



ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS
THE NINETEENTH SESSION

Historical

Topic Bulletin

Academy Model United Nations

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the politics and intrigue that is the Defense of the Faith - the Court of Henry VIII. This committee challenges you to rewrite the history of the Tudor Dynasty during a pivotal moment in the reign of King Henry VIII. From disputes with the church to alliances with foreign powers and courtly intrigue, you will be addressing issues in the spheres of both international and domestic politics. Greetings, my name is Jun-Davinci Choi and I will be one of your chairs for this committee. I am a junior at the Bergen County Academies in the Academy of Business and Finance. Beginning Model UN in freshman year, I have attended numerous conferences including YMUN (Yale), WAMUNC (George Washington University), PMUNC (Princeton), SHUMUN (Seton Hall), and AMUN. This past year, I also had the opportunity to staff for Model UN, as Director of Operations in JAMUN III (BCA's conference for middle school students) and chairing JCC Game of Thrones at Monroe Woodbury Model UN. I look forward to meeting you this coming conference and anxiously await for the innovative ways by which this committee will change the course of English history!

Sincerely,
Jun-Davinci Choi
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God save ye, fair maidens and good sirs!

My name is Bertina Kudrin and I would like to welcome you to the intricacies and perils of the Court of King Henry the Eighth. While in 1532 I stand at the helm of this glorious committee, in 2017 I am a junior in the Science academy. I first began doing Model UN in the beginning of my freshman year. After my first conference, despite the terror of facing a room of 200 people, I realized that MUN was something I wanted to be involved with for a long time. I eagerly grabbed onto as many conferences as I could, travelling to Princeton, Yale, George Washington, NYU, and John Hopkins, along with high school conferences. Through MUN I have met

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incredible friends, traveled the east coast, viewed aspects of the world I did not know existed, and delved into the subtleties of bloc politics that have become a second skin for me. I've been working with AMUN and its sibling, JAMUN, as a chair and organizer for two years now. I truly love AMUN and I hope it will give you some of the opportunities that MUN has given me. Most of all, I hope you have fun!

Besides MUN I am also a member of the Choir and do research. I love to write and read and can get lost for days in tales of towering manors and courageous knights. If you have any questions, please email me and I will be more than happy to help.

Farewell, and I will see you on the Castle grounds.

Bertina Kudrin

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DEFENSE OF THE FAITH – COURT OF HENRY VIII

Topic History

Pre-Tudor Dynasty

The Tudor Dynasty (1485-1603) was preceded by a series of civil wars called the Wars of the Roses (1455-85). The conflict arose due to a series of power struggles between branches of the royal house of the Plantagenets, the House of York and the House of Lancaster, who both claimed descent from King Edward III.

Edward III had four sons: Edward the Black Prince (heir to the throne), Lionel of Antwerp (Duke of Clarence) John of Gaunt (Duke of Lancaster) and Edmund of Langley (Duke of York).

The premature death of Edward the Black and the death of Edward III a year later left the Black Prince's son, Richard, to succeed Edward III as Richard II at the age of ten. John of Gaunt became a powerful political figure during Richard II's reign, largely running the country, himself. The continuation of the Hundred's Year War overshadowed Richard II's early years, the heavy cost of war leading to a series of taxes that proved unpopular amongst the people of England. The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 resulted when the government attempted to enforce collection of taxes, supposedly to finance military campaigns. Rebels stormed London and negotiations were arranged between leaders of the Revolt and the king. However, the nobles reestablished control, capturing and executing rebels.

Later, Richard II would attempt to assert the authority of the royal office, which resulted in disagreements between Richard II and his opposition in

Parliament. Ultimately, Richard II was overthrown by Henry IV, the son of John of Gaunt, while he was away on a campaign in Ireland.

The next three kings were all from the House of Lancaster: Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI. Although Henry IV asserted his lineage from Henry III, there were still many dissenters who aspired to undermine Henry IV's authority as king. Henry IV was under attack from both domestic and foreign enemies for much of the first 10 years of his reign. Furthermore, the king's authority over Wales was contested by Owain Glyn Dŵr, who led a rebellion against Henry IV. Henry IV had little success in putting down the rebellion, although his son, Henry V, had greater success in reasserting royal control over Wales.

Henry VI was a weak king prone to bouts of insanity. The House of York began plotting to usurp the throne. The Wars of the Roses began with the defeat of Henry VI by Richard Duke of York's forces in St Alban, May 22nd, 1455. When Richard Duke of York was killed in the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, his son Edward continued to fight, defeating Henry VI at Towton and proclaiming himself King. He ruled as Edward IV.

