



RESTORING THE ROSES

**COURT OF KING
HENRY VII**

SunMUN I

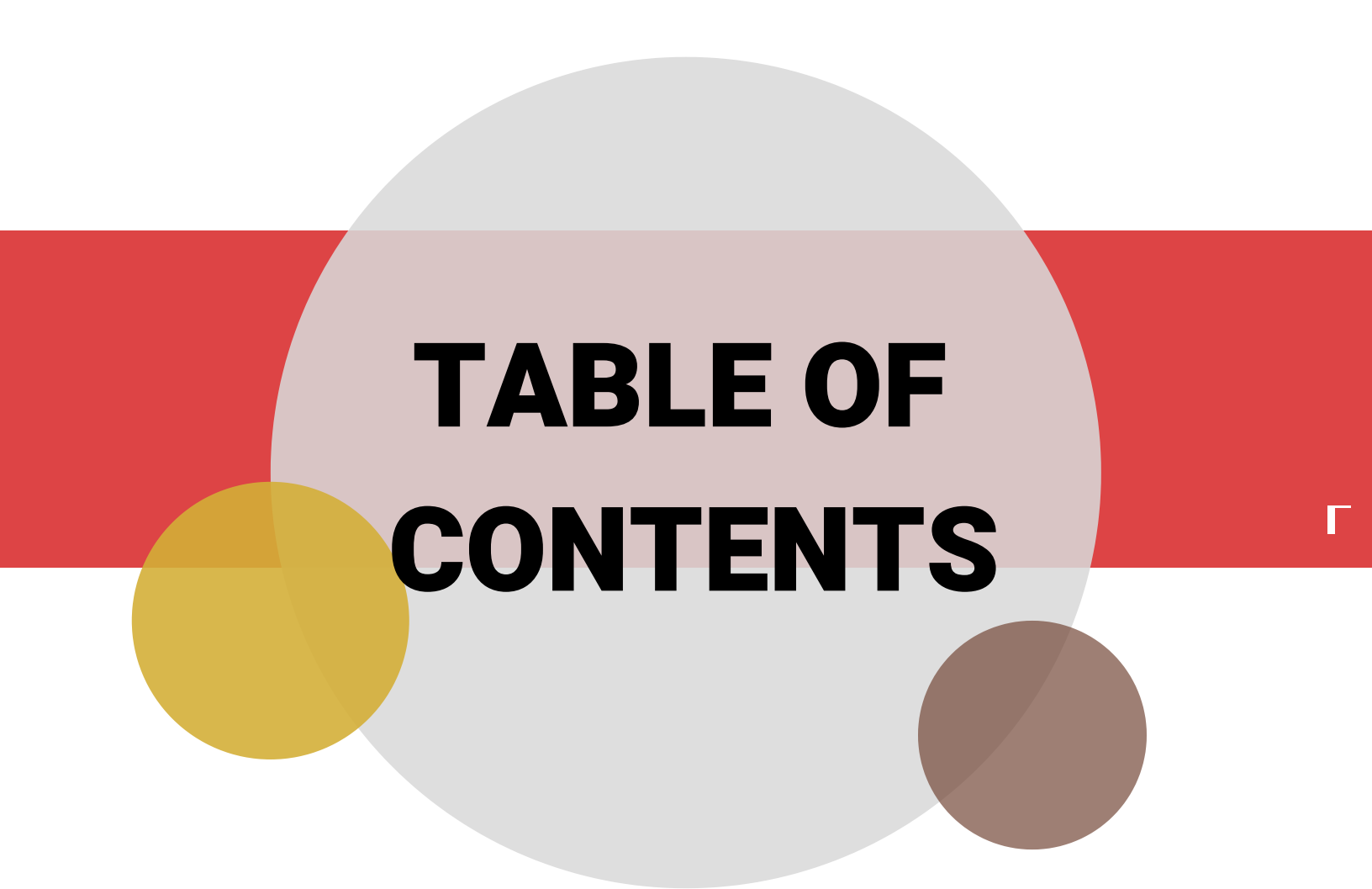


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DIRECTOR LETTER



Hello, my name is Emilee Jones and I will be your director for Court of King Henry the XII: Restoring the Roses! I am a second-year student at the University of Florida, double majoring in economics and international studies with a minor in German. My love for Model UN runs deep as I have been competing since the start of middle school. I am an active member of our college team serving as both our director of recruitment and retention and traveling as we compete nationally. My emphasis of the study is on Europe and I am a huge fan of history particularly British royal history. I choose the fallout of the War of the Roses because the relationship between the Yorks and the Lancastrians is so intricate and held huge ramifications for Europe

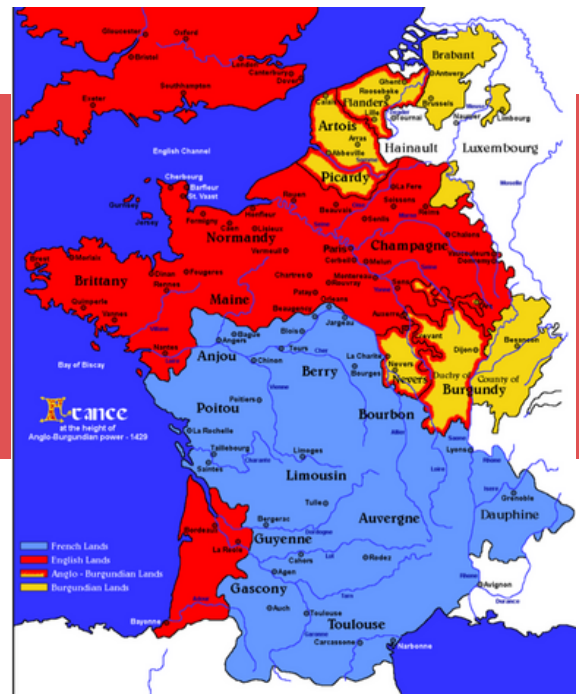
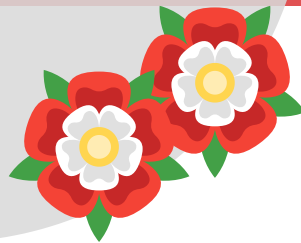
This committee opens on August 25th, 1485 with Henry moving into the King's palace. King Henry VII has just sent out a decree that he was King one day before the Battle of Bosworth (August 21st) so anyone who fought on the York side has been deemed a traitor. High-level Yorks are being rounded up from their homes and will soon be presented before the King to determine their fates. Among these Yorks is princess Elizabeth whom King Henry swore to marry to gain allies before the battle. This court is now faced with many challenges: how will York traitors be dealt with, how can the treasury be rebuilt, what marriages must take place to secure alliances, what foreign policy will be implemented, how will outside claims for King be handled, and much more. England has been broken because of this war with a neighbor fighting a neighbor and a brother killing a brother and she must be united.

To end I have a few rules for this committee, there will be no exceptions. At the University of Florida, we maintain a high level of integrity and respect; noting this please understand absolutely no harassment of any form will be tolerated. I understand some of the battle history and treatment of women were incredibly gruesome in this time period. Please keep crisis notes, directives, and passing notes within modern reasons, and do not make anyone uncomfortable. This isn't to say you can't have someone beheaded for example but be cognizant, all notes are subject to being read by your staffers. Moving on to the fun stuff I live by the work hard, play hard mentality so please enjoy your time in Gainesville. No prewriting or work outside of the committee will be allowed. I will also say this at the beginning of the session but no delegates in this committee can be King and all attempts in directives and crisis notes will be ruled dilatory. Many rumors went around England that the York Princesses were descendants of a water goddess and therefore had some magical powers. As this committee is set in 1485 and many believe this to be true I will allow some mystical elements within the committee.

