

Henry VIII – Chicago Model United Nations

The Tudor Family’s Rise to Power

The Tudor family came to power in England through some very unusual, albeit fortuitous, circumstances. Since 1455, the two branches of the reigning Plantagenet dynasty, the Yorks and the Lancasters, had been locked in a brutal civil war. Since one symbol the York family used to identify itself was a white rose, and the Lancaster family employed a corresponding red rose, this struggle became popularly known as the Wars of the Roses.

The Tudor family was descended from John of Gaunt, 1st Earl of Lancaster, the son of the Plantagenet Edward III of England. The Tudors traced their ancestry to one of Gaunt’s bastard sons by Katherine Swynford, who was subsequently legitimized when the couple married. The descendants of this line were known as the Beauforts. Later, Margaret Beaufort, the granddaughter of John of Gaunt, married Edmund Tudor, the son of Catherine of Valois, the widow of the Lancaster king Henry V of England, and Owen Tudor, a Welsh nobleman. Margaret Beaufort and Edmund Tudor only had one child, a son called Henry Tudor, Duke of Richmond. He would go on to found the Tudor dynasty in England as Henry VII.

By the time Henry Tudor was born, the York family had wrested power from the Lancaster family and were now ruling England. The Yorkist king Edward IV had died, leaving his eldest son to rule as Edward V, with his uncle Richard, Duke of York acting as regent. Richard immediately imprisoned Edward and his younger brother, Richard of Shrewsbury, and the two famous princes in the tower disappeared mysteriously, leaving

their uncle as the only male heir to the throne. He soon had himself crowned as Richard III.

Richard III proved to be an unpopular ruler. Seeing an opportunity for her son, Margaret Beaufort began promoting Henry's cause. After gaining supporters in England and in the traditionally Yorkist Wales (due to his Welsh heritage) as well as France and Scotland, he engaged Richard III in battle, defeating and killing him at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. With the other claimants to the throne either deceased or too weak to fight him, Henry Tudor seized the throne as Henry VII. To solidify his somewhat dubious claim, he immediately married Elizabeth of York, the daughter of Edward IV, who, technically, was the heir and therefore could have ruled in her own right. However, as she was a woman, it would have been difficult to levy supporters, and so instead she became queen consort to the man who had killed her uncle who may have murdered her brothers.

The Early Life of Henry VIII

Henry VII and Elizabeth of York produced four healthy children. These children, through their mother, were descended from both the Lancasters, through their father, and the Yorks, through their mother. The oldest child and heir was born in 1486, and he was styled Arthur, Prince of Wales. The name Arthur carried obvious connotations for the king of England, and, indeed, Arthur represented the hope of a peaceful, united England under the stable Tudor dynasty. Hopefully, all that his father had worked for would be epitomized when his heir, Arthur, reigned as king of all England.

The second child was a girl, Margaret, born in 1489. Following her in 1491 was Henry, Duke of York. Next came Elizabeth in 1492, though she died three years later.

After a brief hiatus, Mary, or Mary Rose, was born in 1496. Then came Edmund, Duke of Somerset in 1499, though he died slightly over a year later. The last Tudor sibling was Katherine, who was born and died on the same day in 1503, taking her mother with her shortly after. As is evident from the fact that over half of Henry VII's offspring died young, the rate of mortality for young children was incredibly high, and so it was of utmost importance that a royal family have more than one heir, in case something should happen to the oldest.

Nevertheless, Henry VII was left with two sons and two daughters, all of whom were ripe for politically advantageous marriages. At the age of two, Arthur was betrothed to the young Catalina de Aragon, the youngest daughter of the famous and powerful Spanish monarchs Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castille. This was an incredibly advantageous match for England, although the bride's parents were initially hesitant about sending their daughter to such a precarious throne in England. Finally, the couple was married in 1501, and Catalina, or Catherine, entered England as Princess of Wales and the future queen. The next year, in 1502, Henry VII met with James IV of Scotland to negotiate a treaty. Being such close neighbors, England and Scotland were often at odds with each other, and so the Treaty of Perpetual Peace was written to bring an end to the fighting. The treaty was sealed with the marriage of Princess Margaret of England to the much older James IV. Several years later, the princess Mary was betrothed to the future Charles V of Spain in 1507.