Upon Edward IV's death, his brother Richard III, usurped the throne from Edward IV's son, Edward V. Richard III was a largely unpopular king, and Henry Tudor, from the House of Lancaster, laid claim to the throne. Gaining support by promising to marry Edward IV's daughter, Henry defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Fields in 1485 with the help of his Lancastrian forces, as well as the French and Yorkist defectors. The Wars of the Roses ended with the crowning of Henry VII and his marriage to Elizabeth of York (Edward IV's daughter), tying the Houses of York and Lancaster together.

The Tudor Dynasty commenced with the ascension of Henry Tudor as Henry VII and ended with the death of Elizabeth I, who never married or had

children during her reign. During this committee, we will be focusing on the reign of Henry VIII, the second king during the Tudor Dynasty and son of Henry VII.

Prequel: Henry's Origins

Henry was the second son of Henry VII and spent a childhood watching his eldest brother prepared for the throne. While Arthur was groomed and pampered, Henry lived with his mother, Elizabeth of York, under a strong maternal bond but in a sheltered existence. Suddenly, in 1502, Arthur died followed by Elizabeth in 1503. With no forewarning, ten-year-old Henry was alone, with only a hopelessly distraught father and all the responsibilities of an heir to the throne. These included a marriage.

Henry VII had been keen to secure an alliance with Spain and did this through the marriage of his eldest son to the youngest child of King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile; Catherine of Aragon. At 14, Arthur was betrothed to Catherine, although with the distances separating the two, stand-ins were used for the betrothal ceremony. At 15, the wedding ceremony took place and when he died, Arthur was 20 weeks a husband.

Arthur's death meant that the planned alliance between Spain and England was in peril so upon little Henry was thrust a marriage to his brother's widow. Catherine claimed that her earlier marriage had never been consummated, allowing her to rewed and, incredibly pious and guided by her parents' advisors, she soon began to believe that it was God's plan that she be married to Henry. Meanwhile, Henry began to reject the marriage as soon as he was able, as a youth of 14.

Henry's Rule

A frugal Henry VII died on April 21st, 1509, leaving his 17-year-old son a stable empire of considerable wealth and immeasurable European influence. At the time of Henry VIII ascension to the throne, the Parliament had not been summoned for supplies for five years³.

Henry VIII had been kept under close watch with very limited exposure to the outside world and was not prepared to be a king. He loved to gamble, loved lavish ceremonies and pageantry. Births, marriages, coronations, funerals, jousting tournaments, and even the King's dining and washing were cause for flamboyant ceremonies. Henry would use these, along with countless commissioned works of art, showing himself in fully glory, to reinforce the power of the King, but they would also contribute to great loss in wealth for Britain.

Henry VIII thus unofficially handed over the reigns of power to Thomas Wolsey, an Ipswich butcher's son, whose might and personal court grew in power and extravagance. In 1515, Wolsey was appointed Cardinal, allowing him power above that of the Archbishop of Canterbury and placing him in the governing position of the English branch of the Catholic Church. In the same year, he also became Lord Chancellor.

Henry, meanwhile, was eager to focus on foreign interests, and needed the English armed forces for this purpose. Quickly acquiring the nickname of "Father of the English Navy", in 1509, he commissioned the building of the Mary Rose, the first English gunship, an incredible engineering feat of the time, impressive even in the modern day. In 1511 and 1512, Henry established Deptford and Woolwich as the Royal Dockyards. He also proceeded to begin a dramatic growth in the arsenal of the British navy. Military Conquest and International Affairs All these renovations were crafted for a purpose. Henry began his rule full of enthusiasm, goodwill, and eager to make his name.

His method of doing this was war and an extension of the British Empire. With Henry's invasion of France in 1512, began an intricate saga capturing the major powers of Europe which would, over the next few decades, weave in and out of alliances with Britain, as Spain, France, Venice, and Rome would at times become Henry VIII's closest allies, and at others, his most bitter enemies.