I really look forward to this weekend of debate and encourage everyone to enjoy their time here at the University of Florida!

Wishing you the best,
Emilee

COMMITTEE BACKGROUND



INTRODUCTION

King Henry VII would come to be known as the man who brought Europe together and more importantly reunited the Yorks and Lancastrian branches. The two branches are cadet branches of the House of the Plantagenets, cadet branches being male lines of younger sons within families. The House of the Plantagenets originates from Anjou, France and King Henry II marks the first Plantagenet ruler of England. For the next few centuries, wars plagued England and France because of separate feuds, but eventually, King Edward III took the throne of England. The house of Lancaster was created in 1267 by King Henry III creating the title earldom of Lancaster for Edmund who was his second son. This makes the house of Lancaster around two centuries old before the war of the roses and much older than the house of York.

BUILD-UP TO THE WAR OF ROSES AND THE HUNDRED YEAR'S WAR

The War of Roses was a century-long war in which approximately fifty thousand people died. The late fourteenth century was marked by many natural crises: famines, plagues, and a micro ice age. During this time England and France's monarchs and nobility were closely linked. In 1337 King Edward the III of England thought he was the rightful heir of France. In France, Philip IV challenged these claims and this is what launched the Hundred Years War.

While this war raged, one was brewing at home. King Edward III had four sons: Edward the Black Prince, John Duke of Lancaster, Edmund Duke of York, and Thomas Duke of Gloucester. King Edward III and his son Edward both died in battle, and tradition bestowed the title of King onto Prince Edward's eldest son Richard who was all but ten years old. In England when a child becomes king a regency is established until they come of age. As Richard II was assisted in governance he grew increasingly hated by nobility and peasants alike. In 1388, Thomas of Gloucester led a coalition of nobles against King Richard II and was successful in handicapping King Richard II's power and allowing the nobles more say in court. While for a time King Richard accepted this political defeat, humbleness was always fleeting in England and King Richard II had Thomas arrested and later killed.

Another notable man within this initial coalition was John Duke of Lancasters' eldest son Henry. King Richard banished Henry from England and upon John of Lancaster's death, he withheld his inheritance and positions from him. This angered Henry of Lancaster causing him to amass an army that was successful and was able to seize control of England while King Richard II was fighting his war in Ireland. When Richard II returned to England he was put in prison and ultimately died.

Henry became King Henry the IV and had a peaceful reign, and his son Henry the V assumed the role of King. However, King Henry V died in battle pertaining to the Hundred Year's War leaving his infant son Henry VI to rule. Henry VI had a slew of regents but the most notable was Richard Duke of York who was the grandson of Edward III. Many nobles and peasants recognized the positive leadership Richard of York had implemented.

When Henry VI came of age he married Margaret of Anjou. Margaret of Anjou would grow to be one of the most hated monarchs in British history as she was extremely power-hungry. Margaret had an incredible amount of influence over King Henry VI and ruled England through him. King Henry VI was known to be weak-willed and mentally fragile and these qualities only worsened with age. Margaret hated Richard of York and was jealous of the respect he held at court and with the people so she had him reassigned to Ireland.

With York out of the picture, Margaret was able to rule as she wanted and she brought in the Duke of Somerset to assist her. Margaret and the Duke were wildly unsuccessful and they and their cronies became extremely unpopular by 1450. Richard of York was greatly concerned about the direction England was taking and he returned. Many thought Richard of York had God's blessing because as he successfully marched on London King Henry VI's failures had led to a defeat in the Hundred Years War. This defeat sent King Henry VI into a mental breakdown, so Richard of York took the title of Lord Protector. Richard of York sent the Duke of Somerset to prison and implemented many reforms which aided all of England after the end of the war.

