

QTMUN 2024

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# Court of Henry VIII: Thorn Among The Roses

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# Equity Disclaimers

Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the real-world implications of issues, our committees' contents may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter strictly for academic purposes. We ask for delegates to be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

**This Background Guide and Court of Henry VIII presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to the following: miscarriages, treatment of women in the 1300's, religious conflict, etc.**

As this is a war committee, please refrain from including depictions of gore, exploitation of prisoners of war or Indigenous communities, excessive violence, inhumane treatment of anyone, etc. in committee speeches, private directives, public directives, notes, conversations, etc. UTMUN recognizes the sensitivity associated with many of our topics, and we encourage you to be aware of and set healthy boundaries that work for you. This may include: refraining from reading certain parts of the background guide, preparing yourself before reading this background guide, doing some self-care or seeking support after reading the background guide, or anything that can help make you feel more comfortable. We ask that all Delegates remain considerate of the boundaries that other Delegates set.

UTMUN expects that all discussions amongst delegates will remain productive and respectful of one another. If you have any equity concerns or need assistance in setting boundaries or navigating sensitive subject matter or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org). We want you to feel safe and comfortable at UTMUN!

If you wish to switch committees after having read the content warnings for this committee, please do the following:

a) Fill out the [UTMUN 2024 Committee Switch Request Form](#).

If you have any equity concerns, equity-based questions, or delegate conflicts, please do any of the following:

1. Email [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org) to reach Harvi Karatha, email [deputy.equity@utmun.org](mailto:deputy.equity@utmun.org) to reach Iva Zivaljevic, or reach out to the committee dias as [henry@utmun.org](mailto:henry@utmun.org).
2. Fill out the Anonymous (if preferred) UTMUN Equity Contact Form: <https://forms.gle/XEH3DCTwX3JzzSnr6>.
3. Notify/Ask any staff member to connect you to Harvi Karatha or Iva Zivaljevic.

# Model United Nations at U of T Code of Conduct

The below code of conduct applies to all attendees of UTMUN 2024 for the entire duration of the conference, and any conference-related activities (including but not limited to committee sessions, conference socials, committee breaks, and the opening and closing ceremonies).

1. Harassment and bullying in any form will not be tolerated, the nature of which includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, religion, sex, age, mental and physical disabilities, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression,

a. Harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, insulting and/or degrading language or remarks; threats and intimidation; and intentional (direct or indirect).

discrimination and/or marginalization of a group and/or individual;

i. The above prohibition on harassment, bullying, and inappropriate behaviour extends to any and all behaviour as well as written and verbal communication during the conference, including notes, conversation both during and outside committees, and general demeanour at all conference events;

ii. UTMUN reserves the right to determine what constitutes bullying and/or inappropriate behaviour toward any individual and/or group;

b. Attendees must not engage in any behaviour that constitutes physical violence or the threat of violence against any groups and/or individuals, including sexual violence and harassment, such as, but not limited to,

i. Unwelcome suggestive or indecent comments about one's appearance;

ii. Nonconsensual sexual contact and/or behaviour between any individuals and/or groups of individuals;

iii. Sexual contact or behaviour between delegates and staff members is strictly forbidden;

2. UTMUN expects all attendees to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times during the conference. Specific expectations, include, but are not limited to,

a. Attendees must, if able, contribute to the general provision of an inclusive conference and refrain from acting in a manner that restricts other attendees' capacity to learn and thrive in an intellectually stimulating environment;

b. Attendees must adhere to the dress code, which is Western business attire;

i. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the attendees' ability to adhere to the previous sub-clause;

ii. Attendees are encouraged to contact Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org) with questions or concerns about the dress code or conference accessibility;

- c. Attendees must refrain from the use of cultural appropriation to represent their character and/or country, including the use of cultural dress, false accent, and any behaviour that perpetuates a national or personal stereotype;
- d. Delegates must not use music, audio recordings, graphics, or any other media at any time unless approved and requested to be shared by the Dais and/or the Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org);
- e. Attendees must abide by instructions and/or orders given by conference staff, members;
  - i. Attendees are exempt from this above sub-clause only if the instructions and/or orders given are unreasonable or inappropriate;

