

MEN
MUNE



ENGLAND 1066:
WILLIAM THE CONQUERORS
COURT

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Introductions from your England 1066 Dais

Dear delegates,

I am Justin Murdock, your chair for *England 1066: William the Conqueror's Court*. I am currently a senior at Stuyvesant, having been committed to our Model UN team since my freshman year. Model UN has been quite a ride - I loved all the captivating debates and action-packed committees I've been a part of, along with all the friends I made at numerous conferences along my MUN journey. I will miss the great memories I've made, and I hope by chairing this committee, I will give a glimpse of the joys of Model UN, as my predecessors had to me. To get a picture of who I am outside of MUN, you'll find me striking goals with my CF5 lacrosse stick at Pier 40 near Houston Street or checking out some good reads at the Strand. I hope to get to know each and every one of you and potentially compete alongside some of you in my final year at Stuyvesant.

I am quite excited to be wrapping up my final miniMUNC with a dais composed of some of the most esteemed delegates I know and a topic I find particular interest in - European history. Since I do not want to douse you with words upon words, please read the entirety of the background guide to get a good idea of what will occur. Throughout Model UN, background guides will be great resources that will aid your research and understanding of what will happen at the conferences you participate in. I hope that we will collectively, delegates and dais, have a successful miniMUNC - filled with eccentric debates, witty speeches, and mature resolutions.

Finally, if you have any inquiries, please feel free to reach out to me via email or Messenger. Whether it be to get an idea of the English political atmosphere in the eleventh century to general advice about navigating Stuyvesant, I am always happy to lend a hand. I am looking forward to the fruitful ideas and expressive solutions that you all will craft back in person. Þesaþ hāle!

Sincerely,
Justin (William) Murdock ('22)
jmurdoch20@stuy.edu

Dear delegates,

Welcome to miniMUNC! My name is Sophia Yuditsky and I am very excited to be your director for *England 1066: William the Conqueror's Court*. I am currently a Junior at Stuyvesant High School. I joined Model UN in my freshman year and have made countless memories by attending conferences and meetings. At my first conference, I only spoke once and was terrified of messing up, now less than two years later public speaking is one of my biggest hobbies! Besides Model UN, some of my hobbies are photography, screaming at my friends to phone bank with me, and taking outrageously long contemplative walks in Prospect Park. Also, my favorite store is the Evolution store and I don't know where it is so if someone can tell me that would be great because I want to go back there.

Since this is the first conference that many of you will be attending, I'd like to give you some advice I wish someone had told me before my first Model UN conference. Take a deep breath and raise your hand as much as possible. Don't be afraid of messing up, the best way to learn is through mistakes! Enjoy your day and learn as much as you can from this experience. You never know you might meet your best friend at miniMUNC, I definitely did. To this day we still talk about miniMUNC and all the memories we made that day. Oh! and one more thing, make sure to read the whole background guide and have it on hand during the conference as a reference/refresher on the topic.

Overall, I'm really excited to meet you all and work with you at miniMUNC 2021. Feel free to reach out to me (your director), Justin Murdock (your chair, jmurdock20@stuy.edu), or Lianne Ohayon (your crisis director, lohayon30@stuy.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,
Sophia Yuditsky
syuditsky30@stuy.edu

Dear delegates,

I hope that you are all doing well, and that you are excited for MiniMUNC 2021! My name is Lianne Ohayon, and I will be your crisis director for *England 1066: William the Conqueror's Court*. A junior at Stuyvesant going into my second year in Model UN, I have learned so much from mock trials, conferences, regular meetings, and conversations with my fellow delegates. Aside from all of that, being a part of this awesome community has made my late nights working on position papers or crisis arcs so worth it. As this is the first conference for many of you, a riveting crisis committee to kick off your Model UN careers is indeed an exciting adventure you are about to embark on. I hope to share all of the joys and challenges of Model UN with you delegates and show you how magical thinking on your feet can be. Outside of Model UN, I direct and produce shows, advocate for gender equality, and flip through pages and pages of books.

The beauty of a crisis committee like this one, is that everything is constantly changing, and every minute a new phrase is uttered provides a new opportunity to challenge it. I will admit that it can get a bit confusing, but please feel free to ask for help—that is what MiniMUNC is for! By taking strides within this conference, you are only preparing yourself for future conferences. In addition, the dais is very interested in how you delegates accomplish your 1066 goals through courage, compromise, and crazy steps. Read this background guide fully to have a better understanding of the path you will carve for yourself in this committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on this dais if you have any questions about basically anything; we are here to help and support you in any way possible. Now, step into your battle armour, and prepare to defend yourself (it might get a bit unruly).

