



*Stanford Model United Nations  
Conference 2014*

# *War of Roses: A House Divided*



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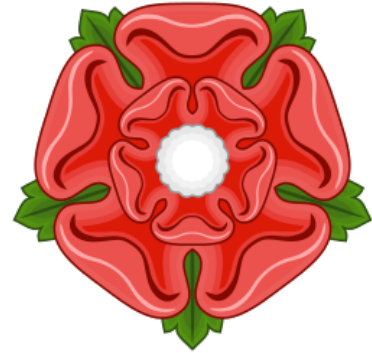
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## *Letters from the Chairs*

Dear Delegates,

My name is Gabrielle Rhoades, and it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Stanford Model United Nations Conference (SMUNC) 2014 as members of the The Wars of the Roses: A House Divided Joint Crisis Committee! As your Wars of the Roses chairs, Teo Lamiot and I have been working hard with our crisis director, Sofia Filippa, and SMUNC Secretariat members to make this conference the best yet. If you have attended SMUNC before, I promise that this year will be even more full of surprise and intrigue than your last conference; if you are a newcomer, let me warn you of how intensely fun and challenging this conference will assuredly be. Regardless of how you arrive, you will all leave better delegates and hopefully with a reinvigorated love for Model UN.



My own love for Model United Nations began when I co-chaired a committee for SMUNC (The Arab Spring), which was one of my very first experiences as a member of the Society for International Affairs at Stanford (the umbrella organization for the MUN team), and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Later that year, I joined the intercollegiate Model United Nations team. I am currently the Director of Outreach for SIAS. As a sophomore here at Stanford majoring in History, I have a genuine interest in the topic at hand, and look forward to sharing in this experience with you. I spent last summer excavating a Roman fortress in northern England and completed research for my Archaeology minor in various parts of the United Kingdom.

This joint crisis committee will allow you, the delegates, to get in touch with your creative sides as you endeavor to break past the barriers of convention in order to find solutions to the dynastic struggle in 15<sup>th</sup> century England.

In order to prepare for your position on one of the Wars of the Roses councils, I encourage you to read and review this background guide diligently. Come conference time, I expect for everyone to have a working knowledge of the topics covered here so that our committees may run smoothly and efficiently. If you have any questions pertaining to SMUNC or our committees, feel free to get in touch with me at [grhoades@stanford.edu](mailto:grhoades@stanford.edu). Otherwise, I greatly look forward to meeting you all in October! Until then, delegates, read up: the fate of England's future rests on your shoulders.

Best Wishes,  
Gabrielle Rhoades

Dear Delegates,

My name is Teo Lamiot and I look forward to welcoming you to the Wars of the Roses: A House Divided at SMUNC 2014. My co-chair Gabrielle, crisis director Sofia, and I have worked hard to make this committee an engaging, creative, and informative experience for you and we know you will all bring a high level of enthusiasm to the table. Whether this is your last Model UN conference or the first of many, we promise you a unique weekend full of debate, directives, and crises. Most importantly, we hope you think about why MUN is important for you and set some personal goals for yourself during the conference. This could be improving your public speaking, learning a bit about college, or just making a friend.



I am a senior at Stanford majoring in Political Science and French with honors in international security studies. My MUN experience began my sophomore year of college and I am currently captain of Stanford's MUN traveling team. I have spent a quarter in Paris and another in Washington, DC while at Stanford and, this past summer, interned in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and did research in Senegal.

Looking forward to meeting you all!

Best,

Teo Lamiot

## *Letter from the Crisis Director*

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sofia Filippa and I am thrilled to welcome you to the Wars of the Roses: A House Divided committee at Stanford Model United Nations Conference 2014. These past few months the Chairs, Gabriella and Teo, and I, have been putting vigorous energy and imagination in order to make this committee a fun, intensely rewarding experience. As the Crisis Director, I hope that you meet the challenges put in your way creatively, but also strategically. After all, England's monarchy has been put in your hands and it is the fruit of your actions that will determine its fate!



