

the Legacy

HCC: Cabinet of Henry the 8th

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Bridging The Gap

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Letter From the Secretary-General

Meritorious participants of BoğaziçiMUN Advanced 2025,

It is with warm hugs, sincerity and utmost privilege to welcome you all to this edition of BoğaziçiMUNAdvanced. I'm Selin Ayaz, a senior Double Major of Political Science & International Relations and Sociology at Boğaziçi University. Having four years of university Model UN experience (alongside 5 years prior) under my belt, I will be serving as your Secretary-General.

For this version of BoğaziçiMUN, both of our teams have worked from day to night to give you the best experience ever. I would first like to thank my amazing Deputy-Secretaries-General, Maya Gençdiş and Emir Elhatip, for their continuous effort and clever wit. Another person that I'm thankful for is our esteemed Director-General, Irem Ayber. She and our Deputy-Director-General Azra Çökük are some of the most hardworking people I've known, they are tireless in their work and you will get to experience the fruits of their labour when we meet in September.

We've prepared 9 different committees covering a wide range of topics. HCC: Cabinet of Henry the 8th is a one them, a one of a kind committee. As by the theme of our conference, this committee honors the legacy of Duru Yavuz, our previous club coordinator and former Deputy-Secretary-General of BoğaziçiMUN 2025. I would like to thank the hardworking Under-Secretaries-General Duru Yavuz herself and İpek Beril Şen as well as their Academic Assistant İstemihan Gökay Tatar for their efforts in making this committee come to life.

We've always used the phrase "Bridging the Gap" as our motto. This year, we are combining this with the legacy. Each edition of BoğaziçiMUN has been about providing our participants with the best experience they've ever had so far. Each time, we try to outdo ourselves and become the best version so far. This edition has been no different as all of us have vigorously and tirelessly worked so far. Now the ball is in your court. I invite you all to take a step forward and feel the legacy.

Warmest regards,

Selin Ayaz

Secretary-General of BoğaziçiMUN Advanced 2025



Letter from the Under-Secretaries General

Meritorious participants,

It is our utmost honor to welcome you all to our committee, the Cabinet of Henry VIII. We

are Duru Yavuz and İpek Şen; currently in our fourth year in Political Science and

International Relations with a Double Major in Sociology at Boğaziçi University, and fourth

year in Molecular Biology and Genetics in Boğaziçi University respectively. We are proud to

serve you as your Under-Secretaries General.

This committee has been a dream of ours for a while now, and we are incredibly excited to

share this experience with you throughout the conference. Henry VIII was the second Tudor

monarch after his father Henry VII, who ended the Wars of the Roses by marrying Elizabeth

of York. Henry VIII's reign is remembered by numerous scandals and religious-political

turmoil. Delegates of this committee will be expected to rule the country alongside the king

and prove their loyalty to the crown time and time again, that is if they do not want to end up

in the Tower of London or lose their heads. Delegates will be able to find everything they

need in this rather comprehensive Study Guide to steer the fate of England.

Before concluding our letter, we want to thank our dear friend and honorable Secretary

General Selin Ayaz and our BoğaziçiMUN Family for trusting us with this committee, as well

as our amazing Academic Assistant İstemihan Gökay Tatar, a first-year undergraduate student

of Industrial Engineering at Yıldız Technical University. Through his late-night shifts,

commitment to professionalism and insatiable desire for knowledge, he helped sculpt the

committee into what it is now.

We truly hope you take interest in this committee and what it represents as much as we did.

We are looking forward to meeting you in this prestigious conference.

Best,

Duru Yavuz and İpek Şen

Under-Secretaries General

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I. Introduction to the committee: HCC: The Cabinet of Henry VIII

A. Background to the Tudor Era: the War of the Roses and Henry VII

1. Wars of the Roses: A Backdrop to the Tudors

Wars of the Roses were a series of dynastic civil wars between House Lancaster and House York for the English throne. The name comes from the badges of the rival houses, the red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York. Both houses descended from Edward III's sons,



with House York descending from the second son of Edward III and House Lancaster descending from the third son of Edward. Despite House York's descent from the older brother of the two, the Lancastrians had occupied the throne since 1399. This was because the rules of succession were uncertain at the time. Some believed that the descendants of the older brother were more legitimate since House York were more direct descendants of Edward III, while others believed the Lancastrians had more of a claim on the English throne because House York was related to the aforementioned older brother through a woman and they believed the throne should not be passed through women. These affiliations were not a problem during the reign of Lancastrian king Henry V, a strong king which most supported.

When Henry VI ascended to the English throne in 1429, there emerged two problems that brought forth the claim of House York's Richard III to the throne. The first problem was that Henry VI did not have any brothers, and he did not sire a child for a long time. Speculations of who the next king may be exceedingly pointed to Richard Duke of York. Henry also had cousins who believed they should succeed him after his death. The second problem was that Henry VI was not a strong king, he mishandled financial matters and war with France. People



also believed that he was too under the control of his ambitious wife, Margaret of Anjou. He had a mental breakdown for eighteen months which made him unable to rule in that timeframe. Richard Duke of York and the Beauforts, Henry VI's cousins, each thought they should be the primary advisors to the king, however, Henry always recognized the Beauforts on the matter, this led to open warfare.

Richard Duke of York influenced the Parliament to pass the Act of Accord in October of 1460. The accord declared him the heir to Henry VI, even though Henry had a son. Queen Margaret Anjou, to protect her son's inheritance, sent armies in her son's name. The Battle of Wakefield ensued in December 1460, in which Richard Duke of York and his son Edmund were killed. House of York now had a new head, Richard Duke of York's eldest son Edward. He was victorious at Mortimer's Cross and March of 1461, declared himself King Edward IV upon his arrival in London. He later won a wounding victory over the main Lancastrian army at Towton. As a result, now former king Henry VI went into hiding only to be captured four years later. King Edward IV was dispelled out of the kingdom, resulting from an alliance between Margaret Anjou and his former supporter, Richard Neville Earl of Warwick. Henry VI thus returned to the throne. Former king Edward returned to England a year later, and defeated the House of Lancaster at Barnet and Tewkesbury. Henry VI's only child and heir was killed in battle, and the House of York took the throne once again.

After King Edward IV's death in 1483, his son was declared Edward V. Edward V was later deemed illegitimate therefore unfit to rule. Edward IV's younger brother Richard III took the throne after the complications pertaining to the legitimacy of Edward V. There were still supporters of Edward V, and they joined with Henry Tudor, who was distantly related to Henry VI. This alliance was only possible due to Henry Tudor's promise to marry Elizabeth of York, Edward V's sister. Richard III was defeated and killed at the Battle of Bosworth by Henry Tudor's forces, on August 22, 1485. Henry Tudor was crowned and became Henry VII on the same day. On January 18, 1486; Henry Tudor married Elizabeth of York, putting an end to the Wars of the Roses and cementing the foundations of the Tudor dynasty by joining together the two competing houses.



2. Henry VII's Four Main Aims Regarding Foreign Policy

a. Secure the Throne

Henry VII did become king after the defeat of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field, but his throne was not yet secure, as the Wars of the Roses lasted 30 years and Yorkist supporters still existed. In order to create European ties that would help him retain the throne, King Henry VII's foreign policy sought to marry his children.

The Yorkist faction put forward three pretenders to the throne in the early years of Henry VII's rule. Lambert Simnel professed in 1487 to be Richard III's older brother George's son Edward, Earl of Warwick. Henry was able to parade the actual Earl of Warwick through the streets and prove Simnel was a forger by having him imprisoned in the Tower of London. The Battle of Stoke in June 1487 saw the downfall of Simnel's followers. Perkin Warbeck, who identified himself as the younger of the Princes in the Tower, Richard of York, made a more serious attempt to usurp the crown in 1491. Margaret of Burgundy, James IV of Scotland, and Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian all gave him their support. Henry was successful in taking Warbeck in 1497 by using both diplomacy and force. Having escaped from the Tower of London, he was put to death in 1499. Ralph Wulford, a third impostor, first appears in February 1499. He was apprehended and killed. In 1499, the Earl of Warwick was likewise put to death to stop others from using his name falsely.

b. Make Sure the Tudor Dynasty is Lasting



Due to King Henry VI's inadequate leadership, the Wars of the Roses had previously begun. Henry VII understood how important it was for him to lead the nation with strength. In order to preserve the survival of the new House of Tudor, he also understood that he needed male successors. Three boys and four girls, totaling seven, were born to Henry VII and Elizabeth of York: Katherine was born in 1503, Margaret was born in 1489, Henry was born in 1491,



Elizabeth was born in 1492, Mary was born in 1496, Arthur was born in 1486 and Edmund was born in 1499. Four children survived infancy: Arthur, Margaret, Henry, and Mary.

Prince Arthur got married to Catherine of Aragon, the Spanish-born daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, on November 14, 1501. An alliance with Spain was cemented by the marriage. Margaret Tudor got married to King James IV of Scotland on August 8, 1503. The union ensured that the heirs of Scotland would have Tudor ancestry. Henry VII suffered a major setback when Prince Arthur's untimely death in April 1502. After the infant deaths of Prince Edmund and Princess Elizabeth, Henry VII was left with just one son. Prince Henry bore the responsibility for the Tudor dynasty's success. Elizabeth of York was 36 years old at this point and was almost done having children. Elizabeth of York passed away in 1503 as a result of complications after giving birth to Princess Katherine, who did not survive infancy. After this tragedy, the parents of Catherine of Aragon rejected Henry's proposal to marry her, as she was the widow of his son. Negotiations regarding pairing Henry with Germaine de Foix, Margaret of Savoy, or Joan, Queen of Naples were unsuccessful. His son, Henry VIII would later marry Catherine of Aragon.

c. Obtain the Respect of European Monarchs



After obtaining the kingdom in battle, Henry sought to make sure that other kings recognized his new dynasty. Spain, the Netherlands, and Burgundy were allies of the Hapsburg Empire, while France and Scotland were traditional friends through the Auld Alliance. The goal of Henry VII's foreign policy was to make England a key player in European affairs without necessarily waging expensive wars. For this aim, he signed various treaties with European powers and joined the Holy League of Venice in 1496.

i. Redon Treaty of 1489: An assistance agreement between England and Brittany was signed in February 1489. Henry sought to protect Brittany's freedom since France was threatening to invade.



ii. Dordrecht Treaty of 1489: Between Henry VII and Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian, this alliance pact was signed. They decided to band together to fight France and save Brittany.

iii. Medina del Campo Treaty of 1489: The details of Prince Arthur's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, were outlined in this contract, which was signed on March 27, 1489.

iv. Etaples Treaty of 1492: Despite the fact that England had been powerless to stop France from annexing Brittany, this treaty established a lasting peace between the two countries. A stipulation stating that neither King would aid the other's enemies was a part of the treaty. This condition stated that France would not back pretenders who were Yorkist.

v. Holy League of Venice 1496: In an alliance against France's invasion of Italy, England joined the Papal States, Venice, Naples, Spain, Milan, the Holy Roman Empire, Florence, and Mantua. By joining the alliance, England established itself as a prominent actor on the European stage and won the Pope's favor.

vi. Ayton Treaty of 1497: A seven-year peace between England and Scotland was established by this pact. It was decided that James IV and Margaret, Henry's daughter, would get married to officially sign the pact. The agreement put an end to Scotland's support for the impostor Perkin Warbeck, who was driven out of the country.

vii. Treaty of Perpetual Peace, 1502: Because of this agreement, peace between England and Scotland would continue throughout the reigns of both monarchs and their heirs. Additionally, it stipulated that border disputes would be resolved and that neither monarch would wage war on the other or support the adversary of the other. Additionally, plans were reached for James IV and Margaret Tudor's nuptials.

viii. Aachen Treaty of 1502: It was signed between Henry VII and Maximilian, the Holy Roman Emperor. In exchange for Maximilian agreeing to stop providing sanctuary to Henry's opponents, particularly Edmund de la Pole, Henry pledged to grant him 10,000 crowns to use in his battle with the Ottoman Empire.



ix. Marriage of Prince Henry, later Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon: Prince Henry and Catherine of Aragon were formally engaged on June 25, 1503. The rulers of Spain had been anxious to keep their alliance with England.

x. Windsor Treaty, 1506: Henry VII and Philip of Burgundy concluded this covert treaty. Both parties agreed to join forces without conditions. Philip was able to freely travel between Spain and the Netherlands because of Henry's agreement to grant him free passage via the English Channel. There was also talk of Mary, Henry's daughter, getting married to Charles, Philip's son.

xi. Princess Mary's Marriage: Princess Mary was publicly engaged to Charles, the son of Philip I of Spain, on December 21st, 1507.

