

## Preparing for A-Level History

Please complete the following work over the summer in preparation for the A-Level History course.

### **Early Tudors**

#### **Task One:**

- Create a brief timeline of the War of the Roses (1453-1525) using both the notes provided and your own research.

#### **Task Two:**

- Create a list of all the possible causes of the War of the Roses.

#### **Task Three:**

- Draw a family tree for the Yorkists, Lancastrians, and Tudors using research, which then can be supplemented with notes provided.

#### **Task Four:**

- Watch the 'Winter King' documentary (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5FsriGn300>)
- As you watch the documentary, create a list of all the possible causes of instability during the reign of Henry VII

### ***Extract from M. Hicks' 'War of the Roses'***

The Wars of the Roses were the longest period of civil war in English History. They followed immediately after the final English defeat in the Hundred Years' War (1337– 1453) and commenced under the Lancastrian Henry VI (1422–61), a weak and ineffective king, who was briefly mad (1453–54). The wars did not end in 1485 at the battle of Bosworth, as so many historians since the Tudors have claimed, and they did not actually cause the strong rule of the Tudors, although they may have made it easier to achieve. The Tudor dynasty managed to keep the throne and endured for more than a century. The last serious challenge was in 1497, with the defeat and capture of the pretender Perkin Warbeck, but the potential threat supposedly posed by the White Rose of York continued at least until 1525.

This book surveys these wars as a group and investigates them in detail. It treats the international scene and the contexts of particular battles, and considers the impact of the wars on English society as a whole and on particular individuals. It deals not with a single war or campaign, but with a series of conflicts spread over thirty years. Some of the same issues are therefore examined separately for each war. It concerns itself with what the wars have in common—the underlying causes and systems—and what is distinct about each. The Wars of the Roses cannot simply be lumped together as a single conflict with common objectives, sides and personnel. The book looks at the causes, course, and the results of each war.

#### General summary

The Wars of the Roses were a series of wars. Besides the minor clashes and also the lesser disorders that occurred in every reign, there were three periods of sustained conflict: 1459–61, 1469–71, and 1483–87.

The loss of English occupied France made it difficult for Henry VI's government to resist its critics. Calls for reform by Richard Duke of York (d. 1460) and the emergence of two sides,

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Lancaster and York, several times overflowed into violence before sustained conflict began in 1459. Defeated and exiled, the Yorkists under Warwick the Kingmaker returned triumphantly in 1460 to present York's claim to the Crown and thereby provoked the most violent phase, from which there emerged York's son Edward IV (1461–83) as the first Yorkist king; Towton (1461) was the deciding battle.

Edward's new regime took until 1468 to achieve recognition and to eliminate lingering Lancastrian resistance in Northumberland, north-west Wales and Jersey. Yorkist divisions led to a coup in 1469 and the Lincolnshire Rebellion of 1470, both led by Warwick and Edward's next brother, George Duke of Clarence (d. 1478). Defeated and exiled, as in 1459, the rebels allied later in 1470 with Lancastrian exiles and swept Edward away. Henry VI reigned again: his Readeption (1470–71). With foreign support, Edward exploited divisions amongst his enemies, decisively defeating first Warwick at Barnet and then the Lancastrians at Tewkesbury (1471); his triumph was complete.

Edward IV was succeeded in 1483 by his eldest son Edward V, aged 12, but 11 weeks later Edward IV's youngest brother Richard III seized the throne. He alienated many of the Yorkist establishment, who rebelled, apparently initially on behalf of Edward V, who disappeared, and then Henry Tudor. Buckingham's Rebellion in 1483 failed, but the Bosworth campaign of 1485 did defeat and kill Richard. Opposition to the new regime and a plethora of Yorkist claimants and pretenders led to further rebellions, invasions, and plots. The battle of Stoke in 1487 did not end the Yorkist conspiracies against Henry VII (1485–1509) and even his son Henry VIII (1509–47).

### Concise summary

The first war was from 1459 to 1461, when King Henry VI was replaced by the Yorkist Edward IV (1461–83). Originating in the call for reform and personal animosities, it became irreconcilable when Richard Duke of York laid claim to the throne. The Lords in London agreed that York should succeed Henry VI on his death, thereby disinheriting Henry's son Edward (the Accord). Lancastrian supporters of Prince Edward rejected the deal, led by Queen Margaret of Anjou and Henry Duke of Somerset. Richard and Edward Dukes of York were backed by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, the Kingmaker (d.1471).