The world Henry VII had built up came crashing down April 1502. The young Prince and Princess of Wales had fallen ill. Arthur succumbed to his sickness and died.

Significantly for England, as it turns out, this death left his younger brother, Henry, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne.

However, this death did not benefit everyone. When she woke up from her illness, Catherine of Aragon found herself a young widow in a strange land where she had few friends or allies. As she was clearly not pregnant with Arthur's child, Catherine was left in an incredibly precarious position. Her person and her dowry were immediately used as pawns in a power struggle between Henry VII and her parents. These rulers used their clout to attempt to squeeze the money from the half-paid dowry out of each other. In the process, although Catherine was taken care of financially early on, as the years progressed she became increasingly neglected. Most of all, however, Ferdinand and Isabella attempted to negotiate a marriage between their daughter and the brother of her first husband, while the princes' father sought every opportunity to gain from this situation.

Catherine of Aragon

This potential marriage carried with it a large problem. This pressing issue was the question of whether or not the first marriage between Arthur and Catherine had been consummated. While this seems as if the answer to this question is obvious, it was highly contested, and it proved to be highly significant. The circumstances of the marriage make consummation likely. After all, it would be the expected result of leaving two fifteen-year-olds alone in a bed together, particularly if the two had been taught from an early age that it was their solemn duty to provide an heir for England as quickly as possible. Royal couples of their age were not considered too young for such matters.

However, the possibility remained that the marriage may not have been consummated after all. Arthur was, by many reports, a sickly boy. He may have been unable to perform in bed, and his bravado the next morning (he was reported to have boasted to some friends about spending the night “in Spain”) could have served as a cover for his shortcomings. Additionally, Catherine and her duenna, Dona Elvira, swore that the consummation had never occurred. Nevertheless, Catherine was not a saint, and she may very well have lied about this fact for a number of reasons and then adhered to her story doggedly for the rest of her life. Many years later, the deeply pious queen would confirm her lack of a carnal knowledge of Arthur in confession. In any case, these doubts were made irrelevant by a papal dispensation that allowed Catherine to marry her brother-in-law that – just in case – treated the marriage as if it had “perhaps been consummated.” And so, treaties for the marriage were signed in 1503, and the couple was betrothed soon after.

However, this newfound security for Catherine was short-lived. Soon after the marriage was contracted, her mother died, ending the unity of Spain. Since Catherine’s father was now only king of Aragon, it was unclear to Henry VII whether she was the bride for his son who provided the most advantageous alliance. In light of these concerns, in 1505 Henry VII compelled his son and heir Prince Henry to formally renounce his betrothal to Catherine, without her knowledge. After this, Catherine was mistreated by her father-in-law and thrust into brutal poverty in order to force the rest of her dowry out of her father, who did not view his daughter’s plight as sufficient reason to give an inch of ground. All Catherine could do was wait and hope.

Internal Problems

Catherine's hopes, as it turned out, were not in vain. In 1509 Henry VII died, and his son ascended to the throne as Henry VIII. Despite his earlier repudiation of their marriage and the six-year age gap between them, Henry had a deep desire to wed Catherine. This may have stemmed from several reasons: for the Spanish alliance she brought, to use as proof that he was man enough to have a queen, and because of personal feelings towards the prospective queen in question. In any case, the wedding occurred right before Henry's coronation so that the royal couple could be crowned together.

The marriage began well and seemed to be a particularly successful one. Henry was devoted to his wife, even styling himself Catherine's "Sir Faithful Heart" in a jousting tournament. The young, handsome, athletic king and his beautiful wife, a short, auburn-haired woman with fashionably pale skin seemed to be an ideal royal couple. They were young, they were in love, and Catherine frequently conceived.

