



VIZMUN 21
The Wars of The Roses
Joint Crisis Committees
Study Guide

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I-Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Esteemed delegates,

I am more than honored to be serving as your Under-Secretary-General during the conference. My name is Selin Karan and I welcome all of our delegates of the Crisis Committee with great honor. By this way, we aim to organize a Model United Nations conference that will stick in their minds with the help of our lovely academic team. I would like to say that we are eagerly awaiting the first day of our conference to meet with you and to give you an experience that you will never forget. Before ending my letter I would like to thank other academic members who are giving me a chance to manage a committee that aims to improve every delegate's debating skills and their solution-based vision. I will always be ready to help and if you have any questions about the committee or procedure, you can contact me via selinkaran12@gmail.com. As the Under-Secretary-General of this committee I wish you all the best for VIZMUN'21

Sincerely,

Under-Secretary-General ,Selin Karan

II-Introduction

Economy and society in England in the 15th century;

The difficulties that arose in the agriculture-based economy following the black death were a major problem for many landowners until the 1470s, when severe climatic changes occurred. Rents fell, slavery was weakened, villages were abandoned, and land lacked limestone that made it possible to farm even on steep slopes. Subsistence agriculture emerged, as most markets and markets disappeared. Economic problems led to reductions in many regions' tax liabilities. However, when the labor shortage caused by the plague was added to the weakening of slavery, the villagers took advantage of this situation and took action to meet their labor needs. Unfree peasants were paid cash for their labor, and these people were later directly integrated into the money economy. Labor shortages encouraged a shift towards rural agriculture, which required far fewer workers. The landowners fenced their land to raise sheep, which resulted in a decline in rural populations in areas such as Lincolnshire. The situation was so dire that the transformation of arable lands into pastures for grazing animals was bitterly criticized in Parliament in 1489. The spread of pasture increased wool production and then fabric exports. The British progressed in sheep breeding, especially with high quality wool, and many of them sought wide and qualified production like the fabric-production centers in Flanders. The wool trade continued to grow throughout the 13th century and brought prosperity to many towns, especially Shrewsbury. However, as the tax on wool exports was increased from the 14th century, wool began to be exported as fabric. This offered a kind of tax benefit for the development of the British fabric industry: The industry progressed as wool was not exported but processed inside. The most important center of the mentioned industry was East Anglia. The Great Yarmouth area alone accounted for three-quarters of the country's woolen fabric exports, and according to official records, 12,000 woolen fabrics were produced here in 1400-1401. Economic developments made the dimensions of social differentiation even more evident. Exports of wool and cloth also helped Britain maintain its trade balance, which was highly significant in covering both administrative costs and war expenses. A similar situation happened in Scotland. The large ports that made it possible to access continental Europe were striking. As of 1500, Edinburgh meets 60% of Scotland's exports. Edinburgh was also a center with important economic and political dynamics. Edinburgh's importance was consolidated with the replacement of Berwick, who was increasingly under British control.

III- V.Henry

Henry IV's eldest son, V. Henry, played a leading role in the struggle in both England and the Welsh under his father's rule. V. Henry was a warrior king. With a Lollard conspiracy organized by Sir John Oldcastle in 1414, he had easily thwarted the attempt of the Earl of Cambridge, who declared himself count of March in 1415. After an extensive preparation process, Henry invaded Normandy in 1415, and after taking Harfleur harbor, he turned the route towards Calais. Although the outnumbered French army hoped to stop the British at Agincourt, the British army again stopped the French army, just as it was at Crecy in 1346. Battle of Agincourt, It always has an important place in the history of England. One reason for this is that it has shown that one army can defeat another army that is superior in number. Another reason is that it contributed to the national legend of hostility between the two countries (Britain and France). In World War II this approach was used in the fight against Germany.

IV- VI.Henry

After Henry's death, his 9-month-old son, Henry V, ascended the throne. At the end of 1422, his grandfather was the king of France, VI. Charles, with the death of Charles, it was claimed that he was also the king of France. While his uncle Humphrey took over the administration in England as "protector", his other uncle, Duke of Bedford, was appointed as regent in France. While everything went exactly the way the British wanted it, the French resistance was revived with the appearance of Jeanne d'Arc, a charismatic peasant girl. In 1429, after the army led by Jeanne d'Arc lifted the British siege on the strategically important castle of Orleans, Charles ascended the throne in the city of Reims. Britain does not delay to respond, VI. Henry ascended the throne in 1430 in Paris. Jeanne d'Arc was captured and executed on charges of witchcraft. Once the British lost their pace and faltered, anti-war opposition rose in Britain. The alliances in France had begun to break down. The Burgundians decided to leave after much assistance they gave to England. A year later the British lost Paris. France was lost. England held the Calais region until 1558, while the Channel Islands are currently the English region. The most important factor in the formation of the modern history of the British Islands is that after 1453 it had so many islands. This feature will play a key role in the internal and external developments that it will experience in the coming years.