Margaret of Anjou was angry at what York had done and seemingly willed her husband back to health. King Henry VI returned and at Margaret's importance undid all of the policies that York had implemented. This action by Margaret angered York and he and the Earl of Warwick, who would come to be known as the Kingmaker, rose armies in the north of England to depose the Lancastrians and their corrupt advisors. This action is what started the War of the Roses.



THE WAR OF ROSES

The War of Roses began on May 22nd, 1455 with the battle of St Albans and ended in a decisive Yorkist Victory. King Henry VI was captured by Richard of York and became Lord Protector again. After some time Margaret of Anjou was able to recover her husband and reinstate him into power. Both Richard of York and the Earl of Warwick feared Margaret at the time and fled the country in 1459. Richard of York remained quiet however Warwick didn't. After Warwick arrived at his palace in Calais he launched raids and defended himself against the Lancastrians. In 1460 Warwick, sick of defending Calais went on offense and attacked England via Kent. Because Warwick and Richard of York were vastly more popular than Margaret, the people quickly paved the way back for them in London.

Richard of York was able to capture King Henry VI again and only released him on terms that York and his sons would take the throne upon his death. These terms enraged Margaret of Anjou as she already had a son named Edward poised to take the throne on his father's death. Margaret reached out to the King of Scots and together they raised an army against the Yorks. Margaret and her Scottish army were successful in killing Richard of York and his eldest son Edmund in the battle of Wakefield late in 1460. Margaret then continued her campaign in the second battle of St Albans, beating back Warwick and his men.

Some time passed and Margaret retreated to the north with her husband leaving London without a king. Richard of York's second son Edward was now the eldest and he met with Warwick and the Bishop of London. During this meeting, terms were negotiated and the Bishop asked the people of London whom they wanted their king to be and they loudly chanted Edward of York! So Edward became King Edward the IV and a de facto King. Edward the IV and Warwick pursued Margaret's army and met them outside of the Town of York in the battle of Towton in 1461. In that battle, over twenty-eight thousand men died but Edward IV emerged victorious and secured his Kingship.

While we often think throughout medieval history that men were in charge, it is clear throughout the War of Roses that women oftentimes had more influence than men. We saw this clearly with Margaret of Anjou and we will see it again with Edward the IV's wife. Edward IV was set to marry a French princess. Warwick had carefully negotiated the union, had brought her to English court, and knew this would further secure Edward and his line during this tumultuous period in English history. However, before the French princesses' arrival, Edward had spent much time in the country and had come across a widow named Elizabeth Woodville. He and Elizabeth had fallen in love and were married in secret in a ceremony that her mother, a priest, and a servant witnessed and attended. Edward has asked her to keep the union a secret and she thought she had been tricked into just an affair as she was left in the country and he went back to London. When Warwick assembled the nobles and was seconds away from announcing the French princess as Edward's bride, Edward pulled him aside and told him of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, a woman far beneath a king but still a noble. Warwick demanded Edward announce his bride as the french princess and snub Elizabeth but Edward publicly humiliated Warwick in announcing he was already married to Elizabeth. Elizabeth and her family were brought to court and Warwick was livid.

For a short time, the Woodvilles, Warwick, and Edward all got along. But Warwick was slowly getting pushed out of Edward the IV's inner circle and being replaced with Queen Elizabeth's brothers and father. The Earl of Warwick was enraged at his inability to control Edward the IV and threw his support to the Lancastrians.

Edward had two brothers alive, George and Richard. George was envious of Edward and so when Warwick reached out to him to join him and the Lancastrians in France he easily betrayed his brother and followed. Warwick and George joined forces with Margaret and the three invaded England in 1470 to depose Edward the IV. Edward was driven from London and Warwick placed Henry VI on the throne. This action by Warwick offended George as he thought that he would be placed on the throne following the successful campaign.

Warwick acted as a puppet master to King Henry VI and his recent alliance with France drew him into a war with Burgundy, this proved to be a huge mistake. Charles of Burgundy struck a deal with Edward the IV that, in exchange for not helping France in the war against him, would provide him with the funds he needed to reclaim his throne in London.

