

# UGAMUNC XXI

## The Tudor Dynasty: The Reign of Henry VIII, Background Guide



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**The Tudor Dynasty: The Reign of Henry VIII**

I. Introduction:

I came no more to make you laugh: things now  
That bear a weighty and a serious brow,  
Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,  
Such noble scenes as draw the eye to the flow,  
We now present.  
*Henry VIII* (Prologue 1–5).

Delegates,

Hello, and welcome to the Tudor Dynasty: The Reign of Henry VIII committee of UGAMUNC XXI. Those were the opening lines of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*. I found it an appropriately dramatic welcoming, fittingly given the soap opera-levels of drama the court of Henry VIII was steeped in. It was incredible, often absurd, this little slice of history, and getting to learn more about it through our research was an absolute pleasure. It was a period in time replete with scandal and intrigue, and my co-chair and I are impatient to see its spectacles rendered in the flesh. February cannot come soon enough. If you have any questions, please contact me at [dawson22@uga.edu](mailto:dawson22@uga.edu).

My name is Dawson Magoulas Allen. A fourth year, I be, and the team's Head Delegate, both of which, I believe, give me the right to talk like a pirate when I so please. I work at Starbucks while I study International Affairs, Political Science, and Comparative Literature (I like big books and I cannot lie). My interests include high quantities of daily coffee and oolong tea consumption, naturally, as well as short story writing (recently published!), old black-and-white movies, Greek food & politics, ampersands, the New Yorker, Atticus Finch's tortoise shell eyeglasses, sweaters, Christmas, and hating on literary postmodernism, which is the worst; and I am actively involved in Prince Avenue Baptist Church, of which I have been a member for two-plus decades now. When I am not at Starbucks, working, I can usually be found at some other coffee shop.

I am honored to be serving alongside Shreya Singh. Shreya is a fourth year student pursuing a triple major in International Affairs, Psychology, and History. She joined the UGA Model UN team this year with a strong belief that MUN creates an optimal atmosphere to learn experientially about negotiation and conflict resolution by providing the guise of a delegation and allowing you to explore tactics and strategies in use without long lasting ramifications on your character. Currently, Shreya is working on her history thesis about the role of religion and fear in shaping foreign policy during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Shreya's goals are to join a dual J.D. / Ph.D. program to further study International Law and International Affairs. In her free time, Shreya likes exploring Athens' food and music scene, which is especially rewarding for people watching. Her favorite pastime is making fun of hipsters and her favorite smell is that of old books. She hopes to one day publish a book of Model UN punography, in which she will also present her calculation of the perfect ratio of professional facts to quirky add-ons in a personal bio.

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We, your chairs, have created this guide not only to provide preliminary background information on your characters and the pressing issues of Henry VII's heyday, but also as a starting block for you to jump off of and delve into your own research, which we greatly encourage so that this Committee will be best equipped to arrive at creative solutions for each of these issues. But again, please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have (especially those related to Shreya's book or postmodernism).

Best regards,

Dawson Magoulas Allen  
*Chair, The Tudor Dynasty: The Reign of Henry VIII*  
Head Delegate  
UGA Model United Nations  
dawson22@uga.edu

## II. Committee Structure:

First things first, this committee is a crisis committee. Not a General Assembly (GA). This is an important distinction. Speaker's lists, topics, agendas, resolutions: this committee will have none of these things. What this committee *will* have is laid out in this section. Hopefully it will give you a good idea of what exactly you've gotten yourself in for...

