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Study Guide

Historical Council

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COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The Historical Security Council runs by the same rules and structures as the Security Council, albeit one significant difference. It is moved to the past. In the Historical Security Council, delegates relive, influence, and potentially alter the outcome of key historical events. Therefore, delegates represent countries that existed tens of years ago. This way they can delve deeply into their interesting histories.

We encourage costumes accurate to the time, and there will be an award to the best-dressed person from the chairs.

First Topic: The Wars of the Roses

KEY TERMS

Bastard Feudalism

Naming the system that allowed magnates to retain men in their service by granting them fees and livery and made possible the recruiting of private armies. However, this term was coined in the 19th century, so it cannot be used during debate.

Chevauchée

Way of warfare, where you burn and pillage villages and cities. This method was mainly used by England during the Edwardian phase.

Regent

A person placed in power due to the king's young age or absence.

Lord Protector

A title that has been used in British constitutional law for the head of state.

OVERVIEW

The claim to the throne after the death of Edward III and the instability after the Hundred Years' War are the main causes of the War of the Roses.

Edward's father, King Edward II, had struggled to keep authority over his barons called the Despencers. His wife, Queen Isabella, was driven away by his behaviour, mainly due to a confiscation of her property by his supporters. Her brother, Charles IV, was king of France and demanded that Gascony, which belonged to the English crown, receive orders from Paris and that French officials act them out. He also insisted that Edward would come to Paris to pay homage to Gascony. Edward refused, which resulted in the War of Saint-Sardos in the year 1324. In March 1325, Isabella went to France to negotiate and resolve the disputes. Gascony would stay under English control, but Edward would have to pay homage to it. Edward was concerned about war breaking out again and agreed to terms which did not favour him. He sent his son, Edward III, to travel to Paris and act out France's orders.

He expected his son and wife to return shortly, however, Isabella, not content with Edward, stayed with the child in France. It was later on revealed that she was in a relationship with an exiled lord, Roger Mortimer, with whom she wanted to remove her husband and his supporters from power.

During 1326, King Edward II mobilised his defences, expecting an invasion from either France or Roger Mortimer. He was correct, however, the attack was a diversion. Isabella, together with Roger Mortimer and young Edward landed in Orwell. They were not fought against, quite the opposite. The Despencers had a lot of critics, and they were joined by many. Edward sought help from the capital, but London turned against him and the Despencers, which led to their escape. This event is known as the Invasion of England. His absence led to Isabella and Mortimer taking power. Edward took the crown, but he was not the de facto leader. He led a coup d'état, executed Mortimer and took power as King Edward III.

King Edward III had 5 sons - Edward of Woodstock (historically referred to as "The Black Prince"), Lionel of Antwerp, John of Gaunt, Edmund of Langley and Thomas of Woodstock. Each of them has become duke; He created the Duchy of Cornwall dedicated to Edward, the Duchy of Clarence to Lionel and the Duchy of Lancaster to John. Edmund and Thomas became the dukes of York and Gloucester after the death of Edward,

during the reign of King Richard II.

Dukes were never assigned by any English king until Edward awarded the Duchy of Cornwall to “The Black Prince” in 1337. This new nobility created a new class, which had power, claim to the throne, and could have their own independent income. It also gave them the power to have independent armies.

Tensions between France and England continued. The new French king, King Phillip VI, confiscated Gascony and Ponthieu from the English crown. Edward decided not to pay homage to Philip, rather he claimed the French crown should be his, as he is the grandson of King Phillip IV (his daughter is former Queen Isabella). These tensions led to the beginning of the Hundred Years War.

The first phase of the war, often called the Edwardian phase, took place between 1337 and 1360. Edward's tactic of claiming the French crown did not intimidate Philip, which meant he had to take Gascony back via warfare. However, due to a shortage of resources, he had to wait until 1340 to initiate conflict. In 1340, Edward won the Battle of Sluys, destroying the French fleet and securing the channel. This was an important victory, as it meant France couldn't've invaded England. A truce followed because Edward ran out of funds for the war.