Using Charles of Burgandy's funds Edward invaded in 1471 and met with his brother George whom he forgave. Together the three remaining brothers, Edward, George, and Richard prepared for battle and came up with the strategy of ambushing Warwick's forces in the fog. This strategy worked and Warwick's forces were defeated, this battle also brought Warwick's demise. Margaret of Anjou and her forces arrived on the isle the same day and upon hearing of Warwick's death and defeat she resolved to take on Edward the IV herself. Margaret of Anjou lost in a quick battle, she was taken prisoner and her son, Edward the Cruel, was killed by the Yorks. The French King paid the ransom and Margaret of Anjou was released to him and returned home to France. King Henry VI was murdered and especially at the end held very little wit. The rest of Edward IV's rule was peaceful and he lived happily with his Queen Elizabeth Woodville and their family which will be discussed later.

Upon Edward the IV's death in 1483 the succession of his son was prevented by his youngest brother Richard. Richard used the fact that Edward IV and Elizabeth had been married in secret as a reason that none of his children were legitimate. Richard's mad and blatant power grab shocked onlookers, opening the door to Henry Tudor's challenge to his claim.

(Information from this point is disputed)

CURRENT CLAIMS TO THE THRONE

Elizabeth Woodville and Edward the IV had many daughters, the first being Elizabeth of York. The pair also eventually had two sons, known as the York Princes, Edward and Richard. When Edward the IV's brother Richard the III stole the Kingship he had the princes locked in the tower. Many thought these boys died, that they were murdered by either Richard the III to solidify his power or by Margaret Beaufort (Henry the VII's mother) to pave the way for her son to lay claim to the throne. Bodies for these boys were never shown to the public and some believe that Elizabeth put a servant boy in the tower in place of her son Richard however there has never been any proof of this. Nonetheless, for the time being, Richard III was king and Henry Tudor was coming out of exile to challenge him. However, if Prince Richard is found alive he would have a more legitimate claim to the throne than Henry Tudor.

The last boy in the picture is the new Earl of Warwick whom everyone calls Teddy. Teddy's claim to the throne is not on par with Prince Richard's if he is alive or the current King Richard III however it is on the same playing field as Henry Tudors. Teddy is very young though and Henry Tudor does not see him as a legitimate threat yet

ELIZABETH OF YORK

Elizabeth of York is said to be as beautiful as her mother, kind yet firm and wicked smart. She is the eldest daughter of Edward the IV and Elizabeth Woodville. Henry Tudors sees her as the most important piece of his puzzle leading up to the battle of Bosworth. He stands up before many nobles and raises his army on the promise that he will marry her and unite England, ending the war of roses, York, and Tudor together in peace at last. Many nobles sick of constant battle and cognizant of the financial state of the country join and contribute to Henry's army based on this promise ultimately giving him success at Bosworth.



Elizabeth of York

One big piece missing here however is Elizabeth's knowledge and consent. Which is tricky. According to court gossip, Elizabeth participated in an affair with Richard the III, who yes, would be her uncle. It is rumored the two are in love and that Elizabeth of York despises Henry Tudor for forcing her beloved into battle. While Richard the III is married he is seeking an annulment and whoever wins the battle of Bosworth, Henry Tudor, or Richard the III, will win Elizabeth of York. Both need her to secure their claim as king.

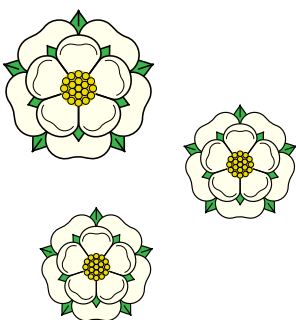
HENRY TUDOR BIRTH UNTIL BOSWORTH

Henry Tudor was born in 1457 at the start of the War of Roses. Henry Tudor's claim comes from his mother's side, she was only thirteen when she had him, as she is a descendant of the Plantagenets and a Lancastrian. King Henry VI was his uncle and while he was in charge Henry Tudor grew up in England in peace. Once, Edward IV deposed the mad King; Henry Tudor was forced into exile for fourteen years in Brittany. Henry Tudor's uncle was Jasper Tudor and after his father's death, Jasper took care of him and his young mother Margaret Beaufort. Margaret Beaufort is characterized as an extremely religious woman, often citing God's wishes as a reason why she performed evil acts and most notably as the reason she pushed so fervently for her son to become king.

