

19.0

Daeron the Defiant





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Timeline



- 157 AC The Conquest of Dorne begins
- 158 AC The Submission of Sunspear
- I6I AC King Daeron survives an assassination attempt during a peace parley thanks to the
 efforts of his Kinasauard
- 162 AC King Daeron and the Prince of Dorne negotiate a proper peace between the two kingdoms following the execution of nearly all of the Dornish hostages in King's Landing and allow for the Dornish integration into the Seven Kingdoms. The marriage between Prince Baelor Targaryen and Princess Daena Targaryen is annulled and King Daeron marries Princess Daena instead. Prince Baelor is sent to Oldtown to join the Faith.
- 164 AC Baelor becomes a Septon of the Faith
- I7I AC Construction of Summerhall completed
- I78 HC Baelor is named to the Most Devout
- 180 AC Baelor is chosen as the new High Septon, taking the name The Blessed One and begins
 preaching against the Targaryen Doctrine of Exceptionalism
- 181 AC The Silver Wedding of Prince Daemon and Princess Rhaenyra. The Blessed One arrives after the ceremony and gives sermons in King's Landing with thinly veiled threats against the new marriage and the "enemies of the Faith".
- I82 AC The Second Faith Militant Uprising begins following the news of Princess Rhaenyra's pregnancy. Faithful across the realm rise up and the loyalist forces of the Crown attempt to put them down. Thousands die from the Westerlands, Riverlands, Stormlands, and the Reach as families and neighbors turn on one another. House Lothston is extinguished when Harrenhal is taken over by Faith. King Daeron would lead his army to Oldtown where he would take the city and burn the Starry Sept to the ground along with the Blessed One and all of his followers inside. The King would move the Most Devout and the central bureaucracy of the Faith to King's Landing while maintaining that the Crown would continue to protect the Faith while forbidding Holy Men from carrying weapons. The King would raise House Strickland to the new Lords of Harrenhal.
- 185 AC Kina Daeron dies and Kina Daemon I Taraaruen is crowned.
- 188 AC A band of old Warrior's Sons and Poor Fellows rise up in the Riverlands and attempt to
 rally more to their cause. Lord Tully and his men crush the uprising at the Stoney Sept before the
 Crown army can arrive to aid them.

- 192 AC The Stepstones once more begin to become a hotbed for pirate and smuggler activity and King Daemon announces an expansion of the Royal Fleet
- 194 AC The King sails forth with the Royal Fleet and sweeps the Stepstones for pirates, winning a few minor victories and slaying a pirate lord but the expedition is largely unsuccessful.
- 200 AC The Bicentennial of Aegon's Conquest Tourney is held in King's Landing, attracting nobles, knights, merchants, and smallfolk alike to the citu.
- 203 AC King Daemon dies of a fever and King Aegon IV is crowned as the realm enters into a harsh
 winter that would last for three long years. Imports of food to aid the North and Vale during the
 harsh winter would drain the coffers of the Crown. The King would take loans from Lords Tyrell,
 Lannister, and Hightower.
- 205 AC Oueen Aemma dies of a winter chill.
- 206 AC Winter would end and spring would bring flooding to the Trident and Mander on and off for the next few years, devastating the regions and causing crop shortages due to the destroyed fields.
- 209 AC A drought in Dorne and the Dornish Marches would cause crop failures and the drying up
 of several wells.
- 210 AC Lord Tyrell would call in his loans from the Crown and ceases his tax payments when the Crown does not immediately pay him back. In a bid to avoid war, as Lords Lannister and Hightower were about to do the same, the King summons the Great Houses to King's Landing to discuss the ongoing economic crisis. The talks would conclude with Lord Tyrell being granted the office of Master of Coin, Lord Hightower being granted the Handship, and Lord Lannister garnering the marriage of his daughter to the King. Factions begin to form at court as the Small Council "Gold Men" dominate the politics of court against the "King's Men". Another faction under the Master of Laws, Lord Tommard Mertyns, "the Owls", refused to choose a side and attempted to put the realm first and not petty politics.
- 215 AC The domination of the Gold Men on the Small Council is broken by Lord Tommard's rare support for the King's project to renovate the sewers of King's Landing stunned the court, along with the well-timed interjection of Lords Velaryon and Darklyn succeeded in forcing Lord Tyrell and many of his supporters to resign in disgrace but Lord Hightower would remain in deftance, throwing his lot behind the King and his supporters instead of resigning in support of his liege.
- 227 AC King Aegon would die of consumption and King Rhaegel Targaryen is crowned. Lord Hightower would step down as Hand following the coronation, citing illness, and return home. The man would never make it home, being ambushed by bandits in the Kingswood. The new Lord Hightower would accuse House Tyrell of the murder of his father, brother, and cousins and raise his banners against the Tyrells. A short but bloody war would erupt along the Rose Road that culminated in Highgarden being besieged by the Hightower forces until a force from the Westerlands and the Crownlands forced an end to the conflict. At the same time, the Crown had to contend with a renewed threat from the Stepstones and the pirates taking Ghaston Grey. Battling their way south, they would see the pirates routed in a costly battle to retake the prison island of the Martells.
- 231 AC After years of attempting to wrangle his wayward captains, who were facing threats from the East due to their extensive raiding, the Iron Islands are on the knife's edge. After ordering the

deaths of a half-dozen Drowned Priests for breaking the peace and preaching for raids against the western shores of the realm, directly against his wishes, Lord Greyjoy is slain in the halls of Pyke by a conspiracy of his own guards and Faithful of the Drowned God. His young son is "persuaded" to call for a reaving against the western shores. The Lannister fleet would be overwhelmed in a battle off Lannisport and the city was sacked and burned. The lands of the Westerlands and the Northern Reach were subjected to raids from the Ironborn. The Crown would respond, tasking Lord Redwyne to lead the charge against the reavers. With his fleet wrecked by a storm and several unsuccessful skirmishes against the Redwyne fleet, Lord Greyjoy and a few of his loyal lords seize the Drowned Priests and the other rebellious lords. The guilty are taken to King's Landing and hanged for their crimes against the realm and Lord Greyjoy is pardoned.

- 240 AC King Rhaegel's madness becomes publicly known after years of attempting to hide it. The burden of Kingship had been much on the man and had slowly been slipping into madness, seemingly nothing being able to cheer him up, even when the realm was at peace. At the tourney and feast to celebrate the birth of his twin granddaughters Alyssa and Alysanne, the shifting nature of his mood was on display for all to see. Scandals by the dozen were committed during that time by the King and the Prince of Dragonstone Daeron had to do all he could to smooth things over.
- 242 AC King Rhaegal had all but retreated from court, leaving Prince Daeron to assume control of the realm in his father's stead.
- 247 AC King Rhaegel takes his own life and King Daeron II Targaryen is crowned.
- 248 AC Slavers from Myr and Tyrosh would begin harassing Westerosi shipping in and around the Stepstones and Disputed Lands. Things would escalate until Lord Redwyne's sister was taken by a Tyroshi slaver and the envoy to the Archon returned without a nose, ears, or a hand. King Daeron would bring the full might of the Seven Kingdoms against the two Free Cities and would bring them to heel following several high profile victories against them and blockading Tyrosh and besieging Myr. He would extract great sums of gold and trade deals with the cities, with the Free Cities of Lys, Pentos, and Braavos all enjoying the misfortune of their sisters.
- 249 AC Princess Baela Targaryen, the younger sister of King Daeron, elopes with the Heir of Winterfell. This scandal rocks the court as Lord Redwyne's heir was meant to be the match for the Princess. Unable to annul the marriage, the King is unable to properly compensate Lord Redwyne, other than proposing one of his daughters be fostered at the Arbor when she is older. This same year, bandits in Cracklaw Point manage to take the castle of House Hardy and repel the forces under House Brune when they attempt to take it back. A royal force under Ser Reynard Hill of the Kingsguard is sent to aid in the liberation of Hard Hall and the joint force suffers grievous casualties in doing so.
- 250 AC King Daeron II calls for a tourney in the sixth moon of the year to celebrate the birth of his seventh daughter Lacna as well as to properly celebrate the victories over the eastern slavers and the bandits of the Claw. The birth of yet another daughter has brought the question of succession back once more, as the Queen has made it clear she will not have any more children.



A General Summary of Westeros

From the Reign of Daeron I



The Conquest and Union of Dorne (157-162 AC)

King Daeron had fought to hold Dorne for four years. Finally, in 161 AC, the King was invited to a parley with several Dornish lords to discuss peace after Lord Lyonel Tyrell's death. It turned out to be a trap and four of his Kingsgaurd were killed along with the other men that accompanied him. Seriously wounded, King Daeron managed to escape, in no small part to Ser Hemon the Dragonknight, who held off the pursuers long enough for the king to flee before being captured.

Daeron would return to his forces and was treated for his wounds and dehydration. He ordered the execution of the hostages in King's Landing, one per week, and their heads sent back to Dorne until the Prince and his lords met with him and bent the knee. It would take until the middle of the following year and several other minor skirmishes before the Prince of Dorne finally wrote to Daeron. The two men met in Tyrosh, with the Archon providing mediation between the two. The Prince brought the half starved Aemon with him while Daeron brought the Prince's daughter, who was one of the three remaining hostages still alive. They negotiated for nearly a moon before they were able to finally settle on an agreement that both would be able to accept.

Dorne would bend the knee to the Iron Throne though House Martell would be allowed to keep the title of Prince, as it was the style of the Rhoynar of old. The watchtowers and forts along the Boneway and Prince's Pass were to be torn down and Plankytown would be rebuilt into a proper town with the aid of the Crown, to allow for better trade for the people of Dorne. There were provisions to extend the Kingsroad from Storm's End down through the Stormlands, though Blackhaven, down the Boneway to Yronwood. There would be a castle built along the border, a "castle of peace" as Daeron awkwardly put it. A summer home for the Targaryens with only light fortifications that would allow for the two realms to exist peacefully. Princess Rhaena, Daeron's younger sister, was betrothed to the son of the Prince, his heir Maron. In addition to that, Lord

Baratheon's daughter would marry the Lord of Starfall while one of Lord Tyrell's brothers would marry the daughter of the Bloodroyal.

Many of the lords of the Seven Kingdoms and in Dorne were not happy about the peace, with the Marcher Lords and many of the Reachmen and Stormlanders unhappy due to their past with the Dornish. Still, the King's Will was enforced. The King continued to surprise the realm when he had the marriage between his brother Baelor and sister Daena annulled by the High Septon. He married Daena himself and had Baelor sent to Oldtown to join the Faith, though the Prince was distraught at his brother's incestuous marriage and walked barefoot to Oldtown despite the escort given to him. There was an uneasy time of peace that would follow after the Conquest and Union of Dorne. Daeron would prove to be a capable leader and administrator, being as decisive in the Small Council chamber as he was on the battlefield.

The castle of Summerhall would slowly be built as would the extension of the Kingsroad. In Oldtown, Baelor had joined the Faith and was enjoying a meteoric rise through its ranks thanks to his preaching and piety. He became a member of the Most Devout in 178 AC and in 180, the old High Septon died leaving a vacancy for the new High Septon. Baelor was chosen, shocking many in the realm as he was the youngest High Septon in centuries to be chosen by the Most Devout. He took the name "The Blessed One" and his first decree was to denounce his brother's upcoming marriage of his son and daughter.

King Daeron was disturbed by this, reminding the High Septon that House Targaryen had protected the Faith since the days of Jaehaerys the Conciliator and that the Doctrine of Exceptionalism was still very much alive. The Blessed One replied stating that Jaehaerys' work was nothing but politics and he cared nothing about the Faith, given that he had married his sister and married his own children to one another. The Doctrine was as dead as the dragons of House Targaryen. Tensions between the Crown and the Faith grew.

The Silver Wedding (181 AC)

King Daeron was not about to let his own brother attempt to destroy the wedding that he was planning and went ahead with the preparations. On the day of the wedding, lords and ladies from around the realm journeyed to King's Landing, though there were a few notable absences. Lord Hightower and his family were among the top of the no shows. The wedding was an extravagant affair with no expense spared. Daeron extended a courtesy to his brother by inviting him to perform the wedding, but the lack

of reply forced Daeron to choose another septon, a man he trusted named Septon Allard, the septon of the Red Keep.

The Lords and Ladies of the realm gathered in the Dragon Sept atop Visenya's Hill as Prince Daemon and Prince Rhaenyra were wed, with the bells of the sept and all those other septs in the city tolling their bells after the ceremony. From the sept they processed through the streets back to the Red Keep where the wedding feast was held. King Daeron opened the feast with a stirring speech to the prosperity of the Realm, noting the good works of the new Dornish lords and all those who had valiantly aided the Crown during the war. Mid-speech, the doors of the throne room were thrown open and the reedy form of the Blessed One entered with a group of septons and brown brothers. Many were surprised, with the King being among those, even though he attempted to greet his brother in a friendly manner. The High Septon stuck out his hand and the King reluctantly kissed it, greeting His High Holiness as was customary. The two men then departed the feast and were not seen for the rest of the evening.

The following morning, the High Septon gave a three hour long service in the Dragon Sept where he preached the superiority of the Seven and denounced all who did not worship them. This angered Lord Benjicot Blackwood who was the current Master of Laws for King Daeron. The High Septon continued to preach against "irregular" marriages and that the sins of the realm would bring about the utter destruction of not just the Crown but of the entire continent itself. The court was uncomfortable with all of this but were unable to do anything. Luckily, the High Septon and his followers left the city a fortnight later, though his words still stayed in the city with some of the smallfolk and demonstrations outside the Dragon Sept and the Red Keep were regularly broken up by the Goldcloaks.

Then word reached the King of the High Septon's trip back to Oldtown. On the Rose Road, lords were being threatened with excommunication and the damnation of their souls. Lord Caswell was forced to give up nearly 3/4ths of his entire treasury to the Faith and when his raven to King's Landing reached King Daeron, he was fed up with the actions of his brother. He sent a raven ahead of him to return to King's Landing and speak with him which he never received a reply for.

The Second Faith Militant Uprising (182 HC)

The High Septon returned to Oldtown and his words rallied many of the smallfolk of the city to his side. Ser Byron Hightower, the Heir of Oldtown, was one of his ever-present supporters, while his father, Lord Randyll Hightower, locked himself away

on Battle Isle, fearing what was to come. Tensions continued to rise until the news that Princess Rhaenyra was pregnant reached the city, setting everything into motion.

The Blessed One raged in the Starry Sept against "the Targaryen menace" and vowed that their affronts to Gods and Men would not be tolerated anymore by the Faith. He called for the Faithful to rise up against the Targaryens.

Lord Hightower attempted to send men into Oldtown but his knights and the Oldtown City Watch were quickly overwhelmed by the mass of smallfolk and those that could, retreated to Battle Isle along with several wealthy merchants and other nobles that were in the city at the time. Ser Mathis Hightower, Randyll's uncle, was captured and brought before the High Septon and stripped of his knighthood for raising his hand against the Faith. He was forced to denounce his family and was stripped bare to endure a Walk of Atonement to the harbor, though he would only get halfway there before he would collapse from the abuse of the crowds and was torn apart. Ser Byron Hightower was named Lord of Oldtown by the High Septon and mobilized the forces of House Hightower and their vassals.

In King's Landing, Daeron responded quickly and quelled the uprising of the smallfolk of the city before it got out of control, seizing the Dragon Sept but not before Septon Allard was torn to pieces by the crowd. In the Vale, Houses Grafton, Templeton, Corbray, Waxley, and Waynwood all rose up in the name of the Faith, contributing the most to the Faith's numbers outside of the Reach. The smallfolk around the Stoney Sept rose up as did Lords Vance of Wayfarer's Rest and Piper, as nearly all their smallfolk had done so as well. In the Westerlands, Lord Tarbeck led the revolt of Lords Westerling, Serrett, and Banefort. In Dorne, the Sword of the Morning, Ser Quentyn Dayne, rose up against his cousin, the Lord of Starfall, and took the castle in the name of the Faith. In the Stormlands, Ser Beric Swann overthrew his brother Roger and took control of Stonehelm and rallied the smallfolk of the Marches to the Faith's side.

In King's Landing, Daeron called his own banners and evaded no less than three assassination attempts in a fortnight, earning him the nickname "The Defiant". The uprising quickly spread out of control.

The Assault on Raventree - One of the first actions of the Faith's uprising was the storming of the lands of House Blackwood. Their worship of the Old Gods was reprehensible to the Faith and their lands were scoured by the hordes of the Faith. Lord Tully's men were still gathering and Lord Lothston's forces were still attempting to gather to prevent the storming of the Isle of Faces. Raventree Hall was overrun and Lord Benjicot Blackwood, his brothers, and his heir died defending the castle to the last, though he had sent his younger sons, cousins, and wife away to Riverrun for safety.

The Siege of Castamere - The rebels in the Westerlands under Lord Tarbeck descended upon the stronghold of Castamere. Lord Reyne had managed to burn most of his fields and shut his gates by the time they had arrived. The forces of Banefort and the Crag moved to attack Ashemark, defeating Lord Marbrand's army outside the castle and forcing his son to bend the knee to prevent his father's death.

The Battle of the Honeywine - The newly reformed Poor Fellows spilled out of Oldtown along with the forces of House Hightower's levies, commanded by "Lord" Byron Hightower. They met the forces of House Florent south of Brightwater Keep and pushed them back, cutting them off from their castle and forcing Lord Florent to retreat towards Highgarden where Lord Tyrell was preparing his own forces.

The Battle of Bloody Roses - Following the Honeywine, Lord Tyrell's army descended from Highgarden towards Oldtown. The Poor Fellows were joined by more forces of Oldtown, along with forces of Houses Costayne, Bulwer, and Cuy. Lord Tyrell and his two sons lead the force along with Lords Tarly and Peake. They met on the road and engaged the supposedly inferior force but they had underestimated their enemy. The commander of the newly minted Warrior's Sons, Ser Osmund Flowers, the Bastard of Ball, was waiting for them. Using the Poor Fellows as a supposed flimsy center, he baited Lord Tyrell into a charge and when the Poor Fellows broke, they continued after them, where they were met by a wall of knights and men-at-arms from Oldtown. Ser Bertram Beesbury led the slaughter as they smashed into the flank of Tyrell's forces, killing Lord Tyrell himself while his two sons would also perish in the fighting. Lord Tarly led the army back north towards Highgarden.

The Battle of Grandview - "Lord" Beric Swann and his forces marched up the Slayne and attempted to take the castle Grandview, though he was defeated by Lord Grandison's forces and forced to retreat, though not before slaying the man in combat.

The Siege of Riverrun - Having finished torching the Blackwood lands, the Faith in the Riverlands, lead by Ser Bertram the Mummer, a former hedge knight, marched on Riverrun. They cited the Tully's cowardice in the first uprising as a failure and their taking up arms against the Faith as further crimes. In the east of the Riverlands, Lord Lothston thwarted the attempt to burn the Isle of Faces and pressed his forces to the West.

The Dragon Splits - Daeron's forces had assembled in King's Landing. The forces of the Crownlands were not a great many but all were ready and willing to fight for the Crown. King Daeron ordered his army split into three groups. He would lead the main force into the Reach while his son Daemon would take his forces south to deal with

Swann in the Stormlands. The third force would be under the command of Ser Aemon the Dragonknight and would go into the Riverlands.

The Battle of the Three Hills - In the Vale, Lords Grafton and Templeton lead the Faith against the Royces of Runestone and against the Mountain Clansmen. Lord Redfort and Hunter lent their men to Royce and the battle was fought on three hills near the castle of Runsetone. The Faith had occupied two of them while the Royces held the third. Lord Royce refused to give up the hill as the Faith attacked him for the better part of the afternoon, making them pay dearly for the attempts, killing Ser Corwyn Corbray and Lord Lucas Waynwood in the fighting. As the sun set, Lord Royce and his forces retreated in good order towards Runestone.

The Battle of the Torrentine - The Sword of the Morning's army met Lord Blackmont's army along the banks of the Torrentine, defeating them in short order and allowing for the Dayne men to spill into the Prince's Pass.

The Slaughter of the Bats - While Lord Lothston and his forces marched towards Riverrun, the remnants of the force that had attempted to attack the Isle of Faces, continued to move against him. In the night, a postern gate was opened at Harrenhal and a group of men streamed into the castle, moving quickly and throwing open the massive gates while putting the castle garrison to the sword. Lord Lothston's wife and young children were killed in the fighting as was his elderly uncle, Ser Luthor Lothston, the castellan. Prince Aemon's forces would arrive two days later to the Seven Pointed Star flying from Harrenhal. He elected to leave them, as it seemed there were not enough men to mount a true defense of the castle and that the army at Riverrun was more important. Instead, he challenged their leader, the brutish knight Ortho the Unbroken to a duel for the castle. The man accepted and was promptly cut down by Aemon, leaving Harrenhal to surrender to the Crown forces, though House Lothston's line was cut short there, leaving only Lord Lothston who was on the march to Riverrun.

The Relief of Riverrun - Prince Aemon's force did not dither at Harrenhal and made west towards Riverrun where Lord Lothston's army waited for them. Together they assaulted the army around the castle, scattering the Faith Militant around it and allowing the Tully's to join their men to theirs along with the surviving Blackwood men and Lothston men.

