



# Historical Joint Crisis Committee

Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder  
Model United Nations High School Conference  
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To maintain international peace and security

To develop friendly relations among nations

To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights

To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations



## **Letter From your Crisis Director**

Welcome to the 2023 C.U. Boulder Spring HSMUN Conference! I am anxiously anticipating our simulation of the Hundred Years War/the War of Roses in this years' J.C.C. This is my second year serving as C.U. M.U.N's Crisis Director and I have been very eager to return to this position. Crisis committees, generally speaking, are one of the most unique and engaging ways to partake in M.U.N. You are usually tasked with representing the interests of a person, rather than a nation as is typical procedure. Not only are you encouraged to speak in the first person, you are able to make judgments that lie outside of your country's interests as a whole. This allows for significantly more unique solutions that account for the humanistic reality of all conflicts and issues.

At the end of the day, all world leaders – past and present – are people. They are complex and have to reconcile their relationships with other leaders to create positive outcomes, which sounds easy on paper but is massively difficult in practice. When your interests directly conflict with another, how can compromise possibly occur? Questions like this, among others, are at the core of a J.C.C. simulation.

I chose the Hundred Years War/the War of Roses as the topic for this year's conference because I figured its obscurity would challenge students to generate their position off of both research and individual decisions. Many of the roles in this simulation do not have much written down about them. Their personalities were usually not described at all! This means there is no "correct" way to portray any of the roles, with the expectation that delegates will still factor in any research they do on the individual just as they would for a nation in a typical M.U.N. event. I also find that historical committees are a perfect balance between educational and fun. They present new challenges and force delegates to dispose of their modern viewpoints, but also, it's very enjoyable to refer to your peers as "Duke" or "Earl" with full seriousness.

I can't wait for this J.C.C. and I hope you all will have a great time, I know I will!

### **Purpose of this JCC**

The Hundred Years War, the colloquial precursor to the War of Roses, marked a disastrous period for both English and French royalty. Conflict over land claims, birthright, marriages, and mental fitness built a political landscape almost unidentifiable from modern disputes. When compared to what we know “war” to be now, the Hundred Years War is hard to conceptualize in the terms of Model U.N. As you are likely aware, there was no U.N. or international body overseeing global peace in the 14th and 15th centuries. Why, then, are we simulating such an antiquated setting in a Model U.N. competition?

The J.C.C. is a longstanding tradition of CU Model U.N. We consistently build these committees for our Spring High School Conferences, with the hope that students can utilize the general skills they have honed into difficult scenarios of conflict and crisis resolution. In real life, issues are always changing and adapting. Thoughtful deliberation is important for diplomats, but so is timeliness and efficacy. As the situation changes, so too do the solutions. In J.C.C, you will have to balance your role’s motivations with the injection of “crises” or updates from your Crisis Director.

This committee, in particular, is a historical committee based on a real conflict. With some creative liberties by the Director, we at C.U. M.U.N. are hoping to give students a primer on a war that nearly tore the European nations apart. We encourage you to find unique solutions to this war, with the understanding that it has already been solved once before in history. Despite any hostility your role might have with another role inside of the committees, please note that this is still a Model U.N. competition and we expect you to follow all diplomatic standards as per usual. Similarly, while this committee does contain elements of war, we strongly advise against any sort of “war games” – that is, purposefully trying to make the situation worse for any side by promoting further conflict between the two.

### **Personal Directives**

In this council there will be personal directives, which can be rejected by the chair at their discretion. Personal directives allow the user to perform tasks without the majority approval of the rest of the council. It is important to only use them when necessary and they should be within your entity's power or they will be rejected. These directives will be written on notes to the chair. The chair will then either accept or reject it, if it is accepted it will go to the crisis room for further review and then be released at the next crisis. If you have any questions, please ask your Chair or Director and they will be happy to help!

## Participants

### *London*

- Cardinal Henry Beaufort
- Catherine of Valois
- Charles, Duke of Orleans
- Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset
- Henry VI
- Humprhey, Duke of Gloucester
- John Kemp
- John, 2nd Duke of Exeter
- Raoul Roussel
- Richard of York
- Richard, Earl of Warwick
- William Lyndwood
- William, Earl of Suffolk

### *France*

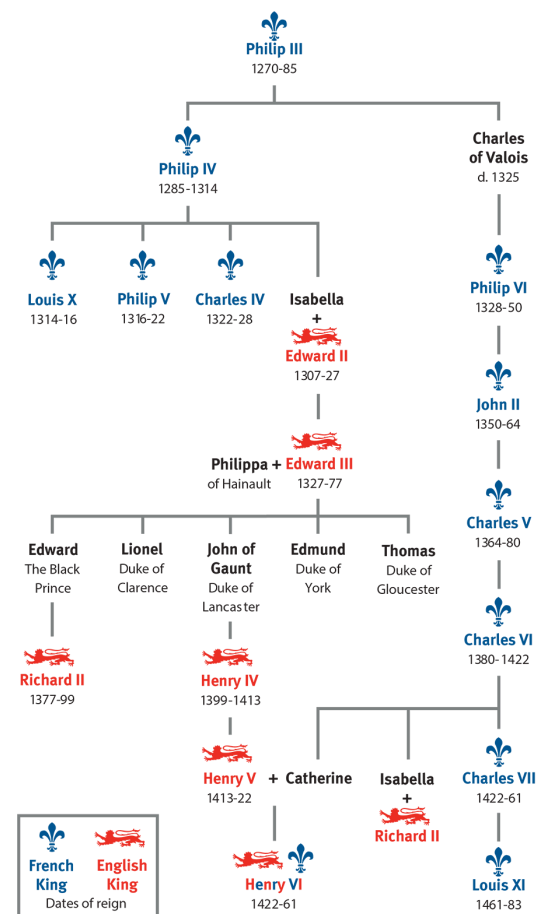
- Antoine, Count of Vaudémont
- Arnold, Duke of Guelders
- Arthur, Earl of Richmond
- Charles VII of France
- John of Heinsberg
- John V, Duke of Brittany
- Lord Baudricourt
- Margaret of Anjou
- Phillip, Duke of Burgundy