Sincerely,
Lianne (Odo) Ohayon ('23)
lohayon30@stuy.edu

Committee Information

Ēalā, distinguished nobles and aristocrats to newly founded court of King William. In the ensuing bloodshed of the Battle of Hastings (1066), our former beloved Harold II met his end - leading to the rise of the Normans, with William as their lodestar. William promptly snatched the throne on Christmas Day, which he now must deal with friend and foe among the chaos spread around England. With these events in mind, this unprecedented court will take place in the **days after William's ascension to the throne (Christmas 1066)**.

To provide ease, the dais has planned this committee as an oligarchical body - not typical noble courts of the 11th century. This means that this committee will follow **standard parliamentary procedure**.

That said, this committee will be a **crisis**, meaning delegates can create various crisis arcs to submit to the back room. Any sort of committee action will be determined by **directives** submitted by delegates, which are written documents to be voted on (requiring a **simple majority** to pass). Delegates can also give the back room **crisis**

notes, which are unilateral actions dependent on the delegate's given capabilities. Such actions can entirely alter the flow of committee, as well as constant **crisis updates**, which can entirely alter the flow of committee and the delegates themselves.

Although MiniMUNC does not require position papers, the dais strongly recommends submitting a paper. This committee will be more exciting and engaging for both the dais and delegates if delegates come in with at least some **research and background knowledge**, especially on some early English history and their delegate's involvement in England and abroad. To receive **feedback** on your position papers, submit them to the dais via email by **the weekend before miniMUNC**. Finally, if a delegate has a question pertaining to the committee, they are welcome to send an email to a member on the dais.

Best of luck, and we hope to see you all in your crowns and robes there. Glory to England.

Committee Background

About England

During the Early Middle Ages, England was drastically different from how we currently make it out to be. Originally, Romans held control of England, subjecting it to Roman Christianity, but soon after its fall, the territory became subject to many pagan invasions.¹

By the 7th century, small kingdoms formed and ruled in their respective territories, including Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex.² By the 9th century, struggles for power left a unified Wessex standing under Alfred the Great, but that kingdom was soon squashed in the 10th century after more Scandinavian attacks. In 1042, England was able to restore the original royal dynasty onto the throne under Edward the Confessor, who was the last native ruler until the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The Rise of William the Conqueror

William the Conqueror's rise to power was by no means seamless. Born as the illegitimate son of Robert I, Duke



of Normandy, this complicated the line of succession for the next duke.³ Despite opposition, Robert I made the powerful Normans to swear allegiance to William succeeding him as duke if he passed away, prior to a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1034. Robert died on this trip.

This allowed William to start establishing himself as duke. Though he was pretty young at the time, many older aides contended for control of the young leader in order to play an integral

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/overview_anglo_saxons_01.shtml

² Kirby, D. P.. The Earliest English Kings. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2020.

³

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-I-king-of-England>

role in raising him. Once William came of age, there were multiple challenges to his power, from ones led by rebels to others led by men with larger authority. Nevertheless, William was successful in squashing down the rebellions and maintaining his power. William was also a devout Christian, and made many generous donations to the church/church life throughout his rule, benefitting the duchy.⁴

Looking Towards England

With a prosperous rule, why would William shift his sight towards England? The young duke was chosen by the childless King Edward of England to be the next in succession for the English throne. That was until Harold, Edward's brother-in-law, came back into the picture as a potential successor to the English throne. On a trip to Normandy to finalize Edward's choosing of William as heir, Harold was captured by William and forced to swear that the Duke of Normandy would be king. But when Harold came back from Normandy, he was sworn in as King of England in Westminster Abbey. This broken oath was the last straw that led to William's invasion of England.

Before William invaded England though, Harold faced some trouble in the north, when his exiled brother Tostig and Harald III Hardraade, the king of Norway unsuccessfully invaded

England. This would both aid and cause further problems for William later on.

Battle of Hastings

The Battle of Hastings was the main battle of William's invasion of England. William landed on Pevensey, a town on the Southeastern coast of England. After conquering the mostly willing town, he moved onward towards Hastings. Harold, who was finishing his battle in York against Tostig and Hardraade, headed back towards Hastings with his exhausted soldiers. By the time Harold got to Hastings, William had already settled there, and the fighting ensued. The battle was decisive, and Harold (along with his brothers) were killed in battle. This ended the fighting, and the Norman conquest of England was successful.⁵



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<https://www.history.com/topics/british-history/battle-of-hastings>

⁴ Ibid.

Points and Questions to Consider

As part of this emergency council, every delegate is tasked with furthering their own goals, but maintaining stability in medieval England. Each move, whether it be a directive or crisis note, could have crucial implications not only on delegates within the committee but people, England, and other nations outside of the committee.

