

## Y11 into 12 Summer History work

In A Level History you will study three different time periods listed below. We want to prepare you for your 3 new topics by giving you a flavour of the periods and countries. It is essential at A Level that you read around the subject—all the most successful students of history do this. We are providing you with a summer reading and viewing list. **We don't need you to do everything on this list, although the more you do the better your understanding will be.** The **minimum** requirement is to **read one of the books OR watch one series/film for EACH topic** (Germany, Russia and Tudor England). These can be from the **choices below or you could find your own** if you prefer. You need to fill in the summary sheet for these (these are at the end of the document). We love many of these books and series and some have had a great impact on us as teachers and people.

You have reached the end of your schooling where we will tell you everything. **Now is the time for you to explore areas that you find interesting.** If there is a book or series that sparks your interest feel free to find more books by that author or films on the same lines. We will be thrilled to discuss any new material you find with you. If this challenge does not excite you, you are probably not going to enjoy the course!

We don't expect you to buy these, although you can if you want! We have copies of some in the department, others are in the school library or you can get them from the local library. Some local libraries offer borrowing of ebooks. You can also buy second hand on Amazon and eBay for a really low price.

### Russia

#### Novels:

- **Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy**- a married woman begins a doomed affair with the dashing Count Vronsky. You could also read War and Peace by the same author. A masterpiece but set shortly before our period.
- **Dr Zhivago, Boris Pasternak**- love story set during revolutionary Russia. I read this at 17 and longed to be like Lara (looking back now I don't know why!)
- **City of Thieves, David Benioff**- wonderful story of friendship set in WWII Russia (I LOVE this book)
- **Child 44, Tom Rob Smith**- a brilliant novel set in Stalin's Russia where a loyal citizen discovers that life in the Soviet paradise is not all it seems
- **Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoyevsky** – a difficult but fulfilling novel about crime and redemption. One of the most famous books in Russian literature.
- **Ten Days that Shook the World, John Reed** - not a novel but an American journalist's account of the Russian Revolution
- **What is to be Done? Nikolai Chernyshevsky** – this was Lenin's favourite book and follows the story of a woman trying to free herself. It was seen as a model for revolutionaries.
- **Gulag, Anne Applebaum**- amazing accounts of what it was like to be in Stalin's gulag

#### Viewing:

- **Death of Stalin (2017)** - hilarious film though not historically accurate
- **Anna Karenina (2012)**- lovely adaptation of the classic story
- **Dr Zhivago (1965)**- classic film. A bit dated now but still fantastic. I have a few copies in school. There is also an ITV mini-series of this starring a young Keira Knightly if you can find it on the web
- **Russia, Land of the Tsars** – series. Great series that will give you sound background knowledge before we start the course. Available on YouTube
- **Child 44 (2015)**- another great film adaptation
- **Rasputin**- many versions of this classic tale of the 'mad monk'
- **Stalin**- HBO programme starring Robert Duvall. It covers the personal life of Stalin. Might be hard to get hold of though!
- **Red Monarch**- BBC Film version of Stalin's rule. Again this is excellent but can be tricky to find.

There are so many more examples of books and programmes on Russia in this period. Find more if these don't suit you!

## Germany

### Novels:

- **Markus Zusak, The Book Thief** – the story of a spirited young girl sent to live with a foster family in WW2
- **Thomas Harding, Hanns and Rudolph** – incredible true story of a German Jew's experience trying to hunt down the Kommandant of Auschwitz
- **Sarah Cohen-Scali, Max** – very interesting book written about a child's experience in Nazi Germany
- **Christopher Isherwood, Goodbye to Berlin**- Christopher Isherwood's compelling fictionalised autobiography defines the wild and wicked Berlin between the wars – and Hitler's rise to power. A classic.
- **Alfred Döblin, Berlin Alexanderplatz**- As Franz Biberkopf leaves prison, he vows to lead a decent life on the grimy streets of Weimar Berlin –one of the greatest German novels of the 20th century.
- **Philip Kerr, March Violets**- Freelance detective Bernie Gunther works on the mean streets of 1930s Berlin, where Nazi excesses are never far from the surface. Great at showing life in Nazi Germany.
- **Hans Fallada, Alone in Berlin**- In 1940, in the heart of Hitler's capital, Otto and Anna Quangel are alone in Berlin with a breathtaking campaign of resistance .... This is one of the most famous books set in the period.
- **Anna Funder, Stasiland**- Not surprisingly the fall of the Berlin Wall caused panic at the Stasi headquarters, as described in Anna Funder's riveting portrait of East Germany's secret police and how it controlled a nation. Not set in the period but I couldn't resist putting it in as I love it!
- **Anna Funder, All that I Am**- The book concerns a group of German dissidents during the years of Hitler's rise to power, whose activities lead eventually to their flight from Germany and their re-establishment as refugees in London.
- **Two Brothers, Ben Elton**- the tale of a Jewish and an Aryan brother (one is adopted) and how their lives are changed forever by the coming of the Nazis. Really moving.