3. Delegates, staff, and all other conference participants are expected to abide by Ontario and Canadian laws and Toronto by-laws, as well as rules and regulations specific to the University of Toronto. This includes, but is not limited to,

- a. Attendees, regardless of their age, are strictly prohibited from being under the influence and/or engaging in the consumption of illicit substances, such as alcohol or illicit substances for the duration of the conference;
- b. Attendees are prohibited from smoking (cigarettes or e-cigarettes, including vapes) on University of Toronto property;
- c. Attendees must refrain from engaging in vandalism and the intentional and/or reckless destruction of any public or private property, including conference spaces, venues, furniture, resources, equipment, and university buildings;
  - i. Neither UTMUN nor any representatives of UTMUN is responsible for damage inflicted by attendees to property on or off University of Toronto campus;
  - ii. Individuals will be held responsible for any damages.

4. The Secretariat reserves the right to impose restrictions on delegates and/or attendees for not adhering to/violating any of the above stipulations. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to,

- a. Suspension from committee, in its entirety or for a specific period of time;
- b. Removal from the conference and/or conference venue(s);
- c. Disqualification from awards;
- d. Disqualification from participation in future conference-related events.

5. UTMUN reserves the right to the final interpretation of this document.

For further clarification on UTMUN's policies regarding equity or conduct, please see this [form](#). For any questions/concerns, or any equity violations that any attendee(s) would like to raise, please contact UTMUN's Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org) or fill out this anonymous Equity Contact Form: <https://forms.gle/Psc5Luxp22T3c9Zz8>.

## Letter from the Director:

### *Welcome to Tudorian England!*

My name is Zach Delarosa and as Director of the Court of Henry VIII: Thorn Among the Roses, I would like to extend a warm welcome to UTMUN this year. Some of you may (or may not) want to know a little bit about me. But if you do, I am entering my second year studying a double major in political science and ethics, society and law. I had previously been a moderator for Ad Hoc at UTMUN last year but this is my first year serving in the capacity of director. Outside of UofT, I really enjoy going to the gym, going out with friends, and the occasional drink or two. And before you ask, yes I am 19.

Enough about me and back to the dreams and aspirations of the English Crown. War has been declared as England enters the Holy Alliance against France. This committee will explore central issues in Europe during this period. Delegates will explore the complex web of alliances in Europe and how dynastic feuds and rivalries play a key role in influencing European foreign policy. Along with foreign policy, delegates will also have the ability to influence English military power and incursions to decide the outcomes of not only England but all of Europe's future. At the same time, delegates will also have to manoeuvre across royal court intrigue in order to further their own or collective ambitions. Domestically, internal instability is brewing. The eventual end of the war will influence later events pertaining to the question of succession and the religious policy of England.

Dynastic rivalry, political pragmatism, and Machiavellianism characterize this time period and will remain relevant concepts to the committee.

Overall, you as the delegate will have the ability to recreate the story of England. What lies ahead lies in your hands and your hands only. Will England reconquer France and recreate the Angevin empire? Will Castillon be avenged? Or will court intrigue and domestic instability destroy England's dream to be something greater? It all lies in your hands.

*Dieu et mon droit!*

**Zach Delarosa**

**Director of the Court of Henry VIII: Thorn Among the Roses**

**[henry@utmun.org](mailto:henry@utmun.org)**

## Position Papers:

At UTMUN 2024, position papers are required to qualify for awards. Each committee will also give out one Best Position Paper award. To learn more about position paper writing, formatting, and submission, please check out the [position paper guidelines](#). Please read through the guidelines carefully as this page will describe content recommendations, formatting requirements, and details on citations. If you have any questions about position paper writing, feel free to contact your Dais via your committee email ([henry@utmun.org](mailto:henry@utmun.org)) or reach out to [academics@utmun.org](mailto:academics@utmun.org).