1. This committee will always be in a **moderated caucus** unless an unmoderated caucus, a Q&A session, or any such action detailed in our team's RULES AND PROCEDURES (<http://www.ugamunc.com/ugamun/rules-and-procedures/>) is motioned for (and passed). An unmoderated caucus is usually motioned for the purpose of writing or collaborating on (combining) directives in a freeform, unstructured setting.
2. On **directives**: a directive is the quick solution. Unlike a resolution, which in a GA resolves and ends debate on a particular topic, a directive is concise and to the point, and addresses only the ongoing crises. All directives must have two sponsors before they are submitted to the dais (no signatories needed). A directive that has been rejected by the committee cannot be resubmitted. (If a delegate wishes to bring a similar resolution to another vote, she or he must draft a new one.) It is essential that a directive be *pertinent*, relating to the present crises. If a delegate takes too long to get a directive submitted to the chair it may become obsolete. The chair can (and will) rule any obsolete, irrelevant directives dilatory, so promptness and conciseness is key.
3. All those historical events leading up to the **start date**, 1534, are, in fact, *fact*, and essential to debate. Anything occurring after is not fact, and could (and probably will) change. In this sense, what the delegates will be debating is an alternate history. All the crises delegates will be faced with will reflect this, as should a delegate's understanding of her or his character. While researching your character's history after 1534, especially in regards to how he or she stands on the issues covered in Questions to Consider, is—well, mandatory, anything that happened to your character after 1534 in history has not happened yet in committee, and is not guaranteed (or likely) to occur at all.
4. So for reiteration and clarification, this committee will not follow the **historical trajectory** follow 1534. Prepare accordingly.
5. Your **research** before UGAMUNC should focus on the issues covered in the Questions to Consider and the key moments of Henry VIII's reign—especially those occurring before 1534; all others being important to understanding the kinds of issues you will be facing, but considered in light of the fact that they are not guaranteed to occur, and in the timeline of the committee, have not yet occurred.
6. We urge all delegates to *be creative*, but creative only within the **constraints** of the time. In other words: no nukes.

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7. However, this committee will be our take on the reign of King Henry VIII and the Tudor Dynasty, but with a **modern twist**. The debate will cover the same time period, the sixteenth century reign of King Henry VIII, but with a few additional contemporary touches. The committee will take place at a very modern European Summit, chaired by Henry—which we included to provide some explanation as to what reason all these disparate European characters are all gathered together in one room. Furthermore, delegates are not required to speak Tudor-era English (you can leave your thees and thous, harks and verilys, and perchances and prithees at home, if you wish). Modern devices, such as Twitter, Skype, and news-site web pages, will be deployed (by us) to provide crisis updates. (No delegate is allowed to deploy these devices, however; this committee is still laptop, tablet, and cellphone-free.) Additionally, you can ask crisis to email or text or Facebook message an NPC (non-playable character) outside the committee—such minor actions as these which do not draw from your character’s powers. Any action that strictly does draw from your character’s powers, however, must be historically plausible. The modern context of this committee is a means to an action, not an action in and of itself. *Please feel free to email me and Shreya with any questions you may have about this, or if you feel you need further clarification.*
8. On **women**: something which played a key role in our decision to give this committee a modern twist was our desire to empower our women characters (politically, socially, and at all levels) at a time when they were otherwise horribly disenfranchised. Note that this harkens back to the previous point about this being an alternate history. In accordance with this enfranchisement, women in the committee will be given certain political powers in their Character Portfolio (which will be provided on the first day of committee, before debate starts), and a number of key political figures who are women have been invited by Henry to participate in this Tudor-era European Summit. Thus, any “in-character” sexism or misogynistic remarks made in debate will *not* be acceptable or even relevant. (A good indicator of those delegates who did not read the Background Guide will be those delegates we see who do not adhere to this, the Sexism Proviso.)
9. On **crisis** (part 1): we urge all delegates to *utilize crisis*. In this committee, your crisis staff is unquestionably the most useful, important tool at your disposal; we cannot stress this enough. Be creative. Be resourceful—which you cannot be without crisis, for it is through crisis which you make use of your resources. Like it or not, part of being a competitive MUNer (i.e. winning awards) is playing to the chair, and this chair *highly* values creative crisis interaction. But more importantly, what sets the Model UN style of debate apart from all others is the multitasking, how MUN delegates must excel in all facets of the debate—speaking, note-passing, directive (and resolution) writing, diplomacy, position papers, delegate-to-delegate interaction, and in a crisis committee, *crisis* interaction—in order to exceed and win awards, and how a delegate works with crisis plays a huge role in this.
10. On **crisis** (part 2): it is the chairs who will be moderating debate and making the final decisions on which crises will happen and when they will occur, but it is the crisis staff

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who not only lets you know what these things are, but also represents all that is taking place behind the scenes. They will let you know just about everything you want to know. They will let you do just about everything you want to do (within reason). But the crisis staff will not tell you or let you do anything you do not ask for. It is you who must take the initiative. *With any questions you may have about crisis, how it works, the structure, or if you would like any examples of actions you might take in a crisis setting, again, shoot us an email! We are here to help.*