On the world stage alliances had been shifting since Henry had come to power. France was holding a fragile alliance with the Holy Roman Empire, winning a war against Venice. Henry cautiously renewed a friendship with France, but also signed a pact with Ferdinand. Pope Julius II, alongside allies including Spain, created an anti-French Holy League in October 1511. Henry stood in limbo while having to make a decision that could severely impact the fate of his Empire: follow in his father's footsteps in siding with France, or follow the lead of Spain and avoid war against two major European powers. In 1511, Henry VIII joined the Holy League. Almost as if in gratitude for Henry's decision, the first joint English and Spanish attack was to retake England's Aquitaine which France possessed. The attack however, was a failure, gaining nothing for England but instead acting as a ploy for Ferdinand to advance his own goals. Further attempts brought more progress, however, and Henry, with the strong aid of the ever-present Wolsey, removed the French from their holdings in Italy and convinced the Holy Roman Emperor to join the league.

The Scots saw the war as an excellent opportunity to test their might against England. Scotland and England had had a bittersweet relationship for centuries. The fact that Scotland shared a common border with England was troubling with Henry even at the very beginning of his reign. Adding to this the history of friendship between Scotland and France, "troubling" quickly changed to "serious concern." Henry VII's marital plans for his children extended beyond Henry VIII so Margret, the latter's sister was given to Janes IV of Scotland in the hopes of a

better relationship between the two nations. The plot failed when James felt much more friendship to France in an alliance known as 'Auld Alliance.'

Now, with England at war with France it was natural that James' forces came out against his brother-in-law. England was now forced to split its forces, fighting desperately a war on two fronts. Enveloped in a war it should never truly been a part of, England had little to gain for itself beyond a far-fetched and unlikely dream of Henry, of one day ruling France. With the involvement of Scotland, the war turned from an easy win for all of the major powers of Europe against the abandoned France, to a difficult war in which all sides, and millions of innocent peasants-turned-soldiers, were tainted by the colors of death.

The drawn out, mercilessly bloody and expensive conflicts resulted in a win against Scotland at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, killing James IV and replacing him with James V, a seventeen-month-old baby. They also led to an end to the war with France via a 1514 treaty in which Henry's sister Mary was given to Louis in matrimony. The wars had gained little, emptying England's coffers while also straining alliances with both Spain and the Holy Roman Empire.

The question of power was now very heavy within the courts of Scotland. England hoped that Margaret would take the regency, ensuring a peaceful relationship between England and Scotland. She married the sixth Earl of Angus, high up in the Scottish nobility. This union, however, stirred up jealousy among Scottish nobles and opposition among those factions loyal to France. With the break out of a civil war, Margaret was forced to give up the regency to the Duke of Albany, who stood within the royal line of succession. The Duke was very French in his outlook so from his coronation in 1515 onwards, Scotland would remain a friend of France and a storm brewing on the horizon for Henry. Henry's foreign affairs extended to his personal life. Betrothed against his will as a child, he had long since been forced to learn how to fight against politically convenient

marriages. Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I now tried to wed his granddaughter, Eleanor, to Henry. In the face of the great world power, Henry scrambled to find an escape, doing so in marriage to Catherine of Aragon, claiming that he was fulfilling his father's dying wish in the match. The marriage took place without the obtainment of the papal dispensation required to allow Henry to marry his brother's widow, yet swept up in the rush and excitement of the wedding announcement and with Catherine's steady proclamations that her first marriage had never truly been a marriage, the issue was smoothly overlooked.

The wedding was joyous with a coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey glittering with splendor. Precious tapestries lined the Westminster passageways, thousands upon thousands of shining threads combining into flowing Holy scenes. A fest was laid out in Westminster Hall, and celebrations raged for days. Catherine wrote happy letters to her family back home, saying, "our time is spent in continuous festival." Henry too seemed in love, or at least content. Catherine appeared a mother figure, loved by the people. Henry was young, handsome, and among the best athletes of his time. The two were a dazzling couple, and when Catherine announced her first pregnancy, the nation celebrated. Court Life With this golden scene of life, Henry began to enjoy a life of a King's luxury. He would indulge in expensive food, often grazing from 30 dishes at a time, and spend most days out doors. Wearing out eight horses a day while hunting was not a surprising occurrence. Neither were the hours spent dancing, jousting, and wrestling. He loved music and books, holding a library with almost a thousand of them, all while possessing a keen knowledge of mathematics and astronomy. Among these also came more business-oriented interests, such as attending debates in the House of Lords and inserting comments in every state document that came his way. If something interested Henry he would throw himself into the activity, but he tried to

avoid boring business, postponing major policy decisions and avoiding writing long documents.