The main reason for the resumption of the war was the death of the Duke of Brittany. Both sides claimed it as their own. Clashes followed, and in the year 1346, France was surprisingly defeated in the Battle of Crécy. This was an important win for England, due to Calais becoming English territory. This led to a cheaper way to transport an army into France.

The Black Death followed, which meant a stop to the war once again, and in 1350, during the plague, King Phillip died, which meant his son John became king. After it had passed, Edward of Woodstock, King Edward's son, launched a Chevauchée in Gascony, which led to the Battle of Poitiers. King John II was captured by the British army in what is remembered as one of the biggest victories in English history. In 1360, the Treaty of Brétigny was agreed upon, causing the end of the first phase and the first period of longer peace. This phase was incredibly successful for the English, claiming land in France and a ransom for the king. However, King John had never been released, dying in 1364. His son, Charles V, became the king of France.

In 1369, King Charles V called “The Black Prince” to Paris, which he had declined. Charles then started the second phase, called the Caroline phase. France started this phase successfully, securing the victory in the Battle of Pontvallain, after which the Black Prince returned to England due to bad

health. The English slowly lost most of the territory gained in Gascony and further, with The Black Prince dying in 1376.

Edward died in 1377 due to illness and age. Both his first and second heir, Edward of Woodstock and Lionel of Antwerp, died before Edward III. This led to his other sons having a claim to the throne, but also the son of Edward of Woodstock, Richard. He, as the son of the heir apparent, had a bigger claim to the throne than his uncles, despite his young age of ten.

During Richard's first years as king, the government was ruled by a council, heavily influenced by his uncles, especially John of Gaunt. Meanwhile, in France, King Charles V died and his son, Charles VI became king at the age of eleven. This took the wind out of their sails. Both sides had struggled over power in their respective lands and the war slowed down.

John of Gaunt left England to attempt to take the Castilian throne, in which he had failed. Richard claimed some of the power for himself. By 1389, John of Gaunt has returned to England. Richard, realising he wants to claim power again (and peasants were unhappy with the taxing due to war), secured peace with the French. In the upcoming years, Richard had struggled to claim authority, due to his questionable claim to the throne. John of Gaunt reasserted his authority, however, he died in 1397. Richard, sensing pressure for his throne, exiled his son, Henry of Bolingbroke. Henry came back to England, and most of the nobility sided with him, which led to him overthrowing the throne and becoming King Henry IV, the first monarch of the House of Lancaster.

His reign was short. The domestic and dynastic difficulties faced by England and France in this period quieted the war for a decade. King Henry IV died in 1414, and his son, Henry V, wasted no time in order to reclaim land in France. In 1415, Henry landed in Normandy, and captured the harbour city of Harfleur, starting the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years' War. Instead of going to Paris directly, he decided to raid the areas surrounding the English Calais. France caught him outnumbered in Agincourt, however, King Henry V managed to win due to the number of longbowmen, and the French defeat was almost total. The Battle of Agincourt is one of the most impressive victories in the history of the British Army. King Henry V returned to England with his hostages, planning to capture France as a whole. In 1417, he invaded and claimed most of Normandy, apart from Rouen, which was claimed in 1419.

France was forced to sign the Treaty of Troyes. Henry married Catherine of Valois, the daughter of the French King Charles VI, and their heirs would inherit the French crown. The French population was not entirely content with this, and resistance continued. Both King Henry V and King Charles VI died in 1422, and not even one-year-old Henry VI was supposed to become King of England and France.

Obviously, he did not take charge. Instead, John of Bedford, took charge in France as a regent, while Humphrey of Gloucester was taking care of the islands. John was quite successful, until 1428, when he wanted to claim Orleans. The French Army, led by Joan of Arc, reclaimed land in the North and soon after, Charles VII became the French King. Joan of Arc was captured in 1431 and burned, claiming she was a heretic.

In 1435, the duke of Burgundy deserted to King Charles VII, and Paris became French again. A huge blow to England. John of Bedford died soon after, and the French lands controlled by the English were now ruled by Richard of York, while Henry VI himself was old enough to rule the islands, but his position was weak, and he was heavily influenced by his nobles. The peace party in England, consisting of Edmund of Somerset and William of Suffolk, gained more influence to the king than Humphrey of Gloucester and Richard of York, the War Party.

