Name: Michael Harries

Committee: Scottish war of independence, Scotland

Character: John Balliol, Lord of Galloway

It is the year 1286 and the king is dead. Long live the king. King Alexander the 3rd died without a clear heir leaving Scotland in turmoil. The Scottish lords must select who their next king is. They need to do this quickly though as King Edward the 1st of England will surely use this instability to cement his dominion over Scotland. John Balliol, lord of Galloway is a strong claimant to the Scottish throne. He is the great great great grandson of King David the 1st of Scotland. While Robert de Brus the 5th Lord of Annandale was the great great grandson making him closer in blood to David 1, John was senior in primogeniture which was the official legal way of determining an heir. John has a group of loyal lords who want him to be the next king.

King Edward 1 has volunteered to arbitrate the meeting to determine who will be the next king. He will probably use this position attempt to subjugate the future to be king. John Balliol has up to this point not taken any actions to push his claim so while it is a strong claim he has not advised the late King in any capacity meaning he may not understand the complexities of the throne. Robert de Brus the 5th served as the reagent during alexanders reign making him the most experienced of the 2. However Robert fought in the crusades alongside King Edward 1 of England's brother Edmund so his commitment to keeping Scotland free of English can be brought into question

John will have to show that he has the mettle to stand up to the king of England. He will need to gather the support of his loyal followers. He will also try to gain the favour of the representatives of the Catholic Church within Scotland to gain some divine authority. Lastly he will try to gain the support of strong military figures with strong patriotic feelings such as William Wallace. With this group of supporters and the legitimacy of his claim John should be able to be made king in a diplomatic matter. If this does not work he will have a big enough army, lead by amazing leaders, to be able to deal with fraudulent claimants to the throne. By the end of this crisis John Balliol will assume his rightful place on the throne and all shall say "long live King John"