Not all of Henry VIII's foreign policy was successful in practice. In November 1501, Prince Arthur married Catherine of Aragon. The second installment of her dowry was still due when Arthur passed away. Relationships between England and Spain soured as a result of Henry's insistence that the remaining amount be paid and Spain's refusal to cooperate. The sister of King Edward IV, Margaret of Burgundy, was a Yorkist. She refused to acknowledge Henry as King and backed Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck's claims to the English crown. James IV of Scotland and Maximilian, the Holy Roman Emperor, both backed Warbeck. Henry VII kept delaying the union of Prince Henry and Catherine of Aragon despite reaching an agreement on the terms. It was less advantageous to form an alliance with Spain after Isabella of Spain died in 1504. The Scots carried out border raids into England even after the Treaty of Perpetual Peace was signed in 1502.

d. Boost the Kingdom's Income Through International Trade

In 1496, England and the Netherlands signed the trade pact known as Intercursus Magnus. Richard Foxe negotiated it, and it called for resuming trade between the two nations and setting customs tariffs. The contract was amended to state that neither nation was to support the other's insurgents, and it was agreed that Philip of Burgundy would intervene if Margaret of Burgundy continued to support Henry's adversaries, notably Perkin Warbeck. The English Merchant Adventurers Company was given a monopoly on trading with the Netherlands in

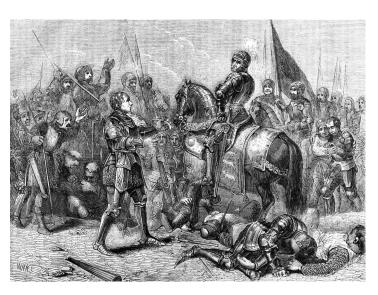
May 1498. The Book of Rates was published in 1507, it contained a list of the customs fees that needed to be paid in London. A trade alliance between England and France was established in 1497. This policy was also not without its failures. On all imports from Italy, Henry imposed fixed tariffs in 1492. In retaliation, the Italians stopped shipping goods to England. Furthermore, as a result of Margaret of Burgundy's continuous backing for the impostor Perkin Warbeck, Henry outlawed all trade with Burgundy in 1493.

3. Domestic Affairs

Domestic policies of Henry VII mainly focused on improving the economic situation of the country and strengthening his claim on the throne. His main domestic policies can be classified into four topics:

- i. Suppressing the revolts against his position as the king so his position is not compromised. Securing his position would allow him to dedicate himself to the ruling of the country.
- ii. Establishing a new monarchy and reducing the power of the feudal lords.
- iii. Increasing the foreign trade to increase the wealth of the country.
- iv. Accumulation of finances for the implementations of his policies.

Henry VII seized the throne and ended the Wars of the Roses when he defeated Richard III on the battlefield. However, his reign was far from uneventful since his acquisition of the throne was not supported by strong claims. His bloodline was one of the greatest barricades before his succession of the throne since he was a



descendant of the Beaufort family from his mothers side and his fathers side was also subjected to suspicion. However, Henry VII did not seize the throne by the powers vested in him by his bloodline, he won it by war. His royal marriage with Elizabeth of York, and his parliamentary actions also strengthened his position. The economic and social growth in his



time also contributed to Henry's success of creating a dynasty that would last for more than a century.

As Henry Tudor came into power, England had started to recover from the Black Plague. The population that has fallen down to 2.5 million has started to increase. The increase in population resulted with the need of more food, clothing and vanity. This need caused an economic and social revolution started by farmers, sheep growers and cloth manufacturers. Woolen cloth had started to be exported instead of raw wool and cloth manufacturers had started to gain more and more power, eventually monopolizing the cloth trade. The association responsible for this trade was the Merchant Adventurers. The Merchant Adventurers was also largely responsible for Henry Tudor's Intercursus Magnus.

However this newfound economic power of the clothing traders also brought inflation to England. Prices started to increase and payloads became inefficient against increasing prices. With the inflation and increasing clothing trade, importance of farms started to decrease and lords began turning their fields into sheep runs. By doing so, they could profit since the previous field duty carried on by a dozen farmers could now be replaced with the work of a shepherd and his dog. This led to the disruption of the medieval system that relied on land and farming.

Henry VII faced revolts against his position regardless of his actions to prevent them. There were possible successors looking forward to seizing the throne. In 1487, John de la Pole, a nephew of Edward IV, arrived in England with 2000 mercenaries to support the claims of Lambert Simnel. Simnel passed himself off as the true Earl of Warwick, but they were defeated by Henry VII. John de la Pole was killed on the battlefield and Simnel was made into a scullery boy in the royal kitchen of Henry. The situation repeated after ten years with Perkin Warbeck, who was accepted as the real Richard IV in Yorkist European cities. He too was defeated by Henry and imprisoned, leading to his eventual execution.

In order to assert dominance and authority, Henry VII required financial power. The income of the Medieval king was acquired from four sources; royal estate rents, revenues from taxes, justice administration fees, and feudal money extracted from vassals. Henry Tudor was especially ruthless with his acquisition of money. He succeeded in extracting every penny that was owed to him. His first financial action was taking ownership of all of the estates of Yorkists and all the properties the Crown lost since 1455. He also increased the efficiency of

rent collection and income from Crown properties reached £29.000 in 1485. By 1509, land revenues increased up to £42.000 annually alongside the profits from the duchy of Lancaster going up to £6.500. At the same time, increasing economic prosperity also contributed to Henry's profits. Annual revenue from customs increased to an average of £40.000 by the end of Henry's reign. The success of Henry in increasing land and customs revenue was appreciated since it was aligned with the accustomed living of kings, which is living of their own income instead of resorting to the parliament for subsidies. His revenues from feudal and privilege sources, and justice administration however, caused dissatisfaction among his subsidiaries and earned him his reputation of an extortionist. Henry VII fused feudalism with an extensive and meticulous application of justice. The stronger the law, the more profitable it became. The ability of giving heavy fines to those who break the law was used as a punishment method and the king used this to control financiers and improve his finances.

Henry VII even used war and diplomacy as sources of income. He wanted his second son, Henry, to marry Catherine of Aragon not only because of the diplomatic alliance with Spain, but also due to the fact that he did not want to return the dowry given by Spain. Henry VII knew that peace was profitable, so he tried to maintain trade relationships with his neighbors. Even when he knew the war against France was lost in 1492, he made an agreement with France to revoke all historic rights in exchange for a sum of money. Henry VII left the throne with doubled non-parliamentary incomes. His methods were efficient in providing the king with a strong and unwavering source of income. Henry's income surpassed even the greatest landlord of his time by many times and thus, removed overmighty magnates.



With his improved finances, Henry could buy power. However, he required a strong system of justice to gain respect. Henry Tudor faced a problem of adjusting the old system to his reign. For this purpose he required new organs for administration of the country, nobility was required to be tamed so his rule could be strong, provincialism and privileges had to be removed. Luckily for Henry, most of the nobility was dead because of the Wars of the Roses. Still, he had to manage the remaining members of the aristocracy. Henry formed and appointed Commissions of Array to each county to use the power of aristocrats in raising armies while preventing them from forming their private armies. Lack of

private armies controlled by aristocrats meant they could not intimidate justice or threaten the throne. To efficiently enforce the law, members of the royal court started to specialize, replacing the old system with the royal court as the organ in which all cases are heard. Lord Tudor put himself as the fountain of justice and courts started to emerge. The Court of Chancery dealt with civil offences while the Court of Star Chamber dealt with obstructions of justice. The High Court of Admiralty dealt with piracy cases while the Court of Requests handled the cases of commoners. In time, the law enforcement of the Tudors removed the feudal image of independent organs managed by local mandates instead of the king. Soon the country was filled with loyal subjects directly under the king's orders and the country was transformed into a single state under the king.

B. Who is Henry VIII: Early Life

1. The Life of Henry VIII: Summary

Henry Tudor entered the stage of history on 28 June 1491 at Greenwich Palace, the second son of King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, a union that bound the red rose of Lancaster to the white rose of York and sealed the settlement born of Bosworth's victory in 1485. His birth, while noble, bore no immediate shadow of the crown, for the succession was secured in the person of his elder brother, Arthur, Prince of Wales. Raised within the cultivated seclusion of Eltham Palace under his mother's watchful care, Henry's youth developed in a Yorkist-influenced household, apart from the governance training that occupied Arthur in the Welsh Marches.



Educated in scripture, statecraft and the classics, schooled in languages, music and the arts of chivalry, Henry acquired both the intellectual and martial refinements of a Renaissance

prince. His first public role came in 1510 as ceremonial escort to Arthur's wedding to Catherine of Aragon. The sudden death of Arthur in 1502 changed his destiny irrevocably, making him heir and drawing him under the closer custody of his father in a regime of guarded privilege that endured until his father's death in 1509.

Ascending to the throne at seventeen without contest, Henry's opening gestures -a general pardon, the dismissal of unpopular ministers and marriage to Catherine- beckoned a reign both rooted in dynastic continuity and restless for glory. Over the decades that followed, he wed six queens, fathered three heirs who each wore the crown and reshaped the kingdom through policies and decisions that entwined personal desire with the fate of the realm with a kingship that persisted until his death in 1547.

C. The Making of a Monarch: Henry VIII's Early Years

1. Birth of Henry VIII

Henry Tudor was ushered into life on 28 June 1491 at Greenwich Palace, as the second son of Henry VII, first sovereign of the Tudor line and Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV. Third among their children and one of only four to survive infancy -Arthur, Margaret, Mary and himself- Henry's arrival bore no immediate weight in the dynastic calculus. With his elder brother Arthur secure as heir, he entered life swathed in the privileges of princely rank, yet unenuncumbered by the burdens of direct succession.

2. Childhood of the English Tyrant

From his birth in 1491, Henry Tudor occupied the secondary station of a king's son distanced from a destiny to reign, his elder brother Arthur securely invested with the title of Prince of Wales. Born of the dynastic synthesis of Lancaster and York: a union between Henry VIII and Elizabeth of York, his lineage embodied the settlement of the Wars of the Roses.

While Arthur was dispatched to the Welsh Marches for the rigours of governance and princely apprenticeship, Henry was reared at Eltham Palace in a Yorkist-influenced household under the close oversight of his mother and in the company of his sisters: Margaret and Mary, amid the refined society of ladies-in-waiting. His contact with Arthur was quite

infrequent, their lives shaped by separate spheres of education and duty. Henry's own formation encompassed scripture, statecraft, theology and the classics, with facility in numerous languages alongside cultivation in music, verse and theological disputation.

To round his education, he was subject to martial training; jousting, archery, hunting and horsemanship forging the physical complement to his intellectual discipline. In 1501, he appeared in a ceremonial role as escort at Arthur's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, which he described as "a beautiful creature" to his father; the following year, Henry's place in the Tudor succession was forever altered as Arthur's death abruptly positioned him to heirship.

3. Henry Tudor's Entry Into Heirhood

From the outset, Henry's station as second son tied his career to an ecclesiastical future, in the company of an early guardianship anchored to theological instruction befitting a prince intended for the Church. That course altered decisively in 1502 with the demise of Arthur Tudor, which elevated Henry to heir apparent. Suspended from the familiar custody of his mother's household, he came under the direct and vigilant supervision of Henry VII, his female attendants dismissed in favour of male tutors and courtiers who would shape his preparation for kingship.

The following year delivered the perishment of Elizabeth of York during childbirth. This loss, further compounded by death of the newborn, left the young heir doubly bereft. From 1502 to 1509, his upbringing was defined by specialised training in statecraft, conducted within the constraints of a father determined to shield him from undue exposure. He received formal incorporation into the royal household days prior to his thirteenth birthday, yet his gift was the king's iron regimen that shadowed his every move rather than bestowing liberty. The Spanish ambassador, observing the prince's seclusion, remarked bitterly that the boy was "kept like a girl," shrouded from both public adoration and political acumen but lodged close to the levers of governance.

Diplomatic evaluations quickly latched to his person, with Henry VII securing papal dispensation for a union with Catherine of Aragon, his late brother's widow, to preserve the Anglo-Spanish alliance. Throughout this period, He excelled both in classical learning and



the martial disciplines of an aristocratic court; evolving him into an exemplar of chivalric grace.

By 1509, the crown of England waited to be upon his brow, the golden scepter readied to be in his grasp and the golden orb awaited its first incorporation in a coronation ceremony, Henry Tudor had left boyhood and ascended to the realm of statecraft as a man consecrated by providence. The numeration of "VIII", henceforth awaited to be affixed to his name and become a cipher through which future generations would speak of him, judge him and reckon with the grandeur and rupture he was yet to unleash

4. Henry VIII's Accession to the Throne

The death of Henry VII at Richmond Palace on 21 April 1509, likely from tuberculosis at the age of fifty-two, closed a reign defined by fiscal caution, voulu consolidation and the careful cultivation of Tudor legitimacy. The passing of the first Tudor king occasioned neither panic nor unrest, representing the first undisputed hereditary succession in nearly a century. At seventeen, Henry ascended the throne, celebrated for his education, athleticism and personal charm, yet notably untested in governance. Reports such as that of the Spanish envoy Fuensilada on 27 April confirmed his accession amid widespread public rejoicing.