Throughout high school, I was involved with MUN as one of the club Chairs and I absolutely loved it. SMUNC 2014 will be my first experience with this activity at college and I am very excited to be part of it. MUN was vital in teaching me several lessons, such as how to face the fear of speaking in public confidently, and how to leave behind subjectivity when embodying the ideas and inclinations of the country or character I had to represent, even if I did not agree with them. It is my wish that SMUNC brings valuable lessons to you as well, so that you leave this conference with new insights and powerful personal progress.

I am a sophomore intending to double major in International Relations and Economics, and I am passionate about education policy in Latin America, where I am from. I spent last summer teaching a course in my former high school on the basic steps for international students to apply to universities in the U.S. This school year, I will be working with the U.S Department of State through an online internship.

I am excited to work with all of you!

Kind regards,

Sofia Filippa

## Introduction to the Committee

The Wars of the Roses: A House Divided will operate as a Joint Crisis Committee consisting of the Royal Councils of the Houses of York and Lancaster.

*We begin in May of 1455, in the weeks leading up to the First Battle of St. Albans. Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York has recently stepped down from his position as the Lord Protector, which he held for ten months while King Henry VI struggled to overcome a bout of mental illness. The members of the House of Plantagenet have gathered in the Great Hall of Bamburgh Castle for a banquet celebrating the restored health of Henry VI. The honored guests converse among themselves. The atmosphere is tense, but the Lancasters and Yorkists have yet to publicly reveal their allegiances. This uneasy peace will not hold for long, however, and when turmoil breaks out surrounding the line of succession, both Houses must plan their next moves to decide the fate of Albion.*

## History and Context

**START DATE:** May, 1455. Weeks leading up to the First Battle of St. Alban's.

The Plantagenet Dynasty of England began with the accession of King Henry II to the throne in 1154 CE with sovereignty over both England and Normandy in northern France. Henry II's marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine added large portions of southern France to the English crown. When King Charles IV of France died in 1328 without a male heir, Plantagenet King Edward III laid claim to the French throne, igniting the famous Hundred Years' War between England and France. John of Gaunt, the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Lancaster and Edward III's third son, became the founding member of the House of Lancaster, from which future Kings Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI would come. On the other hand, Edmund of Langley, the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of York and Edward III's fourth son, founded the House of York. While both Houses belonged to the Plantagenet dynasty, competing claims to the throne of England formed the basis of the Wars of the Roses.

England's gradual defeat in the Hundred Years' War destabilized the realm and undermined the authority of the English monarchy. Over a century of war, England lost all of its French territories with the exception of Calais. English nobles who had lost their French

holdings bore a staggering economic cost and felt robbed of influence in a sociopolitical system based entirely on feudal holdings.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the weak and easily influenced Henry VI proved to be a disappointment compared to his predecessor Henry V, who was a war-time hero and renowned for his chivalry. Henry VI's overt favoritism of Edmund Beaufort, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Somerset, in spite of overwhelming opposition to Somerset alienated Henry VI from his nobles.

In 1453, Henry VI became mentally incapacitated, and Richard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of York, was appointed as Lord Protector. The Duke of York was strong and popular leader with a legitimate claim to the throne that was only contested by Henry VI's son, Edward of Westminster. Having previously marched on London demanding Somerset's removal from court, the new Lord Protector had Somerset imprisoned and arrested.<sup>2</sup> When Henry VI regained his sanity, the Duke of Somerset was restored to power while the Duke of York and his supporters were ejected by the Queen, Margaret of Anjou.

The Duke of York, fearing arrest for treason, gathered an armed force of around 3,000 soldiers and marched on London. King Henry VI and Somerset responded by raising a Lancastrian force of 2,000 soldiers to meet the Yorkists.<sup>3</sup> The two armies met at the city of St. Alban's in Hertfordshire, on May 22, 1455.