In addition, the two were a political power couple. Henry VIII was a regular Renaissance prince, gifted in many areas, as well as a shrewd ruler. Catherine, meanwhile, had been trained well by her mother, and she possessed a flair for politics. She demonstrated herself more than capable of ruling England during her husband's absences.

However, as the years progressed, the marriage turned sour. Despite numerous pregnancies, Catherine had only produced one living child, a girl named Mary, in 1516. This was not satisfactory for Henry. In addition to this, Catherine's frequent pregnancies had ruined her figure. She was also beginning to show her age. It became abundantly

obvious that she was much older than her husband. Henry became the laughingstock of Europe for keeping “an old and deformed wife,” as Francis I scoffed.

Although he was a devoted father, Henry longed for a son. In sixteenth-century England, very few people were willing to accept a female ruler. The country had not had one since the ill-fated Norman Empress Matilda, whose reign proved to be disastrous, so precedent dictated that queens regnant were to be avoided. His lack of an heir was particularly problematic for Henry VIII. The Tudor dynasty had started very recently, with an incredibly tenuous claim to the throne, at that. In 1521 Henry had his relative Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, a pedigreed claimant to the throne, executed for treason on possibly trumped-up charges. Since he had the support of some of the most powerful nobles of some of the oldest families, it would have been all too easy for him to unseat Henry. This incident demonstrated how uneasily the crown sat on Henry’s head. If he failed to produce a satisfactory heir, it could mean the end of the dynasty. It could also plunge England back into civil war, which was a fear at the back of many people’s minds.

There was one other possibility for an heir. Henry had taken a mistress named Elizabeth, or Bessie, Blount. In 1519 she gave birth to a son who was named after his father and given the surname Fitzroy, which means son of the king. Henry Fitzroy was honored with the title Duke of Richmond, and his mother was promptly married off to a respectable husband. Although Fitzroy was a bastard, a fact that presented problems of its own, he was a viable heir to the throne of England. As Catherine got older and the chances of her producing a son become diminished, Fitzroy increasingly seemed to be a good candidate to fill this position and cement the dynasty.

Diplomatic Relations

Although it is an island, England nevertheless is not a totally isolated entity. It must deal with the nations of Continental Europe. England must navigate the complex alliances and conflicting desires of the other European nations. It must also try to gain an upper hand against the other countries grappling for power. Amidst all of this, England must strive to have its interests represented and fulfilled.

One of the most complex diplomatic relationships that England has is with Spain. The current queen was a Spanish princess, and the marriage with her brought a valuable alliance with the country. Her parents had made that country a powerhouse, and, under the current rule of her nephew Charles V, the might of Spain has only increased. Charles V inherited the vast lands around Europe and the rest of the world, and he was elected Holy Roman Emperor, a particularly important title given by the Pope. His person represents the union of Spain, but also Austria, Burgundy, parts of Italy, and a substantial array of colonies in the New World. Spain is a devoutly Catholic nation, and the Holy Roman Emperor is a particularly pious man. He will doggedly defend the interests of the church. Additionally, he is concerned with his aunt's position in Europe, and, since he recently conquered Rome, he will use his sway with the Pope to this end. Charles V also rules a substantial part of Germany. He is strongly opposed to the Lutheranism taking root there, and he treats any reforms taking place in his vast territories very harshly. Spain is traditionally the enemy of France, so satisfying the interests of one may alienate the other.