### Viewing:

- **Cabaret, 1972**-the decadence of Weimar culture. It won 8 Oscars
- **Max, (2002)**- depicts a friendship between a Jewish art dealer, Max Rothman, and a young Austrian painter, Adolf Hitler. The film explores Hitler's views which began to take shape under Nazi ideology
- **Generation War (2013)**- young Germans caught up in WWII. Available on Netflix. Nice to see life on the other side.
- **Swing Kids (1993)**- with young Christian Bale... great film with cool music and dancing but also a lot of darkness
- **Rise of the Nazis (2019)** - BBC 2019 version (iPlayer)

**Holocaust movies**- this is a category of its own as there are so many great ones. These are some of the best:

- **Schindler's List (1993)**- In German-occupied Poland during World War II, Oskar Schindler gradually becomes concerned for his Jewish workforce after witnessing their persecution by the Nazi Germans
- **Sophie's Choice (1982)** After spending time with his new neighbours, an aspiring writer realizes they are harbouring deep secrets that will forever change him.
- **Life Is Beautiful (1997)** When an open-minded Jewish librarian and his son become victims of the Holocaust, he uses a perfect mixture of will, humor and imagination to protect his son from the dangers around their camp.
- **Holocaust (1978 Mini-Series)**-The saga of a Jewish family's struggle to survive the horror of Nazi Germany's systematic marginalization and extermination of their community
- **The Pianist (2002)** -A Polish Jewish musician struggles to survive the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto of World War II.
- **Europa, Europa (1990)**- A boy in Nazi Germany, trying to conceal that he is Jewish, joins the Hitler Youth.
- **Conspiracy (2001)**- A dramatic recreation of the Wannsee Conference where the Nazi Final Solution phase of the Holocaust was devised.
- **Auschwitz, The Nazis and the Final Solution** (2005 BBC series). Available on Netflix. Based on Laurence Rees' book.

## The Tudors

### Novels:

- **Philippa Gregory, Three Sisters, Three Queens, The King's Curse, The Last Tudor, The Other Queen, The White Princess, The Other Boleyn Girl, The Taming of the Queen**- Philippa Gregory writes really exciting and easy reads set in the period. These books give great insight into the period. Try one and you might get as hooked as I have! I have a number of these books in school.
- **Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel**- a weighty read about the extremely interesting Thomas Cromwell. This book has won many prizes.
- **Alison Weir, Innocent Traitor**-the tragic story of the 9 day queen Lady Jane Grey. Alison Weir is a respected historian who writes both novels and serious history of this period. You could also try *The Lady Elizabeth*.
- **Dissolution, C.J. Sansom**- the beginning of the Shardlake series. I love this series. These are set in Tudor times but are essentially detective stories. I read the whole series in a month last summer.
- **Karen Harper, The Poyson Garden**- A fun (and surprisingly accurate, all things considered) historical mystery series starring none other than the future Queen Elizabeth I as sleuth!
- **Susan Kay, Legacy**- A critically acclaimed novel about the life of Queen Elizabeth I.
- **Jean Plaidy, The Thistle and the Rose**- Jean Plaidy is one of the Tudor era's most popular novelists. *The Thistle and the Rose* focuses on the tumultuous life of Henry VIII's older sister Margaret. I have many of her novels in school.
- **Mark Twain, The Prince and the Pauper**- In this classic novel by the great American humorist Mark Twain, the young Tudor prince Edward VI switches places with a look-alike pauper boy to learn more about how the common folk of England live. I loved this when I was young.

### Viewing:

- **Elizabeth (1998)**- great film starring Cate Blanchett. This was followed up in 2007 by **Elizabeth, The Golden Age**
- **Anne of a Thousand Days (1969)**- film about the demise of Katherine of Aragon and the rise of Anne Boleyn.
- **Lady Jane (1986)**- film starring Helena Bonham Carter as the young doomed Queen. This was a favourite of mine when I was your age.
- **A Man for All Seasons (1966)**- classic film about the story of Thomas More
- **The Other Boleyn Girl (2008)**- adaptation of Philippa Gregory's best-selling novel
- **Wolf Hall (2014)**- BBC adaptation of Hilary Mantel's book.
- **Blackadder II (1986)**- not very accurate but very funny
- **The Tudors (2007-)** – a very 'sexed-up' look at the Tudors. I have lost count of how many series there were.
- **King Henry VIII: Winter King** – documentary available on YouTube
- **Britain's Bloody Crown** – Dan Jones series which is available on YouTube

# History Summer Project

## Book Summary

Title:

Author:

Summary of what the book was about:

Favourite parts, characters or themes:

What did you learn about Russia/ Germany/ the Tudors?

