



# THE WAR OF THE ROSES

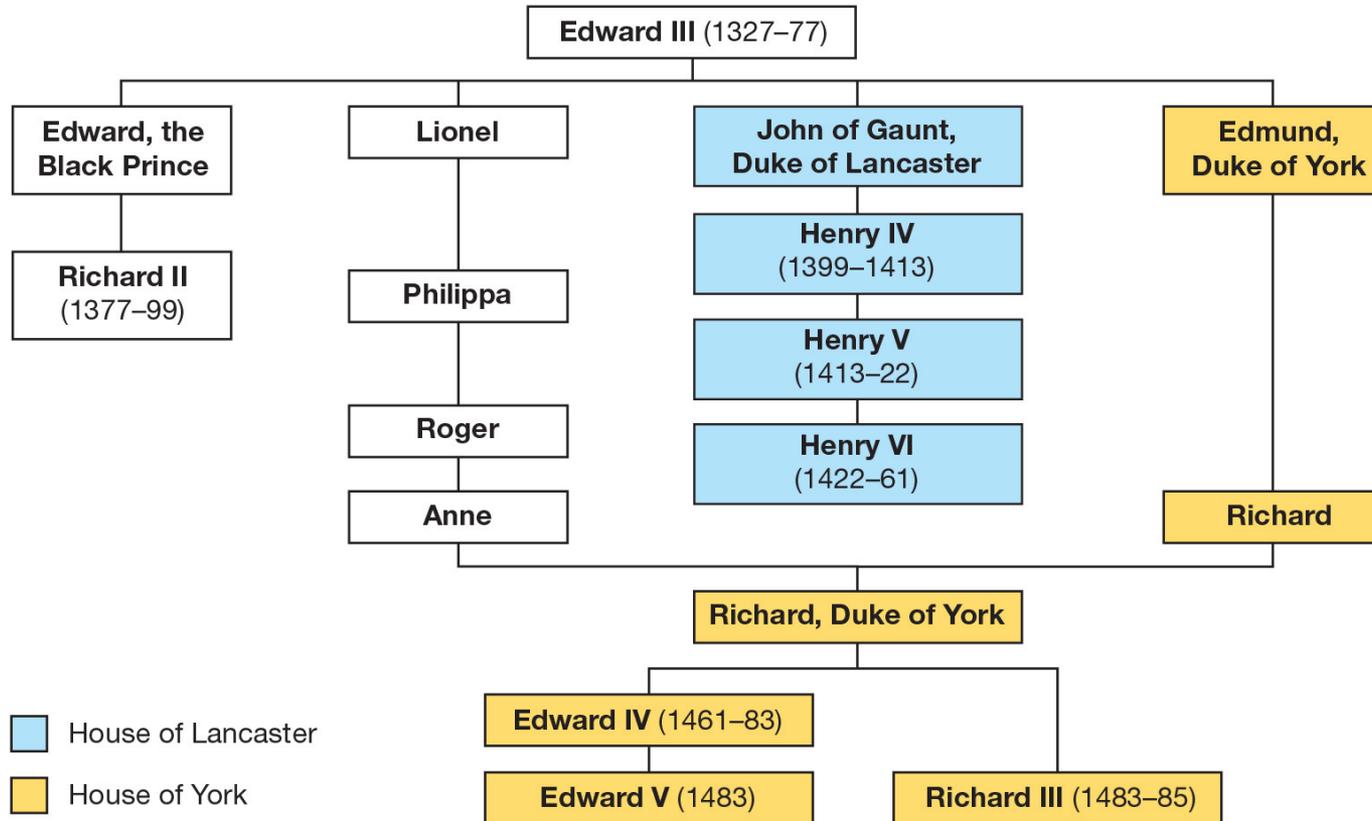
# ABOUT

- 1455 – 1485 in England
- It is a series of civil wars between two families – The Yorks and the Lancasters.



# The Two Families

## The Houses of Lancaster and York\*



\*Dates indicate years of reign

# THE HOUSE OF YORK

- They came from the royal family of Plantagenets
- The English Kings from the family of York were:
  1. Edward IV
  2. Edward V
  3. Richard III



# The House of Lancaster

- They came from the royal family of Plantagenets
- The English Kings from the family of Lancaster were:
  1. Henry IV
  2. Henry V
  3. Henry VI

