Position Paper for Robert de Burs: 7th Lord of Annandale – First Scottish War of Independence – Scotland

During his reign over Scotland, Alexander III shaped Scotland positively in many ways. He established agriculture, trade, and monasteries; set aside divisions between the various races inhabiting Scotland; and established peace with England. After the death of Alexander III, King of the Scots, the throne has been left open with no rightful heir to seize it. Edward I of England has been called upon to decide the next ruler of Scotland. There are 14 contenders for this title, including Robert de Brus – 7th Lord of Annandale.

Robert de Brus, the Younger (7th) rules over the Southern de Brus lands of Ripe in Sussex and Writtle in Essex along with his brother, Edward de Brus. These territories were left to him by his grandfather, Robert de Brus, the Elder (5th). Many of the lords and barons of Scotland support Robert de Brus (7th) to claim the throne of Scotland. However, Robert de Brus (7th) himself supports his grandfather. He is also heir to the earldom of Carrick, and therefore is required to be loyal to the King of England. Robert de Brus (7th) is a young, smart, courageous man who is not afraid to do what is right. Some of his closest allies are Sir Gilbert de la Hay, 5th Baron of Errol, whom Robert entrusts his life with. Another great friend is Sir Robert Keith – Knight and Diplomat who Robert and he both hold each other in high esteem. Another strong supporter of Robert is Maol Choluim II, Earl of Lennox who was a childhood friend. His brother, Edward de Brus is also a good ally who values family more than anything. Sir James Douglas (the Black Douglas) is a good friend of his as well and Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray is a distant relative of his. There is many people Robert de Brus (7th) seems to get along with, however there are many of people who do not consider him the best candidate, including John III Comyn (the Red Comyn), who’s never gotten along with Robert de Brus (7th). John III Comyn is a strong supporter of John Balliol, Lord of Galloway who has one of the strongest cases to become King.

During the committee, there are a few things that must be decided. The first is deciding on the selection process to which a successor to the throne of Scotland will be chosen. The second is deciding whether or not to be independent from Britain. Edward I demanded acknowledgment of suzerainty in return for his advice in choosing the next King. The third is whether Scotland decides to remain in peace and agree to suzerainty or to engage in war and fight for independence.