Would you recommend this book to others? Why/why not?

# History Summer Project

## Film/series Summary

Title:

When was it made?

Summary of what the film/series was about:

Favourite parts, characters or themes:

What did you learn about Russia/ Germany/ the Tudors?

Would you recommend this film/series to others? Why/why not?

## Summer work – preparation for the Tudors A-Level course

You need to complete these tasks and bring your notes to your first lesson with Miss Boden. You will be discussing your thoughts during the first lesson so you should ensure that your notes are clear and detailed to help you form opinions.

### The Tudors Course:

This is your **A-Level History Breadth Study**. You will be studying the entire Tudor dynasty, from Henry VII to Elizabeth I. It is important that we start by setting the scene for the start of Henry VII's reign so that you can understand the difficulties he faced as a new king. These tasks have been created to help you gain a contextual understanding of the period.

### The Wars of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses was a 30-year dynastic struggle between the two noble families (and their supporters) who believed that the English Crown rightfully belonged to them. The noble families belonged to the **House of York (white rose)** and the **House of Lancaster (red rose)**.

#### Here are



Henry VI  
(Lancaster)



Margaret  
of Anjou  
(Lancaster)

#### some of the



Edward IV  
(York)



Richard  
Neville,  
Warwick  
(Kingmaker)

#### key figures involved:



Richard III  
(York)



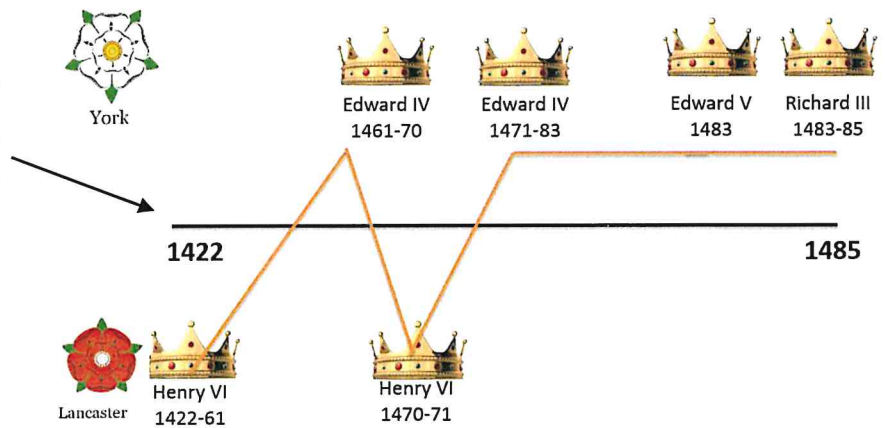
Henry VII  
(Lancaster –  
distant)

**Before you complete your written tasks**, I would HIGHLY recommend that you watch a short series about the Wars of the Roses. It is interesting and will definitely help you to picture the events and the individuals involved in the Wars of the Roses.

The series is on YouTube and is called 'Britain's Bloody Crown' by historian Dan Jones; there are 4 episodes in total.

This series can be instead of work from the other

Use the image to help you visualise who is king at each different stage.



**Your tasks:**

**Try to organise your notes with appropriate sub-headings**

1. Make notes on what happened in each of these different time periods between the Houses of York and Lancaster:
  - 1455-64
  - 1469-71
  - 1483-87
2. Read the section of your information sheets **'impact of the Wars of the Roses'**. In your own words, explain how this series of battles affected England.
3. Answer these questions using detail from the information sheets—you will need the section **'The Usurpation of Richard III'**
  - Why are many puzzled by Richard aggressively seizing the throne from his nephew in 1483?
  - Why do you think Richard did seize the throne?
  - How do historians differ in their interpretations of Richard III's usurpation? Describe the different opinions.
4. a. Make brief notes on **Buckingham's Rebellion**  
 b. What did this rebellion reveal about the stability of Richard III reign?
5. Read the section about **'Politics and Government in the Reign of Richard III'**—in your own words describe how Richard tried to stabilise politics and make a judgement about how successful he was based on the text.
6. Read the points given in the section **'Richard III's overthrow'**—Write a paragraph explaining how the attitude towards Richard III at the end of his reign would have helped Henry VII in his accession as a new king

**If you have any issues with any of these tasks or if you struggle to find the documentary and need me to send you a link, contact me by email at: [j.boden@theacademycarlton.org](mailto:j.boden@theacademycarlton.org)**

### York versus Lancaster

There were three distinct phases of civil war: 1455–64, 1469–71 and 1483–7.