His earliest acts proclaiming a general pardon releasing prisoners and ordering the arrest of Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, notorious architects of his father's fiscal machinery- announced an intentional shift in tone while preserving the structural aspects of royal control in more discreet form. To contemporaries, a Henry's succession symbolised a dynastic unity embodied in his own person as son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York and for Yorkist loyalists, the ultimate closure of the Wars of the Roses: the definitive reconciliation of Lancaster and York,

The early Tudor court projected a fresh monarchical image, blending chivalric spectacle with architectural ambition. Lavish tournaments, banquets and pageantry accompanied the embellishment of Greenwich, Richmond and Windsor, the seizure of Whitehall and Hampton Court from Wolsey and commissions for St. James's and the future Nonsuch. Laden with precious metals, sumptuous furnishings and over 2,450 tapestries, these residences radiated



unmatched splendour; but the coronation festivities and military preparations swiftly depleted the treasury and foreshadowed future fiscal strain.

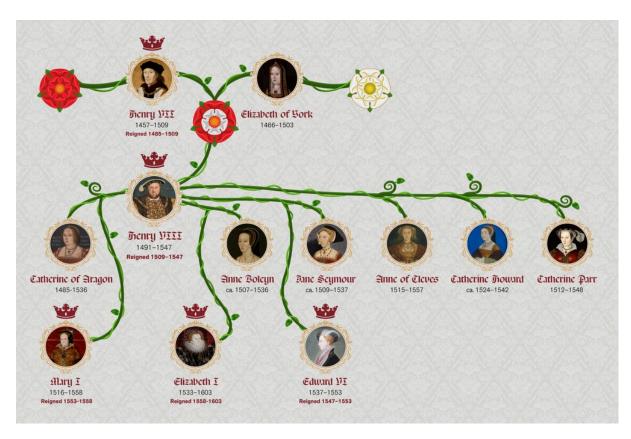
5. Coronation of the "Coppernose"

On 11 June 1509, scarcely two months into his reign, Henry VIII wed Catherine of Aragon, the Spanish infanta once destined for his elder brother Arthur, the match secured through papal dispensation and constructed to renew the Anglo-Spanish alliance upon which his father long relied. Barely a fortnight later, on 24 June, the king and queen were jointly crowned at Westminster Abbey by Archbishop William Warham, Henry swearing the nine ancient oaths of kingship prior to his anointing and coronation, while Catherine was solemnly crowned Queen of England. The spectacle, orchestrated under the hand of Lady Margaret Beaufort, was her final state act before her death five days later.

Almost immediately, Henry signalled a departure from his father's rule, ordering within two days the arrest and execution of two of Henry VII's most detested ministers, thus inaugurating a reign that began in the counsel of trusted advisors but moved inexorably toward personal and absolute authority. Politically, the young king maintained the Yorkist loyalties preserved since his mother's death in 1503, rewarding fidelity and projecting the final reconciliation of Lancaster and York. Yet the same marriage that crowned this early unity would -in time- become the fulcrum of division, for Henry's later rejection of Catherine would sever England's both with Rome and set in motion the English Reformation.



D. The Family That Forged Henry VIII



1. Father Henry VII (1457-1509)

Henry Tudor descended down to Earth on 28 January 1457 within the walls of the Pembroke Castle, posthumous son of Edmond Tudor and his fourteen-year-old widow, Margaret Beaufort. Orphaned before birth, he was placed at the mercy and guardianship of his uncle, Jasper Tudor, whose protection proved non-negligable in the fluctuating politics of the Wars of the Roses. In 1471, trailing the Yorkist triumph at Tewkesbury, Henry was compelled to seek refuge in Brittany, where he remained an exiled claimant. The usurpation of the throne by Richard III in 1438 revitalised his Lancastrian claim, strengthened by his pledged intention to marry Elizabeth of York with the aim of fusing the conflicting houses of York and Lancaster into a single dynastic settlement.

In August 1485, Henry -bolstered by French support- conducted a landing on Milford Haven with the intention of defeating Richard III via advancing inland. Henry proclaimed victory against Richard on 22 August at Bosworth, thus striking an end to Plantagenet rule. Upon his crowning on 30 October 1485, he would soon realize his pledge to marry Elizabeth of York on 18 January 1486 and forge a union represented by the Tudor Rose. His reign was plagued



by chronic insurgencies of Yorkist origin orchestrated by figures including Lambert Simnel, Perkin Warbeck and Edmund de la Pole, the latter imprisoned in the Tower by 1506.

Domestically, Henry amassed a royal treasury commanding colossal reserves through meticulous taxation, a network of surveillance and selective patronage. Abroad, he secured his dynasty through a network of marriages: Arthur to Catherine of Aragon, Margaret to James IV of Scotland and Mary to Louis XII of France. His cultural legacy encompassed the Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey and the patronage of Renaissance-inspired art and manuscripts. The later years of his reign were plagued by the death of Arthur in 1502 and Elizabeth of York in 1503. Henry himself demised at Richmond Palace on 21 April 1509 presumably due to tuberculosis and was rested beside his queen in Westminster Abbey, legating his son a throne secured and a realm awaiting transformation.

2. Mother Elizabeth of York (1466-1503)

Elizabeth of York met with life on 11 February 1466 at Westminster Palace, the eldest child of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. As the king's firstborn, she enjoyed the heirly privileges until the birth of her younger brother, Edward, derailed her advancement in the line of succession. The stability of her early life collapsed in April 1483 when Edward IV unexpectedly died. His twelve-year-old son, Edward V, was named king under the stewardship of Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Within months, Richard seized the throne, declaring Edward IV's children illegitimate and confining Edward V and his younger brother to the Tower of London, later to be immortalised as "the Princes of the Tower." On 6 Jul 1483, Richard III was crowned and rumpus circulated that he intended to marry his niece Elizabeth, despite his existing marriage to Anne Neville.

Throughout Richard's reign, Henry Tudor, then in exile, pledged to wed her as part of a masterplan to converge the houses of Lancaster and York and cease their rivalry. Following Henry's victory over Richard III at Bosworth on 22 August 1485, the Tudor dynasty was established. Initially lodged at Coldharbour under the oversight of Margaret Beaufort, Elizabeth saw Henry VII crowned on 7 November 1485 without public acknowledgement of her as queen. Their marriage on 18 January 1486 fulfilled the promise of dynastic unity in the political settlement symbolised in the Tudor Rose. In August 1486, she birthed Arthur Tudor and was crowned Queen of England on 25 November 1487. Over the course of her

queenship, she bore four additional surviving children -Arthur, Margaret, Henry, and Maryand likely oversaw Henry's early education. Her court projected a refined ceremonial atmosphere through patronising printing, music and embroidery while her political influence was chained by the dominance of Margaret Beaufort.

Elizabeth was engaged in the arrangement of marriages for her sisters and the maintenance of dynastic loyalties in the name of strengthening Lancastrian alliances while sustaining ties with Yorkist kin; her cousin Margaret Pole for instance. Elizabeth's remaining years were simultaneously marked by triumph and tragedy: in 1501, her son Arthur married Catherine of Aragon, only to die a year later. She conceived another time but gave her last breath at the Tower of London, on 11 February 1503, her thirty-seventh birthday, due to childbirth complications; her life taken away by the life she gave to the infant daughter who also perished. She was buried in the Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey. In 1509, Henry VII was laid to rest beside her, sealing in stone the political union they had embodied.

3. Brother Arthur (1486-1502)

Arthur Tudor, the eldest son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, per wide historian and government archive beliefs, was born on 19 or 20 September 1486 at St. Swithun's Priory, Winchester, His arrival, scarcely a year after the Battle of Bosworth, served as the living covenant of Lancaster and York, their rival legacies entwined in flesh and Wars of the Roses extinguished. His given name -Arthur- was an intentional invocation of Britain's legendary king, branding the young prince as the harbinger of a restored and unified realm. The Treaty of Medina del Campo in 1489 commenced formal negotiations for his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile to materialize an alliance designed to fortify the Tudor claim and elevate England's stature in continental politics.

Catherine's arrival in England in October 1501 eventuated in their sumptuous wedding at St. Paul's Cathedral on 14 November, after which the couple were installed at Ludlow Castle to administer the Welsh Marches and cultivate Arthur's role as Prince of Wales. Barely five months later, in March 1502, Arthur was struck by a sudden and severe illness -its precise nature still debated- succumbing on 2 April at the age of sixteen.



He was buried in Worcester Cathedral, where a chantry chapel would enshrine his memory. Arthur's death simultaneously nullified Henry VII's diplomatic plans and left Catherine in England, where the unfadable dispute over the marital union's fulfillment would, decades on, serve as Henry VIII's justification for annulment, propelling England into open breach with Rome.

4. Sister Margaret (1489-1541)

In the final decade of the fifteenth century, Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, was born on 28 November 1489. She was baptised at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. From her earliest years she was situated within the designs of royal policy. By 1495, Henry VII had set his policy toward Scotland upon a matrimonial footing, seeking to neutralise Yorkist intrigue across the border through her betrothal to James IV of Scotland. The Treaty of Perpetual Peace, concluded on 24 January 1502, sealed the arrangement and on 8 August 1503 the thirteen-year-old Margaret was wed to James at Holyrood Abbey, ascending as Queen of Scots.

Her marriage yielded several children, though only two sons -James (1512) and Alexander, Earl of Ross (1514)- survived infancy. Anglo-Scottish amity collapsed in 1512 upon Henry's war with France activated Scotland's Auld Alliance, precipitating James IV's ill-fated invasion of England. On 9 September 1513 he fell at Flodden, leaving Margaret regent for the infant James V under the Privy Council's Condition that her authority would lapse should she remarry. Her marriage in 1514 to Archibald Douglas cost her the regency, forcing her into exile before a negotiated return to court. Though her subsequent divorce and third marriage to Henry Stewart brought episodic restorations of influence during her son's minority, her position was never secure.

Margaret's death at Methven Castle on 18 October 1541 closed her own chapter, yet her marriage to James IV accomplished more than binding the Tudor line to the Scottish crown; also, through their great-grandson James VI and I, enabled the union of England and Scotland in 1603, forging a political legacy she could have never foreseen.

5. Sister Elizabeth (1492)



Elizabeth Tudor, second daughter of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, her soul descended to Earth on 2 July 1492, yet her life was curtailed before its promise could be realized, ending at Eltham Palace on 14 September 1495. She was granted the full honours of royal mourning, now she rests beside her infant siblings, Edmund and Catherine, within the Abbey's quiet confines.

6. Sister Mary (1496-1533)

Born on 18 March 1496, Mary Tudor stood as the third daughter and fifth child of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. At her birth, the Tudor dynasty was still attempting to fasten its grip on the English throne. Her mainstay, mother, would pass away in 1503. This drew her closer into a special bond with her brother, future Henry VIII. This relationship would reach as far as determining the degree of political capital she could wield and the course of her private life. As the eldest surviving daughter, she was granted her own household at the age of six and educated in French, Latin and the courtly arts befitting her status. Early marriage negotiations saw her betrothed to Archduke Charles of Habsburg though changing European alliances dissolved the arrangement in 1514. That same year, a new treaty with France arranged her marriage to the old, sick and infirm Louis XII, who she wed at Abbeville on 9 October. Her tenure as Queen of France was brief. After eighty-two days of marriage, Louis would die on 1 January 1515.

In March 1515, she secretly married Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in Paris in the absence of her brother's consent. Henry VIII, though angered, pardoned Brandon in exchange for a substantial fine and the forfeiture of Mary's French dowry and wedding gifts. The marriage, formally ratified at Greenwich on 13 May 1515 and later affirmed by papal bull, left Mary bearing the title of Queen of France while residing chiefly at Westhorpe Hall in Suffolk, where her appearances at state pageantry such as the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 were matched by her outspoken opposition to Anne Boleyn and open resistance to Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon.

Mary Tudor's time was up at Westhrope Hall on 25 June 1533, aged thirty-seven. Her funeral attracted delegations from both England and France due to the importance of her dual queenship.



7. Brother Edmund (1499)

Born on 21 February 1499, Edmund Tudor, Duke of Somerset, was the sixth child of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. Christened with magnificence and raised at Eltham, he died at Hatfield on 19 June 1500 during a plague outbreak. Granted a full state funeral, he was buried in the Confessor's Chapel at Westminster Abbey without a monument, his brief life emblematic of the Tudor's fragile line of heirs.

8. Sister Katherine (1503)

Katherine Tudor, the eighth and last child of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, was birthed by her mother on 2 February 1503 in the Tower. She departed before she could even gain consciousness on 10-20 February due to natural causes. Eventually, taking her mother's life along with her. She was buried in Westminster Abbey, Westminster, Middlesex, England.

E. The House That Henry VIII Forged

1. Wife Catherine of Aragon (1509-1533)

In the year 1509, the young Henry VIII entered into matrimony with Catherine of Aragon. This union was perceived as a milestone in the Anglo-Spanish alliance. With two dynasties across the seas consolidated, the match bound Tudor England to the Catholic might of Ferdinand II of Aragon.