Young Henry's court was lavish and well-behaved. Within its walls, guests were forbidden to brawl, duel, or appear in public with their mistresses. Henry also soon grasped how to use human relationships within the court to his advantage. He wanted to be an effective king and felt that the best way to make people obey was to rule through fear. His punishments were bloodthirsty and brutal. Within his first year on the throne he had executed his father's closest advisors, perhaps trying to distance himself from the work of a father who had been always been distant. Besides dealing out blows himself, he continuously encouraged ministers to watch each other for any inklings of incompetence or disloyalty and report their findings to the king. The strategy was effective for Henry but led to fierce political divides, constant suspicion and rivalry. Even today, to be a member of Henry's court means to navigate chronic political hurdles. Great wealth and success can be gained by becoming closer to the King, but this position comes soaked in the blood of others and in one's journey to the top one risks his status, position, and even life.

The Marriage Conflict

On January 31, 1510, Catherine gave birth – to a stillborn girl. She became pregnant again four months later and gave birth again on January 1, 1511, this time to a boy the couple named Henry. The young parents, torn by the death of their first child, were overjoyed by the birth of their second and the court burst into festivities. A two-day joust now known as the 1511 Westminster Tournament took place, along with feasts. After adjusting to the responsibilities and joys of parenthood, however, tragedy struck. Little Henry died, just seven weeks old. Wracked by grief and frustration at lacking an heir. Henry was forced to watch as

his wife conceived, carried, and gave birth to another two stillborn sons in 1514 and 1515. Each time Henry would adjust to his dream of a child and heir becoming reality, only to have that dream once again be cruelly stolen. Catherine suffered as well from the seeming unbearable loss of so many children, broken and made painfully stronger, by each. The couple's relationships strained under their own grief, loss, and unmet expectations. Finally, in February 1516, Catherine gave birth to a girl, Mary. After years of dashed hopes, the couple could rejoice and their relationship slightly improved.

Meanwhile, Henry's relationship with Catherine was once again becoming increasingly strained. The Tudor dynasty had been established by conquest, lasting only from 1485. Henry was its second monarch. A ruling queen is unheard of in England and with the dynasty still standing on shaky ground, Henry was fearful of giving the crown to a woman. The consequences of such an act could be disputed succession or control by a foreign power through marriage. He was anxious for a son and with more stillborn births he was still lacking one. Adding to this the loss of so many children that the couple had been forced to endure, losses that both still lived with, turned Henry's resentment to Catherine. She was robbing him of a son and robbing the country of a true heir.

Henry took lovers. He became involved with Mary Boleyn a lady-in-waiting of his wife and it is rumored that her two children were fathered by him. In 1525, the appearance of a new, beautiful face in court caught Henry's breath and heart. Mary's twenty-five-year-old sister, and niece of the Duke of Norfolk, Anne Boleyn, had arrived.

Anne Boleyn was from the start a court beauty and full of charm. She was well-groomed for high society, having spent seven years as a lady-in-waiting in the French court and now friends with the Queen. She had sophisticated airs, poise, and decorum, but unlike many of her female peers she was also bold, opinionated,

and fiercely independent. Taught to respect herself and her position, she would appear at balls and tournaments carrying herself with dignity. She was intelligent with a keen eye for social situations. Informed and eager to learn, she formed her own opinions about the world rather than accepting those of convention and the male sex. She was a force the likes of which Henry had never yet encountered.

Henry fell deeply in love – into a kind of love he had never before experienced. This was all strengthened by the fact that Anne rejected his pursuits. All that he could offer her, she knew, was the role of a mistress, easily discarded and easily stripped of position, title, and reputation and with this thought she turned him away. The forbidden fruit became even more appealing. Henry showered her and her family with gifts, titles, and political positions. Her uncle particularly benefited from Henry's affection for his niece. After falling from political favor, he now rose through the government so much so that by 1529 matters of state were handled mostly by him, along with the Duke of Suffolk and the Boleyns all of whom tried to remove Wolsey, a long-term political opponent, from power.