## Definitions:

### LEAGUE OF CAMBRAI

An alliance of European powers formed on December 10, 1508. It was organized by Pope Julius II to reacquire former papal states annexed by Venice, following the death of Pope Alexander VI. Taking place in Cambrai, Netherlands, the alliance included France, the Holy Roman Empire, Aragon, Mantua and Ferrara, and would later assume a multi-year war against Venice from 1508 to 1511.<sup>1</sup>

### HOLY LEAGUE

An anti-French coalition formed in 1511 in opposition to King Louis XII's ambitions in Italy. This would be the second iteration of the League, which first took shape in 1495 to again, protect Italian land from French invaders. With Pope Julius at the helm, the Holy League consisted of the Holy Roman Empire, Venice, Spain, Switzerland and England.<sup>2</sup>

### HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Ruled by the Holy Roman Emperor and located in central and western Europe, the history of the Empire spanned several hundred years from around the 9th century. One of the most influential institutions in Europe at the time, the Empire was deeply connected to the Roman Catholic Church, with Pope Leo III crowning the first Roman Emperor.<sup>3</sup>

### LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND

A high-ranking position in the English council as the reigning monarch's right hand. The Lord Chancellor was the Speaker of the House of Lords, who oversaw and advised the monarch on legal matters. There were several Lord Chancellors during the reign of King Henry VIII. Each was replaced or executed as they lost favour with the King.<sup>4</sup>

### ANGEVIAN EMPIRE

Named after the county of Anjou which was ruled by Kings of the House of Plantagenet, the Angevin Empire could be traced from King Henry II to King John around the 12th and 13th centuries. The Empire comprised territories in parts of France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England.<sup>5</sup>

### THE PAPAL STATES

Various regions in Italy which historically belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. These territories were under the sovereignty of the head of the Church, the Pope, since the 7th century. The Papal States played a crucial role in the political and military climate of the time, as disputes over their ownership in regards to the Holy Roman Empire and questions surrounding the Pope's authority in secular matters incited several conflicts across Europe.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Editors of Britannica, "Holy League | Catholic, Spain & Italy."

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Editors of Britannica "Thomas More | Biography, Beliefs, Books, Utopia, Death, & Facts."

<sup>5</sup> English Heritage "The Angevin Empire"

<sup>6</sup> Editors of Britannica "Papal States | Italian History, Papacy & Politics"

## Introduction:

England in the 16th century stood at an important crossroad. The Crown's finances were in a stable position and there was minimal internal discontent following the reign of the previous King, Henry VII. Bolstered by the fact that Tudor rule had been cemented in England, King Henry VIII sought to expand England's prestige and power across continental Europe. With the defeat of the English in the Hundred Years' War, the possibility to rule the French throne was crushed. Yet, the English Crown continued to push its claim over France.<sup>7</sup>

Now, an opportunity presents itself in the Wars of the League of Cambrai. Despite the complexity of the war and the constantly shifting alliances, England must cooperate with its allies in the Holy League, particularly the Holy Roman Empire and Spain, in order to defeat France and achieve the desired reconquest of Aquitaine and possibly the French Throne.

Domestically, the Crown had shown its growing ambition to further centralize the state and increase powers to the King.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, King Henry's obsession with cementing the succession may have put the Kingdom at odds with the Papacy and the Spanish Kingdom, as he sought to divorce Queen Catherine of Aragon upon her failure to bear a male heir. The importance of this alliance is due to the state's interest in maintaining a continental alliance and dissuading any prospective powers from attacking England. However, with England embroiled in war, there was no doubt domestic discontent would rise.

The constantly scheming English court, including queens, diplomats, ladies-in-waiting, courtiers, and artisans, will come to decide how the nation will act in matters of war, internal policy, and the question of succession. The future of England lies at stake.

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<sup>7</sup> Daniel Johnson "New Monarchy Economics: Power Centralization in York and Tudor England (1461 – 1509)"

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

## Historical Background:

### The Origins of the Hundred Years' War

In 1328, French King Charles IV died childless, and as a result, the French succession was thrown into chaos. Two realistic claimants were left for the French throne. The first was King Edward III, by virtue of his mother. French magnates instead opted for the second option, Philip, who was a cousin to the deceased king. He was later crowned Philip VI and aptly nicknamed “the Fortunate”.<sup>9</sup>

King Philip then refused to meet an English delegation due to the English King’s support of Philip’s ‘mortal enemy’, Robert d’Artois. This led Philip to seize the English-held territory of Aquitaine, which led to the breakdown of Anglo-French relations in 1337. King Edward III of England responded by challenging Philip’s right to the French throne, which marked the formal beginning of the Hundred Years’ War.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 1. English Coat of Arms