Over the course of eight years, Catherine would birth six children, yet only Princess Mary would survive infancy. The absence of a male heir cast a lengthening shadow over the Tudor succession. By the middle of the 1520s, Henry's love had shifted towards Anne Boleyn accompanied by an unyielding determination to dissolve his marriage. In 1527, he advanced his plea to Rome, contending that his union with Catherine was contrary to divine ordinance, for she had once been wedded to his later brother, Arthur. Catherine swore that her first marriage had remained unfulfilled and her title beyond censure.

The Curia's refusal to grant the annulment drew England into open contest with the papacy. In 1531, Catherine was banished from court and separated from her daughter. Two years



hence, under the mantle of ecclesiastical supremacy now vested in himself, Henry declared the marriage void. This break was concluded with the Act of Supremacy 1534. The English crown was now proclaimed the sole head of the Church within its realm and ended the centuries-old bond with Rome.

2. Wife Anne Boleyn (1533-1536)

Anne Boleyn stepped into the life of Henry VIII as a lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon who had been elevated to Marchioness of Pembroke in September 1532. Her courtship with Henry gradually grew intimate. Throughout these seven years, her refusals to become his mistress without a marriage promise would echo in the halls of the court.

Henry, ravenous, married her in discretion while Catherine remained Queen in law in January 1533. That summer, she was crowned Queen of England in a coronation ceremony imbued with magnificence. This elevation of a new queen translated to the finalisation of England's break with Rome. In September of that same year, she gave life to a daughter: Princess Elizabeth, a child that would command the English sceptre throughout her transformative future reign. However, her desire to secure a male heir, subsequently the favor of Henry VIII, would collapse by two miscarriages. Occurring in 1534 and in January 1536, the latter delivered a stillborn son.

In the beginning of 1536, Henry's interest had abandoned her for Jane Seymour. On 2 May, Henry ordered for her detainment and imprisonment in the Tower of London on hollow charges of high treason and adultery; including alleged incest with her brother, Goerge Boleyn. Tried before a nominal court of peers, she was unanimously declared guilty. On 19 May 1536, her death arrived by the swing of a sword execution within the Tower grounds.

3. Wife Jane Seymour (1536-1537)

Eleven days after the fall of Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour was wed to Henry on 30 May 1536. In October 1547, she accomplished what no queen before her had ever succeeded: delivering a legitimate male heir in the person of future Edward VI; all without a coronation. Twelve days thereafter, she succumbed to the perils of childbirth. Her death cast a shadow over the



King's triumph. Put to rest in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, she alone would share Henry's tomb.

4. Wife Anne of Cleves (1540)

Following Jane Seymour's death in 1537, Henry VIII was urged by Thomas Cromwell to secure a Protestant alliance with William, Duke of Cleves. He anticipated a potential Franco-Imperial rapprochement, thus propelling him to develop precautions. In pursuit of the match, Hans Holbein the Younger painted Anne's portrait, which succeeded in pleasing the King to consent to a betrothal. They materialized the union in January 1540. However, it quickly lost value. Henry expressed his disappointments with Anne's appearance and manner along with limited command of English, arguing that it had diminished her courtly presence. As the strategic requirement gradually eroded and Henry's attention swiftly shifted to Catherine of Howard, the marriage was dissolved within months.

5. Wife Catherine Howard (1540-1541)

Less than three weeks after Henry VIII's annulment from Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard married the King in confidentiality on 28 July 1540. This young maid of honour from Anne's household briefly reinvigorated the ageing monarch with her youth and vivacity. Yet, the king's marital idyll once again subsided. Accusations emerged in November 1541 regarding her prior relations with Frances Dereham and alleged adultery with Thomas Culpepper throughout her queenship. The King was further intrigued as a consequence of Dereham's presence in her household and clandestine meetings with Culpepper although everything remained unproven. On 11 February 1542, the Parliament passed a bill of attainder; declaring it treason for a woman with an unchaste paste to wed the King. Her former life choices had dragged Catherine to Tower Green where she faced her execution two days later.

6. Wife Catherine Parr (1543-1547)

Katherine Parr, twice-widowed before her entry into the Tudor court, became the sixth and final wife of Henry VIII in July. Of Plantagenet descent, her marriage conferred legitimacy, prestige and a stabilising influence upon a court long-wracked by faction and intrigue. She tended to the aging king's failing health while also influencing the compromise of Henry with



his three children: Mary, Elizabeth and Edward Tudor. She proved successful in their restoration to the line of succession and the development of their intellectual formation with a curriculum steeped in humanist learning and Protestant piety.

Her religious sympathies placed her in direct opposition to the conservative bloc headed by Bishop Stephen Gardiner due to her inclination toward reform. These tensions led to a warrant for her arrest in 1546 on charges of heresy. Displaying acute political instinct, Katherine defused the threat by rebranding her theological discussions as humble instruction sought from her sovereign to persuade Henry of her loyalty and devotion.

Throughout Henry's French campaign, her aptitude for governance was recognised when she was appointed Queen Regent. She managed state affairs with notable competence. Following the King's demise in January 1547, she wed Thomas Seymour, producing her only child Mary Seymour. In 1548 departed this life. In history, she endures as the last wife of Henry VIII and England's most-married queen.

7. Daughter Mary I (1516-1558)

Mary Tudor entered the world on 18 February 1516 at Greenwich Palace. As the sole surviving sole child of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, she was raised beneath her mother's close supervision. She was subject to a humanist education congruous to a royal heir. She mastered Latin, French, Spanish and Italian alongside music and courtly refinement. Her fortunes shifted with her father's bid to annul his marriage and sever England's bond with Rome. The 1534 break with the Papacy saw her declared illegitimate, stripped of her titles and forbidden contact from her mother. Pressured by her kinsman Emperor Charles V, she submitted to Henry's authority and demands. Her place at the court and inclusion were restored under the Act of Succession 1544 while the title of "Bastard" latched onto her.

Resolute to her Catholic faith under her Protestant half-brother Edward VI, Mary refused to abandon the Mass. She defied reformist laws and positioned herself as the focal point for Catholic loyalists. Upon Edward's death in July 1553, she rallied East Anglia and entered London in triumph to claim the throne as England's first queen regnant against the attempted usurpation by Lady Jane Grey. Mary's reign advanced towards the restoration of Catholicism. In 1554, she married Philip of Spain to solidify a Habsburg alliance and reinstated papal



supremacy with Parliament's assent. The same year, Wyatt's Rebellion emerged against her marriage, which she quelled with a speech that rallied London to her cause. She restored heresy laws that ushered in the Marian persecutions, during which nearly 300 Protestants were burned.

Despite her zeal, her reign carried bitter setbacks: she possessed no heir and lost the last English possession in France: Calais, in January 1558. Mary departed Earth on 17 November 1558 and left the crown to her half-sister Elizabeth to tackle an incomplete Catholic restoration with a reign that earned her the epithet "Bloody Mary."

8. Daughter Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

Elizabeth Tudor was born in 1533 to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, with an arrival initially welcomed by hope yet quickly shadowed by political fragility. The execution of her mother in 1536 brought along the illegitimate label upon her. However, this blow did not halt her reception of humanist education. Her curriculum enabled her to master Latin, French and Italian, acquire proficiency in Greek and study theology and statecraft. Under Edward, she outwardly conformed to Protestant reforms while cultivating independent judgement. Under Mary I, she was imprisoned in the Tower in 1554 due to suspected affiliation with Wyatt's Rebellion, later released but kept under surveillance.

Ascending to the throne in 1558 at the age of twenty-five she began stabilising the realm through the 1559 Religious Settlement, reasserted monarchic supremacy over the Church and tempering Protestant doctrine to reduce sectarian strife. Her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots fueled Catholic dissent after her arrival in 1568. Mary was linked to an assassination scheme with the 1586 Babington Plot and executed in 1587.

She bolstered England's navy and pursued selective support for foreign Protestant causes. She defeated the Spanish Armada in 1558 to safeguard English independence and faith, nurtured the cultural flowering of her court, patronised Shakespeare and Spenser and wielded her "Virgin Queen" status as a diplomatic utility. With a reign that ended with the Essex Rebellion, flared up by economic strain, poor harvests and political unrest, she died in 1603 at Richmond Palace. She was succeeded by James VI of Scotland who united the browns of England and Scotland.



9. Son Edward VI (1537-1553)

Edward VI entered the world on 12 October 1537 at Hampton Court Palace. As the much-anticipated son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour jubilance was in the air. Unfortunately, the joy of his birth was shadowed twelve days later by the death of his mother. Contradictingly, his christening on 15 October in the Chapel Royal was performed with all the gravity and display worthy of a Tudor heir. Under the tutelage of eminent humanists such as Sir Anthony Cooke, Edward acquired mastery of Greek and Latin, a solid ground in theology and a keen awareness of political statecraft. He possessed a reserved, steadfast nature with an inclination of early convictions toward the Protestant cause.

When Henry VIII died in January 1547, the nine-year-old Edward succeeded to the throne. He was crowned on 20 February. Initially dominated by his uncle, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset as Lord Protector, a Regency Council administered the realm. Somerset's fall in 1549 transmitted the power to John Dudley, later Duke of Northumberland. Dudley's administration carried the reforming agenda further. Edward's reign sanctioned the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549 and its more uncompromising revision of 1552 in cooperation with Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Catholic rites and the Mass were outlawed and reforms were reinforced by the Act of Uniformity. These eventuated in nationwide resistance, suppressed with severity. In the meantime, France did not hold back from declaring war and adding further strain.

Stricken by illness in January 1553, Edward drafted his "Device for the Succession." Lady Jane Grey appeared to have earned his favour with Mary and Elizabeth excluded. Edward died on 6 July at the age of fifteen. The nine-day reign of Jane ended with Mary's takeover, which brought the reversal of Edward's reforms and Jane's execution. Though brief, Protestant liturgy was anchored in the 1552 Book of Common Prayer. Therefore, shaping the Anglican tradition long after his passing.

F. The Reign of Henry VIII

1. Structure and Conduct of Governance



a. Summary

Henry VIII dismantled the Council Learned, redirected royal justice through Wolsey's enlarged Star Chamber and equity-oriented Chancery and by the Eltham Ordinances, restricted direct access to the monarch while dividing household service from policy counsel, thereby transforming personal kingship into a more institutionalized regime. The realm was bound under uniform authority through the incorporation of Wales with shire divisions, Great Sessions and a formal Council; refounding the Council in the North as a permanent conciliar court; arming the Crown with proclamations for rapid governance, limited from touching property or life; and, in 1540, contracting and professionalising the Privy Council with a clerk and register to coordinate administration and secure collective continuity in the succession.

b. 1510 - Abolition of the Council Learned in Law

Henry's first parliament, summoned between Jan-Feb 1510, prioritised dismantlement over innovation. It assaulted the fiscal-legal machinery of the Council Learned in Law under Sir Richard Empson and Edmond Dudley. The General Repeal Act abolished prosecutions-by-information that had sustained their authority. 1 Hen VIII c. 15 simultanesiusly confiscated their lands and trusts. These measures struck at the institutional nuclei of their power without prosecuting them for treason. These repulsed the young king to stray from his father's extractive governance. The process was concluded by the 1512 reversal of Dudley's attainder and subsequent property settlements.

c. 1515 - Appointment of Thomas Wolsey as Lord Chancellor

Between 1514 and 1515, Wolsey rose from Bishop of Lincoln to Archbishop of York. He was created cardinal on 10 September 1515 by Pope Leo X, aided by his logistical and diplomatic service in the French campaign of 1512-1514. Appointed Lord Chancellor days after William Warham's resignation that materialized on 22 December 1515, he refined Chancery, expanded the Star Chamber and Court of Requests and introduced the Subsidy, benevolences and forced loans. He united supreme ecclesiastical and civil authority for the next fourteen years.



 d. 1515-1529 - Expansion of Star Chamber Jurisdiction: Wolsey Chancery Procedural Reforms

From 1515 to 1530, Wolsey reoriented the Star Chamber and Chancery into a high-profile forum for prerogative justice. He expanded its caseload and jurisdiction to cover riot, maintenance, perjury and corruption while separating it from routine political business. In Chancery, he modernised equity procedure through subpoena-based processes and flexible remedies, accelerating hearings and widening access to poorer subjects. These measures curtailed magnate influence, violated the boundaries of common low authority and strengthened direct Crown governance across the realm.

e. 1526 - Eltham Ordinances

Promulgated at Eltham in January 1526, the ordinances sought to regulate the Tudor household by tightening Privy Chamber access, institutionalizing service routines and imposing fixed provisioning and travel logistics. They distinguished chamber service from policy counsel through a small, flexible "council attendant," enabling governance in the King's presence. Though only partly enforced, they aimed to professionalise court management, reduce costs and centralise royal access. These principles were later revived in Cromwell's 1538-1540 reforms.

f. 1536-1542 - Laws in Wales Acts

The Act of Union of 1536 annexed Wales and the marcher lordships to the English Crown. It abolished marcher autonomy and imposed English law, tenure and shire-based governance. It declared Wales "forever" incorporated, dismantled marcher jurisdictions and bound inhabitants to the Crown's legal authority. Counties and select boroughs were granted parliamentary representation, while provisions mandated the use of English law and office. It sought to integrate public administration and curb social custom.