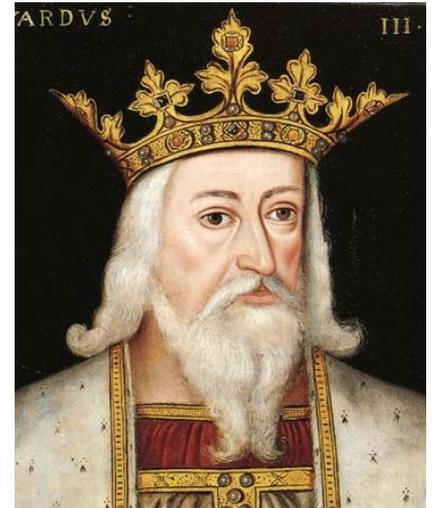


# The Battles



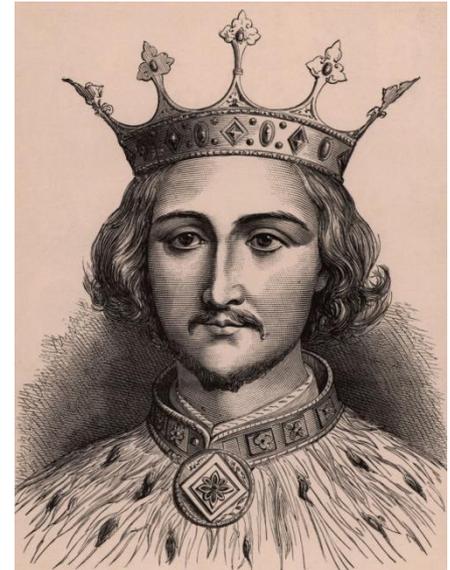
# The Beginnings

- When Edward III died in 1377, his heir was his 10 year-old grandson, Richard II.
- Decline of Monarchy
- Expenses of the Hundred Years War
- Increasing power of the House of Commons
- Powerful nobles



# Richard II

- Richard was handsome, cultured, and sensitive but no political sense.
- Between 1382 and 1386 Richard began to give to his personal friends:
  1. power
  2. titles
  3. estates
- A baronial council ruled England under the leadership of Richard's uncle, John of Gaunt.
- Demanded that Richard dismisses his royal favorites,
- Ruled only with the consent of Lords and Commons in Parliament.



# Richard II and Parliament

- ❑ Richard believed in the absolute rule of a king .
- ❑ He was determined to rule without requiring the consent of Parliament.
- ❑ The Merciless Parliament of 1388 appointed a council to rule with the King
- ❑ Marks the high point of parliamentary power and the low point of royal power in medieval England.
- ❑ In 1397, he ordered the arrest of the Lords Appellant, leaders of the opposition party.
- ❑ Thomas, Duke of Gloucester (Richard II's uncle) is murdered at Calais.
- ❑ For two years, Richard ruled without Parliament, angering the politically powerful barons and merchants.



- ❑ But when John of Gaunt died in 1399, Richard confiscated the lands of Gaunt's heir, Henry, Lord Bolingbroke, and exiled him.
- ❑ Most of the barons felt this was too much.
- ❑ John of Gaunt had remained faithful, and if his lands were not safe, no one's lands were.
- ❑ Henry Bolingbroke returned from exile at the head of an army:
  1. captured Richard,
  2. summoned a Parliament
  3. forced Richard's abdication.
- ❑ Henry Bolingbroke claimed the throne through right of descent, conquest, and Richard's faulty government.
- ❑ By choosing to remove Richard through act of Parliament, Henry set an important precedent.





# Henry IV - Henry V



- Henry IV weak king.
- Opportunity for Parliament to gain power.
- Commons refused taxes unless Henry agreed.
  1. to select his councilors from Parliament,
  2. to govern with their advice,
  3. to allow Commons to appoint auditors to oversea the crowns expenditures.
- Henry V came to the throne in 1413, at the age of 25.
- He was, Shakespeare wrote, the mirror of all Christian Kings.
- He ruled with firmness and justice and with the advice and consent of Parliament.

# Henry V in France

- In 1415, Henry V invaded France to regain all the territory his ancestors had lost.
- At the Battle of Agincourt on Oct. 25, 1415, an outnumbered English army defeated a French force five times larger. 5000 Frenchmen died, including 3 dukes, 5 counts, and 90 barons. The English lost 300 men.
- By the Treaty of Troyes, 1420, Henry V married the sister of Charles VI of France, Catherine of Valois.
- Henry was also acknowledged as the heir to the French king.
- But Henry died only two years later, in 1422, leaving a 9-month-old son as his heir.
- Joan of Arc (the Maid of Orleans) inspired the French to withstand the English armies. Although she was ultimately captured, sold to the English, and burned as a witch, Joan turned the tide of war in favor of the French.



# Henry VI

- During the reign of Henry VI, the power of the English monarchy reached its lowest point.
- Henry VI grew up as a pious, sensitive recluse, with little capacity for politics or governing.
- Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou.
- The York faction was led by Richard, Duke of York, and his son Edward.
- When Richard died at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, his son Edward became the leader of the York forces.
- The Lancaster faction was led by Queen Margaret of Anjou and Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset (a descendent of John of Gaunt through his third marriage).





