Model UN Position Paper

First Scottish War of Independence

Name:

Richard Gravesend (Died 9 December 1303),

Bishop of London (1 October 1280 – 9 December 1303)

Location:

London, England

Role:

Before becoming the Bishop of London, Richard Gravesend was the prebentary of St. Pauls, an administrative, senior ranking, clergy position in the Catholic Church. He holds a seat in the British Parliament, and a mild influence on the king.

Ideas and Goals:

Along with the common goals of the country, Gravesend likely had some personal goals. He was the kings close liaison to the Catholic Church, and therefore the middleman in the mutually beneficial relationship between the crown and the church. King Edward 1st was a devout Catholic who was keen to maintain a strong relationship between the church and himself. He relies on this relationship not only receive blessings on his armies from the Pope, but also as a mechanism to fight corruption amongst England’s Elite. With this in consideration, Richard Gravesend plays a significant role in the internal well being of England, via the church. He has been described by his contemporaries as munificent, and therefore is unlikely to pursue financial gain.

Alliances:

Richard Gravesend was appointed as Bishop of London by King Edward 1st and was therefore indebted to him. He was also a representative of the Catholic Church, and in turn has allies in the Church of England, and potentially abroad. He was the treasurer of the dioceses of Hereford at around 1238, and may have retained connections in the area. Notably, the bishop at the time, Ralph de Maidstone. Though he was consecrated by Archbishop Peckham, they were not allies. During his time as Bishop of London, Gravesend had numerous altercations with Peckham.

1st Scottish War of Independence Timeline:

* 1286: Death of Alexander III in March

The Six Guardians of Scotland are selected at Scone:

* William Fraser, Bishop of St Andrews.
* Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow.
* John II Comyn, Lord of Badenoch.
* James Stewart, 5th High Steward of Scotland.
* Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan.
* Donnchadh III, Earl of Fife.
* 1290: Margret Maid of Norway dies in September on her way to Orkney.
* 1291: The Great Cause: Margaret’s Fiancé’s Father, Edward I of England begins process of selecting a new King of Scotland.
* 1292: Edward chooses and inaugurates John Balliol as the King of Scots.
* 1294: Edward summons Scots to fight in France.
* 1295: The Scots seek alliance with King Philip of France
* 1296: The Scots attack England in March, Battle of Dunbar in April

John Balliol Surrenders to King Edward.

* 1297: Andrew Murray and William Wallace begin to rebel, Scottish victory at Battle of sterling Bridge in September, and the death of Andrew Murray in November
* 1300- 1301:Edward I and son campaign into south Scotland
* 1301**:** John Balliol released from custody under Pope Boniface VIII
* 1303: Edward signs treaty with Philip, therefore ending French support of Scotland
* 1303- 1305: Edward Invades Scotland, Forcing John Comyn and other nobility to surrender. William Wallace is captured and executed in August.
* 1306: Robert Bruce murders John Comyn, and is inaugurated as Robert I at Scone in March.
* 1307: Battle of Loudon Hill. Succession of Edward II after death if Edward I.
* 1308: King Robert’s Army wins the Battle of the Pass of Brander
* 1309: Robert I holds his first Parliament in St. Andrew’s
* 1310: King Edward Invades Scotland
* 1314: Scottish army is victorious at Battle of Bannockburn
* 1318: Robert I is excommunicated by Pope John XXII for killing John Comyn, and Edward Bruce dies.
* 1320: A declaration of Scottish Independence is issued to Pope John XXII in the form of the Declaration of Arbroath.
* 1322: Edward’s Final Invasion of Scotland fails.
* 1327: English opposition members murder Edward II, and Edward III is coronated in February.
* 1328: Treaty of Edinburgh – Northampton is signed, recognizing Scotland as an independent nation and in turn ending the First Scottish War of Independence.

Critical Moments of Change:

1. John Baliol’s incarceration under Pope Boniface VIII:

Seeing as Richard Gravesend was a member of the Catholic Church, any event involving it would evidently play a part in the achievement of his goals. An important aspect to note is that John Baliol was extradited to France in 1299 prior to his imprisonment under the Pope. This occurred two years before Edward I ended French support of the Scottish Rebellion through the marriage of Philip’s daughter Isabella to Edward’s heir, the Prince of Wales. Robert’s fair influence on the king, along with his connection to the Pope could be used as tools to form strategic relations with France.

1. Pope John XXII’s excommunication of Robert I:

Richard’s connection to the Pope via the church could be used to manipulate the foundation of Scotland’s independence. Scottish noblemen sent the Declaration of Arbroath to the Pope in order to assert their autonomy from England, and to have him recognize them as a sovereign state. Richard’s connection to the church had the potential to bring him closer to the entire process.

1. Richard’s Diplomatic Voyage to France in 1293:

Richard was sent to France to make peace following attacks on French ships by the sailors of the Cinque Ports. Though Richard failed, perhaps with some alternate tactics, a stronger relationship with France could have been formed. A stronger relationship with France will prove fortuitous as the war develops.