The Act of 1543 consolidated this settlement by standardising county administration across Wales. It created Quarter Sessions under justices of the peace and established the Great Sessions as a Welsh high court equivalent to the English assizes. Additionally, it formalised the Council of Wales and the Marches as a regional prerogative body with appellate and



governance powers. Together, these statues fused Welsh territory, law and institutions into the Tudor state. Therefore, enabling the exercisement of direct royal authority throughout the principality.

g. 1537 - Reorganisation of the Council of the North

Reconstituted after the 1536-1537 risings, the King's Council in the North became a permanent court for Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland with Lancashire reached by special commission. Headed by a president and mixed bench, it organised four annual sessions, sustained capped fees and reserved major cases for Westminster. Its scope extended to governance and border security. It supervised justices, official disciplining, royal policy enforcement and fortification coordination. The Council chiefly operated from York while maintaining a quarters at Newcastle under Westminster's ultimate authority.

h. 1539 - Proclamation by the Crown Act

The Statue of Proclamation 1539 authorised Henry VIII and his council to issue proclamations enforceable in the absence of Parliament, excluding measures affecting property, liberties, good and life. It was barred from contradicting existing law. Administered by the King's Council and local officers -its 1542 supplement mandating public notice- it was principally utilized for swift economic and public order regulation before repeal in 1547; the Case of Proclamations 1610 later confirmed that such orders required statutory basis.

i. 1540 - Reorganisation of the Privy Council: Cromwell's Reforms

Following Cromwell's fall in mid-1540, Henry VIII replaced single-minister dominance with a smaller, corporate Privy Council. It was formalised on 10 August by appointing William Paget as clerk to keep continuous daily registers of determinations and letters. Its membership balanced conservatives, reformers and administrative professionals, thus converting ad hoc counsel into a permanent executive that coordinated with the Councils in the North and the Marches through commissions, legal referrals and shared enforcement. Subordinate officers followed the royal person to ensure rapid response and integrated governance. Henry's will embedded this model for Edward IV's minority, rejecting a sole

regent in favour of collective authority. In the meantime, Cromwell's earlier bureaucratic discipline -agenda control, secretarial routines and departmental order- enabled the council to function as the central hub of the late Henrician government without disruption.

2. Military, Naval and Foreign Policy

a. Summary

Henry VIII's statecraft fused chivalric display with facilitative, transactional leverage. England maneuvered between France and the Habsburgs, playing one against another to convert campaigns into pensions, prestige and strategic security rather than overextending into an ungovernable continental empire. Sea power was treated as an army afloat. The King constructed a standing navy and a fortified coastal chain to command the English Channel and deter hostile landings. In Scotland, he pursued dynastic union through marriage as his primary method. Seeing diplomacy break, Henry VIII shifted to coercion. In war, he sought compact, defensible and negotiable gains. In peace, he converted those gains into revenue, diplomatic capital and breathing space to replenish for the next contest.

b. 1510 - Renewal of Treaty of Etaples

The treaty was concluded in London on 23 March 1510, proclaimed 3 April and sworn by Louis XII on 22 July. This oath-bound peace -negotiated by Fox, Ruthall and Howard-temporarily steadied Tudor-Valois relations amid the Italian Wars. Guided by conciliar caution, it bought time for Henry's warlike leanings regarding naval and fiscal preparations, including the 1511 launch of the Mary Rose and eased immediate Scottish pressure under the Auld Alliance.

c. 1511 - Creation of Holy League

Formed on 4 October 1511 by Pope Julius II with Venice and Spain to expel France from Italy, the Holy League arose in response to the schismatic council at Pisa. England threw its weight behind the alliance via the November 1511 Treaty of Westminster with Spain. The League expanded in 1512 with Maximilian I and the Swiss; Swiss victory at Novara on 6



June 1513 was later reversed at Marignano. The Treaty of Mechelen signed on 5 April 1513 formalised it as a multi-party alliance.

d. 1511 - Launch of Mary Rose

Ordered 29 January 1510 and launched by July 1511 at Portsmouth, the Mary Rose -paired with Peter Pomegranate- blended religious and dynastic symbolism. She was a mixed-arms capital ship rigged on the Thames, initially under John Clerke then Thomas Sperte. As flagship to Lord Admiral Edward Howard (1512), she cleared French shipping from the English Channel, later ferrying troops to Scotland (1513). Her rapid commissioning made her the operational spearhead of Henry VIII's opening naval campaigns.

e. 1512 - First Invasion of France

In 1512, Henry entered the Holy League's war by landing 10,000-12,000 under Dorset near San Sebastián to "recover Guyenne." However, Ferdinand of Aragon diverted resources to seize Navarre, abandoning the English; contributing to the dissemination of disease and desertion, forcing re-embarkation in October. At sea, Sir Edward Howard's fleet raided the Breton coast, blockaded the Channel and destroyed the Regent and Marie la Cordelière at St-Mathieu on 10 August in a mutual explosion. Thus, learning that broadside gunports prove decisive in securing naval dominance despite the land failure and coalition war demands aligned objectives; supply, route, and troop health outweigh raw numbers.

f. 1513 Aug 16 - Battle of the Spurs

On 16 August 1513, near Guinegate, Artois, French cavalry advancing the resupply besieged Thérouanne confronted Henry VIII and Maximilian I's Anglo-Imperial covering force. English mounted archers dismounted to fire from hedged positions, pressing forward as the French began to retreat. A flanking push dispersed their formation, triggered a rout that lent the fight its name: "Battle of the Spurs." Among the captives were Louis d'Orléans, Duke of Longueville, and Pierre Terrail, seigneur de Bayard. The defeat ended French relief efforts, leading to Thérouanne's surrender within days and Henry's subsequent capture of Tournai in September.



g. 1513 Sep 9 - Battle of Flodden

In September 1513, James IV unleashed his army on England under the Auld Alliance, conquering Norham, Etal and Ford before entrenching on Flodden Edge. Surrey's wide flanking march pushed Scots to redeployment on the Branxton Hill, where lighter English artillery and billmen broke the cumbersome pike formations in close combat. James fell near his banner; approximately 10,000 Scots, including many nobles, clergy and senior officers were slain. This left the infantry James V to succeed under a regency.

h. 1514 - Peace of Saint Germain-en-Laye & Mary Tudor-Louis XII Marriage Treaty

The Treaty of Saint-Germain, brokered by Thomas Wolsey, brought an end to the Anglo-French war on terms of mutual frontier peace, English pension receipts and conditional control of Tournai in late 1514. As part of the settlement, Henry VIII's sister Mary married Louis XII. The marriage was staged as a dynastic union of the English rose and the French lily and further reinforced the treaty's image of peace. For England, the accord provided a pause to restore financial assets and reconstruct forces after 1513. For the French, it secured the northern frontier in the midst of Habsburg pressure.

i. 1515 Jan 1 - Death of Louis XII and the Accession of Francis I

On 1 January 1515, Louis XII died at Hôtel des Tournelles followed by François d'Angoulême' succession as Francis I. Immediate royal circulars announced the latest developments and ordered civic vigilance: towns were to keep night guards, use lanterns, confirm privileges and maintain judicial continuity. On 2 January, Francis styled himself with a fancy title in letters to the Swiss, prompting his Italian claims and instructed envoys to England to delay departure pending new orders. Boulogne was placed under La Fayette's watch, Rouen under the Duke of Alençon. Coronation took place at Reims on 25 January 1515.

j. 1516 - Treaty of Noyon



On 13 August 1516, the Treaty of Noyon among Francis I of France and Charles of Castile/Aragon ceased the war in Lombardy. France was promised territorial retention in Milan; Spain kept Naples, to pass as dowry when Charles married Princess Louise of France, with an interim pension of 100,000 écus d'or to Francis. Anti-aid clauses inhibited support to each other's adversaries. On 13 December, Maximilian adhered to Brussels for 200,000 ducats and renounced his imperial claims in Italy. The treaty ratified Spanish withdrawal from the war; Francis's security of Milan; Charles's confirmation in Naples with financial support with later ties to unresolved Navarre question.

k. 1517 - Treaty of Cambrai

On 11 March 1517, Treaty of Cambrai between Francis I of France, Emperor Maximilian I and King Charles of Spain renewed the Valois-Habsburg understandings of Noyon in August 1516 and Brussels in December 1516. It bound parties to mutual territorial defence, validated French possession of Milan and the Spanish right to Naples, barred aid to each other's enemies or rebels and pledged coordination against the emerging Ottoman threat. It was ratified by Maximilian and Charles on 14 Mary and by Francis on 10 July, consolidating the post-Miarignano compromise in Italy as a tripartite guarantee securing prior gains.

1. 1518 Oct - Treaty of London

On 2 October 1518, the Treaty of London began as an Anglo-French accord that expanded into a Europe-wide non-aggression pact in response to Pope Leo X's 1517 peace call under the orchestration of Cardinal Wolsey. It obligated signatories to mutual defence, forbade aiding an ally's enemy and set standard alliance clauses. It was ratified on 3 October in a solemn Mass at St. Paul's. It was paired with Anglo-French terms restoring Tournai and other towns for 600,000 crowns and betrothing Princess Mary to the French Dauphin. Permanent ambassadorial exchange was established, and within days Francis I empowered Wolsey to arrange a royal meeting, leading toward the 1520 Field of Cloth of Gold.

m. 1519 Jan 12 - Death of Maximilian I; Charles V elected Holy Roman Emperor

On 12 January 1519, Emperor Maximilianm I died at Wels, ending a reign that had consolidated Habsburg dominions across the Empire, Burgundy and Spain. 28 June 1519

oversaw the prince-electors meeting in the Electoral Chapel of Frankfurt Cathedral and -after a contested Habsburg-Valois race- unanimously chose Charles of Habsburg. Already king of Spain, he became the King of the Romans. The Brandenburg vote was notarized as cast "out of fear" as a reflection of electoral pressure.

Charles accepted the first-ever imperial electoral capitulation on 3 July 1519, in which he pledged to uphold electors' privileges, govern via the Reichsregiment, restrict unilateral taxation and legal innovation and pursue measures comprising currency reform. His campaign relied on Fugger-bank financing and inducements to secure votes. Delayed by Spanish affairs, Charles entered Germany in 1520 and was crowned at Aachen on 23 October emperor-elect with a pending papal coronation.

n. 1520 Jun 7-20 - Field of Cloth of Gold

On 7 June 1520, Henry VIII and Francis I met at the Val d'Or between Guînes and Andres for an eighteen-day festival affirming the 1518 Treaty of London. Each monarch was maintained in lavish camps -the English with a canvas-and-glass palace, the French in vast pavilions- and staged jousts, banquets and a solemn Mass on 23 June. Approximately 12,000 attended, consuming over 200,000 litres of wine, 66,000 of beer and 2,000 sheep. The king exchanged gifts on 24 June before parting. Soon, Wolsey arranged Henry's meeting with Charles V. Showing that the display masked competing alliances.

o. 1521 Aug - Treaty of Bruges

In August 1521, at Bruges, Wolsey discreetly concluded with Charles V that England and the Empire would jointly declare war on France by March 1523. England was to field 10,000 cavalry and 30,000 infantry under Henry VIII. Simultaneously, Charles assaulted the Low Countries. The Pact comprised a projected marriage between Charles and Princess Mary, contingent on papal dispensation and kept under strict secrecy. The treaty was publicly formalised on 24 November 1521. Thus, materializing England's full rotation from the 1518 Anglo-French accord to full imperial alignment, annulling Mary's French betrothal and committing both power to coordinated military action.



p. 1525 Feb 24 - Battle of Pavia

On 24 February 1525, at Pavia, Imperial forces under Lannoy, Pescara and Bourbon launched a pre-dawn assault through the Mirabello park, blindsiding the army of Francis I in fog. The French gendarmes' charge obscured their own artillery while Spanish arquebusiers and Frundsberg's Landsknetchs shattered the French line, annihilating the Black Band. In under two hours, some 8,000 French were killed; Francis was captured, writing to his mother that only his honour and life remained. The victory secured Habsburg supremacy in Italy and eventuated in the Treaty of Madrid 1526, which Francis soon repudiated.

q. 1526 - League of Cognac

On 22 May 1526 at Cognac, Francis I, Pope Clement VII, Venice, Florence and Francesco II Sforza formed an anti-Habsburg alliance to curb imperial dominance in Italy. It was styled as a sworn "amicitia." It forbade aid to the Emperor and aimed to preserve the "libertà d'Italia," maintain Milan under Sforze and resist imperial garrisons and taxation. Concluding after Francis repudiated the unratified Treaty of Madrid, it marked France's re-entry into the Italian Wars. The League's formation strained tensions for the War of the League of Cognac (1526-1530), resulting in events such as the Colonna raid on Rome (1526) and the Sack of Rome (6 May 1527).

r. 1527 May 6 - Sack of Rome

On 6 May 1527, Imperial Landsknechts and Spanish infantry stormed Rome; commander Charles de Bourbon was killed during the first assault. Swiss Guards mounted a last stand to cover Pope Clement VII's getaway via the Passetto to Castel Sant'Angelo, suffering 147 casualties out of 189. Weeks of plunder, hostage-taking and religious desecration tailed. On 6 June, Clement submitted to a 400,000-ducat ransom and remained a prisoner. In the end, the sack nearly eradicated papal authority and ended Rome's High Renaissance ascendancy.

s. 1529 Aug - Peace of Cambrai

In 3 August 1529, at Cambrai, the Peace of Cambrai was brokered by Louise of Savoy for Frances I and Margaret of Austria for Charles V, earning the nickname "Laides' Peace).