The Battle of Highgarden - The new Lord of Highgarden surveyed his disorganized forces gathered around his castle as men from Oakheart, Rowan, and Crane arrived. Word was that the King's forces had passed Bitterbridge and were riding hard for Highgarden though they would not arrive before the Faith Militant would. Reinforced with more men along with conscripted men from around Bandallon and Brightwater

Keep, the Faith Militant and Hightower forces numbered well over fifteen thousand. Lord Tyrell held roughly as much though his army was in a far worse state. Still, he fortified his position in Highgarden and made his stand there. Lords Tarly, Peake, and Ashford's men made up the bulk of the defenders outside the castle, as most of the Tyrell men had died at the Bloody Roses. The Faith Militant would arrive just after noon and bring battle to the defending Reachmen. Pressed against the Mander by the Faith, the Tyrell forces were hard pressed by the opening charge by Ser Osmund Flowers and "Lord" Byron Hightower, killing Lord Oakheart. Still, Lord Tarly held his line, his archers atop Highgarden raining death upon the forces of the Faith, killing Lord Cuy and his heir along with several members of the Warrior's Sons. Still, it would be Ser Osmund Flowers killing Lord Peake in a duel, claiming Orphan Maker as he did, that broke the Reach's lines and scattered their men. Those that could fled into Highgarden while the rest surrendered or fled, notably Lord Ashford and his sons fleeing home.

The Battle of Castamere - Lord Lannister took his time to assemble his forces, ensuring he had the proper men and supplies for the mountainous terrain of the northern Westerlands. He marched north with a full host as word reached him that Prince Aemon had crossed the Golden Tooth with his own forces. Together the two would assault the Faith forces assembled outside Castamere, scattering their forces and killing Lord Banefort and the Heir of The Crag and relieving the threat of the Faith in the Westerlands, though Lords Lefford, Kayce, and Prester would be killed, along with Lord Lannister's cousin, Ser Stafford.

The Battle of the Slayne - Prince Daemon's forces would arrive in the Stormlands but would be hampered in their march by the weather, facing attacks by outriders of "Lord" Swann's forces and a few other groups loyal to the Faith, especially by one Ser Borros the Benevolent, a hulking man of 7 feet that shouted text of the Seven Pointed Star as he fought. Prince Daemon met with the forces of Storm's End who informed Daemon that the Swanns had taken Griffin's Roost days prior. Undaunted by this, Daemon pressed his forces south past Grandview and intended to take Stonehelm himself. Beric Swann's army would meet him along the banks of the Slayne in an ambush that would hill Lords Peasebury, Buckler, and Caffren as well as wound the Prince and his Kingsguard Ser Ambrose Hill. Prince Daemon pressed onward, losing more men in the push south but ultimately arrived at Stonehelm and forced Beric to retreat within the walls.

The Miracle of Nightsong - The Sword of the Morning and his forces rode out of the Prince's Pass and intended to join the army of the Faith at Highgarden, but blocking their way were the men of House Caron. Lord Caron's men, along with some men from Houses Selmy and Staedmon, had assembled at the mouth of the Prince's Pass as word of the Sword of the Morning's victory at the Torrentine reached them. Lord Caron declared

that no Dornishman will leave the Pass alive and readied his forces against the Dornish. While slightly outnumbered, he held the better ground and was prepared. The Sword of the Morning knew this but was confident in his ability to defeat the Carons, knowing that he had to beat them or the spears of House Martell that were marching up behind him would surely be the end of him. Thus the Dornish attacked and four times they were repelled, though not without great sacrifice from the Stormlanders. Lord Caron's brother and one of his younger sons were killed in the first charge, and Lord Selmy died in the third. The Sword of the Morning rallied his men for a final charge as the sun was setting. The Dornish crashed against the weary lines of Stormlanders and the Sword of the Morning cut a bloody swath through the defenders, Dawn gleaming in the setting sun. He slew Ser Baldric Staedmon and Ser Allard Storm, the Bastard of Nightsong, before coming to Lord Caron himself. Lord Caron was not a young knight but he was not an old man. He'd seen his fair share of battles and had fought the Dornish with Daeron in the waning years of his war as a young man. His hammer slammed against Dawn with a mighty crash as the battle around them raged. The two men dueled for nigh on half an hour, Dawn cutting into the Lord of Nightsong and the hammer of Lord Caron breaking at least three of the Sword of the Morning's ribs before the Sword of the Morning would slip and Lord Caron's hammer would cave in his breastplate, killing him. The Dornish broke and ran at the sight, the Faithful slaughtered by the Stormlords or by the Martell spears that cut them off.

The Storming of the Stoney Sept - The remains of the Faithful in the Riverlands had fled to the Stoney Sept and once The Dragonknight and Lord Lannister and quelled the rebels in the West, they returned to the Trident to end the remnants of the Faithful there. Ser Martyn Smallwood had organized the Faith's forces at the Stoney Sept, numbering only about three thousand when it was all said and done when the overwhelming force of the West and Crown armies came down upon them. Still, the Faithful prayed as they readied for battle. The Crown forces assaulted the town as a massive thunderstorm broke out, soaking the battlefield and as the gate to the town broke, the streets were a quagmire that knights and smallfolk alike were stuck in. Lord Lothston was killed alongside Lord Brax and the Knight of House Wode in the storming of the town, though the Dragonknight would kill Ser Martyn and finally end the threats in the Trident once and for all.

The Siege of Stonehelm - In the Stormlands, Prince Daemon's forces had surrounded the city of Stonehelm and many left outside the town would surrender to the prince, though many within the city would remain defiant. Beric Swann led the defense of Stonehelm, throwing back the attackers twice before a wounded Prince Daemon truly ordered a siege. With the fleets of Tarth and Estermont now blockading the sea, the town was cut off entirely.

The Noose Tightens - With the Trident pacified and the Dornish host turned back, the forces of the Faith were suddenly in dire straits. Daeron's forces had pushed past Bitterbridge and were marching down the Rose Road towards Highgarden as the forces from the Stoney Sept turned south to meet them. The Caron men along with the Martell spears came from the south and the Faith abandoned their siege of Highgarden and retreated back to Oldtown to make their stand.

The Battle of Oldtown - As the Crown army liberated Highgarden and continued towards Oldtown, the citizens of the city were in near riotous conditions as many feared the violence that was to come. Some called for the High Septon to surrender and others called for more fighters to be called up to defend the Faith. The Blessed One locked himself in the Starry Sept for seven days of prayer and fasting and emerged to declare that Oldtown would fight to the last man.

In the Hightower, Lord Hightower and his remaining men waited for the liberation of the city, as their stores were beginning to dwindle and they had endured several assaults from the mainland during their captivity on Battle Isle, though they had been repulsed. Then the Redwyne fleet appeared and Lord Hightower and his family were finally relieved of their siege, bringing in fresh supplies, medicine, and additional soldiers to garrison Battle Isle. They would wait for the King's signal to attack from sea.

King Daeron and his armies arrived at Highgarden and set up the siege lines. A truly impressive force of many lords and knights from the West and Trident to Dorne and the Stormlands. King Daeron cut a splendid figure atop his horse, armed with Blackfyre and his circlet of Valyrian Steel and rubies of the Conqueror. He bid his brother to treat with him and so the Blessed One appeared, the reedy man refusing an escort by his Warrior's Sons and met with his brother alone outside the gates of the city, barefoot. The Blessed One stated that Oldtown would bleed to the last man and that Daeron's sins would grow with every death to his name. Daeron pleaded with his brother to end the madness, that their family did not need to be torn apart like this, but he refused. Thus they parted ways and the siege began.

For six moons the city starved. Hundreds died as the supplies began to wear out. The Citadel shuttered its doors and refused anymore people, leading to a riot that was only barely quelled by the Poor Fellows. Still, the siege continued as rams, trebuchets, and ladders were built in large numbers by the King. He would leave nothing to chance but he continued to hold out hope that his brother would see reason and surrender.

Finally, as the seven moon dawned, the King would order his assault. Catapults and Trebuchets battered the walls of Oldtown and the buildings just beyond. Rams moved under their cover and began to assault the gates of the city, thrice they were repulsed by

the defenders and thrice the men were rallied by King Daeron. By midday, the gates had fallen and the Royal army charged into the city with the King among them. Brutal street fighting ensued as the defenders fought violently against the attackers. The city burned as some of the Warrior's Sons attempted to stop the advance by setting houses on fire and redirecting the troops. Lord Randyll Hightower and Lord Redwyne would assault the city from the sea, landing men from Battle Isle to the harbor and moving inland towards the Starry Sept. Many of the remaining Oldtown City Watch turned their cloak at the sight of their Lord and fought with them.

On the steps of the Starry Sept, Ser Bryon Hightower, Ser Osmund Flowers, and Ser Bertram Beesbury commanded the defenders of the Warrior's Sons, Poor Fellows, and the rest of the rabble formed a defensive circle around the sept. The attackers crashed into them and an all out melee ensued. Osmund Flowers would fell Lords Vyrwel, Ashford, Buckwell, and Piper with Orphan Maker before being killed by Ser Franklyn Darklyn of the Kingsguard. Ser Bertram Beesbury would be killed by King Daeron himself while Ser Byron Hightower fell to the blade of Lord Crakehall. Still, the doors of the Starry Sept were barred. Daeron ordered the sept burned and so pitch and oil were spread around and thrown through the windows and set ablaze. The Starry Sept burned with all those inside of it, including the High Septon.

Aftermath - As the building crumbled down, Daeron declared that the Faith would continue to live under the protection of the Crown, but no Holy Man may take up arms again under penalty of death. He instructed what little remained of the Most Devout to choose a new High Septon and follow him back to King's Landing so that the capital may now become the seat of the Faith as well. He restored Lord Hightower to his proper place, gave honors to those that had fought for him, and took coin and hostages from those that fought against him. In the Stormlands, Beric Swann remained in Stonehelm until he heard of the fall of Oldtown and declared himself the new High Septon. It was then that his followers had enough and threw him from the battlements of the town and opened the gates to Prince Daemon. King Daeron would return to King's Landing and put the realm back together until his death three years later. He named Lord Strickland as the new Lord of Harrenhal, replacing the Lothstons who had died in the Uprising. King Daeron would never again ride to war, enjoying the final years of his life in peace.

Reign of King Daemon I (185-203 AC)

The death of King Daeron was met with grief from all across the realm and Crown Prince Daemon ascended the throne as King. There had been whispers, since the Uprising, that Daemon had been incompetent and relied on his advisors and council to do his work for him. His failure to take Stonehelm had been a source of personal embarrassment since then and would lash out at those that brought it up.

The King, despite all the rumors, was capable. He fought with his Small Council constantly about improvement projects to King's Landing and to the realm as a whole. He fired Prince Viserys as Hand and replaced him with Lord Staunton, a close friend of his from his days as a squire and as a companion during the Uprising. He would have King's Landing's sewers rebuilt which did something to fix the smell but not entirely.

Daemon would also deal with an attempted revival of the Faith Militant in the Trident in 188 which was promptly crushed by Lord Tully and his men, before the Crown could even march forces to aid the Rivermen.

In 192, King Daemon would announce an expansion of the Royal Fleet, with ten more large warships as the Stepstones had become a hotbed for pirate activities once again.

In 200 AC, the King would host a massive tourney in King's Landing to celebrate two centuries of Targaryen rule since the Conquest. There would be seven days of feasting, tourney, celebration, and entertainment.

The archery contest started with Ulrick, a man at arms under Lord Dayne, outshooting Lord Caron and the Heir of Horn Hill.

There was a horse race next, which Lord Marston Peake would win, beating out Lady Myranda Piper, Lord Benedict Royce, and Ser Willam Mooton.

The following day was the boat race, which was won by Lord Daemion Velaryon, narrowly beating out Harras Greyjoy, Ser Franklyn Chester, and Alyssa Manderly.

The axe throwing contest was won handily by Harwyn Drumm, the massive Lord of Old Wyk. He beat out Harras Greyjoy, Harrag the Chinless, and Ser Preston Kayce.

The following day was the wrestling competition. Several contestants would fight one another with notable fights being Lord Baratheon vs the Heir of Pyke, Harwyn Drumm vs Walton Karstark, Lord Crakehall vs the hedge knight Ser Ulf of Wendwater. But the winner of the contest would see Yorick Sand, the bastard of Ghost Hill against Ser Edwyn Strickland. The knight of Harrenhal would best the Dornish bastard and the crowd roared in approval.

The melee was a grand, bloody affair that saw many men injured in the contest. Lord

Baratheon bested Lords Grandison, Caswell, and the Heir of Barrowton before falling to Harwyn Drumm. Drumm himself had bested Lord Frey, Brandon Blackwood, Ser Gunthor Hersey, and Harys Plumm. Drumm would come up against the hedge knight Ser Bernarr of Fairmarket and would wow the crowd by Iosing swiftly against the slippery man of the Trident. The hedge knight quickly became the crowd favorite, but he would come up to Lord Stark at the final bout. The two circled one another, Bernarr with his spear and Lord Stark with his Iongaxe. The two fought savagely, with no showing mercy. Finally, Lord Stark swept the hedge knight off his feet and snapped his spear, sending his axe into the man's breastplate, shattering several of his ribs. Lord Stark would win, though the crowd would boo and jeer the man. Still, he was a gracious victor and sent his maester to aid the man. The two would strike up an unlikely friendship after the tourney.

Finally, the last day arrived and the most anticipated event, the grand joust. The Royal Family started off embarrassingly, with Prince Aegon of Summerhall falling quickly to Lord Tyrell. Lord Lannister would fall to the lance of Lord Bracken. The Lord Commander of the Kinsguard, Ser Owen Lansdale, would best Lord Morrigen and Lord Celtigar before falling to Ser Nestor Royce in his family's bronze armor. The Knight of Gulltown bested Lord Arryn and the Heir of Oldtown would fall to the lance of Lord Manderly. Numerous knights would resort to dueling after trading lance after lance. Finally, the finals would come down to Ser Nestor Royce and the dark horse of the joust, Ser Morgan Martell, the brother of the Princess of Dorne. Royce and Martell would trade six lances and on the seventh, Ser Morgan was unhorsed, allowing the knight of Runestone to win the joust.

The remainder of King Daemon's reign was quiet and the King would die after a prolonged illness took him as winter began to take hold of Westeros.

Reign of King Aegon IV (203-227)

King Aegon's reign started out as a terrible winter began, lasting until 206 and would see famines in the North and Vale as larders ran out. The King would import food from the East and paid the southern Reachlords to send food north towards their countrymen, which endeared him in the eyes of the Northerners and Valemen, but the action drained the Royal treasury to the point that as the spring thaw came, the Master of Coin revealed to the King that the treasury was nearly empty and they were being forced to take out loans to continue to function.

The King was not perturbed by this, knowing that Lords Lannister, Tyrell, and Hightower would be more than willing to aid the Crown. He was partially correct as

they all aided the Crown with crops and loans, though the interest rates were massive and as the King knew that the rates from the east would be just as bad. The Master of Coin, Lord Hunter, protested against the loans and argued that taking one loan from the Iron Bank would solve their issues and leave them reliant on their own vassals, but he was ignored.

As the spring wore on, one disaster followed another. Flooding in the Trident and the Reach ruined many of the fields along the rivers and in the deserts of Dorne, a drought wore on as several major wells dried up. Lords Uller and Qorgyle were in desperate need of water and while the Prince of Dorne was able to send some aid, the King also sent aid to the Dornishmen, straining the already stretched treasury.

Things would come to a head in 210 AC, when Lord Tyrell called in payments of his loan to the Crown, as his own realm needed aid and the flooding of the rivers had damaged not only fields but the castles of Highgarden, Bitterbridge, Longtable, and Cider Hall. Lord Hunter and the King could not come up with the coin and thus Lord Tyrell responded by ceasing all tax payments to the Crown as "overdue payment". This loss of revenue sent the Crown into terror as Lord Hightower followed suit and the spies of the Crown brought a tale that Lord Lannister was thinking of doing the same. King Aegon wanted to raise his banners to bring Lord Tyrell to heel but Lord Hunter reminded him that the Crown barely had a treasury now and could not support a war effort of any prolonged measure.

Thus, the King summoned Lords Tyrell, Hightower, and Lannister to King's Landing. Additionally he summoned Lords Stark, Manderly, Greyjoy, Harlaw, Arryn, Grafton, Tully, Mooton, Reyne, Velaryon, Darklyn, Baratheon, Tarth, Martell, and Yronwood. The King would meet with all of the lords in the Throne Room before moving the meeting to the Small Council chambers. For a week, the lords would meet with the King and the Small Council over the economic crisis. Finally, there was an agreement. Lord Hunter was fired as Master of Coin and Lord Tyrell would take his place. His Hand of the King, Lord Robert Estermont, would be replaced by Lord Hightower. Lord Tyrell would oversee the restructuring and rebuilding of the Royal Treasury and Lord Hightower would ensure that the realm fell into line. In addition the King would remarry, as his first wife, Hemma Celtigar, had died in the childbirth of Prince Rhaegel and Princess Rhaenys. The King would marry Lord Lannister's daughter Leonetta, securing a rather hefty dowry from the Lannisters which would go immediately towards their loan payments. Lord Lannister graciously offered to pay for half of the Royal Wedding and the King had no choice but to accept.

Thus the plans went ahead. Lord Tyrell would bring in new trade from across Westeros and even from the east and Lord Lannister's influence in court grew by the moon. The King was increasingly powerless against his new Small Council, but found small comfort in the Master of Ships, Ser Theodan Manderly, the Commander of the Goldcloaks, Ser Mychel Waxley, and the Lord Commander of the Kingsguard, Ser Criston Storm, the Bastard of Felwood. Two factions would form in court: the King's Men with Ser Theodan acting as the de facto leader of the group and the Gold Men, consisting of the supporters of Lords Lannister, Hightower, and Tyrell. The only man that refused to take either side was the old Lord Tommard Mertyns, the Master of Laws that had served under Aegon and his father Daemon. Lord Mertyns was often the voice of reason between the two parties and on more than one occasion had managed to keep blood from being spilled in the Small Council chamber and in the yards of the Red Keep. While Lord Mertyns was near seventy, he had strength in his step and power in his voice that a young man could only dream of. Slowly, Lord Mertyns would gain his own following at court and unwittingly became the leader of the third faction known as the Owls. There were far fewer members of this faction, though he would enjoy the comradeship of the Master of Whisperers, Andrey Toland as well as the King's Justice Ser Denys Rosby, and the Lord Admiral of the Royal Feet, Ser Triston Bar Emmon. The politics of the court would remain tense for the next few years until 215 when it came to a head.

The King had wished to begin a project to upgrade the sewers of King's Landing and rid the city of the stench. The Hand of the King and Master of Coin opposed the plan, deeming it too expensive and unnecessary for the city. In a rare show of partisanship, Lord Tommard agreed with the King. So shocked was the Hand at the agreement of the Master of Laws that he was silent for a few minutes. Still, Lord Tyrell refused to go along with the plan for the expenses were too high. That was until Lord Velaryon and Lord Darklyn were invited to the Small Council chamber. The two men had been enjoying the fruits of the increased trade to King's Landing in the last decade and both had grown rather wealthy. Lord Velaryon had gone on a tour of the east, like his ancestor The Sea Snake, while Lord Darklyn had struck lucrative deals within the cities of Pentos, Braavos and Lorath and his trading fleet was second only to the Redwynes. The two of them arrived and offered to aid in the development of King's Landing, citing that the capital's increase in trade would directly see their own holdfasts increase in trade. Outnumbered and humiliated, Lord Hightower and Lord Tyrell agreed and the Goldmen's power fell nearly overnight. Lord Tyrell resigned in disgrace and was replaced by Lord Darklyn as Master of Coin. Lord Hightower remained as Hand of the King and instead of remaining defiant as his liege had been, switched sides and began to aid the Kingsmen.

Thus the factionalism at court remained, though House Tyrell would continue to harbor a grudge against the Crown and Houses Velaryon and Darklyn. They also felt slighted by House Hightower who instead of resigning in support, continued to serve the King. Though the King was not free from the political drama. His relationship with his wife became strained after he opposed her family's faction in court and the two were

estranged for some time after that. Lord Tommard Mertyns died in 221 in his quarters in the Red Keep and the King traveled personally to Mistwood with the Royal Court to attend his funeral. He also named one of Tommard's sons, Ser Baldric Mertyns, to the Kingsguard in gratitude for his father's long years of service.

King Aegon would reign for a few more years before dying of consumption in 227 AC.

Reign of King Rhaegel I (227-247)

King Rhaegel inherited a recovering economy and general peace in Westeros. Still, things were far from perfect. The chilliness of the Reach against the Crown was palpable and even the Westerlands were cool towards them. His stepmother, Queen Dowager Leonetta Lannister, never had a good relationship with him and he only kept her in the Red Keep as a favor to his half siblings as well the Widow's Law.

Still, things would go wrong quickly. Lord Hightower stepped down as Hand of the King as he had been ill for some time and returned to Oldtown. Lord Velaryon was made Hand in his place. Lord Hightower would not make it home and his entourage was attacked by bandits in the Kingswood and the ailing Lord of Oldtown was killed along with two of his sons and one of his brothers.

The Crown and the Hightowers were outraged at this and the King sent men into the Kingswood to scour the woods for the perpetrators but to no avail. Lord Meadows and Footly's men joined the search as their lands bordered the woods as well, but nothing came of the searches. The new Lord Hightower continued the search, though King Rhaegel was forced to turn his attention elsewhere, as pirates in the Stepstones began harassing the shores of Dorne and the Stormlands.

The Reach situation would devolve as the new Lord Hightower would eventually accuse Lord Tyrell of killing his father. It would culminate with Lord Hightower raising his banners and Lord Tyrell doing so in turn. The two would clash on the Rose Road near the Honeywine. Lord Hightower would kill Ser Theodore Tyrell and capture Ser Leo Tyrell before pushing the Tyrell forces back to Highgarden. Lord Beesbury and the Heir of Blackcrown would die in the fighting, as well as Ser Garland Rowan and the Lord of Longtable. He would surround the castle and besiege it, hanging Ser Leo before the gates of the castle when his father, Lord Tyrell, refused to open the gates and surrender. Eventually, a force from the Westerlands under Lord Lannister and the Crownlands under Lord Rosby would march down to force the two forces to stand down. Lord Hightower was forced to return his forces home and was sent to the Wall for breaking the

King's Peace. Lord Tyrell was given no other compensation other than his son and brother's bones.