The French took a lot of their land back, which resulted in the Treaty of Tours in 1444, in which England was supposed to give up Anjou and Maine for marrying Margaret of Anjou. This was unpopular in England, mainly to the people supporting war. This led to Humphrey of Gloucester's imprisonment and the exile of Richard of York to Ireland. The deportation of Richard led to Edmund governing the English lands in France.

The truce was supposed to end in 1450, however, the English acted in 1449 in Brittany, which led to them losing Rouen, and in 1450 the whole of Normandy. This led to Calais and Gascony being the last possessions of England on the continent, the latter being lost in 1453 in the Battle of Castillon. This year, despite any treaties, usually marks the end of the Hundred Years' War. Calais remained English, but every other possession was reclaimed by the French.

Due to the loss at Castillon and the total loss of the Hundred-year war, Henry VI suffered a mental breakdown and became unresponsive, thus losing the little shed of political power and stature he had left. One of the consequences of the loss of central power was the resumption of a feud between two noble families in the north of England - the Nevilles and Percys. The families then allied with Richard of York and Edmund of Somerset respectfully.

By 1454, Richard had enough political power to become the Lord Protector to appoint his allies to offices, while also arresting Edmund of Somerset. This, however, was not permanent as the king recovered from his mental breakdown in 1455 and (influenced by Queen Margaret) Richard's decisions were rolled back and he was subsequently exiled.

Richard has had enough. He decided to get together an army and march on London. The conflict became inevitable. Due to a lack of support in London, the king decided to move out to a town called St. Albans with 2000 men. Richard of York, however, was one step ahead and met the king in the town with an army more than twice as vast. Richard did not wish to dethrone Henry just yet, so he tried to use diplomacy. Negotiations, however, fell through and a battle that marks the start of the Wars of Roses began.

The Battle of St. Albans resulted in a decisive Yorkist victory - many Lancastrian commanders (including Edmund of Somerset) were killed and the king was captured. Richard returned him to London and was appointed the Protector by Parliament.

Meanwhile, Queen Margaret gave birth to Edward (not to be confused with Edward of York later on) and became the leader of the Lancastrian party. This period was marked by a lack of violence on both sides, except for the Percy-Neville feud. Henry attempted to reconcile the two parties, but that later resulted in yet another clash between him and Richard of York in 1459. This time around, the Lancastrians were successful in battle and the Yorkists had to seek refuge in Ireland and Calais. Their recovery was very quick - the Yorkists returned to England in the summer of 1460.

The same year, the king's forces were defeated once more at Northampton - Henry was captured yet again. Richard tried to claim the throne but did not have enough backing to do so successfully. Instead, the Act of Accord (1460) was adopted, which stated that Henry would rule for the rest of his life but would be succeeded by Richard of York.

Yet again, the Queen played a major role as she set out to fight for her son's right to the throne. Margaret started to gather an army in the north along with other Lancastrian allies. Richard moved to the north to stop these efforts, but the queen's allies met him on the way. This resulted in yet another key battle, this time at Wakefield (1460). Due to what was most likely a major strategic miscalculation (scholars are still debating on what exactly happened), Richard and his forces were crushed in this battle.

In early 1461, the son of Richard of York, Edward of York, became the leader of the Yorkists. Quickly after doing so, he defeated a Lancastrian army at Mortimer's Cross. At the same time, the Queen was on the move yet again. She defeated a smaller Yorkist force (commanded by Richard of Warwick) at St. Albans and Henry VI was recaptured by the Lancastrians. After hearing of this, Edward of York moved to reunite with the remainder of Warwick's force as the Lancastrians moved north (the Lancastrian soldiers committed many atrocities in the region, hence the Lancastrians lost respect in the region). Edward used this to enter London and take the throne as Edward IV.

Then came a period of a few weeks, in which both sides simply recruited troops. Edward IV moved to Nottingham, where he learned that there were over 30000 Lancastrian troops to the south of York and that he was outnumbered. After a series of small incursions and one huge battle, the Yorkists came out victorious. The death toll was estimated to be around 30000 (20000 Lancastrian troops, 10000 Yorkist troops) making the battle of Towton (1461) the bloodiest battle fought on English soil.