In Brittany, Henry and Jasper stayed with Francis the II Duke of Brittany. In 1476 the Duke became ill and his advisors who assumed control negotiated that Henry be sent back to England. Henry faked stomach cramps enough to allegedly miss the tides needed to go back to England and in an epic stroke of luck, or as Margaret Beaufort saw it—a sign from God, Francis the II recovered from his sickness and said Henry Tudor was not to go back to England. During all of this confusion with the envoys sent to collect him and the Duke's people, Henry Tudor was able to flee to a monastery.

In 1483 Margaret Beaufort began to aggressively campaign for her son as an alternative to King Richard III. On Christmas day 1483, Henry gathered what noble allies he had and at Rennes Cathedral raised his army on the promise he would bring peace to England by marrying the Princess Elizabeth of York.

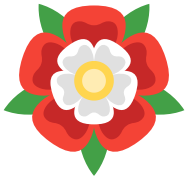
After a few false starts, one resulting in the beheading of Henry Strafford (Henry's close ally), he finally gained all the people he needed. These allies included the Woodvilles, the Welsh, the Scots, and the French. The French were able to provide him with not only the funds but also the prisoners from their cells to create an army. Henry invaded Wales, he had close family ties to the region. This allowed him to catch Richard off guard.



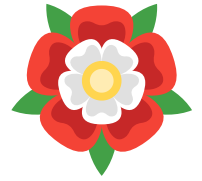


QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How should England rebuild its treasury and to what extent as war looms on the horizon with other European powers and as peasants struggle to already pay taxes imposed?
2. What marriage alliances should take place both within Europe to unite the two houses and throughout Europe as a mechanism of peace?
3. Who should be on progression with King Henry VII in the coming months and what towns should they visit to boost public opinion and give his reign legitimacy?
4. How will outside claims to the throne be accessed and dealt with?
5. What will the role of religion be at court and how will it affect foreign policy and relations with other nations?



POSITIONS



Lady Margaret Beaufort: Mother of King Henry, Lady Margaret is known as a very devout woman claiming God sent her a vision of her son being on the thorne before his birth. The King's claim comes from her side of the family as a descendent of Edward III. Lady Margaret was instrumental in the politics that placed King Henry on the throne and he views her as a top advisor. Unlike most women Lady Margaret is very autonomous and commands respect, however she has made many enemies putting her son on the throne.

Jasper Tudor: As the half brother of Henry the VI Jasper Tudor is the Uncle of King Henry. The late king bestowed the title of Earl of Pembroke on Jasper giving him a plethora of land holdings. When the Yorkist king Edward claimed the throne Jasper retreated to the continent and was instrumental in raising support for Henry. During the war of the roses Jasper showed his prowess as a true soldier gifted in battle and planning. King Henry sees Jasper Tudor as his longest and most trusted advisor.

Lord Thomas Stanley: As comptroller of the royal household Thomas Stanley is in an ancient and highly coveted position, second ranking in the lord steward's department. He is married to Lady Margaret and was of great assistance in the Battle of Bosworth. A lot of Thomas Stanley's power comes from his deep ties to Ireland, especially Liverpool. His reputation prior to marrying Margaret Beaufort was one of someone not committing to a side until he is sure, this has created some trust issues between himself and others on this court.