As for the pirates in the south, Lord Velaryon and Lord Darklyn would sail the Royal Fleet and battle the pirates in a series of engagements along the coast of Tarth and Estermont before chasing them south into the Sea of Dorne. They would trap the remnants at Ghaston Grey and lay siege to the prison island of the Martells, ferrying Dornish troops to aid in retaking the island in an assault that killed Lord Velaryon and Ser Manfrey Martell as the new year dawned.

Lord Darklyn was made the new Hand of the King following the skirmish and King Aegon would finally settle into some peace, though it would not last.

disobey him and begin raiding the shores of the West and North, striking at smaller villages and holdfasts to attempt to avoid drawing the ire of the lords, but it would do no good. Lords Stark, Tully, and Lannister sent ravens to King's Landing and soon Lord Greyjoy was faced with attempting to wrangle his lords and captains. What followed

The small things began to weigh down on King Rhaegel and the king slowly became more and more irritable and his grasp of sanity began to slip. He would spend days on end in his apartments, unable to eat or leave. Then he would appear and attempt to do several days of activities at once. The Hand of the King and the rest of the Small Council would do their best to conceal this, but by 240 AC, things had become so bad that it was impossible to hide it.

The King had thrown a feast and tourney in the Red Keep to celebrate the birth of his twin granddaughters. The realm witnessed, in full, the King's random outbursts of melancholy or happiness. He would cry with one man and laugh with another. He seemed to have little regard for manners or any sort of tact in his conversations. He offended several high lords and ladies and made many more uncomfortable. Some would even leave the event before it was over because of his actions. The Hand of the King would do the best that he could to keep things in line, along with the Prince of Dragonstone, Prince Daeron.

The King's disinterest in ruling allowed for Prince Daeron to step into royal duties. By 242, Prince Daeron had all but become King in name as his father continued to wander the Red Keep in his delirium. The Lord Commander of the Kingsguard would be his only true companion as the mad king refused to let any of the other White Cloaks near him, stating they all made him sad and made him want to kill himself.

Finally, the King would make good on his promises in 247 AC, slitting his wrists in his bath and bleeding out before he could be saved. Now king, Daeron II attempted to hide the circumstances of his father's death but it was of no use. The servants of the Red Keep had spoken of it and the news spread like wildfire.

The Reign of King Daeron II (247-present)

Daeron would face the attempt to repair the issues caused by his father's madness. While King Rhaegel had not done anything irreparable, he had still destroyed many of the Crown's relationships. In addition to that, the Faith was once again acting up. Due to his suicide, the Faith refused to perform funeral rites on him and Daeron was forced to find the old Valyrian Rites and bury his father's ashes on Dragonstone by himself, though he would later convince Septon Maynard, the septon of Dragonstone, to pray for his father's soul in the afterlife.

Daeron would face his first major challenge a year into his reign as slavers from Tyrosh and Myr would begin to halt Westerosi shipping, taking able bodied men and a few women for their own. Numerous lords complained to the Crown about their shipping Being harassed, leading to the King sending envoys to the Free Cities until Lord Redwyne's sister was taken from a trading vessel while she was en route to King's Landing from the Arbor. This infuriated Lord Redwyne who demanded her back. The King issued another envoy to Tyrosh, threatening the Archon with action should his ships cease their actions. The envoy returned to King's Landing with his nose, hand, and ear cut off. As he arrived, a fleet appeared off the coast of the Stormlands and Dorne and began to raid the coast. The islands of Tarth and Estermont were hard hit, with Lord Tarth's son being killed and one of his daughters being carried off by the Tyroshi. In Dorne, Lord Toland and Lord Yronwood's coasts were hit by the Myrish fleet, with Ser Desmond Yronwood dying in defense against the Essosi.

The king swiftly ordered his fleets together, Lord Redwyne and Lord Lannister would bring their fleets around. Lord Greyjoy was given permission to raid and burn all the lands owned by Myr and Tyrosh, allowing for the Essosi to be stretched thin by the Westerosi fleets. From the north, the Crown fleet would meet with the Velyaron and Grafton fleets.

The Westerosi would devastate the Essosi fleets and bring ruin to the Stepstones and the lands around Tyrosh and Myr, blockading both cities by sea until the Archon of Tyrosh sued for peace and the Magisters of Myr would do the same.

The highs of the King's success in the Stepstones would not last as the following year, a scandal would rock the Royal Court as Princess Baela would elope with the young Heir of Winterfell, having met the young man when his father came down to the capital for the war and stayed for a time serving as the King's Master of Laws. The marriage was legitimate, though the Princess had been betrothed to the son of Lord Redwyne, leading to a massive scandal. Lord Redwyne and King Daeron would debate on what to do, but there was little they could do to tear apart the marriage. The King offered one of his own daughters to Lord Redwyne to foster, but it was not nearly the same.

In addition to the scandal of Princess Baela, the King would face a new threat of bandits in the Claw. Scores of veterans of the war in the Stepstones had banded together and managed to oust House Hardy from their castle, leading to the Brunes attempting to take back the castle and failing. They were forced to call the King, who sent two thousand men under Ser Reynard Hill, the bastard of Sarsfield, of the Kingsguard to deal with the uprising. The royal forces were set upon by the bandits as they marched through the forests of the Claw and met up with Lord Brune and his men outside the Hardy castle. The attacks from outside and the walls would dwindle the royal forces as they finally managed to launch an assault on the castle, taking it at a heavy cost, including Lord Brune, Ser Reynard, and the Heir of House Crabb.

announced a great tourney to celebrate the occasion, as well as the birth of his infant daughter Laena. The King and his wife had only sired daughters and the young Laena was the 7th daughter. There were rumors that the Queen would refuse another attempt at a son, as the last two pregnancies had been hard on her, though the King was adamant that he would have a son. His brother, Prince Aelyx of Summerhall, had sons of his own. The Prince of Summerhall was most unlike his brother, outgoing, unserious, and carefree. He'd been one to leave King's landing while his father's madness gripped the realm instead of attempting to fix it with his brother. The Prince of Summerhall had constantly refused any sort of want for the throne, publicly calling the Iron Throne "an abomination" more than once. The two brothers were never on good terms and with the birth of yet another daughter, the question of succession was once again being raised to the King by his Small Councilors and the lords of the realm. Prince Aelyx was uninterested in the throne and his sons were still very young. On the other hand, Prince Maekar Targaryen, the first son of King Rhaegel by his second wife and the Steward of Dragonstone, is an extremely ambitious man with high aspirations for his family, no doubt egged on by his mother and his Lannister kin. He had been attempting to betroth his eldest son Aenar to one of King Daeron's daughters but he was constantly refused by the King for one reason or another. There was a chance for the King to have another son, but it remains to be seen.



The Crownlands





"What is it they say? When one is born you flip a coin? I fear a time may come where it is tossed for one king and none bother to pick it up to flip again."

A quote from the collated thoughts of Grand Maester Danos

What has Come to Pass





"With no sons, a wife who wishes to try for no more, and a smattering of daughters... the king's silence on succession demands war. But what if he were to turn around and declare one of his brothers the heir? Would his wife raise her allies in the name of her daughters? Would the other prince's supporters do the same? I daresay silence is all a man can manage against such a dilemma."

From the memoirs of ser Jonothor Lipps

The Conquest and the Peace of Dorne

King Daeron I had called together the lords of the realm to bring Dorne into the fold. Lord Alyn Velaryon was tasked with smashing the Dornish navy and Planky Town. Leading his army south, the King would incur great losses during his campaign and would barely survive an assassination attempt on his life by several Dornish lords during a peace parley that he only escaped due to the intervention of his Kingsguard. He would begin executing the hostages he held in King's Landing until the Prince of Dorne requested to speak with him. The two would meet in Tyrosh, where the peace would be

hammered out under the eye of the Archon of Tyrosh. Dorne would submit to the Iron Throne but retain their Princely title and many of their laws. The fortresses and watchtowers of the Red Mountains would be taken down and the Kingsroad would be made to go south into the Boneway to provide a crucial link to the rest of the Kingdom. Planky Town would be rebuilt and there would be marriages. Princess Rhaena Targaryen would marry the Prince's son Maron when the two were of age to do so. Not all were happy with the resolution of the war, with many Stormlanders, Reachmen, and Dornish all upset with the terms but many would eventually come to accept it.

King Daeron would also have the marriage of his brother Baelor and his sister Daena annulled and he would marry Daena himself, a minor scandal in the eyes of some at court but Prince Baelor was more than happy to be rid of the marriage that he saw as an abomination. Instead, Daeron instructed his brother to go south to Oldtown and take the Septons' vows. It was said that while the King offered his brother a grand escort, Baelor refused the horse and would walk barefoot from King's Landing to Oldtown.

The King would also arrange another marriage for his sister Elaena to Lord Ronnel Penrose, a staunch ally of the Crown whom the King had befriended during the war.

In the years following the Peace of Dorne, King Daeron would settle into court and prove himself a capable King in times of peace as much as in times of war. The King would oversee a dispute between Lords Rosby and Stokeworth over grazing rights for their respective cattle, as well as prevent bloodshed between Lords Hayford and Harte over a perceived insult.

As the King's children grew up, he had made plans to marry his son Daemon to his daughter Rhaenyra which had begun to receive pushback from the Faith in the form of his own brother, who had risen up the ranks of the Faith and was elected to the position of High Septon in 180. He would go ahead with the marriage anyway, hosting in the following year and inviting his brother to perform the ceremony, but the ravens went unanswered.

The day of the Silver Wedding arrived and many nobles attended, though there were a few notable absences from the guests, House Hightower and the Sword of the Morning at the forefront. The King would press on and the celebrations would go on into the night when the Blessed One would arrive suddenly during the feast and the two brothers would reunite coldly in the Throne Room of the Red Keep and would disappear from the room for the rest of the night. The Blessed One would spend the rest of his time in King's Landing preaching the superiority of the Seven and that the unbelievers would

be brought to the Father's Justice. This did not subside when he left King's Landing and returned back to the Starry Sept.

The 2nd Faith Militant Uprising

The Blessed One's return to Oldtown was marred by incidents of forcing lords to tithe to the Faith, as Lord Caswell would be forced to give over three-fourths of his treasury to the Faith as a donation. King Daeron would attempt to write to his brother but there would be nothing. When news reached Oldtown of the pregnancy of Princess Rhaenyra, it would prove to break the High Septon's silence. Instead, the Blessed One would raise the Faith against the Crown and declare that his brother was unfit to rule.

King Daeron would rally his forces to oppose the forces of the Faith. The Goldcloaks and the guardsmen of the Red Keep first put down an uprising in King's Landing by a large group of smallfolk, though not before they'd taken control of the Dragon Sept and killed several of the Septons there that protested against their actions. With the city secure and none of the Crownlands houses joining the Faith, King Daeron set to work to put down the rebellious lords and Faithful. He would split the Crownlands army into three with himself, his son Daemon, and his cousin Ser Aemon the Dragonknight as the commanders. He would lead the bulk of the army into the Reach, while Daemon would subdue the Stormlands, and Aemon would put down the Riverlands.

Daeron would march down the Rose Road as swiftly as he could, though he would be hampered with raids by the Faith. Still, his approach as well as the failing of the Faithful in the Riverlands and Prince's Pass forced the besiegers of Highgarden to fall back to Oldtown. King Daeron would cut off the city and order a siege. For six moons they prepared for a fight and on the seventh they attacked. The fight for Oldtown was bloody and fierce, but the King would lead his forces valiantly and slew Ser Bertram Beesbury of the Warrior's Son with Blackfyre before the remaining Faithful retreated into the Starry Sept. Negotiation was fruitless and Daeron ordered the building burned to the ground, ending the Blessed One and those that remained inside. He would give the surviving Most Devout the chance to elect a new High Septon and follow him back to King's Landing, where the Dragon Sept would serve as their new seat of power. The King reaffirmed the Doctrine of Exceptionalism and that the Crown's protection of the Faith remained. He would return back to the capital for the rest of his days.

The Politics of Peacetime

King Daemon I Targaryen's reign was one that saw little conflict but would see the start of numerous attempts at political jockeying. He would fire Prince Viserys Targaryen as Hand of the King and replace him with his wartime friend Lord Staunton. Together the two pushed through the places to improve the city, namely upgrading the sewer system to attempt to mitigate the smell that the city had become famous for. The patronage of the King to Rook's Rest would fund their own expansion, much to the chagrin of their neighbours. This would unfortunately fan the rumours of the King's reliance on his advisors, as his failures at Stonehelm would haunt him into his own reign.

In 188 AC, there was an attempted uprising in the Riverlands by a force of former Faithful that was put down before the King's army could arrive to help Lord Tully and his forces.

In 192 AC, the King would be convinced of the growing threat in the Stepstones and expand the Royal Fleet with additional warships, giving coin and men to the Master of Ships to complete the project. The King's marriage to the Velaryons called into question whether this was a legitimate move or one to give favour to the family his daughter had married into.

The Master of Whisperers, Royce Wendwater, would uncover a plot in 195 AC of several septons who were plotting to cause a riot in an attempt to kill the King and King Daemon had them arrested and tortured, though none would give up any further information.

The Great Winter and the Economic Crisis

The Great Winter of 203-206 AC would hit much of Westeros hard. The death of King Daemon just before the onset of winter left King Aegon IV with much to do early in his reign. To his credit, he did all that he could to support the realm. Food from the east was bought and he bought and encouraged the lords of the south to send aid to the North and Vale, who were affected terribly by the winter. He would accept loans from Lords Hightower, Lannister, and Tyrell to help the treasury.

By the end of the winter, the spring floods would cause havoc in the Riverlands and the Reach, with the Blackwater Rush experiencing some minor flooding as well. This was followed by drought and crop failures in Dorne and the Dornish Marches.

Lord Tyrell would spark further crisis when he called in his loan from the Crown in 210 and withheld all of his taxes when it was not answered quickly. The King wished to raise his banners for this perceived treason, but the threat of Lannister and others doing the same forced him to call the Great Houses of the realm to King's Landing to discuss the ongoing economic crisis. The discussions would take place over the course of a moon and many ideas were brought forth. In the end, King was practically sidelined by the Lannisters, Hightowers, and Tyrells. He was made to remarry to Lord Lannister's daughter Leonetta and appoint Lord Tyrell and Lord Hightower as Master of Coin and Hand of the King respectively.

It was only through his friends on the council the Master of Ships Ser Theodan Manderly, the Commander of the City Watch Ser Mychel Waxley, and the Lord Commander of the Kingsguard Ser Criston Storm that the King was able to hold onto some modicum of power within the Small Council chamber. The court of King's Landing had quickly devolved into factionalism with the Gold Men and the King's Men. There was a third group under Lord Tommard Mertyns known as the Owls that had the patronage of the Master of Whisperers Andrey Toland, the King's Justice Ser Denys Rosby, and the Lord Admiral of the Royal Fleet Ser Triston Bar Emmon.

The King and Small Council would be at odds for the next few years, with many of the King's ideas being shot down or flatly refused. The Gold Men would remind Aegon of the Crown's massive debt to them. The animosity the King held for them was palpable but he was functionally held hostage by his own Small Council.

This would continue until 215 AC when the usually silent Master of Laws chose to endorse the King's project and emboldened the King and his own supporters. This was with the aid of Lords Velaryon and Darklyn, who had grown rich in the previous years from trade and adventure in the case of Lord Velaryon. The two of them offered to aid the

Crown with the expenses of the King's proposed sewer renovation and the power of the Gold Men fell overnight. Lord Tyrell resigned in disgrace and returned to Highgarden but Lord Hightower remained and persuaded the King that it was best to keep him on and promised to forgive the debt to the Crown. It would serve to further humiliate the Tyrells and salvage the reputation of the Hand. The King would remove the remaining Gold Men from their positions in King's Landing, mostly within the City Watch and the Royal Mint.

The Madness of King Rhaegel

The death of King Aegon IV from consumption in 227 was sudden and his son Rhaegel would inherit the Iron Throne. Unlike his father, he preferred to let his Small Council rule instead of taking direct control. His reign would be plunged into chaos early as Lord Hightower would resign his post citing his failing health and would end up being ambushed in the Kingswood by bandits and killed alongside two of his sons and his brother.

While the bandits were being searched down, the new Lord Hightower accused the Tyrells of murder and raised their banners. At the same time, pirates in the Stepstones took the opportunity to raid the coasts of Dorne and the Stormlands. Split between the two conflicts, Lord Velaryon, now Hand of the King, summoned the Royal and Dragonstone fleets to sail with his fleet to destroy the pirates. Lord Rosby, the Master of Laws, was tasked with marching south to stop the fighting between Hightower and Lannister.

The Royal Fleet would sweep south and dislodge the pirates from Tarth and Greenstone before chasing the remnants to Ghaston Grey, where the rest had gathered their strength. With the Lords of the Stormlands and Dorne, the Royal Fleet assaulted the fleet and the island itself. Lord Velaryon would go down with his ship during the attack and Lord Sunglass took command of the Royal Fleet and returned to the capital.

In the Reach, Lord Rosby would arrive at Highgarden and manage to relieve the castle and force the two lords to end their fighting. Lord Hightower was sent to the Wall for breaking the King's Peace but Lord Tyrell was given nothing else in regards to aid or satisfaction.

The peace brought some ease back to the Crown, though the King's paranoia began to worry some. He was convinced that Tyrell or Hightower would attempt to gain

revenge on him. Luckily, the King's general lack of public appearances made it easy to contain this.

In 231 AC, Lord Greyjoy was slain by his guards and Drowned Priest and his young son was "persuaded" to call for a general reaving of the western coast of Westeros. The Hand of the King tasked the Royal Fleet to go west to aid the Redwyne and Shield Fleets against the Ironborn. The Ironborn fleet would be scattered by storm and battle by the time the Royal Fleet rounded the continent and would serve only to ferry back the captured Drowned Priests and rebellious Lords to King's Landing for trial and execution. The young Lord Greyjoy would be pardoned for his crimes, as he had been forced at swordpoint to call the reaving.

The Ironborn rebellion would not aid the King's paranoia and a fire in the Kingswood in 235 would continue to fuel his fears that the Hightowers and Tyrells were still after him. Upon coming of age in 226, Prince Daeron Targaryen would begin to take a larger role in the court as his father's madness became more and more pronounced. This would come to a head in 240 AC when Prince Daeron and his wife Lianna Velaryon welcomed their twin daughters Alyssa and Alysanne. The Crown hosted a tourney and feast for the event. The King had seemed relatively benign in the previous moons but the large crowds seemed to only make things worse. He had little to no couth in his conversations. He would offend one lord before insulting another and then go on to cry uncontrollably on the shoulder of another. The sight greatly disturbed many of the nobles and the Crown Prince was forced to try and mend the broken relations. Prince Daeron would step up after this, taking over as Hand of the King from Lord Darklyn who would step down after the stress of his job finally became too much for him.

The final years of the King's life were spent in seclusion. The Lord Commander was the only man that he truly trusted. Prince Daeron would rule the realm in his stead, though his younger brother Aelyx would retreat to Summerhall and when Prince Maelys of Summerhall died in 245, Prince Daeron named Aelyx the new Prince of Summerhall instead of Maelys' son Maelor, causing a minor scandal within the Targaryen family. Maelor would ride to King's Landing and protest the decision and demand to speak to the King, but was refused. Maelor and his family were allowed to remain within Summerhall but the new Prince would be Aelyx. It was not up for debate.

King Rhaegel's madness was not always just paranoia but bouts of intense depression. He would eventually take his own life in the bath in 247 AC, leaving many to silently thank the Gods for the death of the troubled King.

The Stepstones and the Claw

The suicide of King Rhaegel was a scandal in of itself, as the Faith refused to do a funeral in the Dragon Sept for the man, stating that he had committed a grave sin against the Seven. Instead, the ashes of the king were interred on Dragonstone with Valyrian Rites and the King held a grudge against the High Septon since.

In 248, the King would face his first major challenge as the slavers of Tyrosh and Myr had taken control over the Stepstones and had begun taking tolls from shipping and pressing able bodied men into their fleet and the slave markets of their respective cities. Envoys to the cities were unsuccessful and things came to a head when Lord Redwyne's sister was taken off her ship on her way back home to the Arbor from King's Landing. The King's final envoy would return without a nose, ears, or a hand and the eastern coast of Westeros came under attack by the forces of Tyrosh and Myr. Summoning the lords of the realm to war, King Daeron would lead the war effort against the Free Cities, allying with Braavos and Lys along the way to physically and diplomatically isolate the two cities. The King would lead the campaign towards Tyrosh while Lord Redwyne would lead the campaign toward Myr. After a series of battles in the Stepstones themselves, the Free Cities would come under direct siege. The Disputed Lands around Myr were torched and sacked, with slaves being freed as they were found by the Westerosi. The Lyseni took the opportunity to occupy much of the southern Disputed Lands. After six moons of siege and no one coming to their aid, the Magisters of Myr and the Archon of Tyrosh sued for peace. The King was harsh in his dealings, extracting massive payments to the Crown and to all those that had suffered from the attacks. The Stepstones were placed under occupation as well, due to the clamouring of the Stormlords and Dornish who had grown weary of being assaulted by pirates from the region. Lys was given the southern parts of the island chain for their efforts in the war, though there were some, chief among them being the Steward of Dragonstone, Prince Maekar Targaryen, who called for more of the islands to come under the Crown's jurisdiction or at the very least the occupying forces of the Stormlands and Dorne.