After the battle, Edward IV returned to London for his coronation, while Henry VI and Margaret fled to Scotland instead. Edward instructed Richard of Warwick to crush all the remaining Lancastrian resistance in the country, which he finished in 1463, when Warwick finished retaking all Lancastrian castles belonging to the nobles.

Edward was wary that the Scots supported the Lancasters throughout the first phase of the war, so in 1463 he asked James III (king of Scotland) to sign a treaty and sent their diplomats to York in 1464. To prevent the treaty from occurring, Lancastrian nobles (nudged by queen Margaret) rebelled. Edward sent an army, led by Warwick's brother - John Neville - to the north with the purpose of suppressing the rebellion. John Neville successfully did so in Hexham (1464) while also managing to kill all Lancastrian leaders. The treaty with the Scots was signed.

Queen Margaret and Prince Edward escaped to king Louis XI of France. In 1465, Henry VI was captured and brought to London, which brought a short period of peace. During this time, Warwick became even more powerful. He tried to influence king Edward IV - he tried to negotiate a marriage between Edward IV and the daughter of the French king. Edward has, however, already married (to Elizabeth Woodville, in 1464). Edward has also entered a secret alliance with the Duke of Burgundy (Charles the Bold), which completely undermined the efforts of Warwick and made him look foolish. Warwick left the French court in 1467 and started plotting against the king. After 2 years of planning, a rebellion is about to break out.

TIMELINE

1337 - 1453 - Hundred Years' War

1377 - King Edward III dies

1444 - Treaty of Tours

1453 - the feud between the Nevilles and the Percys resumes

1454 - Richard becomes Lord Protector, appoints his allies to key positions and arrests Edmund of Somerset

1455 - Henry VI recovers from his mental breakdown, reverses the decisions made by Richard and subsequently exiles him

1455 - Battle of St. Albans, start of the Wars of Roses, major Lancastrian defeat

1456-1459 - violent clashes between the Nevilles and the Percys

1459 - Yorkists are defeated by the Lancastrians, Yorkists seek refuge in Ireland and Calais

1460 - Yorkists return to England

1460 - Act of Accord

1460 - battle of Wakefield, Richard of York is killed

1461 - Edward of York, son of Richard, becomes leader of the Yorkists

1461 - Edward defeats a Lancastrian force at Mortimer's cross

1461 - Queen Margaret defeats a small Yorkist force, led by Richard of Warwick, at St. Albans

1461 - Lancastrians move to the north, Edward declares himself king

1461 - battle of Towton, Lancastrian victory, Edward is coronated, Margaret and prince Edward flee to France

1463 - Warwick finishes suppressing the rest of the Lancastrian rebel incursions

1463 - Edward IV asks James III

1464 - the Scots send their diplomats, the Lancastrians rebel to try and stop them

1464 - battle of Hexham, all Lancastrian leaders were killed

1465 - Henry VI was captured, a period of peace started, Warwick starts negotiations with Louis XI, which quickly fall through

1467 - Warwick leaves the french court and starts plotting against Edward IV

1469 - Current time.

PAST ACTION

Treaty of Tours was a truce between the English and French in 1444. For exchange of Maine and Anjou, King Henry VI would marry Margaret of Anjou, who became an influential figure in the Wars of the Roses. This truce was supposed to end in 1450, however, England decided to break it a year sooner.

The Act of Accord was a statute of Parliament enacted on 25 October 1460. Under the terms of the Act, Henry VI was confirmed as king, but after his death the throne was to pass to Richard, Duke of York, and his heirs.

IMPORTANT PARTIES

George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence

Son of Richard of York, younger brother of Edward IV. When Edward became the king of England in 1461, George became the Duke of Clarence and was appointed the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He supports his brother Edward.

Edward IV, Duke of York

He is the eldest surviving son of Richard of York. He opposed King Henry VI on many fronts; he led a revolt in 1450, and in 1460, he was declared the King of England by Richards' supporters. He gathered an army in Wales and defeated the Lancastrians, becoming King Edward IV in 1461. Edward sensed that Richard Neville was gaining too much influence, so he married a young widow, which insulted Richard Neville, who was negotiating for him a french princess. Later on, he reduced his power and embarrassed him by making an alliance with Burgundy, while gaining more support from other nobles.