#### 1455–64

What began as a political struggle for control of royal government eventually led to outright war for possession of the crown. In 1455, Richard, Duke of York, led his supporters in a successful rebellion against Henry VI. In 1459 they rebelled again and in spite of suffering a defeat at Blore Heath, they were victorious at the battle of Northampton in July 1460. Control of the government was no longer enough for York and, four months after his victory, he claimed the throne for himself. Although York was defeated and killed at the battle of Wakefield, his eldest son and heir, Edward, seized the throne and won a decisive victory at the 'bloody' battle of Towton (March 1461). This victory enabled Edward to take control of London where he was crowned king as Edward IV. Following the capture and imprisonment of Henry VI, Edward IV secured his hold on the throne.

**Key question**  
Why did the struggle between York and Lancaster last so long?

#### Profile: Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, 'the Kingmaker' 1428–71

- 1428 – Born to Richard Neville, first Earl of Salisbury
- c. 1447 – Married Anne, daughter and heiress of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick
- 1449 – Succeeded to earldom of Warwick through his wife
- 1453 – Joined Richard, Duke of York, when the latter claimed the regency during Henry VI's illness
- 1455 – Fought with distinction on the Yorkist side at the first battle of St Albans
- 1458 – Became a popular hero after his successful attack on a fleet of Spanish ships off Calais
- 1460 – Fought at the battle of Northampton. Brought the captive King Henry VI to London
- 1461 – Father killed in battle. Succeeds to the earldom of Salisbury. Lost control of Henry VI who was freed from captivity by Lancastrian forces. Devised and carried out plan to make Edward, Duke of York, king
- 1461–7 – Became the most powerful man in the kingdom after the king, Edward IV
- 1469 – Quarrelled with King Edward IV whom he briefly imprisoned. Joined Lancastrians and helped put Henry VI back on the throne
- 1471 – Killed at the battle of Barnet



Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, was a rich and powerful nobleman who used his power to make Edward king. He is a good example of what historians have called an 'over-mighty' subject, because a nobleman with too much power was a threat to the king.



1469–71

Bitter rivalry between two competing Yorkist factions led to war in 1469. Edward IV's close friend and ally, Warwick, was not satisfied with the position and power the king had given him. Warwick's rebellion split the Yorkists and forced Edward to flee the kingdom and seek shelter in Holland. Warwick's attempt to govern the kingdom himself failed, so he freed Henry VI from prison and restored him to the throne in 1470. Edward returned from France with an army and defeated and killed Warwick at the battle of Barnet (April 1471). The murder of Henry VI by Edward's brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and the destruction of the Lancastrians at the battle of Tewkesbury

