

Before and After Bosworth

1. Introduction: the Battle of Bosworth, 1485
 - a. Henry Twdr or Tudor a (bastard) Lancastrian, the descendant of John of Gaunt
 - b. Henry Tudor lands at Milford Haven in 1485: an usurper?
 - c. 1485, not kingship but legitimacy that needed to be restored
 - d. The Story so far (rehash of week 2)
 - i. 800 B.C. Celts, originally from central Europe, conquer Southern England
 - ii. 450-600 A.D. Anglo-Saxons, but also Jutes, Frisians, etc., invade
 - iii. 7th cent. A.D. Anglo-Saxon kingdoms Christianized
 - iv. 871-899 King Alfred of Wessex and the Reconquest of the Danelaw
 - v. 1016-1035 King Cnut and the Danes
 - vi. Norman invasions?
 - (1) 1042-1066 Edward the Confessor
 - (2) 1066 Harold
 - (3) 1066-1087 William the Conqueror
 - vii. Angevin/Plantagenet
 - (1) 1154-1189 Henry II
 - (2) 1199-1216 King John
2. The Roots of the Wars of the Roses I: the inheritance of the 13th and 14th centuries
 - a. officially, the Wars of the Roses (1453-71, or -1485, or even -1509) were struggle between descendants of Edward III
 - i. Edward I (1272-1307)
 - (1) English nationalism and Celtic Fringe: Prince of Wales, Stone of Scone
 - ii. Edward II (1307-27)
 - (1) Weakness and baronial council
 - iii. Edward III (1327-77)
 - (1) Chivalry and 100 Years' War for French claim
 - (2) Interruption of the Black Death
3. The Roots of the Wars of the Roses II: Crisis of Monarchy in the 14th and early 15th centuries
 - a. The sons of the (many) sons of Edward III
 - i. Richard II (1377-99)
 - ii. Henry IV (1399-1413)
 - iii. Henry V (1413-22)
 - iv. Henry VI (1422-61, longest minority reign in history of Britain)
 - b. Wars of the Roses: Causes
 - i. the myth: White Rose, badge of House of York; Red Rose, badge of House of Lancaster
 - ii. loss of opportunities and loss of faith caused by end of French claim and 100 Years War
 - iii. Multitude and power of great magnates
 - iv. Weak claim of the Lancastrians
 - v. Bastard Feudalism
4. War and Faction
 - a. pre-1453: Open War preceded by Jack Cade's Rebellion in 1450, a popular rising in Kent
 - i. poor joining the rebellion in opposition to the Statute of Laborers
 - ii. but rebels not just the poor
 - b. 1453, the first open conflict between Yorkist and Lancastrians, also a year of complications
 - i. loss of most of French possessions
 - c. 1454-9
 - i. 1456-59, Henry VI regains sanity (2nd time) and power; York and followers flee into exile
 - d. 1460-61
 - i. 1461, Yorkists defeat Lancastrians at battle of Mortimer's Cross. In March, Edward, 19-year old son of duke of York, enters London and proclaims himself, King Edward IV.
 - ii. Edward defeats Lancastrians again in the north at battle of Towton; Henry VI flees to

- Scotland, but four years later (1465) is imprisoned in the Tower; Lancastrian rule ends
5. Yorkist rule, 1461-85
 - a. Duke of York proclaimed Edward IV, Parliament proclaims him legitimate successor to Richard II
 - b. Continuation of disorder in countryside, at least until 1471
 - c. From 1471, Edward IV works to strengthen his position and monarchy
 - i. allowed Henry VI to die in 1471
 - ii. reversed the trend of giving large land grants to favorites
 - iii. worked with Parliament to ensure taxes and customs revenues
 - iv. threatened war with France, but refused to get bogged down in costly continental war
 - v. strengthened royal bureaucratic power
 6. Lessons of the Wars of the Roses?
 - a. Aristocratic factions could disintegrate into private warfare under a weak King.
 - i. Country desired and found a succession of strong kings; but Kings needed noble factions.
 - b. Make sure there is a strong heir to the throne of age to succeed.
 - i. Edward IV's son, Edward V, was only 12, obviously open to control by the Woodvilles.
 - ii. Edward's uncle, Richard III, seized power.
 - iii. Henry Twdr, son of a Welsh knight—and claimant to Gaunt's Lancastrian line through an illegitimate line—and Beaufort's heiress, lands with an army and in Wales in 1485.
 7. Lancastrian Kingship Restored
 - a. Henry VII's victory and usurpation threatened to revive the anarchy of the Wars of the Roses
 - i. Yorkist opposition remained
 - b. Strengthened dubious claim to throne by marrying Elizabeth of York, sister to Edward V.
 - c. Yorkist groom a series of Pretenders to the throne.
 - i. 1487, Yorkist groom Lambert Simnel, a trader's son, to be the Earl of Warwick.
 - ii. 1490s, Yorkists try again with Perkin Warbeck, who impersonated Richard "IV" (dead).
 - iii. 1490s, a new fake Earl of Warwick arose.
 - d. If Henry VII secure in his claim to the throne by 1500, what power did the throne have?
 - i. Wars of the Roses had seen growth of aristocratic power and violence
 - ii. Henry VII also needed money: it will turn out that raising money was Henry's forte
 - iii. Henry VII also not afraid to increase taxes.
 - iv. direct taxation (property taxes) not used much because of need to call Parliament
 - v. Benevolences (forced loans) hit rich
 - vi. feudal "taxes"?
 - vii. Henry's financial rapaciousness by Henry's own historian, Polydore Vergil
 8. Henry VII to Henry VIII: the assessment of the first 50 years of the Tudors.
 - a. Henry VII was successful in consolidating his rule. But,
 - i. He made it appear that his major purpose was not to revive justice and suppress violence, but to raise money; and
 - b. Henry's younger son Henry, acceded to the throne easily at the age of 18, to the spectacle of much feasting, dancing, and rejoicing at Henry VIII's accession.
 - i. Henry VIII arrested his father's advisors—Richard Empson and Edward Dudley. In 1510, executed them on trumped up charges.
 - ii. Henry VIII also decided in the first two days of his rule to marry his brother's widow—Catherine of Aragon—seven years older than himself.
 - c. Henry VIII was the darling of the new humanist intellectuals and of the noble class
 - i. War and play-acting
 - d. The anarchy of the 15th century had two central causes
 - i. the anarchy of the barons
 - ii. the distress caused by pretensions to the French throne.