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<sup>1</sup> "Causes of the Wars of the Roses: An Overview." The Luminarium Encyclopedia Project. <http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/roseswarcauses.htm> (accessed July 19, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Characters

### **HOUSE OF YORK**

1. Richard Plantagenet, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of York  
    SONS: Edmund Plantagenet, George Plantagenet
2. Cecily Neville, Duchess of York
3. Richard Neville, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick
4. Edward Plantagenet, Earl of March
5. John de la Pole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Suffolk
6. Richard Neville, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Salisbury  
    SON: George Neville, Thomas Neville
7. John Neville, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Montague
8. John de Mowbray, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Norfolk  
    SON: John de Mowbray
9. Sir William Oldhall
10. Henry Bouchier, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Bouchier
11. Sir William Herbert, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Herbert
12. Sir William Hastings, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hastings
13. Sir John Howard
14. Thomas Clifford, 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Clifford  
    SONS: John Clifford, Roger Clifford, Robert Clifford, Thomas Clifford
15. George Neville, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Latimer
16. Edward Neville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Bergavenny
17. Sir John Fastolf
18. Edward Brooke, 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham
19. William Fitzalan, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel
20. Sir Robert Ogle, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Ogle
21. William Bonville, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Bonville
22. Sir Walter Blount, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Mountjoy
23. Henry le Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton  
    SON: John le Scrope
24. Sir Walter Devereux
25. Sir Andrew Trollope
26. Sir John Say
27. Sir Thomas Parr



## HOUSE OF LANCASTER

1. Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England
2. Edward of Westminster, Prince of Wales
3. Edmund Beaufort, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Somerset  
    SONS: Henry Beaufort, Edmund Beaufort
4. Henry Holland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Exeter
5. Henry Percy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Northumberland  
    SONS: Henry Percy, Ralph Percy, William Percy (Bishop of Carlisle)
6. Thomas Percy, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Egremont
7. Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury
8. Sir Owen Tudor  
    SON: Jasper Tudor
9. Edmund Tudor, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Richmond
10. Humphrey Stafford, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Buckingham  
    SONS: Humphrey Stafford, Henry Stafford, Edward Stafford, George Stafford, William Stafford, John Stafford
11. John Talbot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Shrewsbury  
    SONS: John Talbot, Gilbert Talbot, Christopher Talbot, George Talbot
12. James Butler, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wiltshire  
    BROTHER: John Butler
13. Thomas de Courtenay, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Devon  
    SONS: Thomas Courtenay, Henry Courtenay, John Courtenay
14. John Wenlock, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Wenlock
15. James Tuchet, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Audley  
    SONS: John Tuchet, Humphrey Tuchet, Thomas Tuchet, Edmund Audley
16. John Sutton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dudley  
    SONS: Edmund Sutton, John Sutton Dudley, William Dudley, Oliver Dudley
17. Ralph Neville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmoreland  
    SON: John Neville
18. John Tiptoft, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Worcester
19. John de Vere, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford  
    SONS: Aubrey Vere, John de Vere, George Vere, Richard Vere, Thomas Vere
20. Sir Edmund Grey
21. John Beaumont, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Beaumont
22. Richard Woodville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Rivers
23. Thomas de Scales, 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Scales
24. Sir William Neville, 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Fauconberg
25. Lionel de Welles, 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Welles
26. Thomas de Ros, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron de Ros

## *Topics on General Conference Agenda*

### The Feudal System

While increased trade with continental Europe and the Black Death has seen the rise of a middle class and the growing influence of town and cities in England, the dominant segment of society lies with the landed nobility. These aristocrats have sworn oaths of vassalage and promised to provide military levies to the King of England in exchange for a feudal domain. Nobles ranged from knights, who generally owned small manors and their surrounding lands, to the powerful earls and dukes, who could own large segments of the country and have their own vassals.