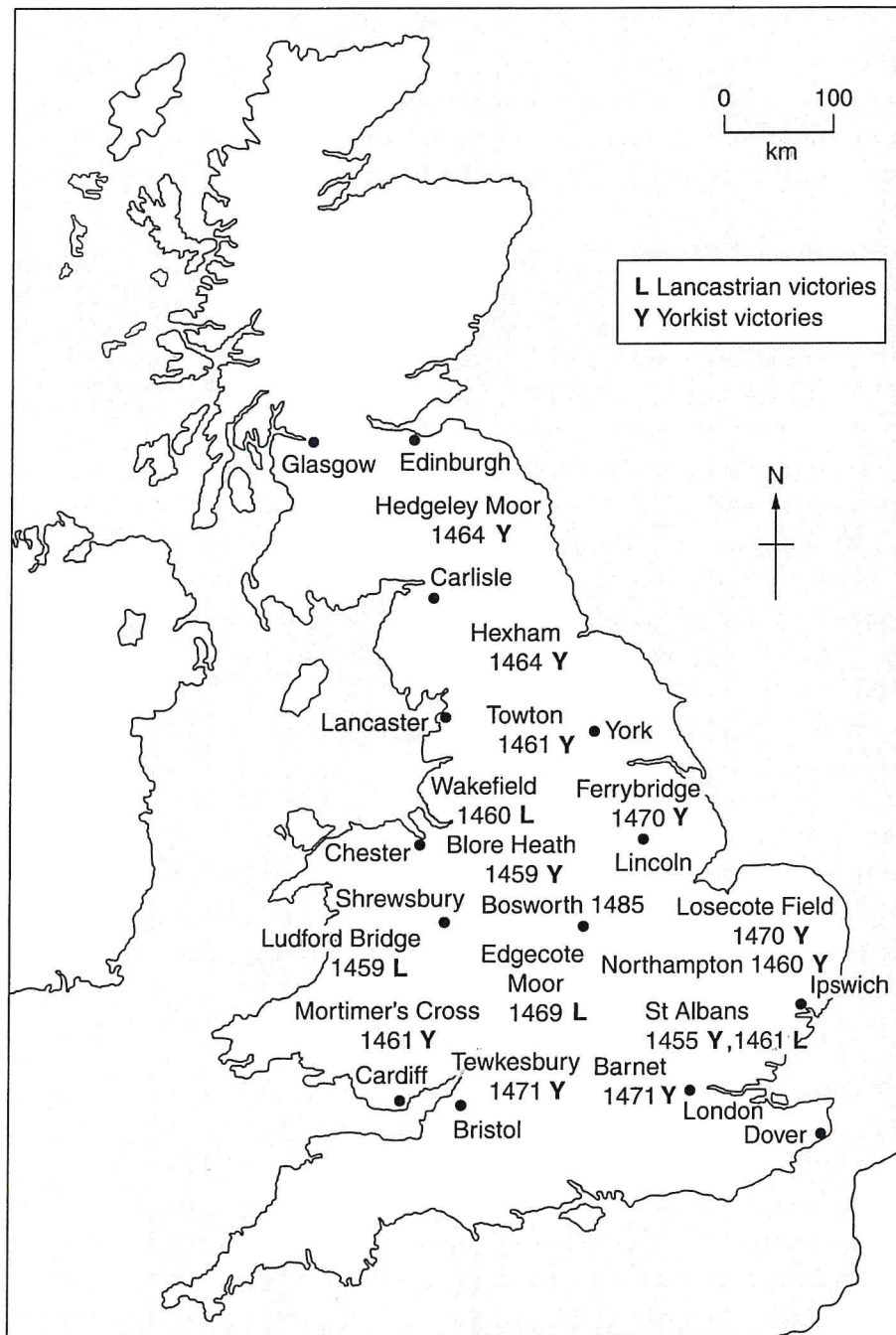


Figure 1.2: The different battles of the Wars of the Roses

## 6 | Henry VII

(May 1471) seemed to have brought the wars to an end. Following Tewkesbury Henry VI's half-brother, Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, fled to France taking his 14-year-old nephew, Henry Tudor, with him.

### 1483–7

Edward IV's second reign as king (1471–83) was more successful than the first (1461–9). Once again England had a strong leader, and he strove to attain peace at home and prestige abroad. Unfortunately, he died unexpectedly in 1483, leaving his 12-year-old son as heir. Edward IV entrusted the care of his son, Edward V, and his kingdom to his brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who was appointed **Lord Protector**. However, the succession was thrown into turmoil when Richard seized the throne and proclaimed himself King Richard III in June 1483. It was then that Henry Tudor emerged as a claimant to the throne. Leading an alliance of Lancastrian exiles and supporters of the **deposed** Edward V, Henry Tudor swept to victory at the battle of Bosworth in August 1485. Crowned King Henry VII, he brought the Wars of the Roses effectively to an end when he defeated a Yorkist invasion at Stoke in 1487.

### Impact of the Wars of the Roses

In the past, the death and destruction caused by the Wars of the Roses has been exaggerated by historians. In reality, most of the battles (Towton excepted) were nothing more than skirmishes affecting only a small percentage of the population. The most intense period of fighting was between July 1460 and March 1461, but, as a whole, there was barely more than two years' military activity throughout the 30-year conflict. Civilian casualties and physical destruction to towns and private property were light. Even at its worst, most people were able to go about their everyday affairs.

On the other hand, as John Warren in his book *The Wars of the Roses* has pointed out, 'this is not to claim that the country was a "merrie England" of peaceful peasants and bustling towns with the occasional and rather picturesque battle to enliven the dull routine of the workaday world'. Warren claims that 'English society was marked by an undercurrent of violence and disorder' which, in the short term, the wars made worse. There was considerable political upheaval and instability (especially in 1459–61 and 1469–71) as the houses of Lancaster and York competed for the throne. There was also a strong element of noble rivalry for local dominance, especially in northern England between the Percies and the Nevilles. The nobles had seized their opportunity to take control of the provinces, so it was their orders that were obeyed rather than those of the king. If Richard III and Henry VII were to prove themselves strong kings, they would have to subdue these over-mighty subjects.