France is also a traditionally Catholic country. However, its king, Francis I, is more tolerant of Protestants than his Spanish counterpart. He has been able to use this to

his advantage in moving some German states against Charles V. French relations with England are a bit strained, due in part to memories of the Hundred Years' War. England continues to hold some lands in France, and it still insists that its rulers have a claim to the throne, although Salic Law in France prevented the English monarchs from ruling there. Despite this historical enmity, Henry's sister, Mary, was briefly Queen of France under Louis XII (whom Francis succeeded), which briefly brought an alliance. Francis, incidentally, helped Mary to marry her current husband, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (a close friend of Henry's), in secret, which indicates amicable personal feelings between the French king and these two key English nobles. Francis and Henry themselves have a bit of a diplomatic rivalry. In 1520 both kings had agreed to meet in order to promote peace and alliance between their respective nations. However, this meeting turned into an extravagant affair that the monarchs used to outdo each other in grandeur and prove that they had the superior court, rather than actually showing that they would make good allies. So much cloth of gold went into the process on either side that this fabric gave its name to the meeting – the famous Field of the Cloth of Gold. Not surprisingly, this event was an ornate sham with few significant political effects.

Germany consists of a series of small states ruled by various princes. Many of these German states are members of the Hanseatic League, a trade alliance, which provided some feelings solidarity to this region. Ever since 1517, when Martin Luther published his 95 Theses, many German states adopted Protestantism as their official religion. These Lutheran states allied themselves into the Schmalkaldic League to defend themselves from Charles V or any other power that attempts to punish their religious

reforms. Henry VIII disapproves of Lutheranism, but there are some Protestants in England who may look to the German states as an example.

Of course, England does not have sole ownership of the island it is located on. Scotland, its neighbor to the North, has historically presented problems. The two have often fought each other over past few hundred years. Scotland has historically been allied with France, and so there is always the threat that the two nations will unite. The current king of Scotland, the Catholic James V, is Henry's nephew. However, he was not raised by his mother, Henry's sister, and, in fact, Henry killed his father in battle, so there is no great affection between the two kings.

Relationship With the Church

Traditionally, England has been a conservative nation when it comes to religion. Although, in the past, there have been movements against the Church, they have been stamped out. Most English people are Catholic; however, Protestant books have recently entered the country, and they have caused some people to question the Church. There are now fervent Protestants from England, such as William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English, and Simon Fish, a writer and propagandist. The current monarchs are both devout Catholics. Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic King and Queen under whose reign the Spanish Inquisition began, had adopted her parents' fervent religious views. Henry VIII was similarly devoted. The writings of Luther horrified him, and he fought against these teachings taking hold in England. In 1521 he had published *Defense of the Seven Sacraments*, a book that repudiated Luther's claims while asserting the authority of the Pope and defending the sanctity of all of the Catholic sacraments, marriage in particular. This treatise earned him the gratitude of

Pope Leo X, who conferred upon Henry the title “Defender of the Faith” for his faithful defense of Catholicism against the Protestant heretics. The current Pope, Clement VII, is currently under the control of Charles V.

The church holds more than ideological sway over England. It has much actual power as well. The Pope, of course, has tremendous influence throughout all of Western Europe. England itself has a huge number of Benedictine and Augustinian monasteries, as well as nunneries. Some of these are, of course, small and poor; however, a great many of them had amassed tremendous wealth over the centuries. Some of the poorer ones have been dissolved and their resources funneled into other places; however, the richer, and well-connected monasteries remain untouched.

Anne Boleyn

One of the queen’s ladies-in-waiting caught the eye of the king and stands out much more than her predecessors. A slim-waisted, dark-haired woman with an olive complexion, she does not fit the conventional sixteenth-century ideal of feminine beauty. Nevertheless, she is quite striking, well-dressed in the latest French fashions, and her exotic coloring makes her stand out. Her most distinguishing feature is her dark, bewitching eyes. This lady’s name is Anne Boleyn.

Anne is not the first Boleyn to have interested the king. Her older sister, Mary, had been the mistress of Francis I (who referred to her as his “English Mare”) before beginning an affair with Henry VIII. It was also falsely rumored that the rise of their father, Thomas Boleyn, was partially due to certain services rendered to the king not by him but by his wife, Elizabeth, the mother of Mary, Anne, and their brother, George.