Henry continued to try to woo Anne but jewels and gifts failed to change Anne's mind. Faced with a wife he now hated and who was unable to produce an heir, and falling madly in love with Anne, it seemed that it was the young Anne who won the argument against the mighty Henry VIII. In January of 1528, a love stricken Henry wrote a letter to Anne that marked a turning point in their relationship. She had just submitted to his affections and the letter spoke of an "unchangeable intention" to marry Anne, apologizing for ever thinking she could just be a mistress. Henry wrote that "henceforth my heart will be dedicated to you alone... "The demonstrations of your affection are such, and the beautiful words of your letter are so cordially phrased, that they really oblige me to honour, love, and serve you for ever....For my part, I will out-do you, if this be possible, rather than reciprocate, in loyalty of heart and my desire to please you...Beseeching you also

that if I have in any way offended you, you will give me the same absolution for which you ask, assuring you that henceforth my heart will be dedicated to you alone, and wishing greatly that my body was so too,” signing like a love-sick schoolboy, “H seeks A.B, No Other Rex.”

By 1527, Henry had convinced himself that his marriage with Catherine, his brother’s wife, was illegitimate by Leviticus 20:21 and Henry sent his secretary William Knight with this argument to lure Pope Clement out into a meeting. With this public action, Henry’s marital relations exploded into the public’s eye. The debate over his love life would now take place on the stage of public opinion. The Pope avoided Knight, dodging having to give an answer. France seemed to support Anne and Henry’s heart but the odds were stacked for Catherine. In her fight against a divorce and most importantly, for her daughter, Catherine would display the kind of strength that only a mother who had lost so many children could have. She would stand for her rights and the rights of women and win over the hearts of the English people. Most importantly, she had as her ally one of the most powerful men in the world – Charles V, her nephew, who would not stand to see his aunt’s honor tattered.

This did not stop Henry’s attempts, however. The matter was handed to Wolsey. An ecclesiastical court met in England with a representative from Clement present. Yet after only two months of hearings the case was called back to Rome from which it would never emerge. Frantic not turn against Charles V nor against Henry and Francis, Clement was buying time. Wolsey took the fall for the failure and in 1530 was imprisoned for treason. He died awaiting trial. In the power vacuum soon emerged several brilliant politicians who seized power and became the most influential figures in the kingdom superseded only by Henry himself. Wolsey’s replacement was Sir Thomas More who became Lord Chancellor and chief minister. More showed himself as an immensely capable individual, now

holding enormous power, who, however, was also a greatly devoted Catholic and vehemently, but privately, opposed the annulment.

Another figure most predominantly featured in the annulment debate was Thomas Cromwell who gradually helped prime England for a possible separation with Rome, should Henry choose to do so. Working behind the scenes and adamantly on Anne's side, he gained the King's valuable favor. He was supported by the Duke of Norfolk and Thomas Cranmer who would also use this issue to rise to the highest ranks of English government. The trio turned to Parliament and were successful in passing a series of acts decreasing papal influence in England. In 1532, the Act against Annates was passed, limiting the Pope's revenues within England and sending a clear warning to the Pope.

The year before, in 1531, Catherine was removed from court, her quarters given to Anne. Anne, a supporter of the Protestant Reformation, used her sizable influence, when the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Warham, died, to appoint like-minded ally Thomas Cranmer to the position, even gaining approval from the Pope. Anne's relationship with the king continued to develop and in 1532, Henry gained the support of Francis I for the annulment. By winter of 1532 the situation had come to the point to needing an immediate resolution. Anne was secretly pregnant and to have the child be a legitimate heir, he would need to be born with his mother married to his father.

That is where we are today. It is winter of 1532 and Europe is at a standstill. The Pope has not given an absolute answer to Henry's request and no more time is for sale. His words will affect the course of Europe. Italy has gathered strongly to the aid of Catherine, with some domestic powers supporting its position. Anne is aided by France and inside powers as well. Shakily in this somewhere stands Portugal, who has gained wealth due to its exploration and beat the rest of the world to international development. It has stood behind England since the Anglo-

Portuguese alliance signed in Windsor in 1386, an alliance that has been one of the firmest and longest the world has ever seen. Yet it is also incredibly Catholic and will not waver in its development religion.

Topic History

The state of the modern world is more turbulent than ever. Conflict after conflict has reshaped Europe. Below are a few key events of our time. Geopolitics in Europe In the world beyond the walls of the Tudor court, things looked very different. Charles V came to power, gaining the throne of Spain from his grandfather Ferdinand in 1516 and the throne of the Holy Roman Empire in 1519. Francis I became the King of France after Louis' death and three young monarchs now controlled most of Western Europe. Years of war could come to a pause here if the situation were treaded carefully. Under the talented craft of Wolsey, the Treaty of London was signed in 1518, attempting to unite the kings of Europe.