V- The Wars of The Roses

The internal conflicts that Britain experienced in the late 15th century are creatively described as the War of the Roses. Indeed, this concept is not meaningful and useful at all. The events are not just the "red rose" of Lancaster and the "white rose" of York. The fight for the throne, waged by the families of Lancaster and York, was just one of the conflictual issues of the time. The conflict did not begin on May 22, 1455, when Richard, the Duke of York, attacked the nobles close to Henry VI and his wife. On the contrary, it began five years ago, with the exile and later murder of Duke William I of Suffolk, who had supreme authority in the administration. William was the type who flattered the court and was not liked because he transformed the patronage offered by the royal to him as a form of personal interest. The crisis experienced by the Henry VI administration had basically two dimensions; first, the political crisis caused by the failure in the war with France; the other was the protracted economic crisis. The rebellion of Cade in 1450 reflected a broad dissatisfaction with the government that seemed corrupt at home and failed outside. The rebels had defeated royal troops in Sevenoaks, took London and executed their target top rulers. In the same period, serious disturbances were taking place in south and west England. As these events prepared to end Henry VI's rule, this also offered the nobles who wanted to challenge him the opportunity they had been waiting for. VI. Henry was a weak, incompetent and ineffective leader, and he would go mad in the end anyway. The power and sense of accomplishment that enabled him to overcome the excessive demands of his predecessor, the two kings, the Lancasters and the York Duke Richard, did not exist in Henry. The Duke of York, inherited from the Duke of Clarence Lionel, the second son of Edward, was voicing his claim to the throne. Henry's wife, Margaret, was an ardent supporter of this factional environment. The violent movements deepened the confidence crisis among the elites, and bloody clashes occurred between the Beaufort and York households. The struggle for domination between Neville and Percy families in the north was dire. The price of failure was death. Having lost the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, Richard's head was hung on the gate of York City. Edward, Prince of Wales, was the only child of Henry VI to be killed by the Yorks in 1471. Failure meant the disappearance of power, property, and privilege. For this reason, everyone was firmly convinced of the importance of seizing power and that there was no option but to win. Undoubtedly, this situation also affected the Count of Warwick, Richard Neville, who was called "strong enough to change the rulers.". This affected the mighty nobility as well as the other suitors of the throne. However there were still groups that managed to stay out of the war. As a matter of fact, when Richard III and Henry Tudor were fighting for the throne in 1485, groups out of the general conflict outnumbered. The clashes that started in the 1450s flared up as the Yorks won the battle of Northampton and raised their claim to the throne to a higher level. The Yorks won the Battle of Northampton in 1460. Henry VI was taken prisoner, but his wife, Margaret, and Prince Edward, were missing. The Yorks wanted to make a final move to kill them both, and the battle ended against the Yorks and their leader Richard was killed. Then Richard's eldest son Edward realized that reconciliation with Margaret was impossible and declared the throne his own. Margaret then took action and once again prevailed at York Wakefield. Margaret also won her war in 1461 and saved VI. Henry in prison. However, when she did not get the support she expected from London, she fled to

Scotland with her husband and son. During this period, the most violent war between the two sides occurred in 1461 in Towton. In this bloody encounter, the British land was soaked with blood, as it were to say. Led by Margaret, the Lancasters suffered a heavy defeat against the Yorks. Edward of York was declared king with the title of Edward IV. With minor problems, Edward remained on the throne until 1469. Edward's path in foreign policy, as well as the extensive credit he extended to his wife, who was one of the Woodvilles, caused conflict with Warwick. In the 1450s and 1460s the opposing winds that blew against Henry were now blowing against Edward. Warwick, who finally made the first move, defeated Edward in battle and seized power, but he was only able to stay on the throne for a year. Afterwards he had to flee to France again. Here he met his old enemy, Margaret, and they struck a deal. He promised to re-enthroned Henry VI together. Warwick's resentful brother George, Duke of Clarence, attacked in 1470 with the help of France. Edward escaped, and then Henry ascended the throne again. However, recovering his strength in exile, Edward attacked London a year later. With the help of his superior war skills he defeated Warwick at Barnet and Margaret at Tewkesbury. Warwick was killed. Edward was relieved by the murder of Henry VI in the London Tower where he was held captive. Under Edward's rule, which continued until 1483, England lived a much more stable period than the Henry era. Finance improved and the economy flourished, but the failure of the France expedition in 1475 limited Edward's popularity.