In any case, long through with Mary, Henry VIII set his sights on Anne. Anne Boleyn was an intelligent, well-educated woman who had spent some time at the French court. In France she learned their mannerisms, their language, and also the radical religious teachings the king allowed. As a result, Anne Boleyn became a Protestant, although she is prudent enough to know when not to advertise her beliefs. Anne is also no stranger to love affairs. In the past, a marriage between Anne and a family rival was considered and abandoned to settle their property claims. She later carried on an emotional – if not physical – relationship with the married poet Thomas Wyatt. She had also been loved by and betrothed to Henry Percy, heir to the Earl of Northumberland and a nobleman far above her station, but Cardinal Wolsey had broken off this affair. Now, she is the object of desire for no less a man than the king of England.

However, Anne Boleyn was not to be thrown away like his other mistresses. She refused to be won over easily and kept the king waiting, forcing him to beg for any scrap of attention she might deign to give him. This ploy worked: the king fell passionately in love with the coy woman who he would have as mistress. Although Anne began to return his affections when the timing was right, she refused to perform the duty of mistress and sleep with him, because they were not married. Anne has managed to stay out of Henry's bed for years, and the king is still smitten. As Henry tires of his wife, he longs more and more to marry Anne and produce a son with her. Although nothing has happened in this vein yet, Anne is ambitious, and she is slowly usurping Catherine's role as queen at court. The opportunity to make it official is all too tempting.

However, although she has the favor of the king, the rest of England has yet to be won over. She still has enemies at court, as Catherine of Aragon inspires much loyalty in

her followers. The commoners are fiercely devoted to their queen, and they have no great love for the woman attempting to usurp her place. No matter how successful Anne is, there will always be people trying to bring her down.

Goals for the Committee

Henry VIII is a notoriously demanding monarch. As such, he will expect great accomplishments and sage advice from his council. The king can, theoretically, refuse to implement its suggestions. However, at the moment, he is dealing with unusual, unprecedented issues, and so he highly is inclined to follow the recommendations of his counselors, and he is eager to implement the advice that they give him. In addition, he needs the support of the nobility during this difficult portion of his reign, and so the king will be careful not to alienate them by disregarding their suggestions without considering them very carefully. The members of Henry VIII's council hold tremendous sway over his decision-making process. This means that they have a large amount of control over how England is ruled, and they are key players in the formation of the destiny of the nation.

Of course, with great power comes great responsibility. The political climate of the 1530s is incredibly volatile, not only in England but also throughout Continental Europe. As such, the members of the council will have much more to deal with than just the usual problems involving demanding kings, stubborn wives, temperamental mistresses, bickering nobles, and competing court factions.

First and foremost, they must obtain for Henry the means for his divorce. However, they must balance his desire for this with his strong distaste for religious radicalism. While doing this, they must crush opposition within the country while

ensuring that they have the support of the people of England – not only the nobles at court, but also the commoners who currently prefer the incumbent queen to the woman attempting to take her place.

However, England is not the only country that needs to be won over. The powerful nations on the Continent may not be as enthusiastic about Henry's cause as he is. The council must attempt to satisfy them as much as possible – if they are unable to get these countries to support the divorce, they must at least pacify them sufficiently so as to prevent them from taking action against England or even declaring an all-out war. The Vatican, especially, must be convinced of the justice of the king's Great Matter. The council must be able to demonstrate that granting Henry's wishes will be in the Pope's best interest. He also must compete with the strong opposing influence on the Pope – and, indeed, throughout all of Europe – exerted by Charles V. It will be difficult to find allies around Europe, but England must try to find support from the Continent wherever it is able to do so.

The council is, indeed, faced with an incredibly difficult task. Individual members of the council must try to push their own personal agendas in policymaking for England. They must also take care to ensure that they have enough supporters at court and on the council so that they will not lose their heads or meet some other unpleasant end. While dealing with all of this, they must remember not to offend Henry VIII, the monarch who has such absolute control over their fates.