Queen Margaret of Anjou

She got married to King Henry VI, as a part of the Treaty of Tours in 1444. With Henry VI being mentally unstable, she held a lot of power. Her motivation always lay behind keeping Henry in charge and her son to be the heir; she was very discontent with the Act of Accord, which made a member of the House of York, her archrival enemies, an heir after Henry. She had to flee to Scotland with her son, when she was defeated in the Battle of Towton and Edward IV became king.

Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick

Dubbed “the Kingmaker”, Richard of Warwick was key in Edwards ascension to the English throne. After finishing off the remaining Lancaster resistance in England in 1463, he gained a lot of political power and wanted to gain influence over the king. Richard started negotiations with the king of France, Louis XI, about a possible marriage between Edward and the french princess. These negotiations were undermined by Edward IV (see above), and Richard started plotting against the king.

Richard, Duke of Gloucester

He opposed King Henry VI and the Lancastrians. In 1459, he and his father were forced to flee England. When his brother, Edward IV, became king in 1461, he was created a Duke of Gloucester and returned to England. Edward appointed him the Commissioner of Array 3 years later. He was taught to fight by his cousin, Richard Neville, the Kingmaker. He is close to both Edward and Richard.

Edmund Beaufort, 4th Duke of Somerset

After the death of Edmund Beaufort, 2nd Duke of Somerset at the battle of St. Albans and after the death of Henry Beaufort, 3rd Duke of Somerset at the battle of Hexham, Edmund Beaufort became the Duke of Somerset and he is eager to avenge his bloodline and give his life to the Lancastrian king, Henry VI.

Edward of Westminster, Prince of Wales

The only son of Henry VI and Queen Margaret. Only 15 at the time of our debate. Seeks to regain the English throne for the house of Lancaster.

Henry Tudor

His mother was a descendant of John of Gaunt, son of King Edward III. The Tudor branch is a cadet branch of the House of Plantagenet. He supports Henry VI, even though he is only 12 years of age.

Jasper Tudor

He is an Uncle of Henry Tudor, whom he had brought up. His father, Owen Tudor, was released from prison most likely due to King Henry VI. After all, Jasper was a half-brother to King Henry VI. Henry found this out, when his mother told him on her deathbed. He took care of Jasper and Edmund, the second half-brother. Jasper became Earl of Pembroke in 1452, as Jasper swore loyalty to the king. During the reign of King Edward IV, he lost the title of Earl. He fled to France, and then North Wales.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford

One of the main Lancastrian commanders, supports Henry IV. Was held at the Tower and confessed to plotting against the king in 1468, but was subsequently pardoned.

John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk

Loyal to king Edward IV, knighted in the battle of Towton, became part of the royal household. From 1462-64 he took part in military campaigns against the Lancastrians.

Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury

He became Chancellor of Oxford in 1434, and the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1454. Due to the Wars, he was stripped of this title straight away. He lost the title of Chancellor after Richard Plantagenet was deprived of power. In 1459, the war restarted, and he became a proud Yorkist. He was crowned King Edward IV and is dedicated to the House of York.

Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset

Loyal to King Edward IV. He is 15.

Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby

A close ally with the House of York due to his marriage with Eleanor (Daughter of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury and Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick). In 1459, he kept his army out of the fight at the Battle of Blore Heath.

William Stanley, Baron Stanley

Younger brother to Thomas. He fought for the Yorkists in 1459 at the Battle of Blore Heath, then fled to exile before fighting for the Yorkists again in 1461 at Towton. In 1465 he received a dispossessed castle from the Lancastrians. He supports the House of York.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

Who is the rightful king?

Does the Act of Accord stand?

CONCLUSION

We would like to dedicate the conclusion to establish the situation and date the debate will be held in. The debate will take place in March 1469. People in England are discontent, and another conflict is brewing.

Please keep in mind that the study guide provides the bare minimum and that each delegate should do their own research on the topic to represent their position accurately.

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