The kings' ambition and thirst for power destroyed the fragile hope for peace, however. Henry preferred Charles over Francis so when Charles declared war on France in 1521, Henry's attempt at mediation was a weak one. Joining with Charles, Henry again followed his dream of power over France, particularly the reclaiming of formerly English lands still held by France. He also eagerly wanted a strong alliance with Charles. Yet again, the Holy Roman Empire did not feel a strong kinship with England, using it only for its own gains. When Charles defeated and captured Francis at the Battle of Pavia, he did not account for England in his terms of peace. Scorned, Henry left the war, signing the Treaty of More on August 30, 1525. Once again, Henry had gained little. Openly hostile with France, unfriendly with Scotland, and very cautiously friendly with the Empire and Spain, Henry was alone, save for the Pope and Portugal.

Timeline

1500: Spanish explorer Vicente Yáñez Pinzón encounters Brazil but is prevented from claiming it Portuguese by the Treaty of Tordesillas

1502: First reported African slaves in The New World; Cabral claims Brazil for Portugal.

1503: Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola. Considered to be the first battle in history won by gunpowder small arms. 1504: A period of drought, with famine in all of Spain.

1504: Death of Isabella I of Castile, Joanna of Castille became the Queen.

1509–10: The 'great plague' in various parts of Tudor England.

1513: Henry VIII defeats the French at the Battle of the Spurs when Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses

1517: The Protestant Reformation begins

1517: The Sweating sickness epidemic in Tudor England

1519: Charles I of Spain becomes Emperor of Holy Roman Empire as Charles V

1520: The Portuguese Roman Emperor (ruled until 1556); established a trading post in the village of Lamakera

1521: After building fortifications at Tuen Mun, the Portuguese attempt to eastern side of Solor invade Ming Dynasty China, but are expelled by Chinese naval forces

1521: Charles becomes Holy Roman Emperor, and Pope Leo X allies himself with Charles against Martin Luther. Francis of France does not like Charles – a Habsburg. The Italian War begins with Francis invading Navarre and the low countries. Francis is allied with the Republic Venice. England's Henry VIII sides with Charles and the Papal States.

1522: Suleiman sends an armada of 400 ships and more than 100,000 men to Rhodes, using artillery and explosives. Rhodes capitulates after a siege of 145 days

1523: Sweden gains independence from the Kalmar Union.

1523: The cacao bean was introduced to Spain by Hernán Cortés 1524–1525: German Peasants' War in the Holy Roman Empire.

1525: Spain and Germany defeat France

1526: Suleiman the Great defeats an army led by King Louis II of the Battle of Pavia, Francis I of France is Hungary and Bohemia, about 150 kilometers south of Buda and captured Pest. King Louis falls under his horse into a river and drowns.

1527: Protestant Reformation begins

1527: Sack of Rome, which is considered the end of the Italian Sweden

1529: The Austrians defeat the Ottoman Empire at the Siege of Vienna

1531: Martin Luther warns that Catholic clergy and monks are sodomites

1531: German Protestants form the League of Schmalkalden to defend against the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, and the Roman Catholic states.

1532: The Portuguese begin to ship slaves to Brazil, slaves they have paid for in Africa with manufactured goods.

Current Situation

Foreign Powers

It is in this century that the world for the first time sees the rise of the West and an expansion of the influence of Europe into the rest of the world.

Colonization and exploration at which Spain and Portugal have been at the forefront have globalized trade, production, and the economy, building a new system known as mercantilism. Several bold heretics have tried to test the power

of the Church with a rise of a new sect of Christianity known as Protestantism. New countries have formed, as have new alliances and new technology has been invented as shown by Henry's ever-growing navy.

Easily forgotten in the swirling mists of Western Europe, beyond the Eastern horizon another threat looms. The year of 1532 in the peak of the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent – the zenith of the Ottoman Empire. Via its superior war technology, it has gradually established a firm grasp on the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Europe. By the time Charles V comes to power, Ottoman pirates are raiding the French southern coast and hurting trade. The defeat of the Venetians at the Second Battle of Lepanto in 1571 and later the defeat of the Knights of St. John in Rhodes, and the capture of Belgrade and Buda all enabled this growth in power. In 1529, the Ottomans made their most daring move yet with the siege of Vienna, forcing Charles to rebuild Vienna and anticipate another siege. The Holy Roman Empire has thus far been the most impacted by the Ottomans' actions but Suleiman is known to have imperial aspirations. His actions can not only affect the territorial future of Europe but also the internal politics of Western Europe as it is either torn apart, united, or weakened by this threat.