Francis renounced Italian claims and overlord rights in Flanders/Artois while Charles dropped the Burgundy demand. It was decided that France would pay two million gold écus to release Francis's two sons who had been held hostage since Madrid, 1526 and revive his marriage to Eleanor of Austria. The peace was preceded by the Treaty of Barcelona in June 1529 in the presence of the Pope, ending the League of Cognac, confirming Sforze in Milan and leaving Italy under Habsburg control while preserving French territorial integrity.

t. 1529 Oct - Fall of Wolsey

In October 1529, with Henry's divorce case stalled, Wolsey was indicted on 9 October in the King's Bench for praemunire; accused of exercising papal authority through bulls that granted him his legatine commission. On 17 October, Wolsey surrendered the Great Seal to the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk; reaching Henry at Windsor on the 20th, then passed to Thomas More on the 25th when he was sworn in as Lord Chancellor. On 22 October, Wolsey acknowledged the offence, forfeited all lands, goods, offices and debts to the king, facing potential perpetual imprisonment. The praemunire charge thus provided the legal authority to strip him of wealth and power in a formal manner.

u. 1538 Jun - Truce of Nice

On 18 June 1538 at Nice, Pope Paul III secured a ten-year truce among Francis I and Charles V, silencing the Italian War of 1536-38 on a status quo basis. France retained Hesdin and Mirandola, the Swiss kept the Pays de Vaud and the Duke of Savoy was reduced to Nice. Talks were held in a neutral pavilion following Savoy's refusal of papal use regarding the citadel; Paul lodged in a convent, Charles in his galley. Plans for broader peace and anti-Ottoman action flopped and Northern Italian disputes continued. In July, the two monarchs met at Aigues-Mortes in a staged compromise and confirmed the truce.

v. 1539 - "Device" Coastal Forts and Naval Musters During Invasion Scare

In 1538, peace between Francis I and Charles V was followed by Pope Paul III's excommunication of Henry VIII that fueled invasion fears. In early 1539, Henry VIII issued a "device" in the name of national defence, ordering coastal inspections and new artillery forts. The first phase, lasting from 1539 to 1540, constructed Deal, Walmer, Sandown and Camber

Castle; later works extended to the Solent, including Hurst and Southsea. Integrated musters, including the 8 May 1539 guaranteed rapid mobilisation. The scheme became England's first centrally-commended, artillery-centric coastal defence system since the Roman era.

w. 1542 Nov 24 - Battle of Solway Moss

On 24 November 1542, near Solway Moss, nearly 17-18,000 Scots under leading nobles crossed the Esk to assault English land. Sir Thomas Wharton's 2-3,000-strong English force, dominantly armed with bows and bills, occupied a hillside reserve and pressed with cavalry. Scottish unity broke under flanking pressure; retreat funneled into the bog at Sandy Ford, trapping men and horses. The English seized thousands of mounts, 24 guns and over 30 standards along with hundreds of prisoners. Absent from the field, James V died weeks later, abandoning infant Mary, Queen of Scots and opening the way to the Rough Wooing.

x. 1543 Jul 1 - Treaty of Greenwich

On 1 July 1541, Greenwich Palace witnessed the agreement between England and Scotland to a truce and the betrothal of Mary, Queen of Scots to Prince Edward for dynastic unity purposes. In Scotland, the deal saw initial backing by Regent Arran, soon to face Cardinal Beaton and Mary of Guise rallying a pro-French faction, ending in Arran joining them by December. On 11 December, by the Scottish Parliament, both agreements were annulled, the Auld Alliance was reaffirmed and Scotland inclined toward France. Henry VIII retaliated with armed enforcement, initiating the Rough Wooing. Thus, diverting focus from Mary's future negotiations and prolonging the Anglo-Scottish War.

y. 1544 - Capture of Boulogne

The Siege of Boulogne began in mid-July 1544 with English assets capturing the lower town before concentrating their lines on the upper defences. On 13 September, French commander Jacques de Coucy settled with the terms alongside the Duke of Suffolk: townspeople were permitted to evacuate unharmed with their goods. Henry VIII performed his royal entry on 18 September, keys presented and a naked sword borne before him to invoke the idea of annexation. The operation developed as Charles V made peace with Francis I at Crépy,



therefore, diplomatically isolating England. After the evacuation, Boulogne was fortified and thereafter treated as a permanent English possession.

z. 1545 Jul 18-19 - Battle of the Solent

On 18-19 July 1545, Admiral d'Annebault's French fleet entered the Solent to strike Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. Lord Admiral Dudley maintained the English fleet in narrow channels under the coverage of shore batteries, simultaneously, Henry VIII observed from Southsea. On the 19th, calm weather enabled French galleys to press in while a breeze later freed the English van. Unfortunately, Mary Rose suddenly capsized and sank, leaving only 30-40 survivors. Lisle blocked further French advancements utilizing tide and shoals, forcing a withdrawal. The failed assault was swathed by coastal artillery and geographic advantage despite the loss of a major vessel.

aa. 1546 Jun 7 - Treaty of Ardres/Guînes

On 7 June 1546, at a camp between Ardres and Guînes, French Admiral Claude d'Annebault and English Lord Admiral Viscount Lisle concluded a treaty that halted the Anglo-French war of 1542-46. Boulogne was to remain in English hands for eight more years, after which it would be repatriated to France for two million crowns alongside renewed French pension payments. Both parties compromised on ceasing further fortifications in the Boulonnais, repairing the frontier and recognising Henry VIII's rule there as by right of conquest rather than feudal tenure. Although set to persist until 1554, Boulogne was surrendered early in March 1554 under Edward VI for a lump-sum payment, ending the brief English possession.

3. Reformation of Religious Affairs

Before the English Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church was highly influential in England. Churches were an integral part of the communities as all communities had a church of their own and it was in churches that many important events such as baptisms, marriages, funerals, masses took place in. The clergy met with the people once a week and preached about how to become a good person in the eyes of the Catholic God. Monasteries provided healthcare during a time where there was no healthcare being provided by the state. Monasteries also provided the chance of becoming a monk or a nun for the devoted Catholics



to become closer to God. Masses were performed in Latin, meaning that most of the common folk did not understand what was being said but had the "general idea".

From the government's eye, maybe one of the most important things about churches and monasteries was that they were not taxed. Any money that came to a church, via donations etc., was either used for the church itself and its clergy or sent to Rome, to the Papacy. They also were in possession of large lands and were wealthy. The head of the Church was the Pope and the church had a whole law system with its own courts, called the Ecclesial courts, separate from the laws made by the king and parliament and based on the canon law based on the Bible. The most senior member of the clergy was the Archbishop of Canterbury, appointed by both the monarch and the Pope in the way the monarch recommended the person and the Pope approved. This system, however, sometimes caused conflicts between the monarch and the Pope as they did not always agree on who to appoint. Still, most of the time, the relationship between the Church and the Monarch was maintained.

It was no surprise that when he ascended to the throne, Henry VIII continued the past policies. Henry VIII himself was brought up as a devout Catholic. He respected the Pope and was against the newly emerging Lutheranism, the ideology that emerged from Martin Luther's posting of "95 Thesis", challenging the Roman Catholic Church. Many Catholic monarchs responded in their own ways, so did Henry VIII. He wrote *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum* (Defense of the Seven Sacraments), sent letters to Leo X, the Pope at the time. One letter reads:

"Most Holy Father,

As we Catholic Sovereigns should uphold religion, when We saw Luther's heresy running wild, for the sake of Germany, and still more for the love of the Holy Apostolic See, We tried to weed out this heresy. Seeing its widespread havoc, we called on all to help Us to eradicate it, particularly the Emperor and the Electoral Princes. Lest, however, this be not enough to show Our mind on Luther's wicked books, We shall defend and guard the Holy Roman Church not only by force of arms, but also by Our wits. And therefore, We dedicate to Your holiness Our first fruits, confident that an abundant harvest will be gathered and Your Holiness approve Our Work.

From Our Royal Palace at Greenwich, 21st May 1521

Your Holiness' most devoted and humble son, Henry by the grace of God King of

England and France, and Lord of Ireland"

His very public disdain of Martin Luther and his ideas earned Henry VIII the title of "Defender of the Faith" by Leo X in 152.

With the issue of not having a male heir from his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, his policies started to change. Divorce was not a thing in Catholicism unless the marriage had a circumstance which was against the canon law. The Pope did not annul the marriage between Catherine and Henry on the grounds of the marriage being valid and this decision started the English Reformation. Very rapidly, Henry, with the newly established Reformation Parliament, passed new legislations that first limited the Vatican's influence on the English Church and then completely removed the Pope from the Church of England, making Henry VIII and all the subsequent monarchs the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Churches and monasteries were taxed, the money went to the government. Appeal of the King's decisions to Rome was prohibited. The teachings of the churches were changed with several Acts, removing the more Catholic teachings and including more Protestant. Religious images, crucifixes, and other religious articles were removed from churches. An English Bible was published and it became mandatory to teach religion in English. Catholic masses were banned and people attending the masses secretly were fined.

Monasteries were dissolved in order to remove the remaining Catholic influence and the lands were sold. People who did not agree with the King and his new decisions on religion were executed. Heresy was already a crime before Henry VIII, both to the state and the Church. With Henry's new policies, the state became the head of the Church, meaning that heresy against the Church meant heresy against the state. Criticising either meant exile or execution. Henry VIII was harsh in his implementation of the Reformation. The details of the Reformation are in the "Relationship with the Pope and the English Reformation" part of the guide.

4. Management and Keeping of National Economy and Revenues

Henry VII was a careful king when it came to spending money. Thus, when he died and Henry VIII ascended to the throne, the new King had a full treasury, estimated to be around 1.4 million pounds. Henry VIII wasn't the richest king in Europe but had a respectful amount of money under his hands. Unfortunately for him and the nation, Henry VIII, unlike his father, was an extravagant spender. In his first year of reign, he spent nearly an entire year's



tax revenue on a Christmas celebration and throughout his reign, he continued to spend enormous amounts of money on himself. Also, another thing that was draining the treasury was the wars. Thus, Henry VIII policies on fiscal affairs was mainly getting money wherever and however he could to feed his overspending.

As normal revenues such as taxes, rents, customs etc. started to be insufficient to cover the expenses, for a while, subsidies from the Parliament became the primary income for the treasure but it wasn't the most optimal idea as they were limited and had to be handled with care. Henry VIII turned to loans that were not paid back and benevolences from the wealthy to sustain his spending habits. He could put pressure on people because he was the King and he lived by the "King's will", thinking it would guarantee him money. However, it was still not enough. The money the Crown got from dissolving the monasteries was quite a remarkable one, nearly as much as the amount he had inherited from his father. Unfortunately and expectedly, Henry did not care about having a sustainable growth of the treasury and dumped the money he got from selling the monastery lands into the wars. Another tactic he tried was the debasement of coins. In the short term, it worked to generate cash; however, it also caused inflation and economic instability, leading foreign banks and merchants to distrust anything to do with English currency, so much so that creditors refused debased money and demanded goods instead.

The Court of Augmentations was established to manage the doomed loop of getting money fast, dumping money faster. Again, the Court was used to do the exact thing it was designed to prevent: getting money fast, dumping money faster. The Privy Council was preoccupied with fiscal matters but no matter what they tried, the money was being spent fast. Taxes were raised and the common folk were not happy about it. One of the reasons for the Pilgrimage of Hope, one of the most significant uprisings during the Tudor reign, was the fact that the North was struggling because of inflation and raised taxes, nearly bankrupting York.

England, despite not having a stable fiscal policy, managed to stay economically stable. Still, the so-called policy of getting quick money damaged the reputation of the English economy and left his successors with the burden of having to fix the fiscal system. Henry VIII made money however and wherever he could, without really thinking about the consequences, leading to a loop of short-term revenues to get large sums of money, overspending it and finding himself in need of money without establishing stability.