Delegates

Jean du Bellay – The ambassador from France. He is the shrewd representative of French interests at the English court. France is a predominantly Catholic country, although it is fairly tolerant towards other religious beliefs. It has a tumultuous relationship with England. Often, French interests will directly oppose Spanish interests. As such, the interests of du Bellay lie in direct contrast with the desires and status of the Spanish Catherine of Aragon. Du Bellay must answer to the king of France, Francis I while maintaining on amicable terms with Henry VIII.

Sir Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire – The father of Anne Boleyn. An ambitious man (lacking an impressive pedigree) who made a name for himself at court, he gained much prestige for himself by marrying Elizabeth Howard, the sister of Thomas Howard; as a result, therefore, his loyalties lie with that family. In the past, Henry VIII employed him as the ambassador to several European countries. Currently, he will push his daughter's cause zealously and with whatever means necessary. He enjoys – and wants to keep – the power and prestige that Anne's position brings him. He works to bring the downfall of Wolsey.

Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk – One of Henry VIII's closest friends since childhood. He received his title from the king, rather than inheriting it by birth, and, as a result, is sometimes viewed as an upstart. He is married to Henry's younger and favorite sister, Mary, the dowager queen of France, which brought him out of favor for a time, but which he recovered from. His wife strongly favors Catherine of Aragon while harboring a fierce hatred of Anne Boleyn, and she can influence her husband to oppose the king's relationship with his mistress. However, he has a desire to please and support the king, his friend. Brandon is, for this reason, a wild card as well as a powerful ally to have.

Sir Francis Bryan – Anne Boleyn's distant cousin. Known as the "Vicar from Hell," he is a plainspoken, yet mischievous, man who is favored by the king. He has allied himself with Anne's cause and, therefore, against Wolsey. However, he is unscrupulous, petty, and unprincipled at times, and this, coupled with his fairly distant familial relationship to Anne, makes him an unstable ally. He has so far been incredibly successful at remaining on the king's good side, which may cause him to compromise his loyalties in the future.

Cardinal Lorenzo Campeggio – A Papal representative in England. Originally, he taught law in Bologna, but at the death of his wife he joined the priesthood and advanced rapidly in that field. He has not taken fully to a life of piety; rather, he is still deeply ambitious for both himself and for his family. He is a shrewd diplomat and negotiator who does not always adhere to the rules of morality that one might expect from a man of God. Despite this worldly attitude, he is completely opposed to Protestant reform, and he sees Luther and his teachings as dangerous. Campeggio views Catherine of Aragon as a weak spot in England and would not mind removing her from her position as queen.

Eustache Chapuys – The Spanish ambassador. He came to England as a calm, cool lawyer from Savoy to represent the interests of Charles V and the very Catholic Holy Roman Empire. He arrived with an ability for diplomacy as well as sound advice not to seem too partisan towards Catherine of Aragon, lest this make her predicament worse. Upon meeting her, however, he threw out this counsel and became zealously devoted to her cause. Naturally, this caused him to position himself firmly against Anne Boleyn.

Despite this fierce enmity, however, he was fascinated by her and at times could be impressed by her character in spite of himself.

Henry Courtenay, Marquess of Exeter – A cousin of Henry VIII. His mother, Margaret of York, was the younger sister of Elizabeth of York, giving the Courtenay family a claim to the throne. Under Henry VII, Courtenay's father had participated in a plan to overthrow the king. Amends were made between the Courtenays and the Tudors, and Courtenay is a loyal servant to the crown, even becoming head of the Privy Chamber. He generally conforms to the desires of the king, to whom he has endeared himself. He adheres to his Catholic beliefs.