Edward IV becomes king: 1461

Henry VI temporarily regains the crown: 1470–1

Edward IV returns as king: 1471

Edward IV dies and Richard III seizes the throne: 1483

#### Lord Protector

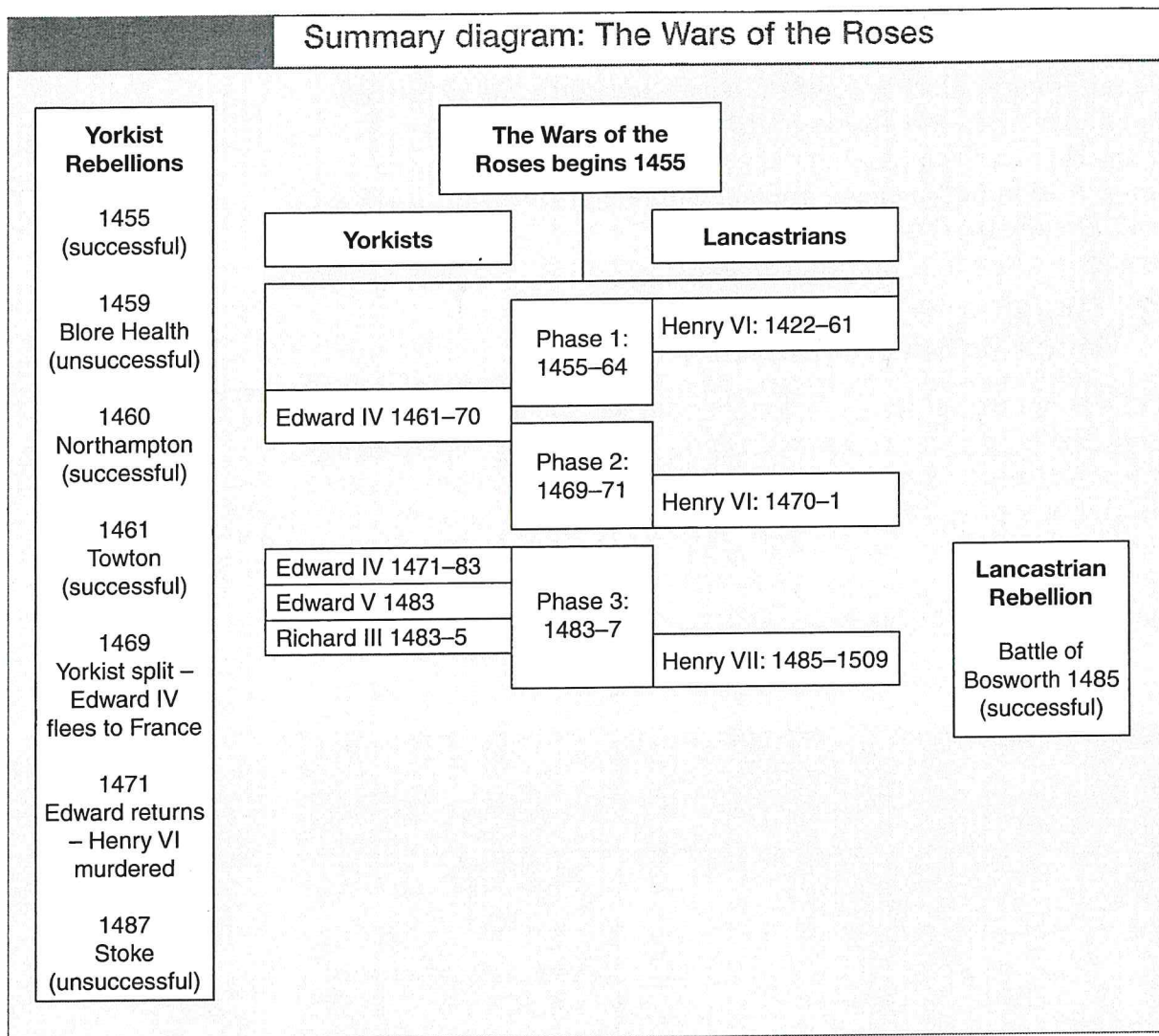
Title sometimes given to a regent (see page 8).

#### Depose

To rid the kingdom of its king by forcing him to resign.

#### Key question

What impact did the wars have on the kingdom?