The following year, the court of King's Landing was rocked by scandal. Princess Baela Targaryen, the youngest sister of King Daeron, had been betrothed to Lord Redwyne's son following the end of hostility the year prior. The Princess, ever the free spirit, had befriended and fallen in love with the Heir of Winterfell during his time in the city when his father was made Master of Laws at the beginning of her brother's reign. The Stark heir had fought with distinction in the war and it only made the attraction grow and the two would steal away to Dragonstone one night and be married at the castle. The King was outraged but the marriage was consummated and there was little that could be done as Princess Baela remained defiant. Lord Redwyne, rightfully outraged, demanded satisfaction. King Daeron offered the man a position at his Small

Council as Master of Ships and offered one of his younger daughters to foster at the Arbor. Lord Stark was humiliated by his son's actions and offered to resign but the King refused him, stating he was too important to simply let him leave his post.

Later in the year, there was an uprising in Crackclaw Point. Broken men from the war in the Stepstones had flocked to the caves and valleys of the region to hide and resorted to banditry. Lord Brune had attempted to root them out but to no avail. Eventually, a group of these men under the command of Ser Galladon the Tall managed to gain access to Hard Hall, the seat of House Hardy and took it over. Lord Brune attempted to take the castle back but was repulsed twice, by which time King Daeron tasked Ser Reynard Hill of the Kinsgugard to march into the Claw with an army a thousand strong to aid the Clawmen in taking back the castle. Assaulted along the road, the Royal force was down nearly a quarter of its original strength by the time they arrived. Together with Lord Brune, Ser Reynard ordered and assault and they managed to scale the walls. Vicious fighting would take part and Ser Reynard would cut down Ser Galladon though at the cost of his own life. Lord Brune was killed by a dagger in the night after the castle had been taken but the Hardys had finally gotten their seat back.

The Question of Succession

The second moon of 250 AC would see Queen Lianna Velaryon give birth to her seventh child, a squalling little girl named Laena. The King, while happy for another child, was disappointed in the sex. For years the King had been praying for a son and it seemed more and more unlikely that he would be getting one. Rumours swirled that the King had been told by the Queen that she would bear no more of his children and that seven was more than enough. When asked of his successor, King Daeron would more often than not change the subject or state that there was still time for him to have a son.

With having only daughters, many looked at Prince Aelyx of Summerhall as the next in line, especially with him having sons of his own. The jovial prince would wave off any serious discussions of him becoming King and stated that his brother was capable of naming an heir and he "wouldn't want to sit on that abomination of a chair if I had a knife to my throat". Still, the easygoing Prince of Summerhall has many friends in the Marches who, whether he wants them to or not, continue to champion for his being named the Heir.

Despite this, the King would still be hounded by the Small Council, the Lords, and even his own family. Prince Maekar Targaryen, the uncle of King Daeron as the son of King Aegon and Queen Leonetta Lannister, had served as the Steward of Dragonstone since the beginning of Daeron's reign, as he had no Prince of Dragonstone to name. His own son Aenar was a member of the Kingsguard, as was his full-brother Gaemon. Prince Maekar had been hounding his nephew since the beginning of his reign about a betrothal of youngest son Baelon or in the last year, his grandson Daeron to one of the King's daughters. The King, though polite, has refused the Steward of Dragonstone at every turn. Some suspect that Prince Maekar covets the throne himself, and his Lannister family ties had given him the gold to try and see it happen.

Kings of the Iron Throne and Their Families



- Aegon III Targaryen (120-157)
 - o Jaehaera Targaryen
 - No Issue
 - Daenaera Velaryon
 - Daeron
 - Baelor (144-182)
 - Daena (145-189)
 - Rhaena (147-192)
 - Maron Martell
 - Elaena (150-220)
 - Lord Penrose
- Daeron I Targaryen (143-185)
 - o Daena Targaryen
 - Daemon
 - Rhaenyra (165-210)
 - *Hegor* (166-207) (Prince of Summerhall)
 - Sharra Arryn
 - o Hemon (184-243)
 - Alicent Swann
 - Hegon (205-present)
 - o Lysara Rogare
 - Herys (230-present)
 - Rhaenys (232-present)
 - Daemon (209-246) Brother of the Night's Watch
 - Jaehaera (186-230)
 - Lord Caron
 - O Alyssa (190-222)
 - Lord Dondarrion
 - Helaena (169-218)
 - Lord Blackwood
- 🥮 Daemon I Targaryen (163-203)
 - o Rhaenyra Targaryen
 - Visenya (182-230)
 - Lord Velaryon

- Saera (183-237)
 - Lord Royce
- Hegon
- Jaehaerys (187-225) (Prince of Summerhall)
 - Genna Reyne
 - Maelys (205-245) (Prince of Summerhall)
 - Lysa Vance of Atranta
 - Maelor (225-present)
 - Shaena Targaryen
 - Gael (247-present)
 - Jaehaerys (249-present)
 - Shaena (228-present)
 - o Viserra (208-249)
 - Lord Connington
- Gael (190-225)
 - Lord Baratheon

Hegon IV Targaryen (184-227)

- Aemma Celtigar
 - Rhaegel
 - Rhaenys (203-250)
- o Leonetta Lannister
 - Maekar (210-present) Steward of Dragonstone
 - Alys Marbrand
 - Aenar (226-present)
 - Knight of the Kingsguard
 - Maekar (the Younger) (229-present)
 - Shaera Targaryen
 - Daeron (249-present)
 - Shaera (230-present)
 - o Baelon (232-present)
 - Vaella (212-241)
 - Lord Yronwood
 - Gaemon (214-present) Knight of the Kingsguard

Rhaegel I Targaryen (202-247)

- Rhaenys Targaryen
 - Daeron
 - Daenerys (220-present)
 - Lord Celtigar
 - *Helyx* (225-present) Prince of Summerhall
 - Lady Tarly
 - Aegon (244-present)

- o Helaena (247-present)
- o Naerys (249-present)
- o Valarr (250-present)
- Baela (227-present)
 - Heir of Winterfell
- Daeron II Targaryen (220-present)
 - Lianna Velaryon
 - Alyssa (239-present)
 - Alysanne (239-present)
 - Valaena (241-present)
 - Daella (243-present)
 - Rhaenys (245-present)
 - Jaehaera (247-present)
 - Laena (250-present)

The Reach



"The division in the Reach did not begin with the Second Faith Militant Uprising, but it did contribute significantly. Conflict between various houses and factions was to be expected, but division between one's own families, between parent and child would begin to grow in the gardens of the Reach."

A description of the Reach given in 'A recent history of Westeros' by Archmaester Dake - 243 AC

What has Come to Pass



"Tell me, does the flower wilt? You do not know, do you? Nor do I, but I imagine we shall know soon enough."

A snippet of a conversation overheard between a knight of the Hightower and an unknown companion.

The Ashes of the Starry Sept

182 AC - The Faith Uprising brought severe damage to the Reach. The Heir to Oldtown and his armies and vassals taking the side of the Faithful, tearing apart Brightwater Keep and battle for control over Highgarden itself. Only when the Starry Sept burned with its staunchest supporters within the walls did the devastating siege of Oldtown end after six moons. No Sept, nor any building had ever taken the place within the walls of Oldtown. Instead, the once glorious building remains a ruin as a stark reminder of the losses of the war.

The Flood

203 AC - King Aegon IV called upon the Reachlords to purchase large quantities of grain and crops to send northward to their less bountiful neighbours in the North and Vale. With many Vale lords fighting on behalf of the Faith Militant, this caused more than a few annoyed rumblings and frustration within the Reach towards the mountainous region and its people.

While the gold was appreciated, it would affect the Reach's own stocks—and when the Mander flooded in 206 AC, the devastation to the harvests would make the once abundant region struggle. That, along with the hefty gold that the King had loaned from the wealthiest houses, such as Tyrell and Hightower. Highgarden, Bitterbridge, Longtable, and Cider Hall were all suffering from the flooding, their castles damaged and fields destroyed.

The Gold Men

210 AC - When Tyrell called in the loan, needing the gold back, the King panicked as they cut all taxes to the Crown in recompense. The Small Council was repositioned, and Tyrell and Hightower found themselves aligned as Master of Coin and Hand of the King respectively. They, along with Lannister, were known as the Gold Men in the courts of the Red Keep. They held a bitter rivalry with the King's Men, and disagreed on near every issue, intent on curbing the spending on the Crown and replenishing the Realm.

After disagreeing with the sewer project within King's Landing, the Gold Men were outnumbered by Velaryon and Darklyn who swooped in to take their place. Tyrell resigned in defiance and humiliation, while Hightower retained his position as Hand and switched sides, angering Tyrell.

The growing distaste and bitterness towards the Crown and its direct vassals that started with the loan payments was only growing, and any knights bearing the sigil of Darklyn, Velaryon, or those sworn to the Crown were often strongly discouraged in participating in any tourney's—often for their own safety as any who did not listen were often targeted unfairly and harshly during the lists.

The Reach did maintain good relations with the Westerlands and House Lannister, and houses from there were frequent guests at Highgarden.

War of the Bloodied Rose

227 AC – The tension would come to a head when Lord Hightower stepped down as Hand following the coronation of the new King Rhaegel. During the journey home, he was ambushed by bandits in the King's Wood and killed. The new Lord Hightower accused House Tyrell as being behind the attack and raised his banners.

It was a short but bloody war, seeing House Hightower and its vassals versus House Tyrell, supported by Rowan and Merryweather. The Rose Road ran red, until Tyrell's forces were pushed back, and Highgarden sieged. It took intervention from the Westerlands and the Crownlands for the conflict to end, not before the death of Knights, Lords, and Soldiers alike. Lord Hightower was forced to take the Black, but Lord Tyrell was given nothing in compensation for all that was lost.

The Tower and the Garden

Though blades were no longer drawn, the anger and resentment between Hightower and Tyrell would remain. Any chance of collaboration as they had during the time of the Gold Men was gone the minute that Hightower switched sides. It was a bitter rivalry, and it spread beyond the borders of Oldtown and Highgarden—infecting each of the other houses they attempted to sway to their own side. While the side of Hightower was more amenable to the Crown, Tyrell and much of the Reach have refused to let go of past grudges.

Tyrell may hold a grudge, but Hightower's memories are long—long enough to remember a time when the Roses stood as mere stewards, and not King's. Perhaps with the frosty attitude from the Garden Court towards the Crown, they could leverage a much more loyal and obedient ruler of the Reach to His Majesty. If it had been changed once, mere 250 years ago in a history spanning thousands, why not again?

Meanwhile, Tyrell fears the growing power block of Hightower. Oldtown had once tore itself apart during the Faith Militant Uprising. Perhaps the power would need to shift to another location within the Reach, a new centre of commerce and culture to strip Hightower of its influence.

The bones of the dead on either side rest in their graves, but those still breathing keep their memory alive—and wait for the day they can enact vengeance.

Roots Running Deep

240 AC - Houses Oakheart and Rowan have slowly begun to encroach their territories and land in the region that stretches between them. Fences, livestock, hamlets, all being pushed further in or claimed to be theirs. Each of the minor houses and landed knights that claim hold of the regions have been attempted to be swayed to either side as they hold fertile land that was untouched by the flooding. Tensions are rising between the Lords of Goldengrove and Old Oak, both aware of what the other is doing. Conflict spilled over when Lord Rowan attempted to ferry materials along the Bay of Thorns in Lord's Thorns using a dock Lord Oakheart had funded. Since then, petty conflict and a war of quills and parchment had erupted as each schemes and fights to claim what they believe is rightly theirs. Now, they look to Lords Hightower and Tyrell, hoping that perhaps if they could receive the assistance of a larger house in return for their loyalty, that they could win not only the land between—but their rival houses land as well.

Through the Grapevine

House Redwyne, in the meantime, had gone through a tumultuous time. They, along with the fleet of the Shield Isles had been the ones to fight back against the Ironborn raiders along the Western coast, bonding the West to the Reach yet again. While they had won glory then, not long after their shipments of all of the Reach were halted overseas by slavers from Myr and Tyrosh. Tragedy would strike when the sister of Lord Redwyne was captured by a Tyroshi slaver, sparking the war. Redwyne and Lannister would work together to devastate the Essosi fleets and the Stepstones.

With each high for the Lords of the Arbour, came a low. The Princess Baela was betrothed to the young Redwyne heir—until she eloped with the heir of Winterfell. First the Reach lords had provided grain to a starving North during a harsh winter, hurting their own storage—and now the very heir was the cause of a broken betrothal and humiliation and scandal. Though one of the king's daughters was warded at the Arbour, it was not nearly equivalent.

Worst yet for Lord Redwyne, the subject of Princess Baela and the Heir of Winterfell's love became a beloved topic, and the anger only rose in response to the flippant romanticization of the decision.

The Golden Knight

Within Nettleden, there is rumour of a Knight that is dressed in golden plate armour with a towering shield who never shows their face. Travellers who are attacked by stray wildlife or ruffians along the road report being saved by this mysterious figure, who then vanishes quickly after and never says a word. Rumours float of a spirit back from the dead, or perhaps the avatar of the Warrior himself, or a long lost descendant of the Gardener King's come to defend their old Kingdom. They have never competed in a tourney, nor been spotted far from Nettleden.

Whenever young knights go looking for them to test their mettle, they are never seen again. House Peake was once outraged when a Knight of their house had left, wanting justice and recompense. But when the army had marched and swept the area, the Golden Knight was nowhere to be found.

Perhaps only the Truest Knight can finally best this warrior and solve the mystery knight's identity.



The Young Flowers

An influx of song and poetry of the romanticism of true love and marrying for love sweep over the Reach, causing a clash between the younger generation and the more traditional old generation. The expectations to marry for alliance, money, security are still in the minds of many hapless parents as they attempt to engineer situations in which their much more fanciful children will fall in love with the right sort of person.

Out of wedlock pregnancies are often ways that force parent's hands to allow the children to marry exactly whom they wish, lest risking scandal and bastardy. Bastards born out of love matches but the parents were not allowed to be together are considered tragic and fascinating and the subject of many verses.

It's not just in the matters of the heart that divide the young and old within the bountiful Green Realm. Tradition, order, and rationality are frequently cast aside in favour of the pursuit of individual desire, dreams, and visionary art in painting, writing, music, and architecture. In particular, the beauty of nature appears in much of the art created and bountiful gardens grown for their beauty instead of value are more and more common. The heart is favoured over the mind, to the horror of many staunch traditionalists. The teachings of the Faith of the Seven hold

little sway over many of the Reach's youngest, with the destruction and failure of the Faith Militant uprising often listed as a reason why.

During Lord Tyrell's reign as Master of Coin, he brought in Eastern connections that had an influence in the populated areas of the Reach. Braavosi and Pentoshi cuisine, fashion, and goods began to mix with the traditions of the Reach. Mummer's performances on stages with written scripts became very popular, as did dramatic performances in script and song rather than comedy and farces. After the conflict with Tyrosh and Myr, there is some scepticism building of Essosi influence, though many are quick to point out that they were not the ones they were at war with.

The Flock – Each member of this mercenary group holds a brass pin of two outstretched bird's wings symbolising them as a part of The Flock. They operate out of Oldtown, and take any in their numbers—Hedge Knights, smallfolk, Essosi travellers, and wayward lordlings. They serve as a hired band often by merchants to intimidate rival competitors. They recently won glory battling across the Narrow Sea against Tyrosh and Myr.

Green Knights

Tourneys remained a favourite pastime of Knights within the Reach—though enough conflict would spark up between those of different experience. There were many young men who had never fought in any true battle or war—and not for lack of opportunity. Instead, they busied themselves with the romanticism of chivalry and wooing the hearts of beautiful ladies and performing well in tourneys. Horses, trained and groomed to perform tricks and leaps and agility rather than war, became very common. They are referred to as 'Green Knights', not for the lands they hail from but the greenness of their naivety and experience. Others call them 'Mummer's Knights' as they are more concerned with performance than warfare. This sparked a harsh divide of warrior's who had experienced true battle, rather along the Rose Road, or across the sea in the Free Cities.

The Knights of Spring – A knightly order made mostly of the 'Green Knights' or inexperienced knights who value performance over combat and warfare. They often adorn their armour in decoration, with flowers and other themes of nature. Some joke that their extremely polished armour will distract their enemies—and also criticise the fact that their armour is completely untested and unblemished. They are known to be cleanly, chivalrous, and romantic.

The Overlap

245 AC - To the north, division would pass beyond the borders of the Reach and spill into the Riverlands. Caswell, suffering from the damage done from the flooding, would now face a new problem.

Of who started it, no one would ever be able to tell. But the borders between the lands that Caswell held sway over, and the lands that Vance of Atranta had control over were shifting.

One young knight from Caswell had noticed it at first, but the border markers were three yards further south than usual, giving Atranta a longer border. The Vances' claim that it was in fact 3 yards north, giving Caswell the larger territory and there's never been a clear, unbiased answer. This would continue for many months, back and forth, the border marker shifting yard by yard each way.

The conflict would escalate when two parties had gone to fix the border at the same time. What started as an argument grew personal and vicious fast, and soon blades and blood were drawn. Men were dead on both sides, the rest fleeing back to their respective castles to gather more men. There was a skirmish along the border that only halted after strict orders from Tyrell told Caswell to stand down, to their anger. They pleaded with the Tyrell's to help settle the dispute, but it was considered a petty matter that was theirs to determine with Vance in peace.

Now, there is the "Overlap" a section of a mile that stretches between them that both houses claim as their own, marking the place with flags, farmland, trying to outdo the other.

The Tourney of the Golden Tree

In 247 AC, House Rowan hosted a Grand Tourney and invited the entirety of the Reach, and many West houses were in attendance as well. All of the knights were eager to compete, especially those of the Knights of Spring. While the beautiful day and the feast before were enough to keep the guests in good spirits, the mood would soon sour. A Knight of Mullendore would knock a competitor from House Tyrell off of his horse, and it was a brutal fall. He had to be rushed off the field and treated by a Maester who only just saved his life. There was a rumoured remark from the Hightower box, though no one could confirm who said what, that the knight had 'gotten what he deserved'. It sparked an outrage, and the rest of the tourney was left

off inconclusively as supporters of both Tyrell and Hightower broke out into an argument. A knight representing each side was chosen to meet in the tourney grounds and fight a duel to defend the honour of each house. Though they agreed it not to be to the death, both warriors fought to kill. In the end, the one representing Tyrell was victorious—only to die of an infected wound mere hours later. Many would whisper of potential poison, but nothing would ever be confirmed.

Between Hightower and Tyrell, between true fighters and fanciful knights, between the young and old—the Reach stands divided as bitterness grows for various other realms—the Crown and its lands, the North and its heir, and the Vale among them while only the West holds their favour and affection. As it recovers from the damages done from flooding, from war, from its coffers, the Reach must decide if its generosity is over with—as any King who would call upon their harvests and gold would be treated with scorn.



The Westerlands





"It is impressive how many friends one can have despite doing nothing to get them and even less to keep them."

What has Come to Pass





"Two things are inevitable my dear. One: a Lannister appearing right after finances seem at their worst, and Two: the Payments."

An unknown attribution regarding the Lannisters of Casterly Rock

The Conquest of Dorne and the Aftermath

The Westerlands were loyal to the call of King Daeron the Young Dragon and marched their forces along with many others to Dorne to subdue the region once and for all. The young Lord Loreon Lannister was eager to prove himself to his vassals and the King and thus lead his troops personally into battle. Instead he would suffer the horrors of the conflict, losing more men than necessary in various skirmishes, and earning the distrust of his lords. Thirst, exhaustion, and confusion would be a nearly everyday occurrence in the Western armies as they battled through the Prince's Pass and down past Skyreach. The West would be present for the Submission of Sunspear though they would play no great part in the battle. The assassination attempt on King Daeron was thwarted and the hostages in King's Landing would die one by one until the Prince of Dorne met with the King to discuss a lasting peace.

Lord Loreon would have no place at the negotiating table and would return home at the end of the Conquest of Dorne with little to show but the scars on his body and on his mind. The lords of the West were unhappy with the outcome of the war, mostly due to their lack of rewards, titles, or honors by the Crown. Some blamed their overzealous overlord while others blamed the King. Lord Loreon would sequester himself in Casterly Rock for many years after the end of the hostilities, only appearing at events of his own hosting.

The Second Faith Militant Uprising

The Blessed One's opposition to the marriage of King Daeron and Queen Daena's children was a break from the tradition of the Faith upholding the Doctrine of Exceptionalism. Still, as in the previous uprising, the West was split in two. Lord Tarbeck, ever the faithful man, rose the rainbow banner of the Faith along with many of the northern lords of the West, namely Westerling, Banefort, and Serrett.

Lord Loreon called his banners but the Faithful struck first. Lord Tarbeck's forces besieged Castamere though Lord Reyne had managed to gather his men and supplies for the impending siege. Meanwhile the forces of Banefort and the Crag subdued Ashemark by forcing the young Heir of House Marbrand to surrender when faced with his father's execution. There the West would remain for some time, as the rest of the Faithful would join the siege at Castamere and fortify their position while sending raiders out into the rest of the West to hamper the efforts of Casterly Rock. Lord Sarsfield was killed outside his walls by an arrow and Lord Moreland was captured and a seven-pointed star was carved into his chest after he was hanged by the Faithful. Ser Roland Polander would carve a bloody swathe across the fields to the south of Lannisport in the name of the Blessed One before being slain by Lord Crakehall's brother.

Lord Loreon took his time and waited for all the lords to gather at the Rock before he would set out. Many were angry at his seeming over-cautiousness but the older lord had learned from his previous mistakes and marched with his full strength on the Faithful at Castamere. Word of Prince Hemon's forces crossing the Golden Tooth had reached him and they were fresh from liberating Riverrun. Between the two hosts, the Faithful stood no chance but they made their valiant stand. Their defenses at Castamere were formidable but Lord Tarbeck would fall to the Dragonknight and the Heir of the Crag would slay Ser Stafford Lannister and Lord Prester before falling to the blade of Lord Crakehall.