11. On **position papers: overview**. A position paper for a crisis committee is quite different from those a delegate writes for a GA (as I am sure many of you already know, or have guessed). Your paper for this committee will not be on a history of this time period (we already know it, and provide you with a brief summary in this guide) but on your character; and not their history, either. It will be on who your character is as a person. What their goals are, their policies, strengths and weaknesses. What you see their role in this Summit being and in the larger community. What their relationships are with other members, your planned interactions, what your goals are, both long- and short-term. Your character's debate style. Anything about your character that you deem important, as it relates to this committee and debate. You can write on all these things or focus on just a few; much of this is left to the delegate's discretion. And finally, position papers for crisis committees are from the *character's* point of view, and written in the character's voice. A good position paper will make your chair forget that it was written by the delegate and not the actual character. Think of it as a creative writing project.
12. On **position papers: rules & guidelines**. All position papers must be: single-spaced. No less than two pages and no more than five pages. Checked for grammar and spelling (these are not rough drafts), Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, with one inch margins (and 0% "Character"). Use of the first person voice is required. A hard copy must be turned in to the chairs before the first session begins. Additionally, all position papers must be emailed to dawson22@uga.edu. And again, this is not a rough drafts. One of your chairs came very close to pursuing a degree (an MFA) in creative writing, so please send us your best work. **Failure to turn in a position paper before the start of the first session of debate will disqualify you from winning an award in this committee.**

\* For more on crisis committees and position papers and for tips on research and debate, Best Delegate (<http://bestdelegate.com/>) is a great resource for all things Model UN-related, but even the information found there does not necessarily pertain to the specific way in which we run our conference.

### III. Background:

- **Time-Period:** This committee takes place over the course of the reign of Henry VIII, which lasted from 1509 until his death in 1547.
- **Start-Date:** 1534, with the split from the church.

While married to his first wife, Catharine of Aragon, in the mid 1520s, King Henry VIII was conducting many affairs with many different women, one of whom being Catharine's very own lady-in-waiting, Mary Boleyn. This can likely be attributed, at least in part, to Catharine not being able to provide him with the male heir he so desperately wanted and needed. (It was an ongoing problem; years prior, she had even, tragically, given stillbirth.) At court, this dilemma was being called the king's "great matter," and the affects of this "great matter" on Henry's reign could be plainly seen.<sup>1</sup>

Around this time Henry fell in love with his mistress's sister, Anne—also working in the Queen's entourage. Unlike her sister, Anne refused to sleep with the king. It was a culmination of Henry's "great matter," his growing infatuation with Anne, and just really wanting to hook up with his mistress's (seemingly better equipped for childbirth) sister that led Henry, an otherwise devout Catholic, to want to divorce Catharine.<sup>2</sup>

In 1527, Henry takes the case to Pope Clement VII, pleading his marriage's Biblical illegitimacy on the grounds of Leviticus 20:21, which reads: "And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it *is* an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless" (KJV). But despite all Henry's best efforts, Clement would not be moved.

It was 1532 when Henry and Anne, with the full support of the King of France, married in secret. The English Reformation has begun.<sup>3</sup> Thomas Cranmer declares Henry's marriage with Catharine void and his with Anne valid. Catharine is demoted to "Princess Dowager." This is further legitimized in 1533 with the Act of Succession, and then with the 1532 Act in Restrain of Appeals and the 1534 Acts of Supremacy; Henry has rejected papal authority and split with the church.<sup>4</sup>

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1 Ives, E.W. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, "Henry VIII."  
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/12955>.

2 Britannia, "Henry VIII." <http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon41.html>

3 Pettegree, Andrew. BBC History, "The English Reformation."  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/english\\_reformation\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/english_reformation_01.shtml).

4 Thurston, Herbert. The Catholic Encyclopedia, "Henry VIII."  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07222a.htm>.