**Key question**  
Why did Richard seize the throne?

## 2 | The Usurpation of Richard III

Historians have long debated the reasons why Richard acted so aggressively in seizing the throne from his nephew. Having been so loyal to Edward IV throughout his reign, Richard's behaviour and actions in the months following his brother's death seem all the more puzzling. When Edward IV's brother, George, Duke of Clarence, joined the Earl of Warwick in rebellion against the crown, Richard remained loyal. He distinguished himself at the battle of Barnet in 1471, led the war against Scots in 1480 and recovered the city of Berwick from them in 1482. Richard was handsomely rewarded by Edward IV who granted him vast estates and royal offices in the north of England. However, Richard's future was put in doubt by the death of his brother because he had made enemies of the queen's family, the Woodvilles, and their supporters.

Historians remain sharply divided over the nature and cause of the **usurpation**. Some argue that it was carefully planned and skilfully executed by Richard and his chief supporter, Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. Others view Richard's seizure of the throne as a haphazard sequence of ill-considered impulsive

**Key term**  
**Usurpation**  
Where the throne is seized without authority or in opposition to the rightful line of succession.

## 8 | Henry VII

reactions. The most widely held view is that Richard acted on the spur of the moment to prevent the queen's family from robbing him of the position of **regent**. Richard feared that the Woodvilles might try to destroy his power by turning his nephew against him. He may even have feared assassination. Therefore, self-preservation rather than ambition is thought to be the most likely cause of the usurpation.

### 3 | Challenges to Richard's Rule: Buckingham's Rebellion

All was not to run smoothly for Richard. He lost much support in the aftermath of his usurpation, and court and country became disunited again. Richard's ruthless disposal of his enemies (the leader of the Woodvilles, Earl Rivers) and former allies (William, Lord Hastings) deeply divided public opinion. Earl Rivers was accused of plotting to remove Richard as Lord Protector and make his sister, the queen, regent. Hastings shared Richard's

#### Regent

Someone who governs the kingdom on behalf of a king.

#### Key question

Why did Buckingham rebel against Richard III?

Buckingham's rebellion: autumn 1483



This portrait shows a man very different from the evil and deformed hunchback described by Shakespeare.

fear and distrust of the Woodvilles so he supported the execution of Earl Rivers. He also supported Richard's regency but he would not agree to the deposition of Edward V. Hastings' refusal to support the usurpation made him a threat to Richard so he was eliminated.

Richard was encouraged by the Duke of Buckingham to dispose of Earl Rivers and Hastings and to seize the throne for himself. Buckingham was ruthlessly ambitious. He disliked the Woodvilles and was jealous of Hastings' power and influence. Edward IV had judged Buckingham to be dangerously untrustworthy so he was kept out of power. Buckingham struck up a friendship with Richard, which saw them plot the usurpation together. Buckingham was lavishly rewarded and he became the most powerful noble in the kingdom. However, within four months of Richard's coronation, this 'over-mighty' subject led a rebellion. It failed and he was executed in November 1483.

The reasons for Buckingham's rebellion are a matter for debate. For example, there has been a great deal of speculation



#### Profile: Richard III 1452–85

- 1452 – Born at Fotheringay Castle, Yorkshire. One of 11 children born to Richard, Duke of York
- 1470 – Accompanied his brother, Edward IV, into exile in Holland
- 1471 – Commanded a troop of soldiers under his brother, Edward IV, at the battle of Tewkesbury in which he is said to have killed Edward, Prince of Wales, only son of Henry VI
- 1478 – Married Anne Neville, daughter of 'the Kingmaker'
- 1482 – Led a successful military expedition against the Scots
- 1483 – Appointed Lord Protector of England when Edward IV dies. Edward IV entrusted the care of his sons to his brother Richard. Richard was to rule England until his nephew, Edward V, came of age. Richard proclaimed himself king after which he allegedly disposed of the princes, his nephews
- 1485 – Richard killed at the battle of Bosworth

Richard has gone down in history as one of the most cruel and evil rulers ever to have been crowned king of England. The man most responsible for blackening Richard's reputation was William Shakespeare. His play *Richard III*, written in the 1590s, fitted in with early Tudor propaganda encouraged by Henry VII, which sought to portray Richard as an usurper and child killer. Shakespeare claimed that Richard was responsible for the murders of Henry VI in 1471, of his brother George, Duke of Clarence in 1478 and of his nephews, 'the Princes in the Tower' in 1483. He is even credited with being responsible for the early death of his wife, Anne, through cruelty and neglect.

about the fate of the two young sons of Edward, 'the Princes in the Tower', neither of whom was seen alive again. Some have argued that their murder by Richard may have turned Buckingham against him. Others have accused Buckingham of murdering them himself. The real reason why Buckingham rebelled will probably never be known but the following may be suggested as possible causes:

- He may have been dissatisfied with the rewards and position of power given to him by Richard.
- He may have been converted to Henry Tudor's cause.
- He may have decided to take the crown for himself.