Political alliances have changed and interchanged since the beginning of Henry's reign, a never-ending waltz in which partners are constantly exchanged. France, England, the Pope, the Holy Roman Empire (and with it Spain), Scotland, and Portugal are the major players of this century's world. Henry's love life has exploded onto the international political stage. With it stand two potential queens, each backed by a foreign power, prepared for a battle that will test the world's political alliances, social systems, and European civilization as a whole. This battle can have consequences on war, peace, trade, and the centralized religion of Europe.

Political Climate and Social Environment

Henry VII's claim to the throne was tenuous at best, through an illegitimate line on his mother's side of the family. Edward III's third son, John of Gaunt, had several children with his mistress, Katherine Swynford, before they married. Their children born before the marriage were later legitimized, but were barred from the line of succession. Margaret Beaufort, Henry's mother, claimed descent from one of the later legitimized children, challenging Henry's claim to the throne. Hence, even after Henry VII's victory against Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, putting an end to the War of the Roses, his subsequent marriage to Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward Prince of Wales and tracing a direct royal lineage to the several ruling monarchs of England, and his two sons (Arthur and Henry), Henry VII's reign was challenged by external threats, assassination plots, and rebellions. These challenges were largely perpetrated by the supporters of Richard III, but they were undermined by the lack of a legitimate royal candidate to unite behind. The Ricardians resorted to using phoney candidates as stalking horses (Seward, 2011), where Lambert Simmel and Perkin Warbeck posed as Edward Plantagenet and Richard Plantagenet, respectively. Furthermore, Elizabeth of York, Henry's wife, came from a larger family with relatives who had a stronger claim to the throne.

Yorkist rivals and threats continued through to the reign of Henry VIII. Henry VIII strived to secure the Tudor dynasty by eliminating political opponents and enemies that might undermine him and having a male heir to carry on his line. Henry eliminated potential rivals by imprisonment in the Tower of London or by execution. Two families that suffered this fate were the Courtenays and Poles. Henry VIII maintained a close relationship with Henry Courtenay, his maternal first cousin, until sentencing him to death and imprisoning his son, Edward Courtenay, in the Tower of London. The Poles suffered a similar fate, with Henry Pole

beheaded and his son and elderly mother thrown into the Tower of London. As these events have not occurred as of the beginning of the committee session, and Henry VIII remains in close relations with both families, history may change depending on the actions of individual delegates.

Henry VIII's desire for a male heir led to a series of marriages and divorces popularized today in the story of the six wives of Henry VIII. While Henry VIII had an illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, during his marriage to Catherine of Aragon and was suspected of having another illegitimate son by Mary Boleyn (Anne Boleyn's sister), Henry wished to have a legitimate male heir carry on his name. In the timeline of the committee, Henry VIII is attempting to divorce Catherine of Aragon in favor of a new queen in Anne Boleyn. Delegates are encouraged to examine the political dynamics (both domestic and international) to resolve this issue. Henry was no exception to the adherence to religion that was crucial part of everyday life for an Englishmen during the times. A devout Catholic, he joined with Sir Thomas More in 1520 to publish 'Declaration of the Seven Sacraments Against Martin Luther,' which became widely popular within the educated Catholic class of Europe and earned him the title of Defender of the Faith from Pope Leo X in 1521.

In the timeline of actual history, Henry VIII successfully divorced Catherine of Aragon, establishing a new church, the Church of England, and proclaiming himself to be the head of the church. The religious struggle between the Church of England and the Catholic Church continued throughout the Tudor dynasty, seen through the revival of Catholicism by Mary I.

Order was crucial in Tudor society, which was based on a strict hierarchy determined by wealth, birth, education, and employment. Although the King was on the top of the social hierarchy and could, theoretically, rule as they wished, this was not the case in practice. As mentioned in the previous section, a monarch needed the support of the noblemen and gentry to rule the nation. Furthermore,

the monarch had no standing army or police force, and it was the responsibility of the nobility and gentry to carry out these roles.

England had access to some of the greatest minds of Europe. The great universities of Oxford and Cambridge, thriving centers of development were world known. Those who could afford an education within the gates of the medieval colleges flocked to England eager to be in a place of progress but also power. Some of history's greatest figures had walked out of those gates and the court overflowed with advisors and ministers who had received their degrees from Cambridge and Oxford.