Thomas Cranmer – A graduate of Cambridge with a doctorate in divinity. Cranmer is organized and careful. He is also able to see both perspectives on an issue and thus, while this quality does help him to reach more fair and balanced conclusions, it also causes him to flip-flop at times. He started out with an extremely orthodox outlook on religious doctrine. However, over time, he is slowly becoming much more radical. He currently favors Anne Boleyn's cause. As a theologian, Cranmer might be more inclined to solve difficult problems by looking at them from a moral perspective, rather than by legal means.

Thomas Cromwell – A commoner who has risen rapidly at court. A talented, multilingual man with much world experience, he was picked up by Wolsey to give him legal help. Cromwell has quickly found an ally in Anne Boleyn. He uses his influence in Parliament and at court to assist in her ascent. Like Anne, Cromwell is anti-clerical, and he will work to further Protestantism. However, he is capable of abandoning his allies at court if they have fallen out of favor and a connection with them seems dangerous.

John Dudley – The young son of the late Edmund Dudley, who had been a minister to Henry VII. He is the stepson and heir of his mother's second husband Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount of Lisle and governor of Calais in France. Lisle was a claimant to the throne from an illegitimate line, and, although he spent a brief time in the tower, this has not affected Dudley's career. Henry VIII is fond of Dudley. Dudley himself is a believer in the Protestant Reformation, and he shows no restraint in voicing his beliefs.

John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester – A theologian. He is a highly trained, incredibly conservative man who thinks and speaks like a clergyman. He began writing and preaching against Luther early on, and stopping the Protestant heretics is a cherished goal of his. He strongly supports Catherine of Aragon over Anne Boleyn, and Catherine looks to him for advice and counsel.

Sir William Fitzwilliam, Earl of Southampton – Treasurer of the Household. Fitzwilliam is a close friend and councilor of Henry VIII's. Although he was raised Catholic, he does not have particularly strong religious beliefs either way. He is also one of the few people at court who is loyal to Wolsey. Since Anne Boleyn has set herself against Wolsey, her downfall would bring delight to Fitzwilliam.

Edward Foxe – A theologian. A graduate of Cambridge, Foxe is Provost of King's College and a close friend of Stephen Gardiner. He is willing to help Wolsey achieve Henry VIII's goals, if his assistance is necessary. Foxe is not particularly devoted to traditional doctrine. He is very open to new ideas, and he is quite capable of devising and arguing unorthodox interpretations of religion.

Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester – Wolsey's secretary. Gardiner is an aggressive, ruthless negotiator. Although he owes the start of his career at court to

Wolsey, he does not feel bound by loyalty. If he sees a chance to push himself ahead, he will take it, even if it means betraying Wolsey by backing Anne Boleyn. He is close with Foxe, although he attacks problems in a much more legally-based way. Gardiner is a Catholic who supports Church institutions, and he will be brutal against reformers.

Sir Henry Guildford – Henry VIII's controller. He was a childhood friend of Henry's, and his mother was the beloved caretaker of the king and his sister when they were young. Ferdinand of Aragon knighted him in his youth, and he still remains biased in the favor of Spain. He openly favors Catherine of Aragon (the daughter of Ferdinand) and the Catholic religion, and, as a result, has earned himself the hatred of Anne Boleyn.

Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk – The uncle of Anne Boleyn. He is a blue-blooded, highly ambitious man whose goal is the advancement of the Howard clan. In the past, he served as Lord High Admiral. A cautious, calculating man, he ruthlessly pushes his niece's cause and will ride her success to the top, if he can, while pushing aside anyone who will oppose her, particularly Wolsey. Currently, he holds a position of huge power, thanks to Anne's clout with the king. However, if there is a change in the wind, he may choose to sever ties with even a member of his family in order to save his own neck.

Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester – Anne Boleyn's favorite preacher. Although he was trained to have orthodox religious beliefs, Latimer found Protestantism and has been a fervent advocate of the cause ever since. He would love to bring the Reformation to England, and he has found an ally in the king's mistress. Although considered heretical by some, many listeners find Latimer compelling, and he wants the king to be one.