It was in this uncertain atmosphere that the distant Lancastrian claimant, Henry Tudor, decided that the time was right for him to try his hand at winning the crown of England. He had been forced to live in exile in Brittany and for 12 years. Henry intended to support Buckingham by landing on the south coast of England, but his invasion fleet turned back to France when news came of the failure of the rebellion.

#### 4 | Politics and Government in the Reign of Richard III

The government of medieval England was in the hands of the king and whosoever he chose to advise him and to sit on his council. It was an age of personal monarchy when the king ruled in the fullest sense of the word. This meant the country prospered or stagnated depending on the ability of the ruler. In 1471, Sir John Fortescue, **Chief Justice** of the King's Bench under Henry VI, wrote *The Governance of England*, which offered Edward IV advice on how to restore political strength and stability. Fortescue identified two major problems and the means to deal with them:

- The financial weakness of the crown. To solve this problem, Fortescue advocated **retrenchment** to halt the decline in royal revenue and **re-endowment** to increase the monarchy's income.
- The increasing power of the nobility. To combat the power of the nobility, especially the 'over-mighty' subject, he advocated a code of strict discipline mixed with reward and punishment.

When Richard became king he tried to follow this advice. He sought stability by continuing the financial policies of his brother Edward IV and raised much needed revenue from the forfeited estates of people **attainted** for **treason**. This enabled Richard to grant revenues worth around £12,000 per annum as rewards for loyal service. He also tried to improve the efficiency of revenue collection in crown lands. Although he did not rule long enough to solve the financial weakness of the crown, Richard had introduced a measure of stability and efficiency in the collection of royal revenue.

Richard hoped to stabilise the government by recruiting the nobility. He won many of them over by offering financial rewards,

← **Key question**  
How did Richard try to stabilise his government?

**Chief Justice**  
Chief Judge in the king's law court.

**Retrenchment**  
Cutting down on expenditure.

**Re-endowment**  
Re-investment, or finding other ways of raising money for the crown.

**Attainder**  
Act of parliament registering a person's conviction for treason and declaring all his property forfeit to the king.

**Treason**  
Betrayal of one's country and its ruler.

grants of land and important offices. Although this added to his financial problems, he thought that gaining their support was worth the risk. He relied on the likes of the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Huntington and the Earl of Lincoln to advise him in council and provide stability in the provinces. The execution of Buckingham showed that he was not afraid to punish nobles who betrayed him. Although most of his support came from northern lords, it is a measure of his success that no English peer declared their support for Henry Tudor until after the battle of Bosworth.

**Key question**  
Why was Richard III overthrown?

## 5 | Richard III's Overthrow

Richard's overthrow was due, in the main, to the following reasons:

- Divisions among Yorkists caused by his usurpation.
- The splits caused in the Yorkist party by Richard's usurpation led to Buckingham's rebellion.
- The instability caused by former Yorkists fleeing to join Henry Tudor in exile.
- The unpopularity of Richard's policy of planting northerners in southern counties after the failure of Buckingham's rebellion. Richard's reliance on northern support turned some in the south against him.
- The rumours circulating about the fate of the princes in the Tower, the death of Richard's wife and that of his son in 1484.
- Henry Tudor's exploitation of rumours that Richard killed the princes.
- Richard had no heir.
- The growing unpopularity and mistrust of Richard even by the northern nobility.
- His failure to win the wholehearted support of the nobility (e.g. Hastings, Buckingham, Stanley and Northumberland).
- Continued opposition from the Lancastrians.
- The nature of Richard's seizure of the throne bred fear and distrust.
- Richard's rule was so short that he did not have time to firmly establish himself.

**Key question**  
What was the basis of Henry VII's claim to the throne?

## 6 | Henry Tudor's Claim to the Throne

To the majority of Englishmen the battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485 was just one more battle in the long struggle for the crown that dominated the second half of the fifteenth century. On this occasion the victor happened to be the obscure Lancastrian claimant, Henry Tudor. The 28-year-old earl was not known to his new subjects, most of whom would have believed his chances of remaining on the throne to be extremely slim. It was only victory in battle that had brought Henry to power, as his claim to the throne by inheritance was rather weak. It lay through his mother, Margaret Beaufort, who was a direct descendant of Edward III by the marriage of his third son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, to Catherine Swynford (see the family tree in