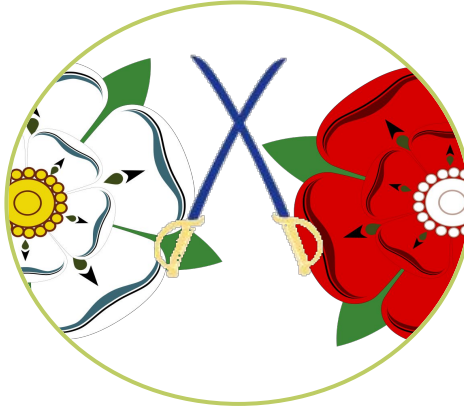




# The Wars of the Roses



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# *Thesis*

Due to equal claims to the throne and betrayal between families, the instability of the English monarchy fueled the heavy use of warfare, ultimately leading to the unity of the two rival houses and bringing an end to the War of the Roses.



# 1. Causes of the Wars

1377-1455



# Lingering Claims to the Throne

## King Edward III

- ✦ Died in 1377
- ✦ His oldest son Edward, otherwise known as the Black Prince, died in 1376
- ✦ Crown was passed onto the son of Edward; Richard II



*Statue of King Edward III on  
Manchester Town Hall*



## King Richard II 🌹

- ✦ Was 10 years old when his father died
- ✦ Unpopular with the peasantry and hated by nobility
- ✦ Power struggle between him and the Lancaster's
- ✦ Ultimately deposed by his cousin Henry IV in 1399



*Richard II*

## Henry IV

- ✦ Took the throne from his cousin Richard II in 1399
- ✦ Part of the Lancaster line



*Henry IV*



## Henry V 🌹

- ✦ Died in a military campaign in 1422
- ✦ Left the crown for his infant son



*King Henry V, battle of Agincourt*

## Henry VI 🌹

- ✦ A regency council ruled over England until during Henry VI's younger years
- ✦ A close and trusted advisor was Richard Duke of York



*Henry VI*



# Corruption

Margaret of Anjou 

- ✦ Henry VI married her to gain French support
- ✦ Distrusted Richard and preferred other allies such as Summerset
- ✦ Decisions made by Margaret and her allies left them widely unpopular
- ✦ By the time they had lost the 100 year's war, they had fallen out of favour with the people due to the corrupt rule and military failures

*End of the Hundred Year's War*



## Richard Duke of York

- ✦ Close advisor and loyal general
- ✦ Criticism of the handling of the war against France led to his exclusion from court
- ✦ After losing the Hundred Year's War, the King had a mental breakdown and the Duke of York was appointed as Lord Protector
- ✦ When Henry VI recovered, Margaret told him to reverse all the changes made by the Duke of York, also revoked the Duke's title of Lord Protector

*The Wars of the Roses begins*





2.

# *During the Wars*

1455-1487



# *Power Struggle*

## Lancasters vs. Yorks and Warwick

- ✦ The Duke of York returned with the army of a powerful and wealthy ally: the Earl of Warwick
- ✦ They succeeded in a battle with the Lancaster's
  - Henry VI was captured, Margaret fled with their son
- ✦ Henry VI was released on the condition that the Duke of York was reinstated as Lord Protector



- ✦ Henry VI had another mental breakdown and when he recovered, both York and Warwick fled
- ✦ Both the Duke of York and Warwick returned and defeated the Lancasters in yet another battle
- ✦ Asserted his claim to the throne and had himself and his heirs designated to the throne upon King Henry VI's death
- ✦ Margaret used the Scottish army to fight the Duke of York in the battle of Wakefield, where the Duke and his second oldest son Edmund was killed



## Edward IV

- ✦ Oldest son of Richard Duke of York
- ✦ Margaret and Henry departed to consolidate following their victory against Richard Duke of York, leaving England without a King
  - The people wanted Edward to be King, so he took the throne
- ✦ Edward fought Margaret's army once more and won



# Shifting Loyalties

Earl of Warwick 

- + Arranged a marriage seeking to secure power for Edward
- + Instead of marrying the French princess, Edward secretly marries a widow of a minor noble
  - This betrayal proved that Edward was too ignorant of politics and costed the Yorks a very important ally



## Warwick's Accomplishments



- ✦ Allied with the Lancasters and Duke of Clarence
- ✦ Henry VI was briefly restored as King
- ✦ Edward IV fled



*Earl of Warwick*

## Edward Reclaims the Throne



- ✦ Edward IV defeated Warwick's army in the battle of Barnet
  - Killed Warwick



*George, Duke of Clarence*



## Margaret's Last Stand

- ✦ Margaret confronted Edward and lost once again in the battle of Tewkesbury
  - Prince Edward was killed
  - Margaret was kept captive until the French King paid ransom
  - Henry was murdered soon after the battle