During most of the Middle Ages, government was highly localized and most Englishmen considered themselves as citizens of their towns rather than of England. English towns were small and insignificant. London was on the rise but had not yet reached the heights it maintains today. English towns were smaller than their counterparts in the countries of Spain and France; today, the population of all towns combined may not match the population of London alone. The putting out system allowed towns to take the jobs of more simple industry which would otherwise be reserved for urban employment. Manufacture came mainly from the cloth and leather trades, helped along by good and drink processing. Money circulated mostly in the hands of merchants, retailers, and professionals, and towns lived by the cycles of nature and the seasons.

Priests and religion held tremendous influence over the life of people. Clergy were special links between the worldly and God. They held money and influence, rising far above ordinary peasants. Possessing the power to forgive sins, at a price, few obstacles could stand in the way of such power. Monarchs were, in theory, humble servants of God and thus respected the authority of the clergy and Pope. They poured money and resources into monasteries, churches, and places of worship. Some of the most extravagant works of art of our time and

the centuries before hang at or are part of our churches. Westminster Abbey is in itself a work of art.

However, the power of monarchs grew during the Tudor dynasty. Central government began to extend itself into local communities, especially through the post of Lord Lieutenant. The roles carried out by individual landowners, such as taxation, presiding over legal cases, upholding law and order, raising armies, gave them considerable power that could be threatening to the monarch. The position of Lord Lieutenant was created to combat the power of landowners at a local level, especially concerning the recruitment of men for the royal armies and royal control in each landed region.

Your Objective

Every delegate in this committee has strong self-interests. Whether you are a foreign leader, noble, or mistress, your job is to ensure that Henry's marriage benefits you most while also reacting to the threats of the world outside. To achieve this goal, you must work quickly and intelligently to collaborate with those allies on your side of the marriage scandal. A great delegate can both build relationships with other powers and also ensure his own self-interests prevail before any other alliance.

For those on Catherine's side: Your objective will be primarily to prevent the divorce, but also to ensure the power of the Catholic Church is not disrupted throughout Europe.

For those on Anne's side: Your objective will be primarily to ensure the divorce, but also to ensure the supremacy of England over all other powers and preserve its place in the currently Catholic European hierarchy.

Nobles: This situation can be used to aid your political aspirations, as you can gain roles orchestrating the actions of each side, ensuring that should your side triumph, you will have a high role in the resulting world order. The dilemma stands most prominently for devout Catholics within the English government – how do you maintain your religious beliefs and also your standing within the government?

Positions

Kings

Kings have the powers of their countries, including their militaries, finances, and resources. They can choose to attack, invade, sign treaties, and seal marital alliances with other monarchs. However, they cannot use their overwhelming military might to overpower individual nobles through sheer force. Here they can use political maneuvering and manipulation, as well as the fact that if a country is attacked, the nobles of its court are attacked as well. Objectives of Kings in this crisis may be religious but are most often purely political. Whether they want to secure alliances with other nations and powers or distant themselves from these nations and powers depends on their actions.

Nobles

Nobles have the powers of their own individual courts, including the military resources and finances of those courts. They also have the powers of their personal connections, which, after a life surrounded by royals, they have developed. Most important for them are alliances with foreign powers or their individual manipulations of the government. Their objective may be religious or it

may be to gain or maintain political power, exploiting the situation to their advantage.

Queens

Queens, like Kings, have the power of their countries. Within their own government, however, they may be overruled by their husbands unless they have built up their own alliances to prevent this from occurring. Like Kings, they cannot use their overwhelming military to destroy individuals but they can launch attacks against nations. Their objectives may be the same as their husbands or they too may be using the situation to strengthen their own powers.

Mistresses and Catherine

The objectives of mistresses are straightforward. However, it is also important to note that their religious inclinations may cause them to seek the spread of one religion over the spread of another. Their powers come from their alliances and their influence over Henry. However, due to their coming from noble families they also have their own land and resources. Anne has the resources of the Henry's court and military at her side. Catherine is in a volatile position. As the technical Queen, she still has control over portions of the military and parts of England's resources.

The Pope

With the fall of Rome, the Pope no longer holds the military might he once did. He remains, however, the link between mortals and God and the only one truly understanding God's will. His strength comes from alliances with monarchs who are too afraid to turn from the power of God. The relationship is reciprocal as the

Pope heavily needs the alliances as well to maintain his personal power and the power of the Church – the preservation of which are his objectives throughout this crisis.

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