**Characters in this Committee:**

*\* Note: The information we provide on these characters is only preliminary. It is the responsibility of the delegates to research and get to know the historical figure you'll be representing in more depth, especially in regards to how they relate to the salient issues of the day and the Questions to Consider.*

**1. Holy Roman Emperor Charles V:**

Charles V inherits the Hapsburg Monarchy, as well as the title of the Holy Roman Emperor from his Grandfather. He is a staunch opponent of the Protestant Reformation, fearing that unrest and uprising will spread from the Protestant nations to the rest of his domain. He is the nephew of Queen Catharine of Aragon, a relation that is constantly engaging him in conflicts of alliances. In addition to overseeing the Spanish conquest of the New World, Pope Charles V also has to combat advances flanking his empire on the East by the Ottoman and from the West, by German princes.<sup>5</sup>

**2. Cardinal Wolsey:**

Cardinal Wolsey is an incredibly influential and controversial member in the events of both the Church and the State in England. Coming from a humble background, Wolsey rises in the ranks of the British hierarchy and is eventually given many major diplomatic responsibilities, as well as the role of personal advisor to the King.<sup>6</sup>

**3. Sir Thomas More:**

More is a well-educated member of the English Parliament during the reign of King Henry VII. His opposition to both the King's divorce from his wives and the King's divorce with the Catholic Church eventually will make him very unpopular in the eyes of the Monarch and his supporters.<sup>7</sup>

**4. Oliver Cromwell:**

Oliver Cromwell appears to be a God-fearing man who has his eyes set somewhat beyond simply his seat in parliament. He serves as chief minister to the King, but may have other goals for the English state and people.<sup>8</sup>

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5 Spahn, Martin. The Catholic Encyclopedia, "Emperor Charles V."  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03625a.htm>.

6 BBC History, "Thomas Wolsey." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/wolsey\\_thomas.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/wolsey_thomas.shtml).

7 BBC History, "Thomas More." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/more\\_sir\\_thomas.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/more_sir_thomas.shtml).

8 BBC History, "Oliver Cromwell." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/cromwell\\_oliver.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/cromwell_oliver.shtml).



**5. Francis I of France:**

Francis I is seeing growing tensions with Italy, the Holy Roman Empire, as well as the constant subtle hints of rivalry from the British. As a knightly King, and one whose diplomatic prowess using culture exceeds his military strength, Francis I is a character of much interest in European relations. He forms a controversial alliance with Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire, who proves to be a key ally.<sup>9</sup>

**6. Richard Rich:**

Richard Rich rose to power under Thomas Crowell but later proves to be a part of his downfall. He works as King's Solicitor under Henry VIII and has an incredibly strained relationship with the Protestant church, as he is to become renowned for their persecution and torture.<sup>10</sup>

**7. Thomas Cranmer:**

Thomas Cranmer is Archbishop of Canterbury under Henry VIII, with whom, as a proponent of the king's sovereignty over the church, he has a good relationship. Cranmer is a key architect of the English Reformation and plays a role in the crafting of the Church of England's basic structure.<sup>11</sup>

**8. Anne Boleyn:**

Anne Boleyn is a daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn. She has served as a lady-in-waiting to the Archduchess of Netherlands and King Henry's sister, the French Queen Mary. She is known to have had love affairs before, but now has her eyes set on the crown. In the footsteps of King Henry's grandmother, Anne Boleyn is a staunch negotiator in the realms of love and otherwise. In addition, her family's reputation is on the rise, and she is a knight in their maneuvers to power.<sup>12</sup>

**9. Catharine of Aragon:**

Catharine of Aragon is the first daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. She is married in the name of political alliances to the late King Henry VII's eldest son, Arthur, but upon his death, her marriage to him is annulled by the Pope, alleged to have been unconsummated. She is then married to the King's younger brother, Henry VIII. Now, she is torn between countries and religions and is unable to produce a male heir to the

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9 Vioux, Marcelle. Encyclopedia Britannica, "Francis I."

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/216656/Francis-I>.

10 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Richard Rich, 1st Baron Rich."

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/502396/Richard-Rich-1st-Baron-Rich>.

11 Luminarium: Anthology of English Literature, "Thomas Cranmer."

<http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/cranmerbio.htm>.

