



THE WAR OF THE ROSES

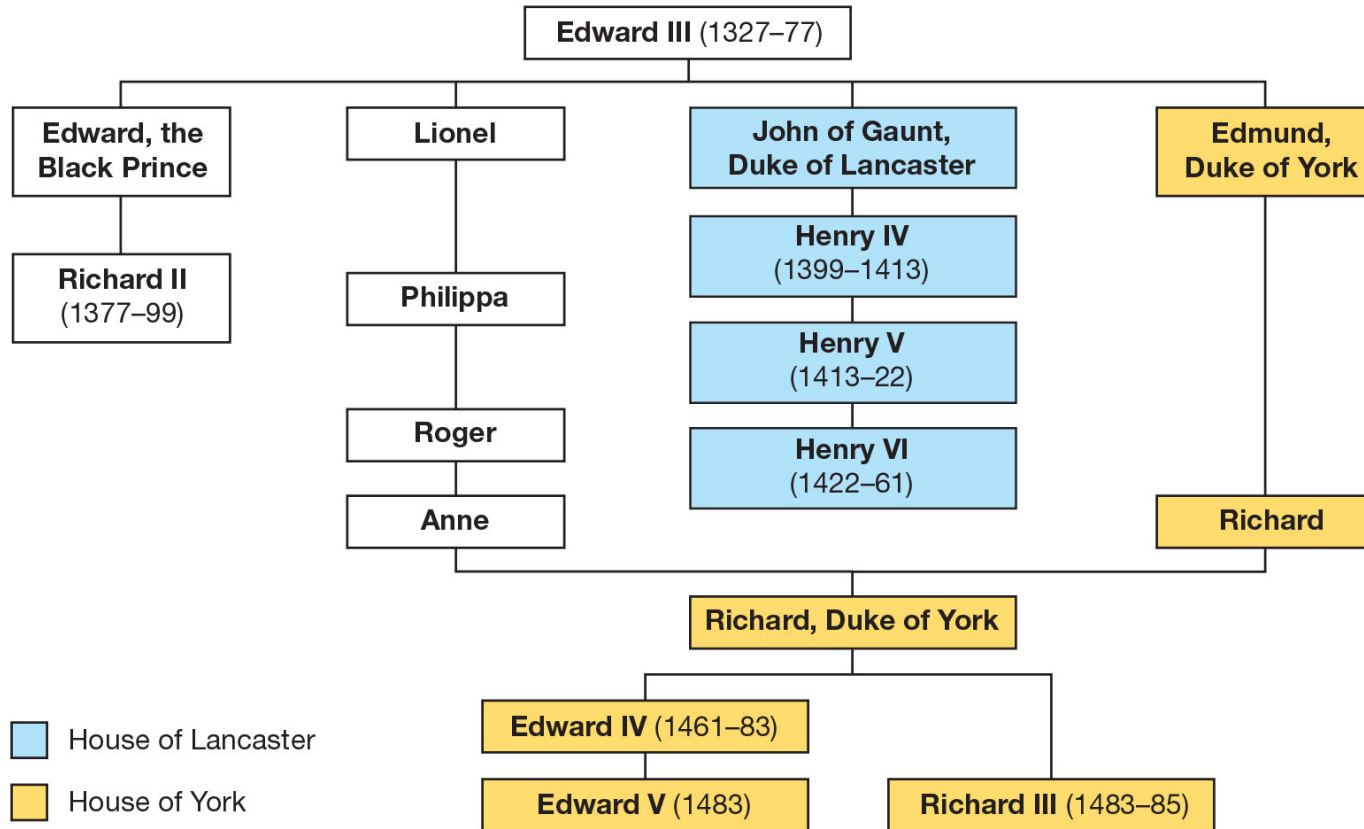
ABOUT

- 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

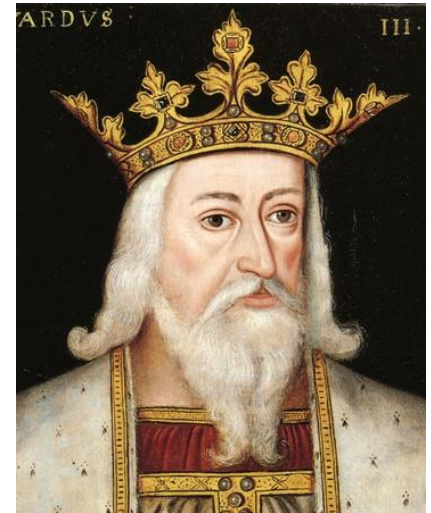


The Battles



The Beginnings

- When Edward III died in 1377, his heir was his 10 year-old grandson, Richard II.
- Under his reign:
 1. Monarchy **declines**
 2. The power of the House of Commons **increases.**