Status of Succession and Crown Safety



The issue of succession in Tudor England at this time was also an issue of religion. Edward was the obvious successor in the eyes of Europe and the court, as his mother's marriage's legitimacy had never been called into question and he was male. An Edwardian England would mean the steadfast continuation of the Protestant faith within the Church of England and the growing significance of advisors since Edward was only nine years old when he ascended the throne, there was also the question of who the queen consort would be once Edward was of age which would open the discussion on potential foreign or domestic alliances. Edward did succeed his father, but he died due to illness at 15, having ruled only for six years. Many believed that after Edward's death, the throne would rightfully belong to Mary, the eldest child of Henry VIII who was around 36-37 years old when Edward died. However, Edward had left in his will that it would be Lady Jane Grey, who was the great granddaughter of Henry VII. She became queen for 9 days before her execution by Mary I, whether she was ever a queen at all has been contested throughout history. Jane's queenship would have also meant the continuation of the Church of England and a Protestant Queen, which was probably what Edward or his advisors considered suitable since they knew Mary was a staunch Catholic. After Mary ascended the throne, she married Philip II of Spain, becoming Queen Regnant of England and Queen Consort of Spain simultaneously. Mary's reign would bear the weight of what had happened to her and her mother after the English Reformation; she tried with all her might to restore England to Catholicism and reverse the English Reformation, which most courtiers did not like. She was later dubbed "Bloody Mary" for her execution of Protestants, she also kept Elizabeth under close watch because she believed Elizabeth would conspire against her with her Protestant supporters, no records show that such conspiracies took place. Mary's reign meant the comeback of Catholicism and a strong Spanish alliance, but it would not last long, as Mary passed away with no living

children in November 1558. Elizabeth succeeded Mary, and she was met with much support due to her tolerant views on religion, a motto of hers was famously "I see and keep silent.". However, her reign was not without its problems, since her mother Anne Boleyn's marriage was declared illegitimate, there were many attempts upon her life especially by Catholics in England. But she ruled for 44 years, and this brought a much-needed stability to England after the short reigns of her siblings and the relatively aggressive policies of her father. She upheld the Church of England, and refused to marry, stating she was "married to England", she was celebrated for her Virgin Queen status, and was dubbed "Gloriana" and "Good Queen Bess". It is debated as to why she remained unmarried, many thought she did not want to commit to any foreign alliance and others cited the fate of her mother as a factor in her view of marriage. The stability she provided allowed for the flourishing of English literature, we can see here that playwrights like Shakespeare throve under her rule. She died without an heir in 1603 and was succeeded by her cousin, James VI of Scotland.

5. Regulation of Society and Stewardship of Land

During Henry VIII's reign, English society was shaped by the idea of the Great Chain of Being, which justified its strict hierarchy. Unlike his father, Henry VIII actively sought popularity among his subjects while at the same time curbing the influence of the nobility. He expanded the authority of Justices of the Peace (JPs) and leaned on trusted courtiers in his Privy Chamber for close counsel. Even so, the nobility still reaped major benefits from the dissolution of the monasteries, buying up confiscated church lands to increase their wealth and estates. Beneath the nobility, society was clearly stratified. The gentry were wealthy landowners without aristocratic titles. Merchants thrived in towns as traders. Yeomen were independent farmers who owned their land, while husbandmen also owned small plots but usually only produced enough for their households. At the lowest levels were cottagers and laborers, who worked other people's land in exchange for wages. Relationships between landlords and tenants were based on mutual obligation: tenants owed loyalty and deference, and in return noble landlords provided protection in a paternalistic fashion.

Henry VIII also worked to centralize royal authority through the Henrician Reformation, extending tighter control over Wales and the north. The Act of Union (1536) brought Wales fully into the English legal and governmental system, dividing it into three shires, placing JPs under royal authority, and sending 24 Welsh MPs to Parliament. In the north, after the

Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion (1536), the Council of the North was revived to strengthen the Crown's authority, supervise JPs, and prosecute serious crimes such as treason. Meanwhile, the Act of Liberties and Franchises (1535) stripped away the special powers of certain regional nobles, reducing semi-independent authority in places like Durham, where the bishop had previously governed almost as a ruler in his own right. Together, these changes reinforced both the deeply hierarchical order of society and the supremacy of the Crown over regions that had once enjoyed more autonomy.

6. Tudor Legitimacy and Dynamics within Court

The Tudor dynasty's reign was kicked off by war and turmoil, and as mentioned previously, their claim to the English throne was never ironclad. Henry VII, Henry VIII's father, famously brought the country together through his marriage to Elizabeth of York and his financially frugal policies. Henry inherited a financially stable England free of pretenders, but the Tudor quest for legitimacy was not over yet. His older brother, Prince Arthur, had died young; and Henry was never groomed to be king. In fact, he grew up learning scripture and composing music. When Prince Arthur passed away, Henry was left behind as the only son of the Tudor dynasty. His father immediately moved him closer to his quarters and his freedom was largely restricted due to fears of him falling ill or getting injured. The unexpected pressure of kingship that was put on Henry from a young age bled into the way he led his country once he ascended the throne of England. The fact that his first son by Catherine of Aragon who was supposed to be Henry IX did not survive infancy, and they continued to lose children, leaving Mary as his only legitimate heir, fed into his fears. Although he felt secure early on in his reign, with a strong Spanish alliance and a financially affluent country with no domestic threats, as time passed he became paranoid. He was afraid that he would be poisoned or assassinated, which would end the Tudor line. His paranoia can be observed through the architecture of his home, Hampton Court Palace; he purposefully had "listening figures" installed in the main hall of the court, to remind courtiers that someone was always listening and nothing in court would remain a secret. His fearful and aggressive disposition was noted by everyone in court, and courtiers, even his Oueens and his most trusted advisors walked on eggshells around him, careful to pick every word and action. Courtiers could fall in and out of favor rapidly, and could even lose their heads if they took a single wrong step. Delegates of this committee would be advised to keep a similar temperament.



7. Relationship with the Pope and the English Reformation

Henry VIII's ideas on Catholicism started to change when his wife, Catherine of Aragon, couldn't give him what he wanted the most, a male heir. They had several children; however, only one of them survived into adulthood, Mary, born in 1516. As the second ruler of the Tudors, the heir situation was important to Henry VIII as it meant the continuation of the rule of Tudors and Mary, even though she was a legitimate daughter of the King and the Queen, no woman ruled England before and given the mindset of the day, a male heir was much more desirable. Henry VIII had several mistresses, as most monarchs did, and he had illegitimate children from some of them. Most notably, he had a son from Elizabeth Blount, one of Catherine of Aragon's ladies-in-waiting, called Henry Fitzroy, born in 1519, and he is the only child not from his wives that he claimed as his own. Still, him being a boy did not mean he could be an heir at the time. The birth of Henry put more strain on the relationship between the King and the Queen, a relationship once seemed full of trust. Henry VIII's eyes wandered more as time passed by with no male heir coming from Catherine. As she turned 40 in 1525 and withdrew from court life.

An important figure in the Reformation comes into play with Henry VIII meeting and falling for Anne Boleyn, the sister of Mary Boleyn who was a mistress of the King, in 1526. However, Anne was not like the other mistresses and she refused to have relationships with the King while he was still married. This was a push for Henry VIII to really consider asking for a divorce. The marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine could be considered unusual as this wasn't Catherine's first marriage. In fact, she was married to Prince Arthur, the older brother of Henry. Their marriage lasted for about 5 months since Arthur died of an illness. Leviticus 18:16 states "Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother." and 20:21 states "'If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. They will be childless." Thus, under Catholic law, technically Henry and Catherine's marriage was invalid. However, both Arthur and Catherine were 15 years old at the time of their marriage and it was unlikely that they consummated their marriage and Catherine said that it was not consummated, meaning that Henry and Catherine could get married without Leviticus 18:16 and 20:21 becoming an obstacle. Henry himself chose Catherine as his Queen a few days after the death of his father. Still, when he consulted trusted theologists and churchmen about a possible ground for a divorce, Leviticus 20:21 came up and that became Henry VIII's official reason for justification for his request for



annulment of his "cursed" marriage to Catherine of Aragon which yielded him only one surviving daughter out of 6 pregnancies, 5 of them either resulting in stillbirths or the infant living for a very short time. Had the marriage between Arthur and Catherine been consummated, the marriage of Henry would have been easily annulled in England. Unfortunately for Henry, the annulment request fell under Papal jurisdiction and had to go to Rome. Henry charged Cardinal Thomas Wolsey for the task. In May 1527, the case was referred to Rome, even though Catherine did not want to get a divorce.

The Vatican was not so keen on granting Henry with the annulment he requested for several reasons. The religious reasons were the fact that Leviticus 20:21 was not a valid reason for an annulment in the case of Henry's marriage to Catherine since both because of how young they were and according to Catherine's statement, the marriage between Arthur and Catherine was not consummated. Also, Deuteronomy 25:5 states "If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her." The contradiction between Leviticus and Deuteronomy is there. However, in Henry's case, the contradiction did not matter.

There were also political reasons. The Vatican, as most states, had the policy of maintaining good relationships with the most powerful states of Europe. At the time, this powerful state was the Holy Roman Empire whose emperor was Charles V of Spain and Pope Clement VII wanted to maintain good relations with the Emperor. Unfortunately for Henry, Charles V happened to be the nephew of Catherine. Allowing Henry to divorce Catherine could hinder the relationship between the Vatican and the Holy Roman Empire. Still, the Pope sent Cardinal Lorenzo Campeggio to England for a case review and a court was held in June 1529. No conclusion was reached as a result of the court and Henry was furious. Wolsey was removed from office and Thomas More was appointed as Chancellor in 1529. On 3 November 1529, the first session of the Reformation Parliament was held. The Reformation Parliament had seven sessions in total between 1529 and 1536, establishing the legal basis of the English Reformation. Henry VIII declared himself as the Supreme Head of the Church in England in 1531.

Henry separated Mary, who was born in 1516 and the only surviving child of Catherine and Henry, from Catherine and moved Catherine from house to house, slowly stripping her of her

servants and friends between 1531 and 1536. While she was in exile, Henry moved in with Anne Boleyn who fell pregnant in late 1532. Also, two important Acts were passed: the First Act of Annates, which decreased the amount of annates (tax collected from churches) sent to Rome and Submission of the Clergy, which resulted in no more church laws passed without the king's permission. These two Acts were threatening to Rome as they both reduced the power of the Church. Submission of the Clergy angered Thomas More, so much so that he resigned from his position of Chancellor. Thomas Cranmer was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope confirmed his appointment.

Henry and Anne got married in the beginning of 1533 without the divorce of Henry from Catherine officially happening. In the first week of April 1553, Act in Restraint of Appeals, also known as the Ecclesiastical Appeals Act, passed, which prohibited the appeal to the Pope to overturn Henry's ruling on the Church matters. This was an important step in establishing the legal framework of the Reformation, ensuring the Pope could not intervene with the upcoming new regulations. It can be argued that this Act had two objectives: intimidate the Pope by showing him that Henry had the upper hand and allow Cranmer to reach a conclusion about the annulment in favour of the King without worrying about appeals from the Vatican. In just a few weeks, Cranmer has given the verdicts that the marriage between Henry and Catherine was invalid on the grounds of being contrary to the divine law and the marriage between Henry and Anne was valid. On 1 June 1553, Anne Boleyn was crowned as the Queen of England. This, of course, did not go well with the Pope and he threatened to excommunicate Henry if he did not take back Catherine. Henry, of course, refused and he was excommunicated by Pope Paul III.

1534 was quite an eventful year for the English Reformation. Two Acts in Restraints of Annates were passed, the first one cutting all the money going to the Pope and the second taxing churches 10%, the money going to the Crown. With the Act of Supremacy, maybe the most important Act passed in the history of Reformation, Henry VIII officially became the Supreme Head of the Church. Also, this Act declared all the subsequent English monarchs as the Supreme Head of the Church, removing Rome from English religion completely. The Act of Supremacy was strengthened with the Treason Act, which forbade criticism of the King and denial of the titles of the King.



Thomas Cromwell was quite an influential figure during the Reformation. After he became the vicar-general, king's vicegerent in Church affairs in 1535, he really used his powers to introduce changes to the Church and really begin to separate the newly established Anglican Church from the Roman Catholic. He issued The Injunctions which is an 11 point essay explaining what the clergy should be teaching, a noteworthy point notes that the people should be taught in their mother tongues. The Injunctions was followed by Cromwell's Ten Articles. With this, the teachings of the English Church were becoming more Protestant, as the Ten Articles only acknowledge three (baptism, penance, and the Eucharist) out of Seven Sacraments of Catholicism which are Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Reconciliation (or Confession or Penance), the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. In 1537, the Bishop's Book was published, becoming the official formula of the Reformed Church.

Another big event was the dissolution of monasteries. Monasteries still had Catholic presence in them but more importantly, they owned a large amount of land, they were wealthy and Henry desperately needed money. At first, the small monasteries which had an annual income less than £200 were dissolved with the Act of Suppression in 1536. This was continued by the dissolution of all monasteries with the Second Act of Suppression in 1539. The lands of the monasteries were sold for huge sums of money. While Henry was getting the money he needed for the ongoing wars (he earned nearly 1.3 million pounds) by the dissolution, the common folk were starting to get affected by the Reformation. Monasteries held quite an integral role in daily life and many people were able to get jobs through them. Many were left unemployed and even though the majority of the inhabitants and workers of monasteries (mainly the monks, friars and nuns) were offered money or pension, there were people who refused, mainly the ones who were religious and proud. Unfortunately, they were executed and the dissolved monasteries were destroyed. This destruction caused the loss of monastic libraries; therefore, the loss of a culture. While the other Acts did not cause a significant uprising, the dissolution did anger people and in 1536, while the dissolution wasn't as quick as it became in later years, between 30 and 40 thousand people marched to York, protesting the dissolution of monasteries and the current economic state of England. This protest/rebellion became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. The protestors were promised a Parliament in York and pardons, thus the protests were peacefully disbanded. However, the leaders of the rebellion were arrested and executed with the order given by Henry as a way of showing his power.