### Early English Success

Early English campaigns led by Edward the Black Prince, son of Edward III and heir apparent, were resoundingly successful. Specifically, the Battle of Crecy (1346) and the Battle of Poitiers (1356) saw French King Jean II captured. Despite the success, the death of the Black Prince, the capture of Jean II, and the plague of the “black death” forced both sides to sign a truce in 1360.<sup>11</sup>

Amidst the renewed conflict, both sides struggled to make any decisive progress as civil war broke out in France, and England faced dynastic turmoil with the rise of the Lancastrian dynasty. The first Lancastrian King, Henry IV, was plagued with financial issues, the political need to reward his supporters, and frequent rebellions. Henry IV’s reign was eventually cut short after succumbing to an illness widely believed to be leprosy.<sup>12</sup>

As seen with the Lancastrians, new dynasties can face internal issues and frequent rebellions. The Tudor Dynasty must tread carefully to keep the English throne.

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<sup>9</sup> Royal Armories “Timeline of the Hundred Years’ War - Royal Armories collections.”

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

## Henry V and Apparent English Victory

In 1413, Henry V rose to the English throne after the death of his father, Henry IV. In 1414, he convened a great council to negotiate and moderate claims. He sent envoys to France to claim territory and to propose marriage to the French King's daughter, Catherine of Valois. The French refused; so, Henry V prepared for war by creating a fleet and raising soldiers to strike at the heart of France. He once again consulted the great council to sanction war against France and they agreed. In December, he convinced the English parliament to increase taxes and the English set sail to invade France.<sup>13</sup>

Henry's military successes at Harfleur and Agincourt saw the death or capture of about 40% of the French nobility. England occupied most of France including Paris and Reims, the traditional site where French kings are crowned. The 1420 Treaty of Troyes concluded with Henry V's marriage to Catherine of Valois. The treaty declared the French Crown Prince Dauphin as illegitimate and ensured that Henry and Catherine's children would inherit the French throne.<sup>14</sup>

At this point, with a combination of preparation, adequate finances, and competent leadership, England could attain victory against France in its endeavours to conquer the French throne.



Figure 2. English Gains after the Treaty of Troyes (1420)

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

## Change in Fortune and Gradual English Defeat

Henry V died of dysentery in 1422. Charles VI of France would die 2 months later, leaving the 9 month-old Henry VI to ascend to both the English and French thrones, though his claim to the French throne was heavily contested. Eventually, Henry VI would grow up to be a weak monarch who heavily relied on his ministers. His reign was represented by gradual losses of Henry V's gains. Joan of Arc, also known as the Maid of Orléans, was a French peasant girl born in 1412. Motivated by religious visions and a strong sense of patriotism, she played a crucial role in the Hundred Years' War, leading French troops to several important victories against the English and ultimately being captured and executed by the English in 1431. The final battle of Castillion would formally end the Hundred Years' War as a decisive French victory in 1453. England was driven out of France, except Calais.<sup>15</sup>

Despite losing the Hundred Years War, England continued to press its claim over the French throne. The early successes of Henry V continued to resonate with the English aristocracy, and the loss of territory and prestige provoked English revanchism to restore England's rightful place in continental Europe.<sup>16</sup>



Figure 3. The Battle of Castillion (1453)

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

## The Wars of the Roses

Cadet lines of the House of Plantagenet, the House of York, and the House of Lancaster began fighting over the English throne in 1455. The war culminated in a Lancastrian victory, as Henry VII defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry VII would marry the daughter of the previous King, Richard III, thereby cementing Tudor rule in England.<sup>17</sup>

## The War of the League of Cambrai

A war initially between the Holy Roman Empire and Venice backed by France. The war would spiral into a complex sequence of events, with the former enemies of Venice and the Holy Roman Empire creating an alliance through the Holy League. Members of the League included the Papal States, the Spanish Empire, and the Swiss Confederacy. In 1512, England joined the League.<sup>18</sup>