- Rene, Duke of Bar
- Richard, Count of Étampes
- Robert le Maçon
- Yolane of Aragon

## Background Information

In the 14th and 15th century, a series of succession disputes occurred in the monarchies of England and France, the two most populous and prestigious states of western Europe of that time. These events are colloquially the Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Years War, though they are essentially the same result of the political situation of the time. Since 1066, English monarchs had held various lands and titles in France, waxing and waning with each generation. Rivalry developed as the English monarchs found themselves more powerful than their French overlords and the French embittered at English encroachment. At the same time, crises at home among the nobility led the English monarchs to sign documents such as the Magna Carta, limiting the once absolute power of the throne.

These two situations created a problem for Edward III, an ambitious king with desires to unite England and France under his rule. Edward required loyal vassals to assist him abroad and protect his rule at home, and so he made the unprecedented action of naming his children to various dukedoms across England. This was important because it gave rise to a new class of nobility that could feasibly claim the crown, and give that class a source of income



independent of the crown. In sum, this meant that unlike the dynastic struggles of previous centuries, vying powers could engage in sustained fighting independent of popular opinion from other nobles that would traditionally supply armies, and also made compromises between sides harder since contenders now had dynastic holdings independent of the claim.

Edward III both began the hundred years war, and laid the seeds of what would later grow to be the two roses of Lancaster and York. To best explain the eventual dispute, we will only speak of relevant descendants, and the logic behind why people at the time and historians today consider them important. Edward III had five sons, but we will speak mostly of his first, Edward the Black Prince, his second, Lionel the duke of Clarence, and the third, John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. Hereafter, referred to as Edward the Black Prince, Lionel of Clarence, and John of Lancaster. When Edward died before his father, this left his minor son, Richard, in line for the throne. Without any heir, the question in noble circles became about whether the crown would fall to Lionel of Clarence's daughter's son, Roger Mortimer, as Lionel himself had also died, or to John of Gaunt, Edward's oldest living son. This debate was essentially over if the crown could pass through a female line. In fact, this had happened twice before in English history - once during the anarchy period with Empress Matilda, and during the Anglo-Saxon past of the country. This was a result of Edward's desire to mimic the customs of French succession and accommodate for the fact that John was a powerful Lord in his own right compared to the younger Roger Mortimer. This decree by Edward III was intended to firmly place John of Gaunt ahead of Lionel's descendants.

Richard surprisingly made it through his minority and outlived his ambitious uncle, John of Gaunt, choosing to exile his cousin Henry IV (the son of John of Lancaster) for fear he might press his claim. When Richard left to campaign in Ireland, Henry IV returned and seized London, becoming the first Lancastrian king. This left him very unpopular with many of the nobles, and several plotted his downfall. In 1412, King Henry IV passed away after a decade of quashing

usurpation and assassination attempts. One of more prominent movements to oust Henry IV was led from within by Thomas Arundel (Archbishop of Canterbury and a dear friend of Henry IV) and King Henry's only son, Henry V – who would assume the throne in 1413 following his father's death.

King Henry V was quick to assert a British claim to the French throne. While this was contested militarily for nearly a decade, his new father-in-law King Charles VI of France named Henry V as the "heir" to France in 1420 after Henry V led a successful military campaign in the French city of Troyes. The Treaty of Troyes, which formalized this royal arrangement, became rapidly more important when both Henry V and Charles VI died within two months of each other in 1422. Citing the Treaty and having no viable heir, Henry VI (who was one year old at the time) was named the King of England, Lord of Ireland, and the King of France.

### **Current Situation**

The year is 1450, King Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou (the late-Charles VI's niece) have just been wed as an obvious attempt at parley between England and France. Through this marriage, Margaret has become the Queen of England and gained the lands of Maine and Anjou. The marriage is very unpopular within English borders, mostly a consequence of Queen Margaret's French heritage and sympathies. England has lost almost all of its French territory (with a few small exceptions), with the most recent Battle of Formigny seeming to solidify France's military superiority.

As the death toll in the Hundred Years' War continues to rise and dynastic tensions within the English elite threaten Henry VI's claim, invites to an "emergency congregation" have been received by many key actors on both sides of this grim conflict. You are in attendance of this "congregation" – which is held between two neighboring rooms (for... violence reduction) of



the great Windsor Castle in London. The primary goal being, then the end to this bloody conflict and the resolution to the disputes over the claim of the English throne.

### **Questions to Consider**

- Is there a way to promote longstanding peace between England and France? If so, what can you do to ensure this solution is enacted?
- How can conflicting claims be reconciled concerning the English and French kings over their lands? Why has compromise failed between these two nations in the past?
- What role do you play in this conflict? For example, are you hoping to gain power for yourself or promote the agendas of another? (NOTE – Everyone should be aiming for an end to the actual war, at the very least).