Edward Lee, Archbishop of York – A clergy member who, in contrast with his religious calling, advises Henry VIII on legal matters. He has proved himself useful in the past in several foreign embassies. Although Lee has fairly orthodox religious beliefs, he might be willing to bend his convictions if it should happen that this will help the king get what he wants.

Sir Thomas More – One of Henry VIII's closest friends and trusted advisors. He is highly educated and deeply pious. A devout Catholic, More finds the writings of Luther and other reformers to be incredibly dangerous. He writes and speaks passionately against Protestants, and he sees no problem in persecuting heretics to the full extent that he can. He supports the Catholic Catherine of Aragon, making himself into an enemy of Anne Boleyn and the rest of the Howard clan. Although he has the ear of the king and can be quite persuasive, his inflexibility when it comes to his beliefs may make him unable to give the king the support he desires, which could cause a rift.

Henry Norris – Henry VIII's groom of the stool and friend. He is sympathetic to Cardinal Wolsey and will help him stay in favor of the king. In contrast, Norris is also growing close with Anne Boleyn, and it is possible that these two conflicting friendships could produce a problem. Norris is also close with another woman at court, Madge Shelton, a cousin of Anne Boleyn's.

Cardinal Reginald Pole – A scholar and relative of Henry VIII. He has a desire to please and assist the king, and for this reason he will lend his support to the king's relationship with Anne Boleyn. However, Pole's mother, Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, was one of Catherine's closest friends in England and served as the governess to the Princess Mary, so he has conflicting interests. Recently, his opinion on the affair has changed, and a shift in loyalties is possible. In addition, he is a staunch Catholic and strongly opposes reform.

Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford – A young nobleman at court. In the past, he was in the service of Charles V. His sister, Jane, is a lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon. Seymour was raised as part of a large Catholic family, and so he is not sympathetic to the Protestant cause. Seymour wants to further the advancement of his family's status, so, if he can, he will work to undermine the influence of Anne Boleyn.

George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury – Lord Steward of the Household. Talbot is a powerful member of the English aristocracy. He is the father-in-law of Henry Percy who, for a time, was in love with and betrothed to Anne Boleyn. As the Keeper of the Queen's Crown, he wants to keep the crown on the head of Queen Catherine of Aragon, rather than see it adorn that of the upstart Anne.

Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham – A humanist and clergyman. A careful, gifted administrator, he works diligently to aid Catherine of Aragon in her cause. In the same vein, he is an enemy of Anne Boleyn, and he may harbor some resentment towards the Howard clan for losing the prestigious office of Lord Privy Seal to Anne's father. He is a staunch Catholic, and, despite some initial friction, he cooperates with Thomas Wolsey's efforts to persecute heretics. He will make every effort to halt church reforms.

Cardinal Thomas Wolsey – Henry VIII's trusted advisor and close friend. Although the King thinks the world of Wolsey and has come to expect that Wolsey can make almost anything the king wants happen, he has made himself an enemy not only of the queen but also her rival, the king's mistress. Since both women may profit by his downfall, he must work diligently to remain in favor. In fact, Anne Boleyn has already reduced his influence with the king, although Wolsey must attempt to get it back through devoted service and by obtaining for the king exactly everything he wants. He believes in the Catholic faith and will use his power for Protestant book burnings and stronger methods of persecution. He distrusts Anne's radical religious beliefs.

Bibliography

Starkey, David. *Six Wives*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Weir, Alison. *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*. New York, NY: Grove Press, 1991.

Bernard, G.W. *The King's Reformation: Henry VIII and the Remaking of the English Church*.

Block, Joseph S. *Factional Politics and the English Reformation*. Suffolk, UK: The Boydell Press, 1993.

Loades, David. *The Politics of Marriage: Henry VIII and His Queens*. Dover, NH: Alan Sutton Publishing Limited, 1994.

<http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/>

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/>