With the Faithful in the West subdued, Lord Loreon and Ser Aemon would march to the Stoney Sept and deal with the last bastion of the Faith in the Riverlands under the command of Ser Myles Smallwood. The assault was mired with issues stemming from the thunderstorm that broke out as the battle began. The orderly attack turned into a muddy quagmire that saw brutal

street by street fighting in the town. Lord Brax was slain protecting his Lord Paramount but the town was finally taken and the Faithful were put to the sword.

The forces of the West would join in the final assault on Oldtown after seven moons of siege. The men of the West would prove themselves again in the fighting, though there would be no great deed by any of their knights. Still, the Starry Sept would burn on the order of King Daeron and the Blessed One along with it. Peace would return and the King would thank all that took part in the fighting for their aid. Lord Loreon Lannister would prove himself a far different man from the last time he went to war and in a reversal of his fortunes after the Conquest of Dorne, he would enjoy a rehabilitation of his reputation in the West and in the realm at large.



The Quiet Time (182-203 *HC*)

After the 2nd Faith Militant Uprising, the West would return home to rebuild. The lands of Castamere and Ashemark had been the most damaged, though many others had also suffered. Casterly Rock was quick to aid those affected and the defeated houses were forced to give aid as well as part of their reparations from the war. There were still pockets of resistance that remained in the West, mostly broken men and fanatical Faithful that holed up in the caves and mountains of the region. Lord Payne would lead a force to oust the last remaining Faithful from Nunn's Deep. Lords Doggett, Sarsfield, and Moreland would lead a campaign to catch a group of bandits that plundered the town of Oxcross, eventually cornering them in their cave and slaughtering them to a man.

Lord Loreon would die of a fever in 189 and many would mourn the man both inside and outside the West. A grand funeral was held in Lannisport for his death and was attended by many nobles and smallfolk alike.

The announcement of King Daemon I's intent to expand the Royal Fleet was met by the Lannisters wishing to expand their own fleet. The Ironborn had been quiet and still rebuilding from the invasion of Lady Johanna after the Dance of the Dragons and the West feared the eventual reprisals that were to come. The fleet in Lannisport was upgraded and a few of the coastal lords, namely Farman and Kenning, sought to expand their fleets. Other lords, like Banefort and Westerling were unable to do so due to their war reparations.

A small conflict would erupt between House Vikary and House Falwell that would threaten peace between the two houses until an intervention by Lord Lannister dragged the two

men to the Rock to settle their quarrel once and for all. When words were not enough, a duel would settle it instead. Both men were grievously wounded but it would be Lord Falwell that was the victor. To ensure peace continued, Lord Lannister took wards from both houses and put them in places of honor within the Rock.

The Reynes would manage to secure a betrothal for Lord Reyne's only daughter Genna to Prince Jaehaerys Targaryen who would go on to become the Prince of Summerhall after the death of Prince Aegor in 207.

Loans, Politics, and Marriages

The Great Winter of 203-206 AC hit much of the realm hard, though none would suffer as much as the North and the Vale. Snows would bury the regions and even in the west the snow was more substantial than it had been in recent memories. The passes of the Golden Tooth and Deep Den were nearly impassable due to the snows, though through the word of their lords and assistance from the Rock, the roads remained open. Unfortunately the West could not provide much in the way of agricultural support for the realm when King Aegon IV requested aid. Instead it would be the famous Lannister gold that would be provided. Both the Rock and Lannisport would provide large sums of gold to the afflicted regions and to the Crown. Lord Lannister was gracious in his terms of the loan, but it was understood that payments would be made as soon as possible.

As the next few years went by, a series of natural and economic disasters would befall the Crown and the Lannisters warily watched and waited as promised payments did not come. They, along with the Tyrells and Hightowers, had borne the brunt of the loans to the Crown and the three quietly began talks as the situation grew more and more dire. Floods, droughts, and bandits plagued the realm. Finally, in 210 AC, the Tyrells called in their loans and the paltry payments that came were not enough. The Tyrells halted all of their taxes to the Crown and Oldtown would follow suit. Before the Lannisters could do the same, the King summoned them to the capital along with Reynes.

Arriving in King's Landing they were met by other representatives of the other kingdoms, where they and the Tyrells quickly took charge of the situation and negotiation. Gathering the Tullys and Martells to their side, Lords Tyrell, Lannister, and Hightower managed to enforce their will upon the Crown. While Lord Tyrell would become the new Master of Coin and Lord Hightower would become the new Hand of the King, the Lannisters would gain no Small Council seat. Instead, Lord Lannister's daughter Leonetta would marry King Hegon who had been a widower since the death of Queen Hemma Celtigar in giving birth to his twins Rhaegel and Rhaenys. The dowry of Leonetta was meant as a way to kickstart the Royal Treasury and begin the process of repaying the loans to the lords. The marriage was purely political but it would produce children nonetheless. Minor offices in King's Landing would become dominated by the men of Lords Tyrell, Lannister, and Hightower and their political faction at court was known as the Gold Men. They were opposed by the King's Men, those loyal to the King and wished to see him less hamstrung in the ruling of the realm.

The third faction at court was the smaller one of The Owls, headed by the aged Master of Laws Lord Tommard Mertyns, who refused to side with either of the other factions.

The Lannisters would survive the political downfall of the Gold Men in 215 when Lords Darklyn and Velaryon along with Lord Tommard Mertyns and the King all managed to thwart a major project of Lord Tyrell's and while he resigned in protest, Lord Hightower remained. The influence of the Lannisters would remain the strongest thanks to the Queen's own constant influence despite the general estrangement that grew between her and King Aegon over the years. Lady Alys Marbrand would marry Prince Maekar Targaryen, the eldest son of King Aegon and Queen Leonella, in a grand and gilded wedding in 226 that some said overshadowed Prince Rhaegel's wedding to his sister Rhaenys.

The death of King Aegon in 227 would continue to leave the West in good, if somewhat distant, standing with the Crown as the Queen Dowager and the new King Rhaegel had a chilly relationship with one another and it was only the Widow's Law and the remaining political influence of the shrewd Queen that kept it afloat.

The death of old Lord Hightower and his kin to bandits in the Kingswood as he returned home to Oldtown after resigning as Hand brought conflict to the Reach as the Hightowers blamed the Tyrells for the death and they quickly came to blows. Too far away to aid the Crown in the matters of the Stepstones pirates that were harassing the Stormlands and Dorne, Lord Lannister chose instead to raise his banners and march south to aid in quelling the fighting in the Reach. At the head of his army, after gathering forces from Old Oak and Red Lake as well, he would arrive at Highgarden just as the Royal army under Lord Rosby arrived and the fighting was finished. Disappointed in the outcome, the Lannisters returned home. This would earn the West a bit more of a begrudging respect from the King but not much more.

The Ironborn Raids

The Ironborn had been quiet for decades now and while the Westerlands were still wary of their neighbors it was the fact that no serious revenge had been attempted for Lady Johanna's Invasion had given them some hope that there would be no retaliation. This was proven wrong.

In the years following King Aegon's death and the general chaos that erupted at the beginning of King Rhaegal's reign, reports of Ironborn raids on the coast and on shipping bound for Westerosi ports in the west had increased. The odd attack was usually attributed to wayward captains and some were chased off and others were too late.

The murder of Lord Greyjoy and the forcing of his son by the Drowned Priests to call for a reaving was unknown in the West and thus they were completely caught off guard by the onslaught. The Banefort, The Crag, Faircastle, Kayce, Crakehall, and other coastal holdings were subjected to a wave of raids and fighting unseen since the days of the Red Kraken. Lord Banefort and his brothers were killed defending their lands, while Lord Westerling would lose his cousin and two uncles in the fighting. Young Lord Farman would see his island overrun and unable to oust the invaders from the walls of Faircastle, which he defended vigorously.

The Lannister fleet was sunk in a catastrophic battle off the coast of Kayce taking with it several nobles including the Lord of Lannisport, Lord Lanny, Ser Tybolt Heatherspoon, Ser Preston Hawthorne, and Ser Maynard Prester. The affected lords could do little as they fought tooth and nail to dislodge the invaders, though most would simply melt away back to their ships by the time a sizable force was gathered to challenge them.

The arrival of the Redwyne and Shield Islands fleets coupled with a massive storm that shattered the main Ironborn fleet sent the survivors fleeing to their homes, where they were followed by the Reachmen and the Westermen. Young Lord Greyjoy would take this time to turn against those controlling him along with his close allies, and capture many of the rebellious lords and rogue Drowned Priests, suing for peace with the West and the Crown at large. While the Lannisters wanted the Ironborn dead immediately, they were instead sent to King's Landing for trial and execution instead. Some did not trust the young Lord Greyjoy but the young man kept his word and all were delivered without incident.

The aftermath of the raids was the harsh reality that there was little coin that could be extracted from the Ironborn, only hostages and some of their ships could be seized though most of the rebellious lords would see their fleets already devastated by the storms and battles that took place. House Banefort would gain a hostage of House Harlaw, House Westerling would take a hostage of House Drumm, and House Lannister would keep a hostage of House Greyjoy, who was offered willingly by young Lord Greyjoy. The Lannisters would treat their hostage far more respectfully and honorably due to the circumstances of the reaving and the young

Ironborn would eventually earn and receive a knighthood for his service. Instead the West would turn to reinforcing their own fleets, especially given the horrendous losses they'd suffered.

King Rhaegel's Madness

The aftermath of the Ironborn's raid was a quiet time for the West as things settled down for a time. The devastation to lands and population lead to several lords hiring sellswords for the security of their workers, which would lead to an influx of minor sellsword companies and freeriders into the Westerlands. This would not always go well, as two such companies would get into an all out skirmish in the streets of Oxcross and were all hanged for their crimes because of it. Still to this day, many sellswords and hedge knights offer services to the coastal lords of the West to patrol their lands.

The court of King's Landing would prove volatile as ever. King Rhaegel's madness was now no longer a subject of rumour and hearsay, but a known fact. The King's feast and tourney for the birth of his twin granddaughters would see many a lord, lady, and knight insulted or otherwise affected by the King's extreme mood swings. Lord Brax was told that the unicorn horn on his helmet was him "displaying a cock he wished he had instead of the sad excuse of the one he had". Lord Banefort was laughed at when he mentioned the raids on his lands, stating it was judgment of the Gods for his family's rising with the Faith. Lady Parren had the odd experience of the King being extremely nice to her to the point that many thought he was attempting to seduce her, despite being married and nearly seventy years old. Ser Daven Hill, the bastard of Silverhill, would have to support the king during a bout of sobbing as he lamented the dead from the Ironborn raid.

The aged Queen Dowager Leonella Lannister did not help the situation, loudly discussing her stepson's madness and how her own son Maekar attempted to help Prince Daeron of Dragonstone with ruling the realm in his stead. The Small Council and the Prince of Dragonstone would guide the realm through these times as the King aimlessly wandered the Red Keep, keeping the company of only the Lord Commander of the Kingsguard.

The madness of King Rhaegel would only end after his suicide in 247 AC. It did not shock many, as the King had threatened such action before though some doubted his seriousness.

King Daeron and the Succession

The reign of King Daeron II looked to be far more stable as he had successfully guided the realm during the last years of his father's life during his madness. Events would unfortunately conspire against him and war was quickly upon the Seven Kingdoms once again. The slavers from Myr and Tyrosh had set to harassing Westerosi shipping in the Stepstones and the situation had devolved into full scale conflict. The rebuilt Lannister fleet would sail around Westeros with the Redwyne Fleet and bring fire and sword to the Stepstones and then to the Free Cities themselves. Lord Lannister's cousin, Ser Gerold, would be lost in a battle off of Scarwood along with several Lannister ships only to be avenged by Lord Farman's forces.

The Lannister army would deploy around Myr in support of Lord Connington's siege and loot many of the surrounding villages. Lord Westerling and the Knight of Cornfield would personally free as many slaves as they could along the way, striking off collars and promising them passage to their lands if they so wished. Eventually the Free Cities would sue for peace and the war would end with the Westerosi victorious and extracting large amounts of gold and goods as reparations.

In 249 AC broken men from the Claw Rose up and Ser Reynard Hill was tasked with putting down the rebels that ousted House Hardy from their seat and while they would, it would kill the popular kingsguard and many others that took part in the campaign.

In recent moons, reports of savage attacks by a lion of monstrous proportions have reached the ears of noble and smallfolk alike. Located somewhere in the northeastern foothills and mountains, the great beast and its pride have accosted miners in the nearby mines, significantly hampering the production of gold there due to the fear of being savaged by the beast.

With the war won, the questions of court turned away from the east and towards the Royal Family once again. King Daeron II had only daughters and yet to birth a son. His brother Aelyx, the new Prince of Summerhall, seemed wholly disinterested in the thought of being heir despite having sons of his own.

Even in her advanced age, the Dowager Queen Leonella Lannister would continue her work of grinding the rumour mill. Her own son, Maekar, was appointed the Steward of Dragonstone at the beginning of King Daeron's reign. He had attempted several times to betroth his children to the royal daughters to no avail. He was a proponent of harsher terms against Tyrosh and Myr, as well as refusing Lys any of the islands of the Stepstones. His kin from the Westerlands are quick to champion his cause and Dragonstone has become a sort of haven for

many minor knights of the West to cut their teeth before moving on the the court of King's Landing where the Queen Dowager expects nothing but the best from her countrymen. The scandal of Princess Baela secretly marrying the Heir of Winterfell and breaking the betrothal to Lord Redwyne's son was gold to the Queen Dowager and while it was said that the King and Lord Redwyne had reached an amicable agreement, rumours swirled of the Reachmen's fury at the Northman and the King's refusal to annul his sister's marriage.

Still, it is unclear as to what the King will do in the face of the birth of his seventh daughter and the succession in an unclear state that has not been since before the Dance.

The Iron islands





"You want me to bow? To beg? To renounce my God and to tell you that my brothers will lay down their arms? Ha! Go, ask your Seven after you cut off my head, see what they say about me."

Dagon Goodbrother's final words before his beheading

What has Come to Pass





"I told them, said to them that the sea wouldn't save us... but they had to go and try a new rebellion. Now what? We're here in the god's ass end fighting over rocks named after blood and shit? Ma always said I was a good singer y'know, shoulda listened. Maybe then I wouldn't be getting killed over fucking Bloodstone."

An excerpt from Archmaester Dake's Recent History of Westeros - Second edition.

In The Name of Unity

Born the two Salt children of Dalton Greyjoy, Lord Rodrick Greyjoy and his sister, Lady Olene Greyjoy marry into the Harlaw and Drumm families respectively (157). This was an important resolution to succession contests, Lord Dalton's siblings all died and those loyal to his children prevailed. Rodrick grew up not knowing his father except for awful stories and focused only on making the islands whole again. Suspiciously in regards to the marriages, the son of Lord Sunderly had also been courting Lady Olene but went missing the day before Lord Orland asked for her hand; his body was never found.

The Unprepared Generation

In 161, three Ironborn lords accompanied King Daeron to Dorne, Greyjoy, Harlaw, and Drumm; they all died during the assassination attempt. After this the Ironborn did not assist in the war in Dorne due to the youthful ages of the new Greyjoy and Harlaw lords, brothers.

The Whaling Years

For a time the Ironborn became whalers as there was an influx of whales in the archipelago (163). Contests took place for who could catch the most of them and many ivory items lie around Ironborn households now as memories from the bountiful time. The whales have long since grown few and far between but they are still out there, mostly in the Northern seas.



A Resurgence of Reaving

In 175 Lord Galeon Greyjoy alongside his brother and members of house Drumm led raids on the shores of Essos. Lord Merrin Harlaw earns the title "The Blooded" after returning to camp thought dead covered in blood and none of it being his own, all at the age of 14.

A Break From Tradition

In 180, Lord Galeon Greyjoy broke tradition of the Ironborn's insular marrying, courting and wedding the daughter of Lord Mallister. The island's close neighbours could be valuable allies in the future and Galeon knew that full well. He was no soft man, iron as he was but he was chivalrous enough to earn the favour of both his bride and her father.

Their wedding was grand, a local tourney for the Ironborn and Rivermen. The ironborn suffered in the lists other than the son of Lord Blacktyde (who made it to the semifinals) but dominated the melee, with Merrin The Blooded winning against each and every Drumm he encountered despite their claiming of 2nd, 3rd, and 5th place.

The Faith in The Isles

In 182, hearing of the Faith Militant uprisings the Ironborn didn't think the Faith of the Seven would ever dare attempt to breach the Iron Islands. The lords were collectively wrong however, as several villages on Great Wyk gathered levies in an attempt to organise a movement of Faith Militants on the islands. Ironborn are strong and though the militants did not follow the Drowned God they were still reavers at heart, launching an assault on the Sparr keep, killing the lord and holding his family hostage. Lord Goodbrother heard of this and quickly stormed the keep himself, putting every militant to the sword and rescuing the remaining Sparr family.

After this the new Lord Sparr and the Lord Goodbrother petitioned Lord Galeon to assist in the fight against the faith militant. Lord Greyjoy agreed and several ships were sent to raid along the Western coast. Greyjoy ships ransacked the Crag and the Banefort while Lord Goodbrother moved further south to Oldtown where he joined the long siege of the city. During the final battle it was Goodbrother men who fought up the front steps of the Starry Sept to burn it to the ground at the order of the King. After all, this wasn't heresy for them, it was not their gods.

Treacherous Waters

The winter and following spring at the start of the 3rd century (203) hit the Iron Islands hard, destroying the fleets, and flooding most settlements. When the storms subsided, the islands were not the same.

The Netley-Tawney Conflict

In 213, the brother of Lord Tawney kills the son of Lord Netley over a lost hand in a finger dance, during a night when both had drank far too much. In retaliation Lord Netley gathered his men and marched to take the head of the Tawney. Tawney and Netley met in a small skirmish at the border of each of their holdings which Tawney lost, despite this he managed to escape and retreat to his keep. Besieged, he sent a raven to Lord Galeon who in turn sent Lord Volmark to put down the little rebellion, Volmark did so admirably, executing each of Netley's men and relieving the petty Lord himself of his right hand.

Resistant to Change

In 227 Lord Galeon is killed at sea fighting a vessel from Lys. This leads to the inheriting of the Iron Islands by Illin Greyjoy, who now Lord, proclaimed his opposition to raiding and attempted to "civilise" the Ironborn, behind his back he was labelled a disappointment even by Harlaws and Drumms who in recent generations had been close allies to House Greyjoy. Illin married a Goodbrother however, fathering four children and securing the loyalty of House Goodbrother. Another who benefited from Illin's opinions was the Mallisters in Seagard who had been hesitant allies of Galeon's.

The Great Western Raids, The Sacking of Lannisport

In 231, many captains clamoured Lord Greyjoy for permission to raid the Western shores as Essos became clearly more dangerous for the Ironborn. Lord Greyjoy would refuse but Harlaw, Drumm, and others would disobey him and begin raiding the shores of the West and North, striking at smaller villages and holdfasts and most importantly, Seagard, the Mallister's seat who had now been long time allies of the Greyjoy House. Lords Stark, Tully, and Lannister sent ravens to King's Landing and soon Lord Greyjoy was faced with attempting to wrangle his lords and captains. He ordered them return under threat of the revoking of their lordship and the sending of them along with all male heirs to the Citadel. This sparked a civil war among the Ironborn, Lords Harlaw and Drumm attempted to take Pyke, besieging it, Lord Illin responded by executing his drowned priests. Lords Goodbrother and Botley had remained loyal to their lord paramount but as Goodbrother forces gathered to break the siege, members of House Botley were caught in Pyke during the siege. Egen Greyjoy was best friends with a young Botley at the time who encouraged him to kill his father, Egen refused but after the execution of the priests his father was found decapitated in bed anyway.



Now Lord Egen Greyjoy, under pressure as the new lord of Pyke declared a reaving of the West. Gathering his forces and striking at Lannisport, burning it and taking the Lannister fleet in a bloody battle in the Sunset Sea. The Ironborn would ravage the lands around Lannisport but the Rock would remain untouched as Fair Isle, Banefort, The Crag, and Crakehall all suffered under the raids. The Redwyne and Shield fleets came to aid the West however, Lord Egen seeing an opportunity declared an end to the reaving, his lords relenting; but the drowned priests ordered the ironborn to continue into battle and Egen was overruled.

Eerily a storm hit before the battle, damaging much of the fleet, the drowned priests blamed the drowned god saying he had turned on them. Egen, having had enough, turned over the priests and Lords Harlaw, Drumm, Orkwood, and Blacktyde to the Redwynes before heading home. The priests and traitor captains were hanged by the king and Lord Greyjoy alongside Lords Botley and Goodbrother were pardoned.

To Make Amends

In the years that followed this little rebellion (232-247) Lord Egen Greyjoy put great effort into wrangling the dour lords of his rocky isles. His friend, the now Lord Botley was his peace keeper alongside the Lord Goodbrother. Houses Harlaw, and Drumm were denied from building new military fleets until the need arose. House Greyjoy, Harlaw, and Drumm were all required to distribute wards as well, Mace Greyjoy went to the Lannisters, an Orkwood to the Baneforts, and a Drumm to the Westerlings. Egen married into House Blacktyde and took a Harlaw as a ward himself in an attempt to secure some sort of united front.

The new Lord Reaper would make it a point to learn from his father's mistakes, intent on acquainting the Ironborn with the rest of the Seven Kingdoms he made several trips to court towards the end of King Rhaegal's reign. While there he suffered the King's deteriorating mental state to listen to him talk, about whatever he wanted, Lord Egen would listen. Botleys, Goodbrothers, and Blacktydes often accompanied these trips, acquainting themselves with Kings Landing and members of the court.

In this time an issue arose through the appearance of a rogue reaver captain. His name could not be found as he was only referred to as Ser Dread, Captain of the Black Sails. He has managed to elude everyone and steadily gain followers, continuing to raid up and down the west coast undefeated at sea.