## A Brief History of Domestic Issues within England

During York and early Tudor rule, England saw the gradual centralization of power by means of economic interventions and modernizations. Policies leading up to 1512 focused on governing nobility, financial reform, and foreign trade. Such policies aimed to keep the nobles in check, maintain an abundant treasury, and ensure English participation in the foreign market. In spite of Henry VII's reforms and consolidation of Tudor rule, a new dynasty can easily come to be swept away by pretenders, religious dissidents, or foreign powers.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Vaia, "The Tudor Dynasty"

<sup>18</sup> Editors of Britannica, "Holy League | Catholic Spain and Italy"

<sup>19</sup> Daniel Johnson, "New Monarchy Economics: Power Centralization in York and Tudor England (1461 – 1509)"

## Topic A: The War Against France

With Tudor rule cemented in England, King Henry VIII aims to start the process of projecting the power and prestige of England across Western Europe. In April 1512, England declared war on France by joining the Holy League. England must prepare for war through the raising and training of soldiers. Notwithstanding its own commitment, England must send delegates to its allies Spain and the Holy Roman Empire to secure direct support militarily or financially. By raising new levies, improving army professionalism, and allied support, England could tip the scales in her favour in the campaigns in northern France and secure a conclusion to delight the English populace. However, new soldiers and professional armies also bring higher costs, which must be supported by decisions such as raising taxes and mobilizing more resources. That said, such actions might be unpopular with the general population.

### Guiding Questions:

- Almost 60 years prior, the Hundred Years' War concluded with a decisive English defeat due to France's superior weaponry, tactics and full coffers. Can England recover from such a humiliating defeat?
- As historic rivals, France and England vie for dominance in Western Europe. How will the current balance of power in Europe be disturbed by an English victory or defeat?
- Increased taxation will foster domestic discontent within England. Does the desire to guarantee victory in France justify the possibility of social dissent?

## Topic B: The Question of Succession

Catherine of Aragon was originally married to Arthur, the former Prince of Wales and brother to Henry VIII, before his untimely death. With Papal permission, she married the then-prince Henry VIII to maintain cordial relations with Spain. Despite the advantage of an alliance with Spain, the union of King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine has not produced any male heirs. In their 3 years of marriage so far, Catherine has miscarried a daughter, given birth to a son who died 52 days later, and then miscarried a son. Despite there being no English law against a woman inheriting the throne, the King's position remained unstable due to the apparent inability to secure the lineage. Having a male heir would stabilise the Tudor dynasty.

### Guiding Questions:

- Public support depends on the succession of the Crown. Therefore, ensuring a Tudor heir is of utmost importance. If the King and Queen have a daughter and not a son, how does succession continue?
- The union of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon failed to produce a male heir. Should the committee reconsider this union and its merits for the benefit of the English Crown and people?
- Without a Tudor heir to continue the dynasty it is evident that pretenders will come to question the Crown and possibly rise in rebellion. If the continuity of lineage is not secured, what is to be done for the future of the Tudor Dynasty?



## Topic C: The Question of Religious Policy in England

While the Catholic Church held significant influence over Europe, there have been multiple instances when their power was challenged. Though accusations of corruption have long been made against the Church, their perennial pursuit of direct financial donation to the Church by commoners in exchange for absolution of their sins is cited by many dissidents as evidence of the internal corruption of Rome. The general public grows restless and frustrated, angered by their apparent social immobilisation while the wealth of the Church seems to expand without end. Despite the King's Catholic-oriented education and closeness with the Pope in Rome, if the populace comes to resent the Papacy, then the King must reconsider his position on this matter.

### Guiding Questions:

- The Catholic Church granted permission for Henry VIII to marry his brother's widow, when in fact it is outlawed according to the Bible. If the Court pursues annulment, will the Catholic Church declare an annulment for the marriage of Henry and Catherine (Refer to Topic B)?
- Throughout Europe, members of the Clergy have grown incredibly rich and powerful, often exerting their influence within the politics of their nation. If it is in England's best interest to consolidate power, how should the wealth and influence of the Clergy be contained?
- To what extent should the King of England submit to the authority of the Pope in Rome?