In this type of system, each noble generally trained, equipped, and commanded his own troops in battle. The loyalty of the nobility was therefore critical in deciding the outcome of power struggles and armed conflicts. Some lords took their feudal oaths very seriously and loyally answered the calls of their liege. Other lords were less committed and some frequently changed sides in conflicts, bringing with them their lands and soldiers to opposing factions. These shifts in allegiance are critical in deciding the outcome of a conflict. As you begin to fight the Wars of the Roses, it will be important to keep in mind where your loyalties and interests lie.

Furthermore, the most powerful nobles, including the King, have the power to create titles of peerage and dispense lands to lesser nobles in exchange for fealty. Similarly, Parliament can, at the behest of the King and his closest advisers, issue acts of attainder, which strip nobles of their titles and lands.



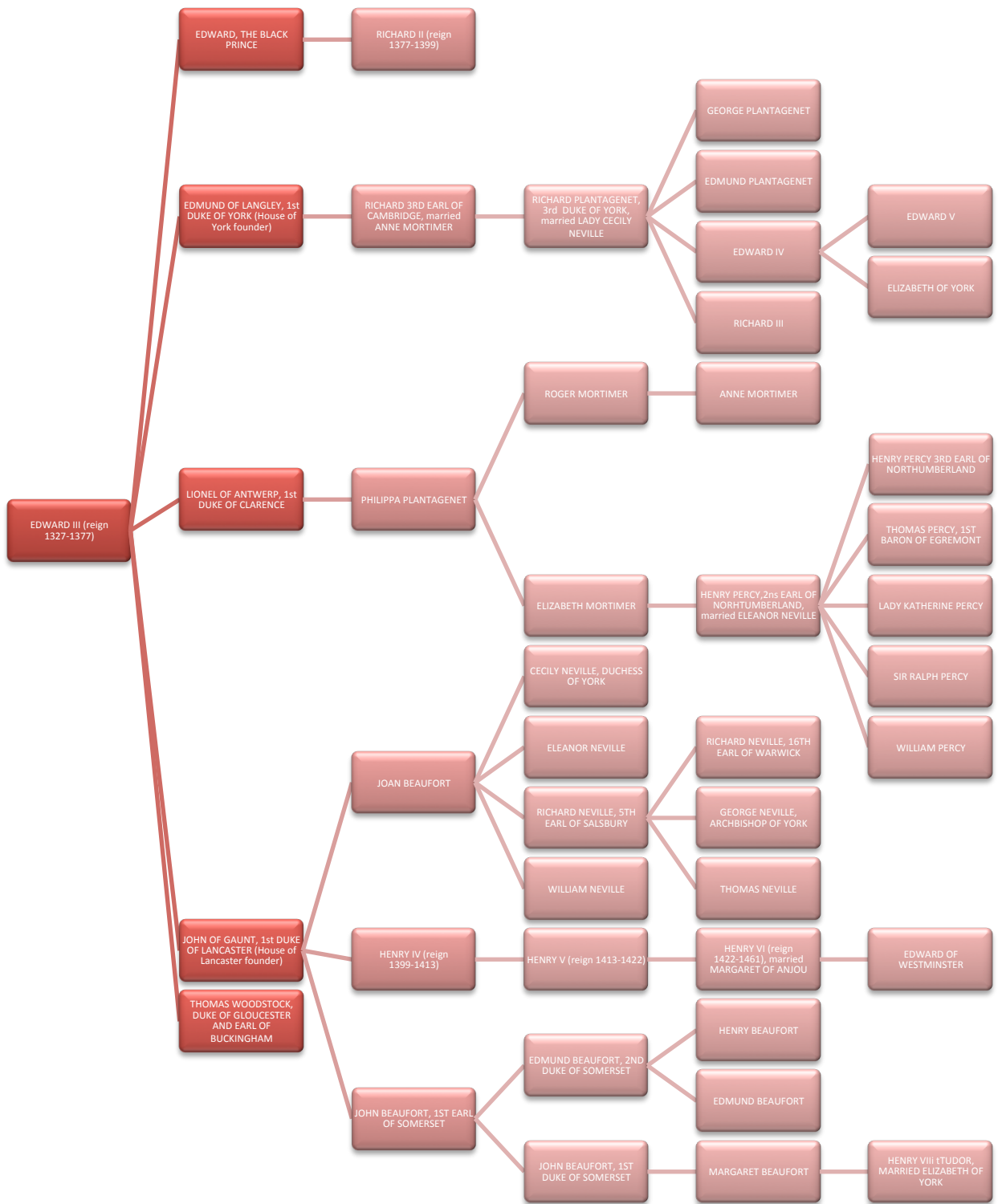
Figure 1: Map of England and France 1455-1494