A Chance At Redemption

When the pirating began from Essos in 248 and the Ironborn were given leave to reave, Lord Egen met with the Lords Harlaw and Drumm. There he told them he held no ill will, it was not his desire to keep them prisoner in their own homes and in the drowned god's name he swore he would bring them glory again. He gifted the Lords the two finest ships in his fleet, naming them Reaper and Red Hand respectively and told them to begin building ships as they would soon bring the drowned god's wrath down upon the shores of Essos.

Eager after years of peace the Ironborn now reunited laid waste to the Essosi. The Ironborn sailed across the narrow sea with giddy anticipation. Long years had passed since the shores of Essos were often raided by the Ironborn yet evidently some fear still remained in the hearts of the Essosi and when the golden kraken flew their fleets crumbled.

As ordered by the King the Ironborn harried every vessel, trading caravan, and village they could. They burned crops, houses, killed merchants, freed slaves, and brought back more and more gold. Lord Egen had the idea to adorn their ships with the stolen gold and jewels as to further rub into the faces of the Essosi captains how poorly gold stood up to iron.



The Stormlands





"When all you're known for are storms... well, what more need be said?"

The Famed last words of Ormond Baratheon, a Knight who fought against the Faith Militant, said before he fought to the death in order to protect his charge - one of the daughters of Storm's End - during an ultimately inconsequential attempt of an uprising in Storm's End. Ser Ormund was said to have slain eighteen men before he was killed and by then the lady had fled.

What has Come to Pass



The Conquest of Dorne

The end of King Daeron's Conquest of Dorne seemed to be a blow at the very heart of the Stormlands. Despite their victory over their ancient enemy, the Stormlords were not satisfied with the terms that ended the war. King Daeron had been far more merciful to the Dornish than they wanted to, forcing the Marcher Lords to tear down the watchtowers and fortifications that they had built over the war and some that had been part of their lands for centuries. More than that, a new royal fief was to be constructed in the Dornish Marches to seal the peace with their new neighbors to the south, a lightly fortified pleasure castle that seemed to almost spit in the face of everything that the Marchers had done over the centuries.

Lord Baratheon's daughter would marry the Lord of Starfall as part of the peace deal, something that many were unhappy with as well, the young woman had enjoyed the attention of many of the young knights and lordlings of the Stormlands and she was shipped off to the Torrentine, leaving many younger men upset and scrambling for new matches. Ser Garse Bolling would slay Ser Quentyn Kellington over the hand of Lady Wensington in a duel, provoking Ser Quentyn's brothers to attack Ser Garse and maim him. Ser Walter Musgood would be humiliated in a duel for Lady Toyne's hand by Ser Stannis Selmy. Lord Grandison would refuse the hand of his sister to Lord Morrigen's second son Roger, claiming she was worthy of something greater than the spare.

Still, the realm would heal over time and the Stormlords would grumble about a lack of purpose. Still the occasional raid would occur one way or the other, though it was never a noble house or knight that was involved. Still, even these grew more and more sparse as the construction of Summerhall continued though the animosity towards the Dornish remained. The castle would be completed in 171

AC and there would be a grand tourney to dedicate the castle. King Daeron declared that his second son Aegor would take possession of the castle upon his ascension to manhood and tasked Lord Dondarrion with the stewardship of the castle until that time arose.

The Second Faith Militant Uprising

The Second Faith Militant Uprising in 182 AC would bring death and destruction to the Stormlands. Ser Beric Swann, the younger brother of Lord Rogar Swann, rose up and deposed his brother in the name of the Faith, rallying many of the levies and smallfolk to his cause. He would first strike upriver towards Grandview, though Lord Alesander Grandison would repulse his army though at the cost of his own life. Lord Baratheon gathered his forces at Storm's End and awaited the reinforcements of the Crown under Crown Prince Daemon Targaryen. Even so, Griffin's Roost would fall to Swann's forces and the combined Baratheon and Crown armies managed a costly victory on the banks of the Slayne and drove him back to Stonehelm where the Faithful were put under siege. At Nightsong, the Marcher lords held their ground against the army of the Sword of the Morning, who had overthrown his cousin and rallied the lords of the Torrentine under him as well as Lord Manwoody. The Stormlands force, under the command of Lord Caron, held their ground against the fierce charge of the Faithful Dornish and while suffering grievous losses they managed to hold their ground after Lord Caron's half hour duel with the Sword of the Morning ended in his victory. Stonehelm would be one of the last bastions of the Faith after the Battle of Oldtown, though "Lord" Beric Swann would go too far and declare himself the new High Septon and would be thrown from the battlements by some of his own men and the gates thrown open.

The wounds of the Second Uprising were great for many of the Marcher lords, whose lands were burned or otherwise occupied during the conflict. House Swann suffered the most, being one of the few lordships to truly rise up for the Faith. The walls of Stonehelm were ordered torn down by the vengeful Prince Daemon Targaryen.

Peacetime and Politicking

King Daemon Targaryen's new shipbuilding project would spark mild animosity for the Evenstar of Tarth, who had been building up his own navy to combat the very pirate and smuggler threats that the King wished to fight. Lord Tarth, along with Lords Estermont and Whitehead, looked to combat the meager naval forces that the Stormlands held and beseeched both the King and Lord Baratheon for aid. The Crown would offer little aid but gave approval but Lord Baratheon saw the prudence of such an action and offered what support he could. Stonehelm was not spared such aid, as the town was still recovering from the effects of the 2nd Uprising and their general pariah status within the Stormlands.

The Great Winter of 203-206 AC was not as harsh on the Stormlands as a few other regions, but the effects across the realm were devastating. Already lacking in agricultural lands, the Stormlords were barely able to keep their own people fed and were unable to assist King Aegon IV in his wishes to aid the North and the Vale, who were suffering immensely from the harsh winter. The following spring would see mild flooding along the Wendwater and the Slayne, though nothing to the magnitude of the Mander and Trident. In 210 AC, when Lord Tyrell withheld his tax payments to the Crown, Lord Baratheon was more than willing to raise his armies and march into the Reach to get them back for the Crown, eager to prove himself to his brother by marriage, as he'd married Princess Gael Targaryen, the youngest child of the late King Daemon, not a year prior. Instead, King Aegon and his Small Council called him and Lord Tarth to come to the capital. There they would discuss the dire economic situation of the Crown and the Baratheons were snubbed of any sort of place at the newly redrawn Small Council or any other minor offices, though Lord Baratheon's dogged support of the King was instrumental in keeping the discussions on track and within reason. Lord Tommard Mertyns, the Master of Laws, that proved the sole representation of the Stormlands to the Crown, keeping his spot on the Small Council by the narrowest of margins. It was here that Lord Baratheon would pour his support, supporting Lord Mertyns and his Owls against the Gold Men and the King's Men. In 215 AC when the downfall of the Gold Men occurred, Lord Tommard would retain his

position and continue to be the face of the Stormlands to the point that Lord Baratheon even became jealous.

Lord Tommard's death in 221 was mourned by all but no one expected the King himself to travel to Mistwood for the funeral. The graces of the Crown were showered upon the Mertyns and their power and influence grew on Cape Wrath, threatening the already dwindling power of the Swanns and now beginning to encroach upon the Wyldes to the east and the Conningtons to the north. This seemingly one sided feud would not settle with the death of Lord Tommard, as his grandson who had succeeded him would continue to enjoy the patronage of the Crown, having been the squire of King Aegon and knighted by the man.

This would come to a head in 224 when the young Lord Mertyns hosted a tourney at Mistwood and invited the Stormlands and the Royal Court. King Aegon was present along with most of the court. In the lists of the tourney Lord Mertyns would face off against Ser Raymont Wylde, the youngest brother of Lord Wylde. Seven times they would ride and seven lances were shattered. On the eighth pass, tragedy struck. Be it that Lord Mertyns' horse stumbled or Ser Raymont's lance bounced too high, the end was the same. The shield of Lord Mertyns dipped and the tip of Raymont's lance rose, smashing the Lord of Mistwood in the face and blinding him with splinters. Ser Raymont was horrified at the accident and despite his pleas of it being an accident, King Aegon declared he'd done it intentionally from his vantage point. Lord Mertyns' death three days later would see Ser Raymont charged with murder. Desperate to clear his name, Ser Raymont demanded a Trial by Combat and King Aegon agreed, having Ser Baldric Mertyns of the Kingsguard, the uncle of the late Lord Mertyns, to fight for the Crown. Ser Raymont would slay Ser Baldric in a heated duel, taking several wounds of his own and the King would depart Mistwood the following morning, warning Ser Raymont to never come to King's Landing.

The Stepstone Raids

The year 227 would see the death of King Aegon IV and the first of many issues with a renewed pirate presence in the Stepstones. As the Hightowers and

Tyrells fought one another, the shores of Greenstone and Cape Wrath were assaulted by fleets of pirates and corsairs from the Stepstones and beyond. Lord Roger's two younger sons were killed attempting to repel a raid on Amberly and Lord Trant's daughter was carried off after her guards were slain as she made for the safety of Weeping Town. The Estermont fleet was halved when a daring captain, Alastair the Avenger, made off with ten of Lord Franklyn Estermont's ships, including his new flagship Battle Tortoise.

Lord Tarth conjoined his fleet with the Royal Fleet under Lords Velaryon and Darklyn and sailed south, purging the shores of the pirate scum. Lord Wylde would slaughter a landing force near Brownhill with half the numbers of the pirates, driving the few survivors back to the sea. House Swann would see some redemption as their meager fleet would join the Royal Fleet and would be instrumental in the destruction of the pirate fleet off Ghaston Grey. The battle to retake Ghaston Grey, on the other hand, was bloody and saw many of the Dornish and Stormlands men dying in retaking the castle. Each side would blame the other for their high casualties as stories of Dornish lords ordering Stormlords to charge the battlements of the crumbling prison castle and Stormlords leaving Dornish lords to fend for themselves were rampant.

Rebuilding, Rangers, and Revenge

Following the pirate menace being dealt with, the Stormlands took to rebuilding their fleets and their homes. Many of the lords along Cape Wrath fortified their coastal holdings and the Lords Tarth, Estermont, Whitehead, and now Swann joined together in a joint shipbuilding program to build their fleets into even stronger forces to combat future pirate raids. Meanwhile, Lords Mertyns, Rogers, Grandison, and Connington all sought to establish reliable patrols of the Rainwood and the coast of Cape Wrath to avoid further incidents. Thus, they would found the Rainwood Rangers, a group of mounted knights and men at arms that would patrol the coast of Cape Wrath from Griffin's Roost to Stonehelm. Lords Tarnt, Swann, and Whitehead would give some aid to this effort, though they would remain focused mostly on their naval pursuits.

Still, wartime grudges remained. Many of the lords of the northern Stormlands and the Marches grumbled of the focus on the lords of Cape Wrath. Lord Errol was fond of reminding Lord Tarth that his ships did not win wars, but the swords of Haystack Hall and others.

Lord Trant blamed Lord Whitehead for his daughter's capture, as she was never seen again. Try as they might, she was never found; the two men would quarrel endlessly over the subject until Lord Trant drew steel in Lord Whitehead's hall and was thrown in the dungeons for it. The Heir of Gallowsgrey, Ser Beron Trant, raised his banners in defense of his father but was swiftly defeated by the forces of House Whitehead as they approached Weeping Town. Lord Baratheon's intervention soon followed and Lord Trant was executed for breaking the King's Peace and Ser Beron was sent to the Wall and Lord Whitehead was forced to give his daughter up as a hostage to Storm's End to ensure peace would remain between the two.

The raids of the Ironborn on the western coast was of little concern to the Stormlords, though a few ships under the command of Lord Estermont would sail with the Royal Fleet but they would arrive to the battles concluded, the Ironborn fleets sunk, and the Drowned Priests and rebellious lords in chains on their way back to King's Landing for trial.

Several Stormlords were scandalized by King Rhaegel's madness at the feast and tourney for his twin granddaughter's birth. Lord Baratheon was told of his family's origin as a Targaryen bastard by the King, who'd quipped that the Baratheon line was nothing but an illegitimate bastard line of House Targaryen. Lord Swann was greeted with "Ah the Traitorous Birdlord of Stonehelm". Lord Buckler was simply laughed at by the King because of his sigil. Lord Herston reportedly was asked if "his cock was as red as his sigil." Lady Cafferen had the unfortunate task of attempting to console the King when he burst into tears as they spoke about gardens, the man sobbing loudly on her shoulder as she tried in vain to make it stop. The King's suicide a few years later was met with a mixed reaction of sorrow and muted celebration.

The Slaver's Raids

The Free Cities of Myr and Tyrosh had grown powerful in the years following the destruction of the pirates in the Stepstones by the Westerosi. Filling the void with their own captains and mercenaries, the two formed an informal pact to control the tolls and passage of goods through the islands. At first it was tolerated, but as the prices increased and goods and men went missing, the lords of the realm began to take issue. The taking of Lady Redwyne in 247 AC would spark another conflict as the King's envoy to Tyrosh was returned without a hand, nose, or ears. Colorful sails appeared on the horizon and Tarth and Estermont saw their fleets and lands devastated in an overwhelming battle that they had no hope in winning. Ser Terrence Tarth, the Heir of Evenfall Hall would fall attempting to repel the invaders upon his father's flagship while his sister Arianne was carried off by a Tyroshi captain. The lands of Tarth were devastated with much of the wealth of Tarth carried off, with similar events happening to Greenstone. The lands of Cape Wrath were once again devastated by raids.

The survivors of the raids would join their forces with the other naval forces of the Stormlands and join the Royal, Grafton, and Velaryon fleets in descending from the North on the Stepstones. It would be Lord Connington that would secure the lands around Myr to put the Free City under siege. The war would end in the surrender of Tyrosh and Myr and while the Stormlords and even the Dornish felt cheated out of a proper revenge, they were proud of what they'd done.

Summerhall, Succession, and Small Councils

The Prince of Summerhall, Aelyx Targaryen, was quite different from his brother King Daeron II Targaryen. The palace of Summerhall suited the Prince quite nicely and since his appointment to the position in 245 AC, had hosted near monthly tourneys or hunts. By no means a wastrel, his charm was known by many at court along with his abhorrence for the politics of court. The man had refused to aid his brother in the worst days of his father's madness and instead retreated to Summerhall. In fact, the Lords of the Stormlands had become rather

comfortable with the various Princes of Summerhall over the years. Many of the lords boasted marriages to the Princes of Summerhall and their families and were extremely proud of them. Houses Penrose, Caron, Dondarrion, Connington, and even Swann boasted marriages to Summerhall.

Many of the younger lords of the Stormlands have become friends with the Prince, though some are true in their friendship and others have an agenda behind their relationships. Rarely is Prince Aelyx not seen in the company of the Heir of Nightsong, the brother of Lord Fell, or Lord Staedmon to name a few. The Prince, as things remain at present, stands to inherit the Iron Throne when his brother Daeron passes due to a lack of male heirs. His own marriage to Lady Tarly, though strictly political, has been fruitful and provided him with two sons of his own. When asked about the succession, Prince Aelyx has been adamant that he does not wish to press his claim for the throne and thinks his nieces will do a wonderful job. Some suspect he lacks ambition, others claim he sees greatness out of the young Princess Alyssa, and others still refuse to believe his words and believe the Prince is smarter than he appears and is biding his time.

Since Lord Tommand Mertyns, there had not been a man of the Stormlands on the Small Council and Lord Baratheon was chief in wishing for a man of his region to join the court. Despite no openings, the King would attempt to make good on this, naming the younger brother of Lord Peasebury to the new Commander of the City Watch following the death of Ser Roland Quince in 249. There would be a rush of several young Stormlands knights to join the Goldcloaks and within three moons of Peasebury's appointment, two of the Gates were already captained by Stormlanders.

The North



What has Come to Pass



A Wolf in the Desert

For four long years, Rickon Stark, the Heir to Winterfell, fought alongside the Young Dragon in the sands of the far south. His army included many of the men that had accompanied his father to support the claim of Aegon the Younger, and were not new to battle. Even after his untimely demise in the trap that saw the king gravely injured and Ser Aemon the Dragonknight captured, his deeds were spoken of in song. He is mostly remembered, however, for the troubles that plagued the North after his death.

The Fall and the Rise

After the death of Lord Cregan, his second son Jonnel Stark declared himself the Lord of Winterfell, usurping the inheritance of his half-niece, Sansa. In response, fearing for her life, the intended lady of Winterfell fled south. And through a clever ruse, she sent a handmaiden disguised as her to White Harbour while she herself retreated to Barrowtown. As she suspected, the Manderlys had sided with the usurper, and the small deception was only discovered when Jonnel arrived in White Harbour expecting to find a niece to imprison, but only finding a handmaiden. By then, the Dustins helped Sansa to unite the help of the Reeds, the Ryswells, the Tallharts, the Flints of Flint's Finger and the Glovers.

The popularity of Cregan Stark had helped Sansa's claim greatly and with the aid of her coalition she took an army, assembled quickly and quietly and took Winterfell. No blood was shed in the seizure, as many of the Stark Men at Arms were still loyal to Sansa. This left a coalition of the Starks loyal to Jonnel, the Manderlys and the Boltons to meet Sansa in the Battle of the Dreaded Valley. Sansa found herself victorious. But her reign would suffer in the aftermath. The battle had a second name. The Battle of the Lord's Graves.

Lords Manderly, Dustin, Bolton, Reed, Glover and Jonnel Stark all died in the battle. Numerous petty lords fell in turn and in the fallout, Jonnel's family moved to White Harbour. The political vacuums and small internal civil wars that followed - some spurned by the precedent of Sansa now taking the seat of Winterfell - led to different blocs forming. And though nominal power remained invested in house Stark, the hand of the Starks was shaken and the regional power of the other great Lord of the North grew.

When the Faith Militant rose again, the North took little interest in the wars to come. However, hungry for a life of more than being just another wayward son, Cregan Stark the Younger, A cousin to the Lady of Winterfell, Rallied support from the mountain clansmen under his banner, and he marched at the head of three-thousand men of the North to fight against the Faith Militant.

His importance was limited to the Riverlands, where he fought in nearly half the battles in the region. For his troubles and his part in killing one of the leading figures of the rebellion in the Riverlands. Cregan Stark was given a small lordship in the region where he settled and was named the new lord of Mudgrave and swore fealty to the Blackwoods. Over the years this wayward branch of house Stark has had an outsized impact on their region due to the Northmen who settled alongside him.

And though the war never truly reached the North, the Manderlys secretly funneled a great deal of coin south to support small uprisings and Faith Militant Communes. When the tides of battle had distinctly turned away from the Militants, the Manderlys let many into the North and a distinct lack of care from their neighbours kept the migrant groups safe.

There was Still an attempt by militants to Stir up a new rebellion in White Harbour, but it fizzled out with a few hangings.

The Reigns of Daemon and Aegon

The North was a place of tenuous peace through the reign of Daemon. Sansa Stark tried to push for Northern presences on the Small Council however the Crown was reluctant, it wasn't until Theodan Manderly, the "White son of White Harbour," was admitted as the new master of ships in 201 AC, that they got their seat. Of course, this angered the regional rivals in the North. In the middle of a cold night in the sixth moon of 201, a village in the Shephards Hearth was sacked.

Quickly, the lord of White Harbour struck back, however, the lord Bolton had been a brilliant master of sabotage and had pinned the attack on the house of Dustin. The Manderlys burned a village in the Barrowlands, but they used no subterfuge, knights of White Harbour were spotted in plain day as they sprayed the snow with the blood of Yon Brownbarrow, the Lord of Brownbarrow.

The three great houses descended further into skirmishes, as the Boltons soon started seizing small tracts of land from the Manderlys. And the lady of Winterfell continued to do nothing, her old age had kept her out of the fight and the stresses of running a deeply independent kingdom had taken its toll. So, much of the ruling of the realm had fallen to the council of four. Sansa's four children. The eldest of them, tired of the skirmishes, but unable to direct a war without his mother's consent, made another plan. A shrewd man, he convinced each of the three heads of houses to attend a meeting with him in Winterfell. Each of the lords of Barrowtown, White Harbour and the Dreadfort arrived assuming they were to treat with the Starks over punishing their foes. And by the end of the night, each of the houses walked away with one marriage to a child of house Stark. Alarra and Jocelyn Stark, the twins, married a

son of the Dreadfort and White Harbour respectively and Jorah Married the eldest daughter of Barrowtown - already close friends with the heir, having both competed in the tourney of 200 AC.

If it weren't for the intervention of Alaric Stark, the North may have fallen in the winter that came in 206. With his mother, he helped to survive a brutal winter that stripped larders and fields of their produce. Of course, as was the way with the three great lords of the North - referred to dismissively by Lord Stark as the "three blind men", Theodan Manderly grew powerful from his position in the Court of King's Landing, which saw the Lord Bolton accuse him of directing all aid through White Harbour to gain a profit while the rest starved.

Alaric Stark found himself mediating yet another dispute as the winter was unable to stop the houses from skirmishing. And when yet another dispute broke out in 209, Alaric rode out himself with a band of only a hundred men at arms. With the long axe he used to win the tourney of 200, Alaric Stark walked up to each camp of skirmishing men from both White Harbour and the Dreadfort and he challenged the best fighter of each to a duel. A repeat of his deception in Winterfell years before, Alaric fought both men at the same time, forcing them to fight side by side. He bested them, but in that duel he had managed to force a friendship to form between his foes and he sent them back to their lords, warning each off from further bloodshed. When he returned to Winterfell, he discovered that Lady Sansa Stark had died in her sleep.

