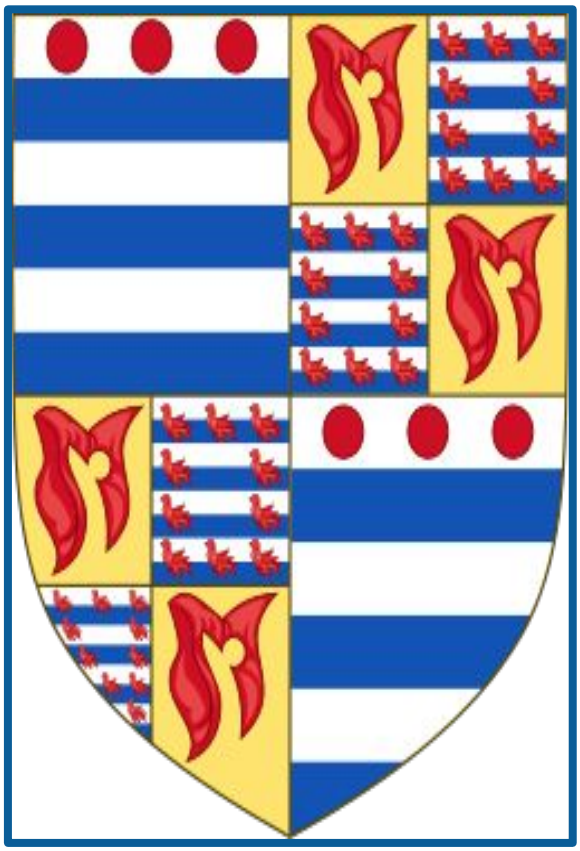
A veteran of the campaign of Agincourt, the steward of the Duchy of Cornwall wants nothing more than to keep his office away from the hands of the earls of Devon. His primary enemy above all else is Thomas Courtenay, a Lancastrian. His primary goal is to help Richard of York, but only because he wants all the support he can get to defeat Thomas Courtenay.



Robert Stillington

As the Archdeacon of Taunton, he serves as the assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Taunton. He has been sent by His Grace to assist in the Court of York should they need a cleric for anything. Whether they need someone to officiate a wedding, celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, or preside over a funeral, the Venerable Archdeacon Robert Stillington is at the court's service.

Characters



Edmund Grey

Sir Edmund Grey was knighted in 1440 for his service in Aquitaine. Above all else, he was loyal to the crown and served the House of Lancaster. However, after a dispute with his cousin over Ampthill Manor, he has defected and is now hoping that by siding with the House of York, the new king will side with him and grant him Ampthill. His primary goal above all else is to secure the manor, no matter the cost or treachery.



Walter Blount

Walter Blount is a simple man, acting as the Knight of the Shire for Derbyshire. He is at the court representing the common folk of Derbyshire, and by extension, of all England. His primary goal is primarily to garner peasant support while also ensuring that the common peasant will be safe and secure in these tumultuous times.

Characters



John Howard

Son of Sir Robert Howard and Margaret daughter of Thomas Mowbray. Was recently sent to parliament as a member of Norfolk. Cousin of John Mowbray. King Henry VI likes him somewhat, even as John (also called Jack), is a loyal supporter of the Yorkists.



Geoffrey Boleyn

As a prominent London wool merchant, financier, and future Lord Mayor, he is a pragmatic businessman motivated by profit and stability rather than political ideology. Deeply entrenched in the city's merchant class and civic government, his primary objective is to protect trade above all else. Because he is willing to finance whichever faction seems most likely to maintain economic order, he serves as a powerful financial lever that competing political sides will undoubtedly seek to court.

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