### Foreign Powers

Having just lost the Hundred Years' War, England is now embroiled in the civil war between the Houses of Lancaster and York. Yet it is important to remember that the rest of Europe, especially France, is keenly watching this conflict. Calais remains in English hands, the last part of England's once extensive territories in France. To the north, the Kingdom of Scotland, having ensured its independence from England over a century before, looks at neglected English lands with interest. The Duchy of Burgundy remains strong supporters of the Yorkists. Mercenaries throughout the whole of Europe are looking for the opportunity to amass loot and plunder from the conflict.

### Public Dissent

The costs and burdens of over a century of warfare with France was particularly damaging to the livelihood of the commoners in England. While the landed nobility held the most power in medieval English society, there are times when commoners rose up in open rebellion due to economic struggles, dissatisfaction with the King and his administration, and other such grievances. In 1450, a commoner named Jack Cade led a popular revolt from Kent and marched on London, citing corruption and abuses of power by the King's top advisers. After entering London, violence from the rebels compelled Londoners to push the rebels out, after which they were hunted and arrested by royal forces until a royal pardon was granted, effectively ending the rebellion. The incident exposed the weaknesses of the Lancastrian administration and strengthened the resolve of the Yorkists to resort to military force five years later.



***Figure 2: House of Plantagenet Family Tree***

## **Special Committee Rules**

### **Flow of Debate**

Debate will be conducted in a manner as similar as possible to the functioning of the historical Royal Councils of Lancaster and York. This entails moderated caucuses and speaker's lists, and may be punctuated by periods of open debate, depending on the situation at hand. In the role of the leaders of the two houses, we will be chairing the committee in true Royal Council style. For the purposes of fruitful debate, however, we will keep our input as a member to a minimum. Please note that while the committee may seemingly be run in the conventional Model UN fashion, we will not be following strict debate procedure (i.e. motions, points of inquiry, points of privilege, etc. may be dismissed at the discretion of the chair in favor of a more informal environment for debate). As mentioned before, voting requires that a simple majority is present in the room, and all legislation will be passed on a simple majority as well.

### **Resolutions**

Rather than being restrained to the conventional resolution format, members of the councils will pass documents primarily in the form of directives, communiqués, and press releases.

### **Roles**

While delegates will be expected to stay in character and represent the general viewpoints and interests of their assigned Council member and their respective house, they will not be limited to only these views. For instance, a delegate may vote in favor of something that their Council member was against in the past if delegates find they are swayed by the course of debate to a different conclusion or viewpoint. Also, delegates may interject their own opinions into debate and, when appropriate, change their mind on topics of discussion to suit the purposes of the situation at hand. Note, however, that while creativity is promoted, inconsistency is not. Be sure that you can defend and justify your views, and argue accordingly for the achieving of your goals, at all times.

### **Crises**

The Wars of the Roses is a joint crisis committee, so come prepared to deal with anything that is thrown your way. In addition to the provided material, debate will be directed based on the arrival of crises. Crises may come in the form of press releases by key figures, prisoners being brought in for questioning, or any number of surprise events. After the crisis has been presented, debate will resume on the new developments.

### **Passage of Time**

The committee begins in the weeks leading up to the First Battle of St. Albans in May 1455. Subsequent debate will be spurred on by the impending crises.

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