In 1539, the Bible translated to English was authorised to be printed and sent out the Churches and the Six Articles were published, setting the Anglican faith in stone. Not much was done about the Reformation after 1540 until Edward VI's reign.

The English Reformation was mostly political instead of religious. Henry VIII did not have the intention of changing the belief system in the beginning of the Reformation, until the rejection of the Seven Sacraments of Catholicism, the religion was not too different from Catholicism. As time went on, the Reformation became more aggressive and the authority figures were basically forcing people into converting to Anglicanism. Another important aspect of the English Reformation was it had nationalistic nuances to it with the publication of an English Bible and the encouragement of religious teachings to be done in English. What started out as a desire for a male heir continued into a show of what a powerful king can do and the permanent change in the life of the English.

8. Scandals and Marriages

a. Catherine of Aragon

Catherine of Aragon was Henry's first wife. This marriage, lasting 24 years, was mostly a happy one. Catherine of Aragon was Prince Arthur's widow, and a papal dispensation granted Catherine and Henry's marriage. The dispensation was integral in dubbing the marriage and the heirs produced from it as "legitimate", providing much needed comfort to an unstable hereditary monarchy. This was a strategic move on England's part, the dowry and the Spanish



alliance would be secured through this marriage. Contemporaries note that the two had great love for each other, although Henry was not as loyal as his father who took no mistresses. Throughout their marriage Henry had a few mistresses, the most notable ones being Bessy Blount, one of Catherine's ladies in waiting who gave birth to Henry Fitzroy whom Henry did recognize as his son although he was illegitimate; Mary Boleyn; and Anne Boleyn, who famously married Henry VIII later and became queen. Catherine and Henry's marriage produced one heir who survived



infancy, Mary. Later Mary I or popularly known as "Bloody Mary", was educated on politics, religion and court diplomacy, as was the norm for Spanish royalty even for princesses. For a long time, Henry did consider her a legitimate heir, but his paranoia got the best of him at the end and he pursued Anne Boleyn, which means he implicitly pursued a legitimate son and heir. Catherine of Aragon, as Queen Consort of England, was respected and loved both by courtiers and the people, she was well-versed in diplomacy and politics due to her upbringing as the Infanta of Spain. Her parents were Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, who united Spain through their marriage and both ruled as King and Queen Regnant, as equals. Unlike Henry, Catherine was raised to be Queen from an early age, and she was six years older than him. Henry constantly sought her council on political matters and she even ruled and led battles in the King's absence. She was one of his most trusted advisors, and "the true Queen" according to the people. She was also a devout Catholic who ensured England's good relations with the Papacy.

After 24 years of marriage, Henry sought an annulment on the grounds that the papal dispensation granted for their marriage was void, appealing directly to the Holy See. Henry argued that the more he read scripture the more troubled he became about his marriage, he started to believe that he was living in sin since he married his brother's widow although the dispensation was given based on the understanding that Catherine and Arthur's marriage had never been consummated. He claimed that this was the reason that Catherine and Henry had not been able to have any surviving male children. Although they had Mary, Henry believed Catherine was to blame for the lack of male heirs since his mistress Bessy Blount had given birth to a boy by him, Henry Fitzroy. The annulment was far from an easy process, because it was not just religious, it was political. Pope Clement VII was imprisoned by Emperor Charles V at the time, who was Catherine's nephew. The Emperor was strictly against the annulment of his aunt's marriage. For more detail on the annulment, please consult the "Relationship with the Pope and the English Reformation" section of the Study Guide. Famously, Henry VIII got his way, and the annulment was granted, allowing him to marry Anne Boleyn. Once the process was finalized, Princess Mary was stripped of her title and was only allowed to be referred to as Lady Mary. Catherine of Aragon lived out the rest of her days in Kimbolton Castle, and held her stance that she was the true Queen of England and the lawful wife of Henry until her death. Catherine was not permitted to see her daughter and this took a heavy toll on her health, she died on 7 January 1536 at age 50, thought to have suffered from heart cancer. It was rumored that the king and Anne poisoned Catherine, however after an autopsy

was performed, accounts stated that her heart had turned completely black, which is believed to me melanotic sarcoma in our day.

b. Anne Boleyn



Anne Boleyn is a name surrounded by mystery and scandal, but a closer look would reveal that she was a lady of the court who was not given many choices in life. The Boleyn family was represented in court by Anne's father, Sir Thomas Boleyn who was a multilingual diplomat. Her mother, Lady Elizabeth Howard, was also a respected lady who was the eldest daughter of the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Howard. Through her father's influence, she became a lady in waiting for Margaret of Habsburg. She later served as a lady in waiting for Mary

Tudor, Henry VIII's younger sister, when she was the queen of France. In her youth, she mostly resided in France and served Queen Claude after the death of Louis XII. Anne's sister Mary was Henry VIII's mistress, and one of the reasons Anne was sent to France was that she tried to marry Duke Henry Percy without her father's prior knowledge which would have damaged the standing of the Boleyn-Howard family at court. Her return to England was highlighted by her beauty and wit, drawing the attention of the court and the king himself. Henry attempted to make her his mistress many times, but Anne refused. She is quoted as saying "I would rather lose my life than my honesty." in a letter to Henry VIII. But Henry pursued her relentlessly, and after Henry proposed marriage to Anne and the annulment process began for Henry and Catherine's marriage, she had to accept his advances. Even before her Queenship and marriage, Anne was granted the title of Marquessate of Pembroke in her own right, and she was able to establish a rapport and receive ambassadors and diplomats. She married Hent in 1532 in a secret ceremony, which was later considered valid. Anne was crowned queen consort on June 1st, 1533. Soon after, Anne gave birth to a baby girl, named Elizabeth after both her grandmothers, who would later become Elizabeth I. Anne's position within court was not secure until she gave the king a male heir, and she was hated by the public for unseating the beloved Queen Catherine; she was also blamed for Henry's tyranny. After Catherine's death, Anne knew that if she failed to produce a son, she could be gotten rid of in a swifter manner than Catherine. After many miscarriages and no boys, Henry began courting Jane Seymour, a maid-of-honor in service of Anne. Anne's unfair



trial and later execution was believed to be orchestrated by Thomas Cromwell, who had been at odds with Anne on the redistribution of Church revenues and foreign policy. However, the accusations of adultery and incest, along with the call for Anne's execution could not have happened without significant push from the king. Many who were accused of having relations with Anne were made to confess under duress and torture. On May 2nd, 1536, Anne was taken to the Tower of London where she awaited her sham trial and her execution. She wrote one last letter for Henry before her death and adamantly rejected the charges placed upon her. At her execution she made her famous speech, addressing the public and stressed her love for the king, and her surrender to the will of God and the king. Perhaps she did this to ensure her daughter Elizabeth's security and place in the line of succession, who was 2 years and 8 months old at the time. Elizabeth was then removed from the line of succession and declared illegitimate.

c. Jane Seymour

Jane Seymour married Henry VIII in a private ceremony just eleven days after the execution of Anne Boleyn. She had been courted by Henry throughout Anne and Henry's marriage and it seemed that Jane's marriage was just a matter of time. Jane was the opposite of the witty and daring Anne, she was known to be of gentle and peaceful nature. Her public sympathy for Mary, the daughter of Queen Catherine made her popular among the public. She was publicly named queen but never crowned, perhaps due to Henry expecting a male heir before he could crown her. Her motto as



queen was "Bound to obey and serve.", she did not meddle in state affairs and kept a conservative, strict and formal household. She tried to restore Mary to succession, before any of her future children, but was denied. At the end, she was at least able to reconcile Mary's relationship with her father. In 1537, she gave birth to the long awaited legitimate male heir of Henry VIII, Edward. After a difficult childbirth, Jane became seriously ill, said to have been due to an infection from retained placenta, and she passed away 13 days after the birth of her son. Her brother Thomas later married Queen dowager Catherine Parr after the death of the King.



d. Anna of Cleves

Anna of Cleves was a Protestant princess from Western Germany, Henry's marriage to her was a calculated one in the sense that he sought an alliance with her brother William who was one of the leaders of the Protestants in Western Germany. After his ordeal with the Papacy, he needed non-Catholic allies on his side, ones whose loyalty did not foremost belong to the Holy See. Henry and Anne remained married for six months, but the marriage was unconsummated and annulled. After the annulment, to keep the Protestant alliance, Henry agreed on a settlement and



Anne was given dower lands such as Richmond Palace and Hever Castle, she lived out the rest of her life in England as an honorary member of the King's family, often referred to as "the King's Beloved Sister". She outlived every single one of Henry's wives and Henry himself, and passed away in 1557 due to cancer.

e. Katherine Howard



Catherine Howard, cousin to Anne Boleyn, and niece to Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, was Henry's fifth marriage. Accounts regard that she was around 18 when he married the 49 year old king. Before her marriage, she was a part of Anne of Cleves' household. This marriage did not last long, they married on July 1540, Katherine was stripped of her title and thrown into the Tower of London in November 1541, and she was executed three months later by beheading. She was charged with treason, on the grounds that she had allegedly committed adultery with

Thomas Culpepper who was a courtier of Henry. During her time at court, she was described as young, capricious, and carefree.



f. Catherine Parr

Catherine Parr was the last wife of Henry VIII, often heralded as the one who "survived". She was a two-time widow when Henry asked for her hand in marriage, during her Queenship she

was influential in state affairs as well as the lives of Henry's three children. She influenced Henry to restore his daughters to the line of succession, which ensured that in the event of Edward dying without an heir, Mary could succeed him without contention. Catherine ruled as regent in Henry's absence, she was also the first woman in England to publish under her own name in English. She carried Protestant sympathies which angered some officials of the court, she was almost arrested due to enmities against her but she quickly reconciled with the king. After Henry's death, she



became the guardian of Elizabeth, her stepdaughter, and she soon married Thomas Seymour, 1st Baron Seymour of Sudeley who was the uncle of the now king, Edward VI. She died in 1548 due to childbirth complications and had a Protestant funeral.

II. The Committee: Progression and What is Expected

Issued under the Seal and Sceptre of Henry, Eighth of the Name, King of England, France and Ireland. Presiding in Person as Chair of these Proceedings.

A. On the Constitution of Proceedings

- 1. The Court shall proceed in a Semi-Crisis format, allowing for both policy debate and swift response to matters of state urgency via directives and conversation.
- 2. His Majesty shall preside in person over all debates, conclaves and directive drafting. The King's word is final in every matter.



B. On the Instruments of Statecraft

1. The Court shall observe and maintain a measure of legitimacy reflecting the will of the King's subjects, to be translated into political capital and realised in law, war or policy.

His Majesty shall keep a living record of each courtier's deeds and demandour, upon which future honours, influence or disgrace shall be determined.

Should a title fall vacant through dismissal or demise, the King shall bestow it upon whomever best serves his present designs.

C. On the Structure of Councils

- 1. At His Majesty's command, He may summon private counsel for the handling of sensitive state and court affairs.
- 2. The Privy Council shall be constituted by the five courtiers of highest standing in his favour.

D. On the Conduct of Courtiers

- 1. At commencations, courtiers shall declare aloud their oath of allegiance, competence and devotion to His Majesty and the realm under his sceptre.
- 2. The King shall preserve his person, his authority and his throne without compromise, visiting sift and fitting punishment upon any who endanger them.
- 3. Sessions may begin with acts of worship, courtly festivity or royal pageantry before formal proceedings commence.

E. On the Standard and Passage of Directives

- All directives shall be judged by the trusted cadres of His Majesty for their depth, precision, and feasibility. Excellence shall be rewarded; insufficiency corrected; failure punished.
- 2. No directive shall take effect without His Majesty's explicit approval, given in the presence of the Court.



F. On the Affairs of War and Alliance

- 1. In all campaigns, the welfare of the King's subjects shall be weighed equal to, or greater than, the measure of martial force.
- 2. When diplomacy calls for union by marriage, likenesses of candidates shall be presented. His Majesty's gesture to the right shall summon, to the left dismiss, and upward bestow especial favour.

G. On the Security of the Succession

In the event of His Majesty's death, the succession shall pass to his immediate blood, and the Court shall ensure a swift, unbroken transfer of sovereign power.

H. Oath of Service to His Majesty

"Before the eyes of God and the realm, I pledge my mind, my voice and my honour to the service of Henry, Eighth of that Name, rightful sovereign of England, France and Ireland. I shall uphold his crown, preserve his life and guard his legacy, in counsel and in deed, in peace and in peril, until my breath is spent or his command released."



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