Lord William Stanley: As a second son and brother of Lord Thomas Stanley, William was on the opposite side of most battles with his family and a loyal Yorkist for many years. However, by the Battle of Bosworth he had changed his loyalties and was very helpful in supporting his brother in the Battle of Bosworth. King Henry has allowed him to retain his lands in North Wales gifted to him by King Richard III. Many in this court hold grudges for the lives lost on the Lancastrian side during the battles preceding Bosworth and hold him accountable.

John Morton: Archbishop John Morton has been loyal to the Lancastrian side not because he loves the Tudors but because he hates the Yorks. As an Archbishop he oversees many papal responsibilities. Consequently he is loved and feared by the papal management in England. John Morton is a fierce ally of Jasper Tudor and thus has kept his position despite a lot of calls that he is not fit for the position he has been granted.

Lord Strange: Lord George Strange is a Baron and yet another member of the Stanley clan. He is the eldest son of Thomas Stanley and feels a lot of pressure from his family. Lord Strange was present at the Battle of Bosworth however he did not fight. He was held captive by Richard the III and holds many grudges from his time there. Of all members of the court Lord Strange is most eager to prove himself following his inability to fight at Bosworth and his fathers presence.

Henry Percy: As Earl of Northumberland Henry Percy is somewhat of a wild card. After being wronged by the Yorks he still failed to lead an army for Henry the VII's side at Bosworth. Yet he is valued in court because of his seat in Northumberland. Northumberland holds a strategic position close to Scotland that Henry needs. Percy is hated by his subjects and there have been talks of riots all of which he has so far handled.

Bishop Edward Story: Bishop Story is known to be an educated man, he received education at Cambridge but also continues to study and is highly involved with the institution. He is an anchor in court and valued for his wise counsel. Story is a peacemaker and a great supporter of cohesion throughout Europe. He has always been a great friend to Elizabeth Woodville which scares many but he is loyal to a harmonious England above all. His first priority is uniting the roses.

Byron Dynham: Dynham considers himself to be the "money guy". England is in a dire financial situation coming out of the battle and he has put himself forward as the most suitable candidate to control the country's fiscal policy. The vision Dynham proposes will have huge ramifications for England. Many denounce him as too inexperienced to handle the delicate task of assigning taxes to peasants and there is already worry that he may not be fit for the task.

Thomas Lovell: Lovell has always been a great friend to the Yorks and his position on this cabinet is one of a peace offering by Henry. He will always love Elizabeth Woodville and the current Elizabeth more than the Lancastrians. Lovell is sly, full of cunning and well connected around England. Henry the VII views him as a necessary threat and his place at court is contingent on his proven allegiance from this point forward.

Edmund Dudley: As the chief financial officer of the court Edmund Dudley has a reputation for being ruthless in his pursuit of sound fiscal policy. Well connected doesn't always mean well loved, his aggressive approach to tax collection has him paranoid to the point of hiring a well trained protection detail. He is generally thought to be one of the leading negotiators of his time and expected to be key in the pursuit of peace with France.

Reginald Bray: A powerhouse of wisdom and energy Bray is seen as highly influential in the political sphere. As King Henry's Chancellor of Duchy he is a minister of the crown and heavily involved in maintaining the peace between nobles around England. When nobles have land disputes or quarrels about the women of court he is the person nobles come to in order to settle without overwhelming or over involving the King in trivial matters.

Edward Poynings: Poynings as a military man takes an analytical and logical approach to most problems. Following the battle of Bosworth, Poynings was appointed Lord deputy of Ireland. Somewhat removed from court he does not have many allies but instead has strong connections to the upper levels of the army.

Sir Richard Empson: Charismatic and loved by most, Empson is beloved by courtiers and servants alike allowing him lots of movement around the castle. He is known as a gossip but many use him to gain information of situations both serious and frivolous around court. Sir Empson is very wealthy and commonly thought to be England's most eligible bachelor. In his professional career he is on the rise in the house of commons and many think he is gearing up to make a bid at Speaker.

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