With this in mind, it is crucial that delegates figure out (1) who is the rightful ruler of England, (2) what system of governance to proceed with such ruler, and (3) how to address the rising chaos of current, newly established Norman rule in England.

Delegates can find such questions to refer to throughout the committee below:

- Is maintaining peace with opposing political figures in the committee a successful use of time and effort, or should England resort to war?
- How would all delegates respond to English riots?
- What is the best way to maintain communication with the public throughout committee?
- Which leaders should delegates interact with to obtain a diplomatic or military advantage?

Committee Positions

Pro-Norman (8)

William the Conqueror

Edward The Confessor promised William the English throne, William is well prepared to defend his right to rule after a youth fraught with the controversy surrounding his illegitimate birth. As the newly crowned King of England, William wishes to consolidate his rule over Normandy and England and stomp out the remaining rebellions that wish to remove him. William commands some of the largest forces of the time and has extensive experience doing so, especially in the case of stomping out rebellion.

Odo of Bayeux

Odo of Bayeux was appointed the Bishop of Bayeux by his half-brother William the Conqueror in 1049. He was present at the Council of Lillebonne alongside his brother Robert where William's conquest of England was approved. Odo fought in the Battle of Hastings and helped to fund the Norman invasion of England. As William's second in command and trusted advisor, Odo is one of the most powerful people in all of England. When William is absent power defaults to Odo.

Eustace of Boulogne

Eustace of Boulogne has been the Count of Boulogne since 1049. He fought on the Norman side in the Battle of Hastings and received a generous gift of land in return for his support.

Robert of Mortain

In 1049, Robert of Mortain was appointed Count of Mortain by his half-brother William. Robert and his brother Odo were both present at the Council of Lillebonne. He fought in the Battle of Hastings and made great contributions to the conquest. His contribution to the effort was rewarded greatly. Together with his brother Odo, Robert has great influence over the court and William.

Robert of Beaumont

Robert led an infantry unit in the Battle of Hastings. He is a cousin of William the Conqueror. As a reward for fighting in the invasion and at Hastings Robert received a total of 91 confiscated English manors and a spot in Williams Court.

William of Évreux

William as Count of Évreux and commanded an army. He contributed 80 ships to the invasion of England. Unfortunately, he was not of age in 1066 and did not receive the full reward he was entitled to based on his contribution.

Walter of Longueville

Walter of Longueville attended the Council of Lillebonne and was a staunch supporter of William the Conqueror beginning in the 1040s. In 1054 he took charge of the siege of the Arques Castle against William of Talou who had rebelled against William the Conqueror. He was also a Christian Knight in 1064-65. Walter was also one of two people who were offered to carry The Conqueror's standard into battle and was a trusted member of William's inner circle.

Hugh of Grandmesnil

Hugh Grandmesnil fought in the Battle of Hastings. Starting in 1050 the Grandmesnil family was breeding and training war horses. They made a large fortune from this. In 1058 Hugh fell out of favor with the court but he managed to climb back into status and favor in 1063. By 1066 he had regained a fair and was made a Cavalry Commander for the invasion of England. Hugh fought and nearly died in the Battle of Hastings.

Anti-Norman (5)

Hereward the Wake

Hereward the Wake aka. Hereward the Outlaw or Hereward the Exile was as his name suggests exiled by his family, specifically his father at the age of 18 in 1054. He was also officially declared an outlaw by Edward the Confessor. He enjoyed telling dramatized versions of the story of his exile. Hereward was accused of killing nearly 15 Normans with the help of only one other man.

Waltheof of Northumbria

Waltheof was one of the last Anglo-Saxon earls. He fought against the Normans in the Battle of Hastings but ultimately decided to submit to William's rule. Waltheof remains in possession of his titles and his place in the court.

Ralph of Gael

Ralph received large inheritances including the Breton Barony of Gael which encompassed more than forty parishes. After the Battle of Hastings Ralph attended William the Conqueror's court with his father in 1066.

Roger of Breteuil

Roger of Bretui is next in line to inherit the Earldom of Hereford from his father. His father is a relative of William the Conqueror as well as one of William's counsellors. Although Roger is not set to inherit the Earldom of Wessex from his father alongside the Earldom of Hereford he is in attendance at Williams Court after the Battle of Hastings.

Eadric the Wild

Eadric is most well known for his wild behaviors as his name suggests. He will oftentimes sleep outside in tents instead of indoors so as to make sure he does not go soft. His background as a nobleman does little to quell his rebellious spirit, nor to hide his anger. Eadric loudly expresses his resistance to William's rule.