The Rest of Alaric's reign stood as a mediating force from Winterfell. Skirmishes refused to end, but he refused to be as his Mother, when disputes arose, he would ride out ever at the head of a hundred men and he would plant his long axe in the dirt. Counts differ, but of the most liberal accounts it was said that in his twenty-one years of rule, Alaric Stark had ended one-hundred and seventy small border conflicts through duels. More conservative records put it at seventy.

Born of Iron

The first Ironborn raids were like many in the past, small, unorganized and often repulsed. But the intensity grew. In 229, while attending a summit to settle yet another land dispute, this time between Glovers and Ryswells, Alaric's son, Torrhen pointed out black sails on the horizon. And from their clifftop pavilion, they watched the ironborn Reavers land and a village burn.

Some tried to caution the lord of Winterfell, but Alaric was a warrior, he was a noble man too and he, as ever, led a hundred men to battle that day. But there was no single duel, this time a battle ensued. And in it, not only did Alaric Stark face his first and most true defeat, being bested by a giant with the Blacktyde sigil on his shield. Two of his sons, Eyron and Brandon were killed. The raid was luckily repelled, but the fury of house Stark had been ignited, and Torrhen, the eldest of Alaric's children, was a man no different to his father. Raised in the saddle, he had accompanied his father to his duels for a decade or more. When his father fell ill from his wounds, Torrhen in his place joined the Lords Tully and Lannister in demanding justice from the crown.

Alaric died of his wounds a year later in 230 AC, and Torrhen Stark swore revenge on the deathbed of his father though only Lords Cerwyn, Glover, and Tallhart were there to hear it. Torrhen's goals were clear, to unite the Lords of the North in taking vengeance for the beloved Alaric Stark.

For a time this shared goal succeeded in uniting the North with a new purpose. Unfortunately the short lived nature of the Drowned Priest's rebellion meant that this focus did not hold for long. Briefly, the Lords prepared, gathering troops and clamouring the King for permission to launch a full invasion of the islands. But Torrhen's planning did not advance fast enough and quickly the realm devolved to its internal feuding and the plans of Torrhen fell only on the ears of his trusted advisor, Lord Cerwyn. Dutifully, Lord Cerwyn followed the example of Alaric Stark and formed a band of warriors dubbed "Alaric's Hundred Axes". Almost akin to a knightly order, these men from across the North were sworn in perpetual service to house Stark and were headquartered in Winterfell. Their role was simple, when a skirmish broke out, they rode out to meet it and solve it as Alaric would. In response, the Boltons would take listless bandits and captured Freefolk and cobble them together into a band of raiders that would plague the countryside of the Eastern coast, even letting them raid Bolton lands. Through this the Boltons would pin down much of the Hundred Axes efforts, allowing squabbling between nobles to continue. The oath forgotten by all but Torrhen and his closest companions, Torrhen himself continuing to agonize over his plans, leaving the realm to its own devices.

Against this backdrop, the war in the Stepstones was a brilliant reprieve. The Manderlys, sensing profit, joined in with their fleet, but that left their lands open to the Dustins and the Boltons. Torrhen offered a token force to aid in fighting in the Stepstones, in the meanwhile he funded a fleet to strike at the Iron Islands. Hoping to use the distractions of the realm to sate his wish for revenge, near twenty years after he swore it.

The Lesser Houses

The North has become fractured. Stark hegemony holds true, but their power is limited. The Cerwyns, Tallharts, Glovers, Mormonts and Clansmen all swear fealty and heed the words of the Starks openly and without question. However, to the East of Winterfell, the Umbers and Karstarks heed the words of the Flayed man before they do the howls of the wolf. In contrast, the Hornwoods and the Flints of Widow's Watch march to the tune of the Merman of White Harbour. Meanwhile, aligned with the Starks, but strongly set against the Manderlys and Boltons, the Dustins lead a coalition of Flints, Ryswells and Reeds against the interests of White Harbour and the Dreadfort.

This state of affairs is closing on a hundred years old and has no sign of slowing. The Starks have their goals, but they do not directly align with the internal conflicts of their realm. Meanwhile the Boltons covet the riches of White Harbour and will stop at nothing to become the true Second House of the North. While the Dustins, stalwart in their support of the Starks will still fight to protect the balance of the realm if the Starks won't.

The Wolves of War

Conflict is ripe in the North, and as the great houses prefer to fight than talk, beyond their direct regions of control things have grown out of control. Packs of wolves roam the North led by enormous Direwolves while the Umbers and the Mountain Clansmen fight an endless war against the incursions of the Freefolk. Amidst the conflict, whispers of lost treasure plague the Barrowlands and adventurers from the Eastern houses of the North go hunting, spurning more conflict.

Amidst it all, a band of roving peasants demand an end to the endless battles, and at their head is a giant in bronze armour, the Hammer of the North is his name, and behind him has amassed quite the imposing force of peasants and bandits.

House Stark of Winterfell

- Cregan Stark, Lord of Winterfell (108-168)
 - Arra Norrey
 - Rickon Stark (128-161)
 - Alysanne Blackwood
 - Sarra Stark
 - Raya Stark
 - Alys Stark
 - Mariah Stark
 - Lynara Stark
 - Jonnel Stark
 - Edric Stark
 - Lyanna Stark
 - Barthogan Stark
 - Brandon Stark
- Sansa Stark, Lady of Winterfell (148-209)
 - Brandon Stark
 - Alaric Stark
 - Alarra Stark (twins)
 - Jorah Stark
 - Jocelyn Stark (twins)
- Alaric Stark, Lord of Winterfell (171-230)
 - Jeyne Umber
 - Roderick Stark (196)
 - Kyra Mormont
 - Torrhen Stark
 - Harrion Stark
 - Brandon Stark
 - Eyron Stark
- Torrhen Stark, Lord of Winterfell (199-Present)
 - Wife
 - House Stark of Winterfell







"Let them grumble, let them moan. The old men in their grand library are not of the Sands, and why, why must all learning come from there? To the Seven hells with their protests, Sunspear is behind us."

Measter Wyl of Skyreach upon sending his letter to Sunspear officiating the formation of the Skyreach Observatory.

What has Come to Pass





"They bluster more than they threaten,"

An unattributed quote of the factionalism of Dorne

After the Unification

The Conquest of Dorne came with a heavy cost and brutal years of battle before a resolution could finally take place and peace would return to Westeros, now unified beneath the Targaryen crown.

It was a difficult transition for many of the Dornish lieges, but attempts were made to build the bridges between the southern sands and the rest of the Realm. Marriage ties between Martell and Targaryen, Dayne and Baratheon, and Yronwood and Tyrell were arranged.

The years of resistance allowed the Martell's and the rest of Dorne negotiation power that many of the other realms did not possess. They continued to be styled as the Prince or Princess of Dorne, and it was soon clear that those who were willing to work with the Crown would be well rewarded for it. Planky Town was revitalized with help of the Crown and Maron Martell, betrothed to a Princess, would come to King's Landing as Master of Coin to assist in this

endeavor. Since then, each King had at least one Dornishman on his Small Council during their reign.

Silks and Spears

Prince Martell would assemble his own Lords and Ladies for their own council, the Prince's Inner Circle. Each house would send at least one representative to serve. Some were given distinctive responsibilities such as gathering information, balancing the budgets, or overseeing the replenishment of the Dornish armies. Others were there to give advice and offer their opinions. The idea was that Dorne would present a united front to the rest of Westeros, and any disagreement would be solved internally and quietly.

The Circle would decide how to proceed with decisions that affected all of Dorne, and how they wanted to present themselves. Soon, two different factions would split the Circle. The Silks were focused on economic prosperity and trade, and the Spears focused on military strength and defense. They would argue their positions for the various decisions that would come their way. The factions were not split between houses, as often families would find themselves on opposite sides, and it was not uncommon for one to switch between sides for different issues that they wanted to support. The staunchest loyalists to each faction would be spotted wearing purple silks, with the expensive fabric and dye being used to represent the potential prosperity associated with support of the Silks, or the bright oranges and yellows traditional to Dorne or ceremonial armour in favour of robes for the Spears.

Though there would be disagreement between the two, the Prince of Dorne would always moderate it and allow each side to work out the best possible solution for all of Dorne—not just argue their own ideals stubbornly. Concession, compromise, trading favors, negotiations—these were the name of the game in the Prince's Inner Circle to win enough support to propose the plan to the prince who would have final say. Violence between members of the Circle was prohibited, though the occasional duel to settle a dispute was allowed as long as it was not to the death.

Downfall of the Faith Militant

The Circle would be put to the test rapidly following the Faith Militant Uprising. The Spears had won the day, decreeing to show their support and strength, even after the Conquest had ended. To sit idly by was not an option—they had to defend their own lands and prove to the Realm that their strength had not waned.

Dorne's first test would come from Starfall.

The Sword of the Morning, Ser Quentyn Dayne, rose up against his Lordly cousin and took Starfall for his own in the name of the Faith Militant Uprising. He spread his zealotry and mustered an army through Prince's Pass with the intent of joining the Faith army in Highgarden. Lord Caron's forces stopped him at Nightsong, refusing to allow him to pass. With the army of Prince Martell on their heels, the Sword of the Morning assaulted Nightsong, and was continuously repelled. The Stormlanders took heavy losses and death, and Lord Caron and Quentyn Dayne were locked in near endless battle before Caron took the victory and the forces of Starfall were slaughtered in tandem by the remainder of the Stormlanders and the Martell spears who had pinched them in.

Starfall was retaken but the title of Sword of the Morning lost its luster for many years afterwards, and the principles of the Faith of the Seven began to weaken in many Dornish minds.

The Spears of Dorne would join with armies of the other Realms to free Highgarden from its occupation and join the siege of Oldtown to finally end the Uprising once and for all.

As the Realm once again began to stabilize, Dorne began to make inroads into positions and agreements across Westeros, having marriage ties, trade arrangements, and visitation and tours both from their own lieges and others come to Dorne.

After Maron Martell, Elia Vaith, Andrey Toland, and Uthor Yronwood would all find themselves places on the King's Small Council under various reigns. Elia Vaith served both as Master of Whispers and Master of Coin during King Daemon's reign. Notably, she was nearly always in the company of her paramour, Allyria Briar and never hid the nature of their relationship. After the failure of the Faith Militant uprising, any judgment or disagreement that was raised from the faithful did not have nearly the same effect as it might have had before. The traditions and values in Dorne were explicitly refused to conform to the traditions and values of the rest of Westeros, and instead, challenged them to be the ones to change instead.

Drought

In 209 AC, a drought would strike Dorne, devastating crops and worst yet—drying up the wells. Dornish exports of wine, olive oil, and citrus fruits had come to a screeching halt, and their own people did not have food or water.

The Crown offered them gold, burdening their own already desolate treasury to do so.

The best negotiators from the Silks were tasked with finding imports to help stem the bleeding and starving. During this time, to the anger of the Spears-the Stepstones had been reinfected by suspiciously wealthy pirate lords that the Free Cities such as Tyrosh and Myr did nothing to stop. The Stepstones that Aliandra Martell had fought to claim were taken from Dorne's clutches. The Spears argued they should take back their land and focus their efforts on clearing it out and taking the pirate's hoards for their own use in a desperate matter. But they didn't have the manpower to launch a campaign, and so the Stepstones were gone.

Besides—that began to become harried within. Raiders began to roam the deserts of Dorne, stealing from water and food transports to take for themselves, and thus not getting to the hamlets and villages that needed the resources. The Dornish smallfolk were getting desperate, and beneath the unrelenting sun turned for protection to these raiders who then used this control to hoard resources and gold for their own.

This time, the Silks argued that their priority should be to help all citizens of Dorne during this drought—while the Spears won the day and sent men to round up the raiders and reclaim the water and food.

Lord Uller and his kin would take charge as it was across the sands of their desert that was the most heavily affected. A battalion of sand-steed riders was formed then, known as the Well-Keepers. Starting as guardians of the newly built wells, they continue to this day to help people and keep the lands of Dorne and beyond safe.

Stone and Sky Observatory

During the drought, a scion of Skyreach, Manfrey Fowler had taken it upon himself to call upon people in the region to study the lands of Dorne and trace the paths of underground water systems to help with building new wells. Following this, many of the scholars stayed in Skyreach to study various aspects of Dorne, the landscape, geology, and benefited from the tall spires of the castle to establish Myrish lenses to study the cosmos and track star patterns.

Soon, the Stone and Sky Observatory was established, attracting the scholarly minded to study. It also became an effort to preserve Dornish and Rhoynar history within the building,

with a mosaic art piece taking many years to complete. Those who had a mind for learning and study but could not or would not go to the Citadel to become a maester would flock there, gaining a reputation.

Things came to a head when House Fowler dismissed their maester and instead took on a particularly bright student of the Observatory. The Citadel condemned the institute, attempting to remain as the sole place of learning and information. A flurry of letters was sent arguing back and forth, wanting the place to close. One night, a fire was spread from the inside, damaging many of the notes, research, and books. It was the final straw, and Fowler brought the matter to King Rhaegal, along with Maester's representing the Citadel to come to a resolution. Rhaegal only allowed them a few minutes of time in court and insulted both parties while leaving the matter unresolved.

In another betrayal, when the Small Council was sent to work out the dispute in place of the King, Uthor Yronwood ruled in favour of the Citadel—for there had been years of rivalry and bad blood between Yronwood and Fowler, and Yronwood was growing deeply envious of the attention and prestige the Observatory was bringing their ancient rivals. The Grand Maester agreed whole-heartedly, but Lord Darklyn, the Hand, gave the final ruling that both institutions were allowed to keep their practice.

The strain of tension would remain from the Citadel and the Observatory—and Fowler intends for the Citadel to go the way of the Alchemist Guild. Things had changed once—why not again?

Prince's Pass and the Stone Way

The slight from Yronwood would not stop there. Soon, Yronwood toll collectors would be found along the Prince's Pass despite being within Fowler's territory. Yronwood desired control over both entry points to Dorne, both the Stone Way and Prince's Pass alike, believing it owed to them as they were the guardians and first defence into Dornish territory—and to exert control over Fowler.

When goods were starting to be diverted from the Pass to the Stoneway despite the treacherous conditions, Fowler once again knew who to blame. Yronwood had undercut them, stemming the flow of trade and goods.

It culminated in a skirmish when a Yronwood patrol party was found scouting out the Pass. Both sides deny that they had started it, pointing the finger of blame directly to the other

side. Martell had made each side stand down, but tensions remained simmering beneath the surface.

War against Tyrosh and Myr

In 227 AC pirates began to raid the coast of Dorne, and Dorne never truly had the fleet to fight them back. The Silks argued they should go to the Free Cities and work together again to fight back the pirates—but there was worry that the pirates were funded by places like Tyrosh and Myr. The Spears put front a movement to begin to expand their fleet and defend their shores and establish coastal outposts.

During this time, Dorne began to work closer with the Stormlands. Though centuries of bad blood would not go away in a night, some strategic marriages began to repair relations between them. The pirates were harming both and it would take a combined effort to work together. House Toland and House Mertyns also shared a relationship as Andrey Toland and Tommard Mertyns had been very close and Andrey being a supporter of him in the Small Council. House Toland attended the funeral and the two houses had been close ever since.

Dornish troops would be ferried in by Crown ships to lay siege to Ghaston Grey in an attempt to retake the prison island. They took heavy losses, including the death of Ser Manfrey Martell. Though they had victory that day, the Stepstones were still out of reach, and it wouldn't be long before new problems would arise.

Slavers from Tyrosh and Myr were halting trade from Dorne, harrying their ships, and caravans were going missing. Lord Toland and Lord Yronwood's coasts were hit by the Myrish fleet, with Ser Desmond Yronwood dying in defense against the Essosi.

Outraged, the Dornish joined the attack against Myr and Tyrosh with the Spears taking the forefront to push their military power and show off the military prowess of the region. There would be many heroes of the war from Dorne, who had much to lose being the closest to the attackers. Beyond that, many of the Spears and Silks alike saw the benefit of reclaiming the Stepstones for their own.

Within Planky Town, a mercenary group let their service be known—a group of sellsails offering their ships. The Sirens made a home in Planky Town and was responsible for ferrying the Dornish armies to and from and surviving many a naval battle.

Reclaiming the Stepstones

With victory secured, Dorne now looks to the Crown to be rewarded for their efforts, quick to point out that they once held nearly all of the Stepstones. The ambition to expand their territory to build up the Stepstones is in the forefront of many minds, and none more so than those within the Inner Circle. The Spears see a place to build a large military base to perhaps press even further, while the Silks see the economic and trade opportunity and position of a pirate-free Stepstones. With the memory of the drought and crop failure, having more places beyond the sands of Dorne that could become developed looked very appealing especially in contrast to the more fertile lands of Westeros.

But as much as the Martell's have been promoting a united front for Dorne, each house and person has their mind and wants and ambitions. From the Yronwood and Fowler conflict, and houses fighting for their right to claim the Stepstones and use the island exactly as they wish, the push to no longer have to kowtow to the Inner Circle's agreement and wishes grows stronger. Will the time for compromise be over?

And as the inheritance of the Crown becomes a more concerning question with each passing year, the Dornish in court, led by the Prince(ss) themself point out a solution that continues to push back on Westerosi tradition. They believe that all of Westeros should join them in the Rhoynar tradition of equal primogeniture, starting with the young daughter of King Daeron II as being heir and are not shy in voicing their opinion, especially with their neighbour, Helyx of Summerhall's distaste for the Throne.



The Riverlands

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



"C'mon lads, we've sat on our hands long enough! Let's go send those gutless dogs to the Gods they love so much! And a lordship to whoever brings me the Mummer's head!"

Lord Elmo Tully, rallying his men for a sortie during the Relief of Riverrun - 181AC

What has Come to Pass



"I'm S'posed to say something inspiring here. Meant to rouse you lot into a killing frenzy so we win the day. I could do that, but why bother? You lot are insatiable already, so just go and give them a show."

Lord Cregan Stark, rallying his men for battle during the retaking of Raventree Hall

Faith, Firebrands and Fishes 181AC-203AC

The Silver Wedding: Following the ascension of Baelor Targaryen to the position of High Septon in 180AC, the relations between the Crown and the Faith were strained. King Daeron had made clear his intent to wed his son to his daughter, while his brother, now known as The Blessed One, vocally and vehemently denounced both the union and the Doctrine of Exceptionalism itself. Despite the complaints of the Faith, King Daeron went ahead with his plans, having his children wed in a lavish ceremony in 181AC. The Blessed One did not sit idly, however, using the occasion to preach openly against "irregular" marriages, and of the superiority of the Faith of the Seven, denouncing all those that did not follow its creed. This act greatly enraged the Master of Laws, Benjicot Blackwood.

The Spark: Tensions continued to build throughout the year, culminating in 182 AC when Princess Rhaenyra's pregnancy was announced, sending shockwaves through the realm. The unrest reached its peak following a fiery sermon by the Blessed One, which ignited fervour among the smallfolk of Oldtown. Empowered by their faith, they rose in the name of the Seven, and soon their rebellion spread like wildfire.

In the Riverlands, the movement found strong support. Many smallfolk rallied under the banners of the Seven-Pointed Star, particularly in the regions surrounding Stoney Sept, Pink Maiden, and Wayfarer's Rest. Lords Piper and Vance were among the first to swear themselves to the cause, their houses casting their lot with the Faith.

<u>Assault on Raventree Hall:</u> The Blackwoods' long-standing worship of the Old Gods made them prime targets for the Faith Militant's wrath in the Riverlands. The Faithful swept through the lands of House Blackwood with little resistance, as Lord Tully was still gathering his forces and Lord Lothston was preoccupied defending the sacred Isle of Faces from militant attacks.

Without immediate aid, Raventree Hall was soon besieged. Lord Benjicot, his brothers, and his heir fought valiantly, but the stronghold was ultimately overrun. Though they perished in its defense, the rest of Lord Blackwood's family—including his younger sons—had been sent to Riverrun for safety, securing the future of the house even as their ancestral seat fell.

The Wayward Stark: When the Faith Militant rose again, the North remained largely indifferent to the wars that followed. Yet, Cregan Stark, a young cousin of the Lady of Winterfell, was driven by a desire for something greater than the quiet life of a wayward son. Hungry for glory and purpose, he rallied support from the mountain clansmen and raised his own banner. At the head of three thousand Northerners, Cregan marched south, determined to fight against the Faith Militant. He joined the Lothstons in their desperate defense of the Isle of Faces.

Siege of Riverrun: After ravaging the Blackwood lands, the Faith Militant, led by Ser Bertram the Mummer—a former hedge knight—turned their sights on Riverrun. They marched on the Tully stronghold, accusing House Tully of cowardice during the First Uprising, claiming it had doomed the rebellion. As the Militant forces appeared on the horizon, Riverrun's defenders swiftly prepared for a siege. The sluice gates on the west ditch were opened, flooding the area and turning the castle into an island fortress within the Trident, cutting it off from the surrounding land.

The Slaughter of the Bats: Having fended off the Militant's attempts to storm the Isle of Faces, Lord Lothston and his forces marched west in an attempt to relieve Riverrun. However, with the majority of his forces absent, the remnants of the Militants in the area gathered once more, beneath the command of the brutish knight, Ser Ortho the Unbroken, and set their sights on Harrenhal. A small group of men would slip through an open postern gate, and throw open the castle's massive gates, allowing the Militants to flood in, swiftly putting the garrison and the Lothston family to the sword.

Only two days later would the forces of Aemon the Dragonknight arrive to see the Seven Pointed Star flying above the glorified ruin. Hemon decided that a siege would be a waste of time, as there were not enough Militants to truly mount a defense of the massive castle. Instead, he elected to challenge Ser Ortho to a duel, who accepted and was easily cut down by the Dragonknight. The forces in Harrenhal surrendered soon after, and Hemon's army continued on its way to Riverrun.