12 BBC History, "Anne Boleyn." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/anne\\_boylen/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/anne_boylen/).

throne. Her distrust of King Henry's advisors simply adds to the many tensions present in her tangled relations in the British court and the arena of European politics as a whole.<sup>13</sup>

**10. Edward of Westminster:**

Edward of Westminster is Henry VII's uncle, and the Prince of Wales, thus representing Welsh political interests. He was not killed at the Battle of Tewkesbury. He survives, but his experiences in the war leave him scarred, and he chooses to quietly abdicate the throne of England, desiring to remain the Prince of Wales, into which position he pours himself into and becomes heavily invested.<sup>14</sup>

**11. Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham:**

In Henry VII's ascension to the Throne, Edward Stafford was granted Knighthood as the Duke of Buckingham when his predecessor was executed in the rebellion. With such a tumultuous upstart, Lord Buckingham has now become a staple member of the court in affairs involving ambassadors and foreign royals, including Francis I of France and Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. Always a favorite at weddings and jovial events, it is debated whether the Duke is most famous for his sartorial excesses, his jousting expertise, or his role on the King's Privy Council.<sup>15</sup>

**12. Thomas Howard:**

The third Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Howard is close to the King in that he is instrumental in the orchestration of his marriages to both Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. His son is Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey, who is a constant source of grief to his father who sometimes questions his son's loyalty to the crown—and he isn't the only one.<sup>16</sup>

**13. James V of Scotland:**

James V is a churchgoing, religious young Scot, specifically Catholic, with a healthy, working relationship with Pope Charles V. Before assuming control of the Scottish government, he was caught up in an inter-Scottish conflict between the pro-France and pro-England Scottish factions. When he ascends to power he finds himself more torn between the two than ever.<sup>17</sup>

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13 BBC History, "Catharine of Aragon." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/catherine\\_of\\_aragon/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/catherine_of_aragon/).

14 Griffiths, R.A. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, "Edward [of Westminster]." <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/printable/8524>.

15 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham." <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/82976/Edward-Stafford-3rd-duke-of-Buckingham>.

16 Encyclopedia Britannica, "Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk." <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/418134/Thomas-Howard-2nd-duke-of-Norfolk>.

17 Morrill, John S. Encyclopedia Britannica, "James V." <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/300055/James-V>.

**14. Pope Clement VII:**

Pope Clement VII's papal reign was dominated by the rise of Protestantism in the form of the Protestant Reformation and the conflict between France and the Holy Roman Empire. He is not a big fan of the prospect of the King's divorce. He represents the Catholic Church's interests. In fact, he personifies them.<sup>18</sup>

**15. Thomas Cromwell:**

Son of a blacksmith but rising above his 'lowly' birth, Thomas Cromwell worked through the political ranks to gain the ear of the King and, for a time, became one of the most influential politicians/advisers in Europe. Cardinal Wolsley was a very influential figure in his life, and in history, before the Cardinal's death, Cromwell worked hard to restore his good name. Cromwell was especially a key player in the crown's official break with the church.<sup>19</sup>

\*Additionally, the award-winning novels "Wolf Hall" and "Bring Up the Bodies," which feature Cromwell as the protagonist, are excellent character resources.

**16. "The Common Man":**

Besides the elites in their castles, the common man has an impact on the effectiveness of religious and political actions. This character, "the Common Man", is a representation of the middle and lower classes of the English domestic society. Common concerns for this archetypal character is keeping taxes and tithes low. Also, the introduction and imposition of new religious doctrines may be something this person would be either in favor of or in opposition to. Although historically a single villager might not have much clout in the game of swords and alters across Europe, this character, representing a critical mass, has a more powerful bargaining chip.

**Suggested Readings:**

*Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies*, Hilary Mantel.  
"A Man for All Seasons," Robert Bolt.  
*Henry VIII*, William Shakespeare.

**Additional Resources:**

A House of Tudor Family Tree.  
A Map of England, with Religions and Leaders.  
*A picture of your character would, also, not be out of order.*

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<sup>18</sup> Thurston, Herbert. The Catholic Encyclopedia, "Pope Clement VII."  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04024a.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> BBC History, "Thomas Cromwell." [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/thomas\\_cromwell](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/thomas_cromwell).

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**Topics to Consider:**

1. Henry VIII's divorce, and the split with the church.
  2. The possible union of England and Wales.
  3. England's financial issues, and the efforts of Parliament to legitimize itself as a governmental body.
- \* How would your character react to these issues? What stance would he or she take?

Best of luck to you all!