*The rest of Edward IV's rule was relatively peaceful until his death in 1483*





# Overview of the Battles



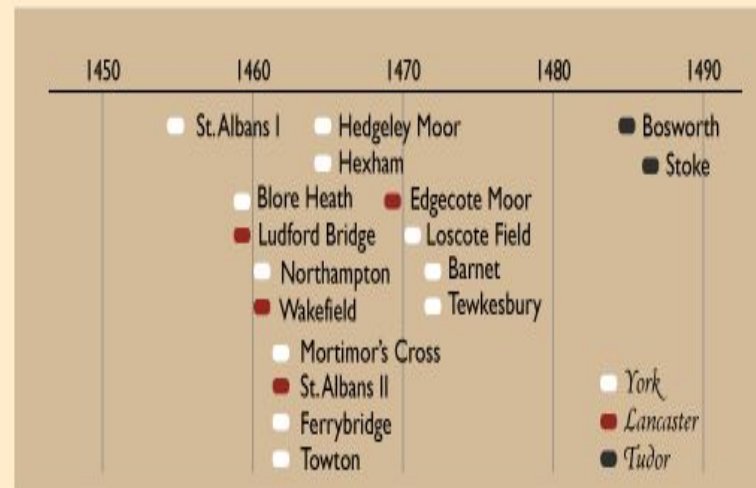
## List of Battles

Year	Battle	Date	Victor
1455	First St. Albans	22 May 1455	Yorkist ○
1459	Blore Heath	23 Sep 1459	Yorkist ○
1459	Ludford Bridge	12 Oct 1459	Lancastrian ●
1460	Northampton	10 Jul 1460	Yorkist ○
1460	Wakefield	30 Dec 1460	Lancastrian ●
1461	Mortimer's Cross	2 Feb 1461	Yorkist ○
1461	Second St. Albans	17 Feb 1461	Lancastrian ●
1461	Ferrybridge	28 Mar 1461	Yorkist ○
1461	Towton	29 Mar 1461	Yorkist ○
1464	Hedgeley Moor	25 Apr 1464	Yorkist ○
1464	Hexham	15 May 1464	Yorkist ○
1469	Edgecote Moor	26 Jul 1469	Lancastrian ●
1470	Losecote Field	12 Mar 1470	Yorkist ○
1471	Barnet	14 Apr 1471	Yorkist ○
1471	Tewkesbury	4 May 1471	Yorkist ○
1485	Bosworth	22 Aug 1485	Henry Tudor
1487	Stoke	16 Jun 1487	King Henry VII (Tudor)

● = House of Lancaster ○ = House of York

## Battles of the Wars of the Roses

### Overall Timeline



## Battlefield Sites





# Battle of Bosworth Field

August 22, 1485



Lancasters



Yorks



- ✦ Henry Tudor (VII)
- ✦ Led 5 000 Tudors
- ✦ Victor



- ✦ Richard III
- ✦ Led 10 000 Yorkists

✦ **Significance:** death of Richard III, Henry VII's ascension to the throne







## Further Details

- ✦ On August 7 1485, Henry Tudor arrived in Wales to challenge Richard for the crown
- ✦ Early in the battle, Richard's ally Duke of Norfolk was killed
- ✦ Lord Thomas Stanley and Henry Percy failed to assist the Yorkists
- ✦ Sir William Stanley privately shifted loyalty to the Lancasters
- ✦ Richard was unhorsed and killed in a bog



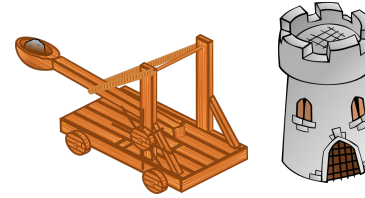
# Rudiments of War



-  **Heavy cavalry** consisted of knights armed with lances and hand weapons, mostly noblemen and wealthy knights
-  **Light cavalry** included knights carrying lightweight armour and weaponry, were used as scouts and sent to fight skirmishes



# Medieval Equipment



- ✦ The average medieval knight wore armour and was mounted on horseback, often connected to nobility or royalty
- ✦ Used a wide variety of siege warfare, e.g. catapults, battering rams, siege towers, etc.
- ✦ Most important “weapon” → horse, both rider and horse would be armored, making it difficult to defeat due to immense height



3.

# Effects of the Wars

1487 - present



# ✦ Effects on Upper Classes

- ✦ Weakened the nobility
- ✦ King Henry VII prevents dukes from keeping standing armies
- ✦ Strengthened merchant class
- ✦ End of feudalism



# ✦ Effects on Middle & Lower Class

- ✦ Fairly indifferent to the Wars of the Roses
- ✦ Increased economic activity
- ✦ Court of Star Chamber → first court composed of privy councillors and common-law judges
- ✦ Beginning of the Renaissance



*Charles I*

# Foreign Relations

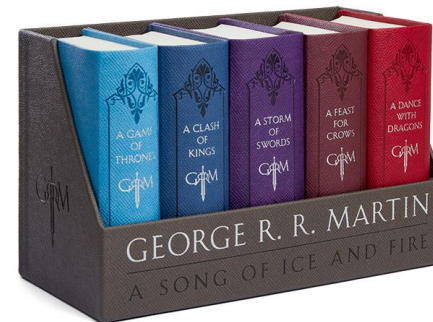
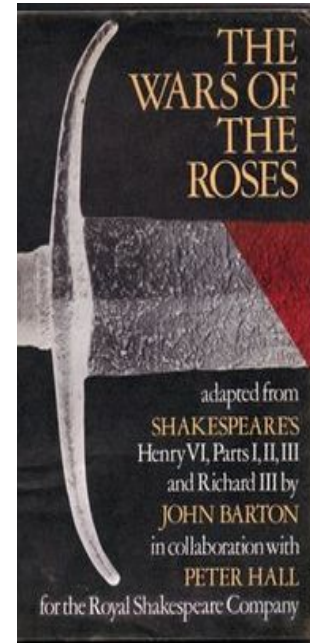
-  Peace treaty with France formed in 1492
-  Trade deal with Netherlands negotiated in 1496
-  First treaties with Scotland (1502) and Spain (1489) through marriage





# ✦ Adaptations in Art

- ✦ William Shakespeare's historical plays (1590s)
- ✦ 'The Wars of the Roses' theatrical adaptation (1963)
- ✦ George R. R. Martin's 'A Song of Ice and Fire' (1991 - present)





# Conclusion

Over its span of several generations, the Wars of the Roses displays the disloyalty between alliances that can be sparked when the possession of power is in question as well as the importance of strong leadership.





*Thank you!*



*Any questions?*

## THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE NEVILLE FAMILY.