Problems, both within royalty and from Lancaster supporters, continued to preoccupy Edward. Clarence, who betrayed Warwick in 1471, was executed in the London Tower in 1478 for being involved in a conspiracy against the king. Contemporary sources say that he was strangled and killed in a barrel full of wine. When Edward died at the age of 40, his son, V. Edward was very young. Richard IV, Duke of Gloucester, brother of Edward IV, who was alive, became the new king. The new king, who described Edward V and his brothers as bastards, sent them to the tower and they were never heard from again. They were probably murdered there. Richard was highly skilled but extremely unreliable. By seizing power, he thwarted the order established by the Yorks, but he himself had very limited support. Richard did not trust his surroundings. Henry, Duke of Buckingham, who played a major role in Richard's throne, revolted in 1483, but it was not long before he was captured and executed. In 1485, there was Richard III on the throne of England, but after several events this year, it resulted in Henry Tudor's ascension to the throne of England.

In 1485 Henry took action with the help of French soldiers. The dislike of the public, Richard III was able to find support from only a few nobles and lost the war as a result of the heavy betrayal he suffered in the war. Thus Henry ascended the throne, but the aristocratic support behind Henry was even less than Richard's. In a country of apathy and fear and tired of civil wars, excitement and enthusiasm were almost forgotten emotions. Even if Richard were victorious, he would hardly be able to maintain his power. Although he was an unpopular person, at least he would not face strong Lancaster opposition and rivalry. With the death of the heirs of the York dynasty, all conditions were now ready for Henry to establish the new Tudor dynasty. However, the war at Bosworth did not mean that the war of roses was over. Struggling to hold the throne, Henry's adversaries inside and outside supported the movement

initiated by Perkins Warbeck. However, Simnel's army was defeated in the battle that took place at Stoke in 1487. This war of the roses was the last conflict of the era. Perkin Warbeck, who gathered the remaining dissatisfied opponents, was also executed in 1497. After these events, although the intrigues of the York people gathered around the la Pole family continued, the country has been more peaceful than ever for a very long time. Henry's marriage to Edward IV's daughter Elizabeth of York in 1486 also helped bring the two rival dynasties closer. The replacement of the Lancaster and York roses with the Tudor's rose symbolized this process of convergence.

VI- VII. Henry

Like Charles, who was to sit on the British throne between 1660 and 1685, Henry's primary goal was to carefully observe the balances and avoid an exile. Acting with extreme caution inside and outside, Henry made the current management mechanism more effective. By playing an active role in politics, he restored royal control over the nobility as well as taking care of the government himself. In England, especially the local feudal rights and judiciary were improved. Henry was a leader brave and determined enough to expropriate property belonging to the rebels. He was not capable of sharing his power with others, but he made it a principle to treat people well. Like the period of James IV, the economic situation of the state improved significantly during the reign of Henry. And when Henry died, he left a considerable fortune. In addition, the law and order in the country in general strengthened. Military power in the hands of the nobility was limited. In addition, Henry took care not to engage in conflicts outside the country that would lead to endless long hostilities. The short-term war with France was also ended in 1492 by a treaty with satisfactory conditions. Henry's goal from now on was to pursue a policy that would elevate Britain to an important country in European diplomacy.

VII- The "New Monarchy" Era

England, which was ruled by VII.henry after the York for a while, was described as "new monarchies" like the France of Louis XI. Whether the period in question wanted to re-establish royal power after a difficult period is a questionable issue. After all, at the same time as the wars of the roses, there were civil wars in France and Scotland. Establishing a more effective social control mechanism by increasing the authority of officials in the countryside, towns and cities was certainly a remarkable development. This process was definitely a very long-term process. The origins of this process date back to the II.henry period, when the administration was placed in a stable orbit. There was a similar situation in Scotland. Ascended to the throne after his father's murder, James IV restored royal power and dignity. The "New Monarchs" in Britain themselves needed nobility. It is essential to focus on the political problems created by the crisis and their responses by not discussing the change that occurred in the period between 1460-1560, which corresponds to the pre-reform crisis.

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