## Current Overview:

Our committee begins in 1512, as the English joins the Holy League against France. Fueled by the ambition to restore England as a continental power after its defeat in the Hundred Years' War, King Henry VIII seeks to reconquer Aquitaine and possibly expand beyond. With the Tudor Dynasty cementing power in England, the Crown must deal with the question of succession and the possibility that Catherine of Aragon cannot bear a son. Domestically, public discontent with the Catholic Church continues to grow, with the possibility of the court seizing this opportunity to expand its power.

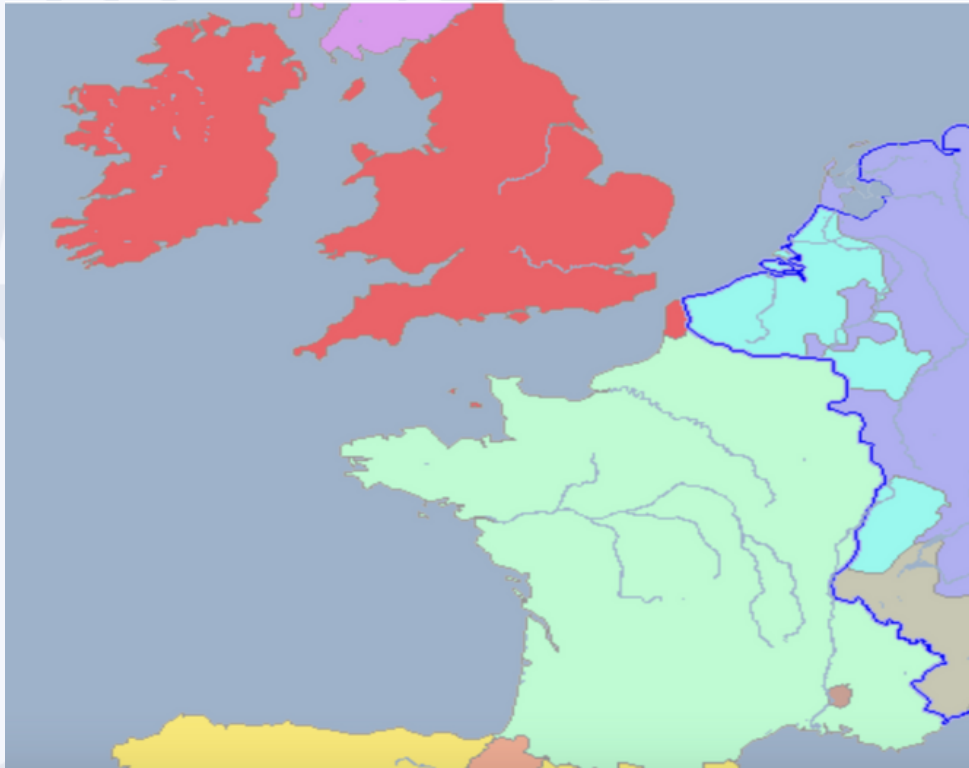


Figure 4. England in 1512

## Tips for Research

This background guide attempts to provide all the information necessary for debate. That being said, however, it is not a complete coverage of the historical background of England, the Tudor Dynasty, or any of the institutions that existed or people who lived during the era. If you find it necessary, please feel free to go beyond the scope of this background guide and conduct your own research on the topic.

If you are looking for a point to begin your research, the works cited page can provide you with good resources you can use to begin your research. Please make sure that any sources you do consult are trustworthy and accurate.

When preparing for this debate, delegates should not research past the year 1527, when King Henry VIII's divorce proceedings against Queen Catherine of Aragon occurred. This means that delegates should be knowledgeable about the institutions and political bodies at the time, as well as the attitudes and positions of the historical figures they are representing, in order to make informed decisions during debate that would reflect what their character would think and do. This committee puts commitment to policy over commitment to history, so delegates should not limit themselves to past events during debate and are encouraged to react as their character would in a novel situation.

Once you are familiar with your character assignment and the historical background, make sure that you also understand the flow of the committee. Crisis committees can become very fast-paced, so make sure you are familiar with standard crisis mechanics as well as the mechanics that are unique to this committee.

If you have any questions about research, character assignments, crisis mechanics or the committee in general, please feel free to contact me and it would be my pleasure to help you out.

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