# Edward IV



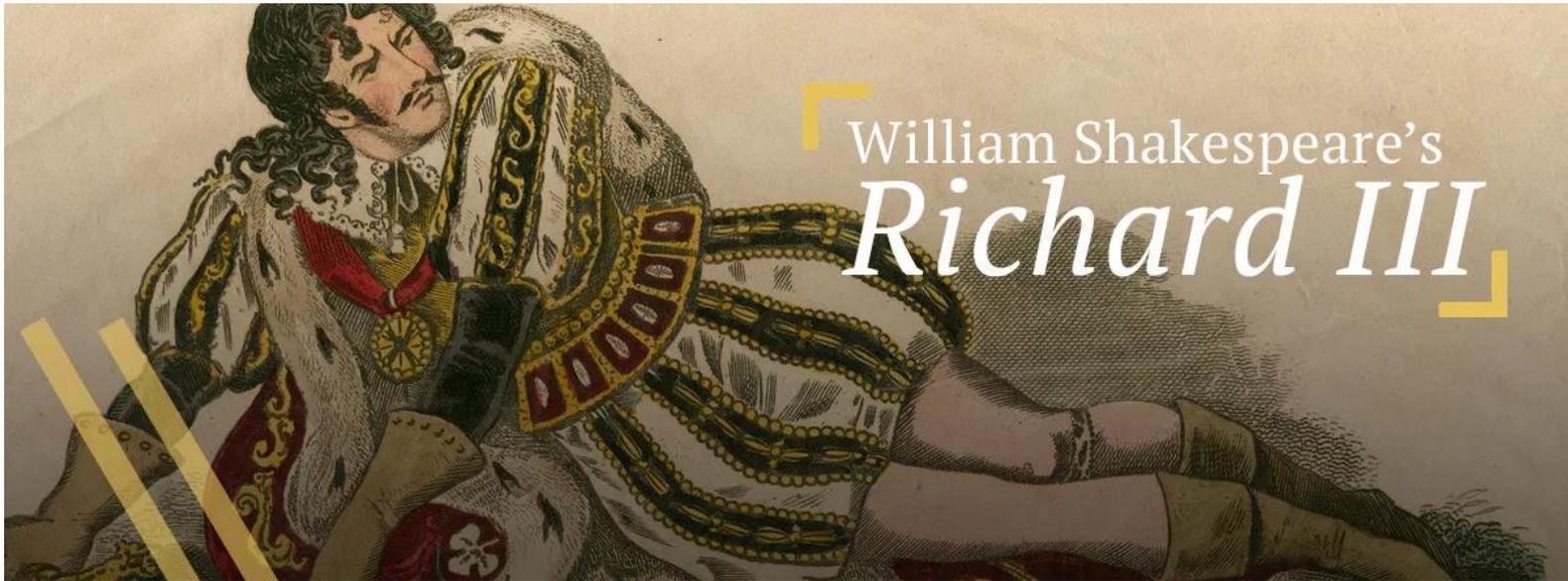
- Edward was proclaimed king in 1461.
- In 1464 Edward married Elizabeth Woodville, a widow with two sons. The marriage so infuriated Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, that he turned against Edward.
- In alliance with Margaret of Anjou, he forced Edward to flee England and put Henry VI back on the throne.
- Henry VI's re-adoption as King did not last long. Edward quickly raised a large army in the Netherlands and defeated and killed the Earl of Warwick.
- From 1471 to his death in 1483, Edward ruled England without challenge.

# The End of the War

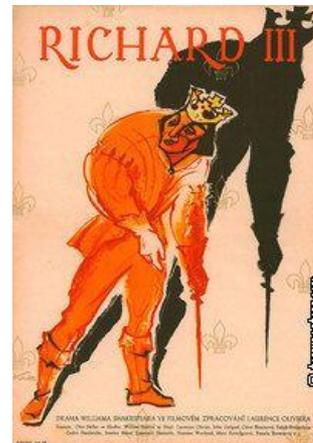
- Edward V succeeded his father.
- Only few days on the throne
- His father was already married (maybe) considered bastard as marriage illegitimate.
- Edward IV's brother Richard III ascends to the throne.
- He kills his nephews
- He is killed by Henry, Earl of Richmond at the battle of Bosworth .
- Henry becomes king.

# Richard III

- Shakespeare tells us he had a crookback.
- Most of the evidence for Richard's villainy comes from later Tudor historians.



# Richard III on stage and screen



# The End