The second war was in 1469–71, beginning with Warwick's attempts to control Edward IV through imprisoning him (1469) and then to replace him by Clarence (March 1470). Exiled in France, the rebels allied with representatives of Henry VI—notably Queen Margaret, her son Edward, another Duke of Somerset and Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke—invaded and replaced Henry on his throne (October 1470). Next year Edward returned and exterminated his opponents.

The third war was in 1483–87. Almost bloodlessly Edward IV's brother Richard III (1483–85) deposed his son Edward V (1483). A full-scale rebellion of southern England in 1483 led by Henry Duke of Buckingham (d. 1483) and the family of Edward IV's queen, the Wydevilles, was followed in 1485 by a successful invasion. Richard lost his throne to the Tudor King Henry VII (1485–1509), repeated attempts to reverse the process being defeated.

### ***Extract from D.Seward, 'War of the Roses'***

The War of the Roses constituted the logical conclusion of the Hundred Years War. As such it remains in memory as something romantic, a tale of Medieval chivalry and barbarity, on the border between myth and reality. The mind conjures up images of faceless armored cavalry and slender infantries of soldiers with long-bows, all made striking to the eye by colorful

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standards and gaudy dresses with the commanders decked out as jewels. What was the difference between a battle and a joust? All for show, but the former with blood and disembowelment as a consequence.

Two Royal dynasties intertwined by marriages and recklessly inbred. The Lancaster branch, headed by the ineffectual son Henry VI of the hero Henry V of Agincourt, as a child crowned the King of France and with a French Queen Margarete Anjou, was on the decline, the loss of French possessions (save the Calais and the Channel Islands) being attributed to their lucklustre stewardship. The head of the York branch, the Duke of York, was to see to the deposition of the Lancaster king, however, he was prematurely killed, so this task was accomplished by his son - Edward IV, who, for but one year of being ousted, while Henry VI was momentarily reinstated, served as the King for twenty years. He died, his issue was confiscated and destroyed (the legend of the two princes in the Tower) by his younger brother, who would seize the crown as Richard III, and whose ill gotten reign would only last for two years before he was killed at the battle of Bosworth by the emerging Henry VII whose step-father tipped the balance by eventually actively joining the inferior forces of his step-son. The battle of Bosworth marks the end of the civil strife, but only in the eyes of posterity, at the time, ultimate success was not assured but further challenges had to be fought. With the ascendancy of Henry VII, whose legitimacy ultimately stemmed from that pivotal John of Gaunt third son of Edward III, the Platagenet dynasty came to an end, to be replaced by the Tudor for the next hundred odd years. Richard III was the last English king to die in battle, and one of the very last to take part in one.

*If you need any help or have any questions about the course, please email us at:*

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*Please make sure you bring these notes to your first lesson in September, as we will be using the work you complete over the summer in the lesson.*

*I am looking forward to seeing you next year!*

*Mr Giles ☺*

### **CIVIL RIGHTS 1865-1992**

1. Produce a detailed diagram of how the American government works so that it includes the Executive, Congress and the Supreme Court. The links below might help you:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obf3CwYCxXw>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuFR5XBYLfU>
2. Read the following 3 articles and complete the attached reading review for each one.

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<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/02/21/malcolm-x-relevant-today-50-years-ago>

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/02/02/malcolm-x-was-right-about-america>

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/08/04/w-e-b-du-bois-malcolm-x-untold-history-movement-ban-bomb>

### EXTENSION:

Watch either 'Malcolm X' film by Spike Lee, starring Denzil Washington OR 'Selma' film by Ava DuVernay OR '13<sup>th</sup>' on Netflix.

Produce a film review including:

- Synopsis of the story/content
- How did you feel about the film? Explain
- What does it say about the Civil Rights struggle?

I would be really interested to know what your thoughts are on these films. Malcolm X is one of my favourite films and Selma is an interesting portrayal.

*The History Department are incredibly excited about next year and look forward to seeing you in Year 12. Any problems/questions, do not hesitate to contact me over the summer:*  
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*Best wishes!*