The Relief of Riverrun: Hemon's forces joined with those of Lord Lothston and Cregan Stark. Upon learning of his family's fate at Harrenhal, Lord Lothston was devastated, but there was no time to mourn. They needed to act swiftly to rescue Riverrun before it met the same fate as Harrenhal and Raventree Hall. United, their forces launched an assault on the besieging Militants stationed along the east bank of the Tumblestone, spreading out to strike the other camps.

Amid the chaos, the valiant Lord Elmo Tully led a fierce sortie from Riverrun, cutting down any Militant who crossed his path. In the thick of the fighting, Cregan Stark personally slew Ser Bertram the Mummer, striking a blow to the Militant leadership. With the enemy scattered and the siege broken, Lord Tully and the surviving Blackwoods joined forces with Prince Hemon.

However, the victory came at a cost. Lord Lothston fell in battle, marking the end of his line and sealing House Lothston's doom as the sixth house to fall victim to the curse of Black Harren's tomb.

The Battle of Castamere: The remaining Riverlands forces joined Prince Aemon as he led his army through the Golden Tooth and into the Westerlands. There, they united with the men of Lord Lannister, forming a formidable host. Together, they marched on the Faith Militant forces gathered around Castamere, swiftly scattering the Militants and their noble allies, breaking their hold on the region.

The Aftermath: The Uprising ultimately came to an end with the burning of the Starry Sept, where the Blessed One also perished in the flames. With the head of the rebellion severed, the remaining resistance gradually crumbled, and the fighting died down. In the aftermath, King Daeron named House Strickland as the new Lords of Harrenhal, sealing their place in the realm. For his valor in the conflict, Cregan Stark was granted lordship over Mudgrave, becoming a vassal to House Blackwood and cementing his line's place in the Riverlands.

The 188AC Uprising: Shortly into the reign of King Daemon, spurred on by rumors of the King's alleged incompetence, remnants of the Faith Militant would try to gather their strength once more, seizing Stoney Sept and raising the banner of the Seven Pointed Star once more. Lord Elmo Tully would not let this stand, swiftly gathering his levies and crushing the last of the Faith's resistance, putting a stop to the Uprising before it had a chance to begin.

The True Aftermath: The rest of King Daemon's reign would be marked by a long period of peace, in 200AC a grand tourney was held in the capital to mark two centuries of Targaryen rule, marked by seven days of feasing, competition and celebration.

In 203AC, after a period of illness King Daemon would pass, just as winter began...

Famine, Floods and Feuds (and Fishes) 203AC-215AC

The Winter: It was a long, biting, and terrible winter, lasting three relentless years. freezing the crops in their fields, stilling many of the rivers that gave the Riverlands its name, and threatening the region with widespread famines. Fortunately, the situation was never quite as dire as it was in the Vale and the North, but many smallfolk would starve as food became steadily scarcer, or freeze in their homes as the demand for firewood swiftly outpaced the forests' ability to supply it.

The Wrath of the Clansmen: Midway through the winter, another crisis would grasp the Trident as Mountain Clansmen from the Vale would descend to raid and pillage throughout the foothills of the Vale, and the eastern bank of the Green Fork. Lord Tully was quick to gather his forces as villages were put to the torch. Elmo, along with his son, Grover, would soon join up with the forces of Lord Ryger and eventually Lord Oswin Arryn to hunt down and scatter the raiders, after a few moons of sweeping through the countryside, the Lords were eventually able to drive the remaining Clansmen back into the mountains. In the aftermath, Lords Elmo and Oswin became fast friends, agreeing to betroth Elmo's daughter, Roslin, to Oswin's son, Hugh.

The Great Spring Storms: The end of the Winter wouldn't bring any relief however, as the Spring would bring huge storms, causing widespread flooding throughout the whole Riverlands, ruining many of the fields and causing many crop failures. Thankfully, some relief was offered by the crown, thanks to the generosity of the Reach... generosity that was to be repaid as of 210AC, when Lord Tyrell ceased paying taxes to the Crown. Lords Tully and Mooton were summoned to the Capital to aid in talks on how to resolve the financial crisis.

The Tourney at Maidenpool: By 211AC, the rains ended, the rivers would eventually recede back into their banks, and the Riverlands would begin its road to recovery. In celebration, Lord Mooton organized a tourney to mark the first decent harvest in years, inviting all the Lords of the Riverlands to attend. A week of feasting, competition and sport would follow, with the joust as the crowning moment of the whole event...

Luck seemed to have escaped everyone present, because the two finalists of the joust were Lord Blackwood, and the heir to Stone Hedge. Their bout lasted hours, with both men tied throughout, neither man willing to concede. By the end of it, both men and their horses were haggard and exhausted, but still they persisted. In the final round, the two men lowered their lances to charge, but the Bracken's lance would dip a hair too low and strike the Blackwood's horse, throwing the Lord of Raventree to the ground in a heap, dying of a broken neck.

Chaos would erupt as the Blackwood heir, now Lord, accused the Bracken heir of doing it intentionally, despite the Bracken's protests. The Bracken and Blackwood parties would leave Maidenpool and begin gathering their forces preparing to attack one another. A number of skirmishes broke out across the lands of Bracken and Blackwood, preceding what would almost certainly be open conflict between the two.

Not wanting to deal with this feud spiraling out of control, Tully's heir, Grover, led Tully forces to the border between Bracken and Blackwood lands, forcing them to stand down. Though the raids and skirmishes would continue, however, regardless of the Tully's intervention.

In 215AC, Lord Elmo Tully would pass away in his sleep after a long period of illness. Grover would succeed his father.

Ferocity, Feasts and Folly (and Fishes) 231AC-247AC

The next sixteen years would pass quietly enough for the Trident, though the Brackens and Blackwoods were ever at each others' necks, very little would change. That is, until the Ironborn grew restless.

The Bells of Seagard: in 231AC, the bells of the Booming Tower of Seagard would be heard for the first time in centuries, as Ironborn ships were spotted sailing into Ironman bay. While initially their intent was unclear, it soon became apparent once they began to put the villages in the Mallister lands to the torch.

Untold numbers of lives were destroyed in those raids, as men were killed and women were carried off into the night. Enraged by these events, Lord Tully wrote to the King to appraise him of the situation, and to Lord Mallister to prepare his fleets for war.

Fortunately, the Ironborn focused the main body of their raiding on the Westerlands and the Reach, but when the Redwyne fleets came, the Mallisters eagerly joined them to bring their retribution down upon the Ironborn, and bring home any of their smallfolk that they could.

The Feast and the Folly: In 240AC, King Rhaegel called for a feast in the Capital to celebrate the births of his twin granddaughters. Naturally, the Rivermen would attend such a major occasion, though some would come to think of it as a mistake before its conclusion. It seemed as though the King had gone quite mad, as he paid little regard to manners or tactfulness. He would laugh inappropriately, cry spontaneously with little cause, and generally make himself quite the nuisance to everyone present. Many major lords of the realm were offended by the King's odd behavior, and due to this many wouldn't stay for the full event. Lord Tully, however, would stay for the whole thing, perhaps out of a desire to show his loyalty, or a desire to watch the "entertainment" unfold.

The King in All But Name: In the years following the King's ill-fated feast, his son and heir Prince Daeron took over the affairs of rulership, becoming a King in all but name. In this time, the Riverlands was mostly idle, content with their lot and not wishing to earn the ire of the King-to-be. Although, in 247AC, word of the manner of King Rhaegel's death would swiftly reach every keep in the Riverlands. He is not remembered fondly, and for some, this is carried over to his son.

Flowers, Freebooters and the Future (and Fishes) 245AC-250AC

The Overlap: In 245AC, House Vance of Atranta would enter into a dispute with the Caswells of Bitterbridge. It's hard to say if there was any truth to it, but one Caswell knight would claim that the border between their lands and the Vances' was three yards further south than it should've been, moving the marker northwards, to the correct position.

House Vance, of course disputed this, stating that the border has, and always will, lain exactly where it was, moving the maker back southwards, to the correct position.

This cycle would repeat itself for a number of moons, until one day, as bad luck would have it, both the Vance and Caswell parties traveled to the border on the same day. The parties argued, and it quickly grew violent, with blades and blood drawn.

With men dead, the survivors of both sides retreated to their respective castles to lick their wounds, and gather their forces. A skirmish would break out along the border, which would only cease with the intervention of Lords Tyrell and Tully ordering their vassals to stand down.

With open conflict avoided, Lord Tully refused to be further involved, deeming the conflict too petty to bother himself with.

Now, there is a mile of land between the two Houses' domains, which both sides claim belong to them. In a bid to assert their overlordship of the area, both Vance and Caswell try to mark the area with banners, buildings or farmland in hopes of outdoing one another. The area is referred to as "the Overlap".

<u>Slavers and Scum:</u> Following the ascension of the new King, Tyroshi and Myrish pirates would begin to interdict trade through the Stepstones, boarding ships and seizing cargo, sailors and passengers for themselves. The response to this was quite lackluster, with King Daeron initially only sending envoys to the free cities to try to put a stop to the piracy.

Even after Lord Redwyne's daughter was taken by these slavers, only envoys were sent. This envoy, however, returned mutilated, and following him came a fleet, putting the coasts of the Stormlands and Dorne to the torch, particularly Tarth and Estermont.

Finally, the King called for decisive action, summoning the fleets of the realm to retaliate for these attacks. Lord Tully gladly committed the fleets of Seagard and Maidenpool to aid in this endeavour, with armies of various other Riverman houses acting as ground forces in the Stepstones and at Tyrosh and Myr. With their fleets devastated, and homelands ravaged, the slavers would sue for peace, and the crisis would come to an end.

Unfortunately, however, despite the Trident's eagerness to involve themselves in the King's war, they have yet to be rewarded for it, as the King has yet to hand out the lands the Kingdoms gained thanks to the fighting.

What Comes Next: It is now the sixth Moon of 250AC, and King Daeron has announced the birth of his seventh daughter, Laena. With each passing year, the chances of his wife producing a son becomes less and less likely, the question of succession hangs heavy in people's minds. By rights, the crown should pass to the King's brother, Prince Aelyx, but some believe that their ambitious Uncle, Prince Maekar, will make a play for himself...

But those are questions for the future, for now, all one should do is drink, be merry, and celebrate the joy of new life.

Timeline

- **157-162AC:** The Conquest of Dorne
- **181-182AC:** The Silver wedding, and The Blessed One's preaching triggers the Second Faith Militant Uprising, the Riverlands is hit harder than most. Raventree Hall and the Blackwood lands were put to the torch, Riverrun was besieged and Harrenhal was taken by the Militants. Rivermen forces then accompany Hemon the Dragonknight into the West, assaulting the Militant forces gathered at Castamere. The Lothston bloodline was cut short due to the fighting, being replaced by House Strickland after the Uprising's conclusion.
- **188AC:** Surviving Faith Militants in the Riverlands attempt another uprising, but are swiftly put down by Tully forces, led by Elmo Tully.
- **203-206HC:** A long and devastating winter descends, leading to widespread famines in the North and Vale as food stocks run out.
- **204AC:** Mountain Clansmen from the Vale descend on the Eastern banks of the Green Fork, raiding and pillaging as they please. A host led by Lord Tully and his heir, Grover, joins the forces of the Rygers and Lord Arryn to drive the Clansmen back into the mountains. Afterwards, they agree to betrothe Arryn's son and Tully's daughter to one another.
- **206-210AC:** As spring rolls around, the rains would come, leading to floods all across the Trident, ruining many fields and straining the region's recovery. Similar floods were also occurring in the Reach, which was putting considerable strain on the Throne's finances.
- **210AC:** After Lord Tyrell refused to pay his taxes, Elmo Tully and Lord Mooton would be summoned to the Capital, to discuss a solution to the King's financial problems. It was decided that Lords Tyrell and Hightower would replace Lords Hunter and Estermont as Master of Coin and Hand respectively.
- **211AC:** Lord Blackwood died in a joust against the Bracken heir at a tourney at Maidenpool, after the Bracken's lance struck Lord Blackwood's horse. The Bracken insists that it was an accident, but the Blackwood heir, now Lord, insists it was intentional. This event reignited the feud between the Blackwoods and Brackens.

- **215AC:** Elmo Tully passes in his sleep, after a period of illness. His son, Grover, succeeds him as Lord of the Trident.
- **23IAC:** The Ironborn captains clamour to be allowed to raid once more, raiding the western shores despite not having Lord Greyjoy's permission. Due to raids on villages and holdfasts in Mallister lands, Lord Tully sent a raven to the King to inform him of the situation. Mallister ships would join the Redwyne fleet, helping put the reavers down.
- **240AC:** King Rhaegel hosts a tourney and feast to celebrate the birth of his granddaughters, during which his madness was plainly on show. He offended many high lords and ladies during the event, with many leaving before the official conclusion. The Tullys, however, stayed, despite their frustrations with the King's behaviour.
- **245AC:** House Vance of Attranta enters into a dispute with House Caswell over a small area of land that both sides claim belongs to them. A small skirmish is fought, but before it can spiral too far Tully and Tyrell put an end to the fighting. Now, the area is referred to as "The Overlap", and both sides still claim it belongs to them.
- **247-248HC:** Slavers from Myr and Tyrosh would begin harassing Westerosi shipping. After Lord Redwyne's daughter was kidnapped by the Tyroshi, the King would call upon the fleets of his vassals to combat the pirates. Lords Mallister and Mooton would join their fleets with the Crown's, aiding in the devastation of the slavers' fleets and helping blockade Tyrosh and Myr.
- **250AC:** Following the birth of the King's youngest daughter, the realm was called to gather for a feast to celebrate. The riverlands, naturally, will be joining.

The Vale of Arryn





"High as honour was it?

Aye.

Let us see how low you'll stop for it then. "

The Final words of two knights, one of the Vale, one of the Reach before a tilt that went horribly wrong.

What has Come to Pass



"You ever seen one them mountain men? Big bastards they are, mean too. Met one from the North once, the Northern mountain men are pretty good for pagans, not like ours. Yeah, saw them down at a fair in Maidenpool. Lord Stark, the one in the Riverlands, yeah, he had them as his bodyguards..."

An excerpt of an interview between Archmaester Dake and an unnamed Man-at-arms in Service at the Gates of the Moon

The Council of Mountain and Vale

Lord Joffrey Arryn was an aged man by the time the Young Dragon invaded Dorne, and had seen enough of war in his lifetime. Many of his fellow lords were in favour of sending their knights south, but still more were unwilling to fight and die for a cause so far from home. So, a council was held at the Eyrie in 161 AC, with every major bannerman of Mountain and Vale having a seat at the table. After several nights of deliberation, a vote was cast, and it was decided that the strength of the Vale would not join the Crown to bloody the sands.

Banners Raised

House Grafton was the first of the Vale lords to raise his banners in support of Baelor the Blessed in 182 AC, as contempt for the Arryns of the Eyrie had festered long after the matter of succession had been resolved in the wake of Lady Jeyne's death. Despite his advanced age, being six and sixty at the onset of the uprising, Lord Godfrey was swayed by arrogance, greed and a hunger for power. Houses Templeton, Corbray, Waxley and Waynwood were swift to follow, all bearing the standard of the Seven-Pointed Star.

The Defense of Runestone

When word of the approaching army reached his walls, Lord Royce denounced his fellow lords for traitors and turncoats and raised his forces to meet them in the field. Letters were sent to the Eyrie and to other nearby lords for aid, with Redfort and Hunter marshalling what forces they could in such a short time. By the afternoon, the Faith had taken two of the three hills outside of the castle, but they paid steeply in blood for every bit of ground taken. Ser Corbray, the wielder of Lady Forlorn, was cut down by the lord of the castle himself.

Lord Waynwood, too, met his end beneath Royce's hammer, and his death combined with the arrival of reinforcements heralded hope among the defenders, but they were too few in number to retake the positions that had been lost. Eager for the opportunity to force a submission, Lord Godfrey ordered a sweep of his superior cavalry, charging up the hillside as the sun sank toward the horizon. Sounding the retreat, Royce and his allies were forced to withdraw to the castle in good order, barring the gates behind them.

A Knife in the Dark

With Runestone sufficiently cowed, the Faith turned their eyes towards the west. The Eyrie was a nigh impenetrable fortress, too costly to take, but barring the Arryns within was as good a solution as any. The force was divided in two, with half being sent to secure the road outside the Gates of the Moon and open the way to Longbow Hall, while the other half marched to sway Lord Redfort to the cause or else root him out of his keep. An army on the march, however, was as blood in the water, and the sharks were closing in.

Eager for plunder, raiders descended from the Mountains of the Moon to carry out strikes on the Faithful, with the camps and supply trains being targeted nightly. The Painted Dogs and Burned Men, who had been at war with the Howlers and Redsmiths, formed an alliance with their foe in order to harry the passing army. Although ill-equipped and outnumbered three to one, the clansmen inflicted substantial losses on the knights of the Vale, making off with an abundance of supplies before they were finally driven away.

Gulltown Tamed

When word arrived from Oldtown of the High Septon's defeat, the army of the Faith was scattered, many of the rebellious lords pleading with their liege for mercy. All were pardoned, as they had acted on faith and not in the interest of treason against their liege. All but Grafton, who returned home to fortify himself within his keep. For three days he remained inside, expecting the Lord of the Eyrie's wrath to descend on him at any moment. On the fourth day, before dawn, the fleet in the harbour suddenly went up in a blaze.

The city was assaulted by siege engines as the watch's attention was focused upon the docks, shattering the main watchtower and the surrounding portion of the wall. After an hour of fierce fighting, Godfrey's heir was killed in the breach and Gulltown's defenders lost heart, laying down their weapons and surrendering. Brought before his liege in chains, the Lord of Gulltown pleaded for mercy as his fellow conspirators had done, and was ultimately spared death, being stripped of his titles and sent to the Wall instead.

Godfrey's second son was then raised as the Lord of Gulltown, duly bending the knee and swearing fealty to the Arryns, with his young son being taken to ward at the Eyrie to ensure the enduring loyalty of his house.

Blood on the Mountainside

In 204 AC, emboldened by the hard winter, more clans came down from the mountains to attack the villages in the riverlands and the fertile lowlands of the Vale. They overpowered the unprotected smallfolk with their savagery, killing the men brave enough to stand against them before making off with dozens of women and all that was left of the harvest. While not uncommon, these raids in particular were seemingly without end, lasting for several moons before the pleas of the smallfolk were heard up by their liege.

When Vardis Arryn, the Knight of the Gate arrived with a token force, they fled back into the foggy hills while the Valemen gave chase. Vardis and many of his knights were killed by falling boulders as the mountainside was toppled onto their heads. The warriors disappeared back into the mountains with the arms and armour of the fallen added to their plunder. In the riverlands, Lord Ryger was quickly overwhelmed by the ferocity and frequency of the attacks, opening the gates of his castle to provide refuge for the affected.

Lord Oswin himself came down from the Gates after the death of his brother, bringing with him a great host. They swept through the snowy hills like a flood in search of those who had been taken, laying waste to the encampments and setting free those who had been taken from their homes. Encountering women and children from the riverlands, they pushed onward to Willow Wood, combining their forces to crush the raiders and free the prisoners. Lord Tully saw fit to betroth his daughter to Lord Oswin's heir as a gesture of thanks.

With the food stores having been all but annihilated by the clansmen, the Lord of the Vale was faced with the dilemma of how to feed his people at the height of the harsh winter. When a solution failed to present itself even after holding counsel with the other lords, he was forced to write to the Crown for aid, which arrived a short while later in the form of wagons from the Reach. Delivered from starvation, the people of the Vale were greatly endeared to King Aegon, and held him in high esteem ever after.

Three's Company

The Lord of the Three Sisters was known to turn a blind eye upon the pirates who used his islands to conduct their illicit business, as long as a share of the profits found its way into his coffers. In 240 AC, he was approached by the self-proclaimed king of the corsairs, who offered tempting sums of gold in return for safe refuge. A deal was struck, and as Sunderland's coffers began to overflow, so too did the harbours and the inns with outlaws.

The Death of Decency

In the year 247, tensions flared between Hugh Arryn and Lord Stark. Letters had arrived from the North insisting that something needed to be done about the issue of raids from the Three Sisters, or else matters would have to be taken into their own hands. Believing that Lord Sunderland would do no less than his part to keep the shipping lanes in the Bite safe, Hugh declared that any force used against his vassals would be met with equal or greater force. Nevertheless, bounties were posted in White Harbor, targeting the pirates.

Meanwhile, Lord Sunderland had enjoyed over half a decade of increased wealth, and continued to open his harbours to all vessels, legitimate or not. He had become quite good at feigning innocence to his liege, who demanded that the North stand down. Retaliation involved even higher bounties placed not only on the pirates, but some of Sunderland's ill-reputed friends and allies as well, declaring them no better than the criminals that he sheltered.

Thus, a bitter feud erupted between the Arryns and the Starks, with each house maintaining the right to sovereignty in protecting their interests.

House Arryn of the Eyrie

- Lady Jeyne Arryn Maiden of the Vale (94-134)
- Joffrey Arryn, Lord of the Eyrie (96-168)
 - o Helena Arryn (Hardyng)
 - Jasper Arryn
 - Donnel Arryn
- Jasper Arryn, Lord of the Eyrie (128-180)
 - Meredyth Arryn (Belmore)
 - Alester Arryn
 - Arthur Arryn, Knight of the Kingsguard
- Alester Arryn, Lord of the Eyrie (147-189)
 - Lia Arryn (Royce)
 - Oswin Arryn
 - Vardis Arryn, Knight of the Bloody Gate
 - Sharra Arryn
 - House Targaryen of Summerhall
- Oswin Arryn, Lord of the Eyrie (165-223)
 - Teora Arryn (Egen)
 - Hugh Arryn
 - Jon Arryn
 - Alayne Arryn
- Hugh Arryn, Lord of the Vale (189-Present)
 - o Roslin Tully
 - House Arrun of the Eurie