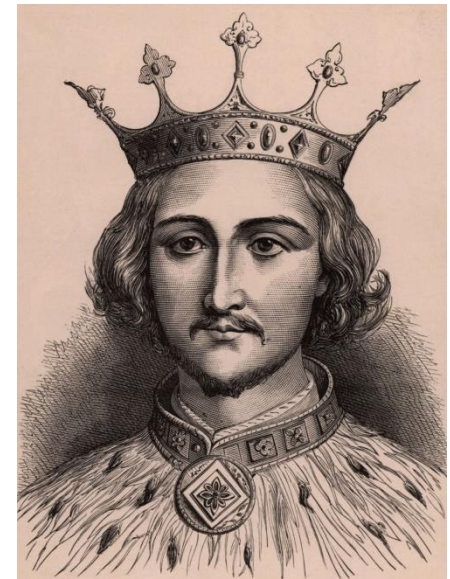


Richard II

- Richard had no political sense.
- Between 1382 and 1386 he began to give to his personal friends:
 1. power
 2. titles
 3. Estates

HENCE

- A baronial council was created whose leader was Richard's uncle: John of Gaunt. These were the requests:
 1. Dismissal of Richard's royal favorites,
 2. Ruling **only** with the consent of Parliament.



This event marks the **highest** point of **parliamentary power** and the **lowest** point of **royal power** in medieval England.

Richard II and Parliament

- In 1397, Richard ordered the arrest of the leaders of the opposition party.
- Thomas, Duke of Gloucester (Richard II's uncle) was murdered at Calais.
- For two years, Richard **ruled without Parliament**, angering the politically powerful barons and merchants.



The Victory of Parliament

- When John of Gaunt died in 1399, Richard :
 1. confiscated the lands of Gaunt's heir, Henry, Lord Bolingbroke,
 2. exiled him.
- Most of the barons felt this was too much.
- If John of Gaunt's lands were not safe, no 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.
 4. claimed the throne



The removal of Richard through act of Parliament marks an important precedent.



Henry IV - Henry V



- Henry IV was a weak king.
- Opportunity for Parliament to gain power.
- Commons refused taxes unless Henry agreed.
 1. to select his councillors from Parliament,
 2. to govern with their advice,
 3. to allow Commons to appoint auditors to oversee the crown's 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, the English army defeated a French force five times larger.
- 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 he 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 and 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



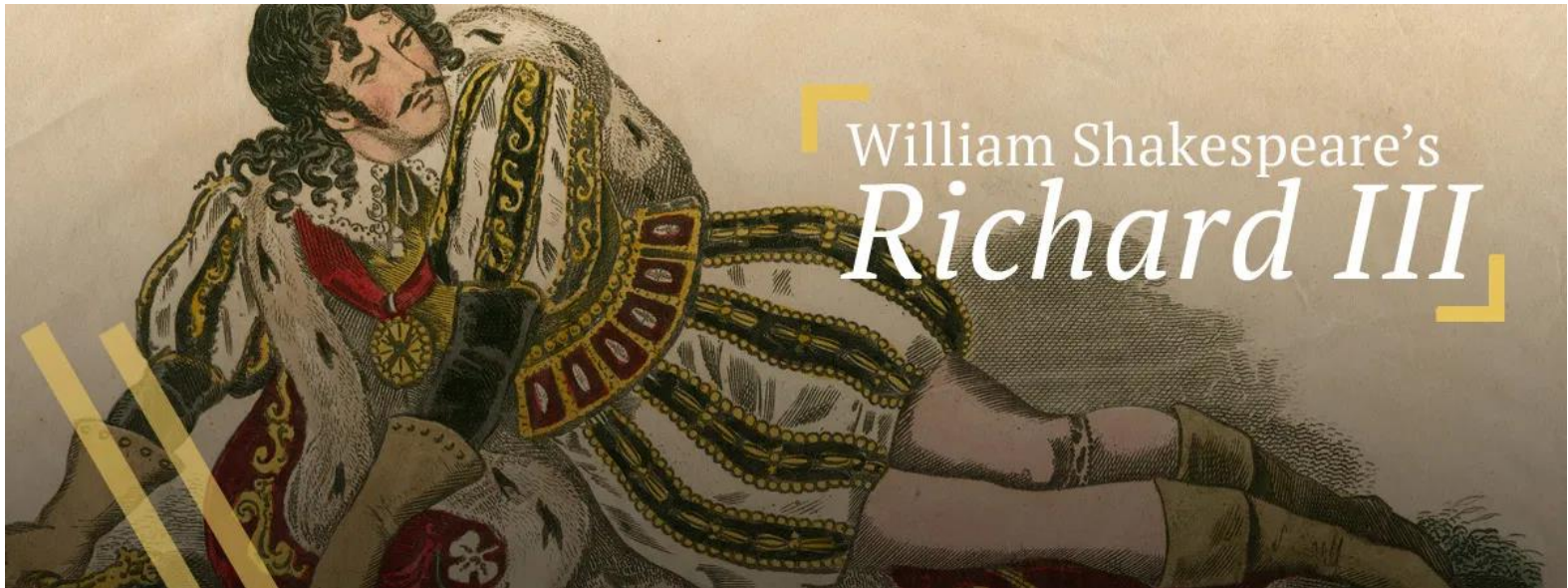
- Edward was proclaimed king in 1461.
- In 1464 Edward married Elizabeth Woodville, a widow with two sons. The marriage so infuriated Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, that he turned against Edward.
- In alliance with Margaret of Anjou, Richard forced Edward to flee England and put Henry VI back on the throne.
- Henry VI did not last long as king. 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.
- 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

