

# The War of the Roses

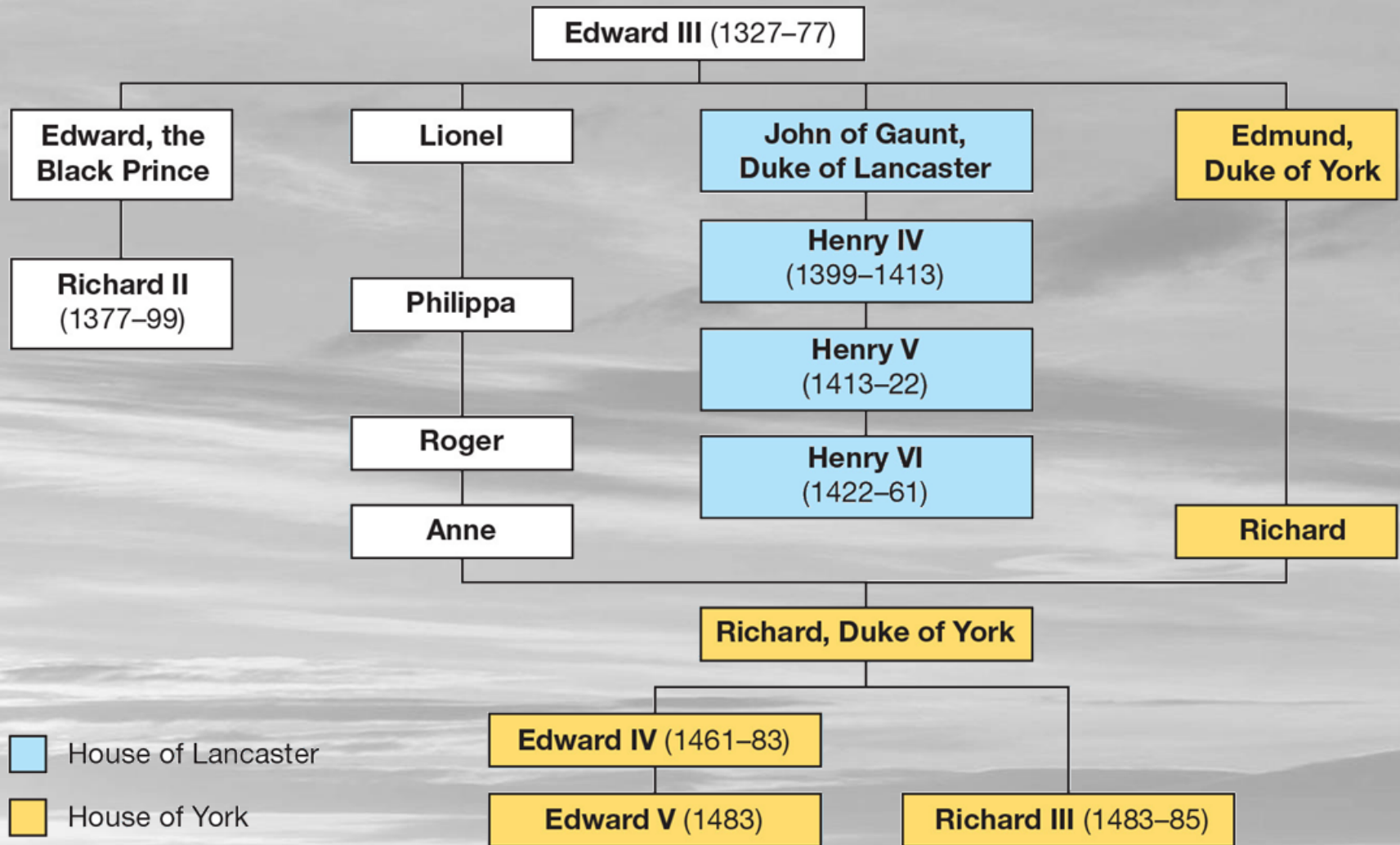


# *What is it?*

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



### 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*

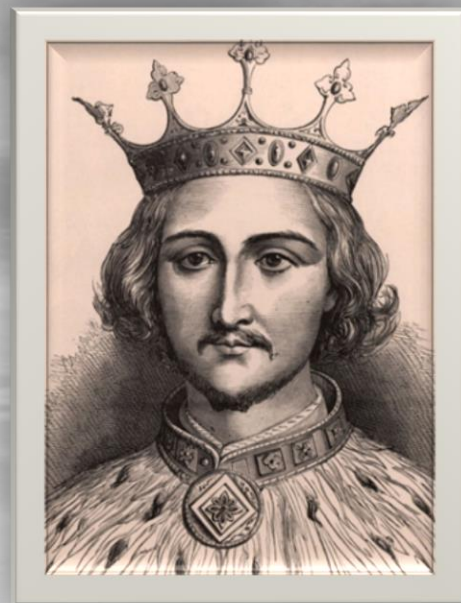


- Richard had no political sense.
- Between 1382 and 1386 he began to give to his personal friends:

1. power
2. titles
3. Estates

## *HENCE*

- A baronial council was created to demand:
  1. The dismissal of Richard's royal favorites,
  2. Ruling **only** with the consent of Parliament.



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







# *Richard II and Parliament*

- In 1397, Richard ordered the arrest of the leaders of the opposition party.
- For two years Richard **ruled without Parliament** angering the politically powerful **barons and merchants**



# *The Victory of Parliament*

- After many vicissitudes and injustices , Henry Bolingbroke ( a relation of Richard) 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 IV** was a weak king.
- Opportunity for Parliament to gain power.



# Henry V



- *Henry V* came to the throne in 1413, at the age of 25.
- He ruled with firmness and justice and with **the advice and consent** of Parliament.
- He won over the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415
- He died in 1422, leaving a 9-month-old son as his heir.
- Joan of Arc inspired the French to withstand the English armies and turned the tide of war in favor of the French





# Henry VI



- The power of monarchy reached its lowest point.
- *Henry VI* had little capacity for politics or governing.
- Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou.
- The Battle of Wakefield in 1460 was won by *Edward*, the leader of the York forces, while Henry's wife was the leader of the Lancaster forces.





# 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.





# Edward V



- *Edward V* succeeded his father.
- Only few days on the throne.
- He was imprisoned with his brother Richard in the Tower and eventually murdered on their uncle Richard's order.





# Richard III



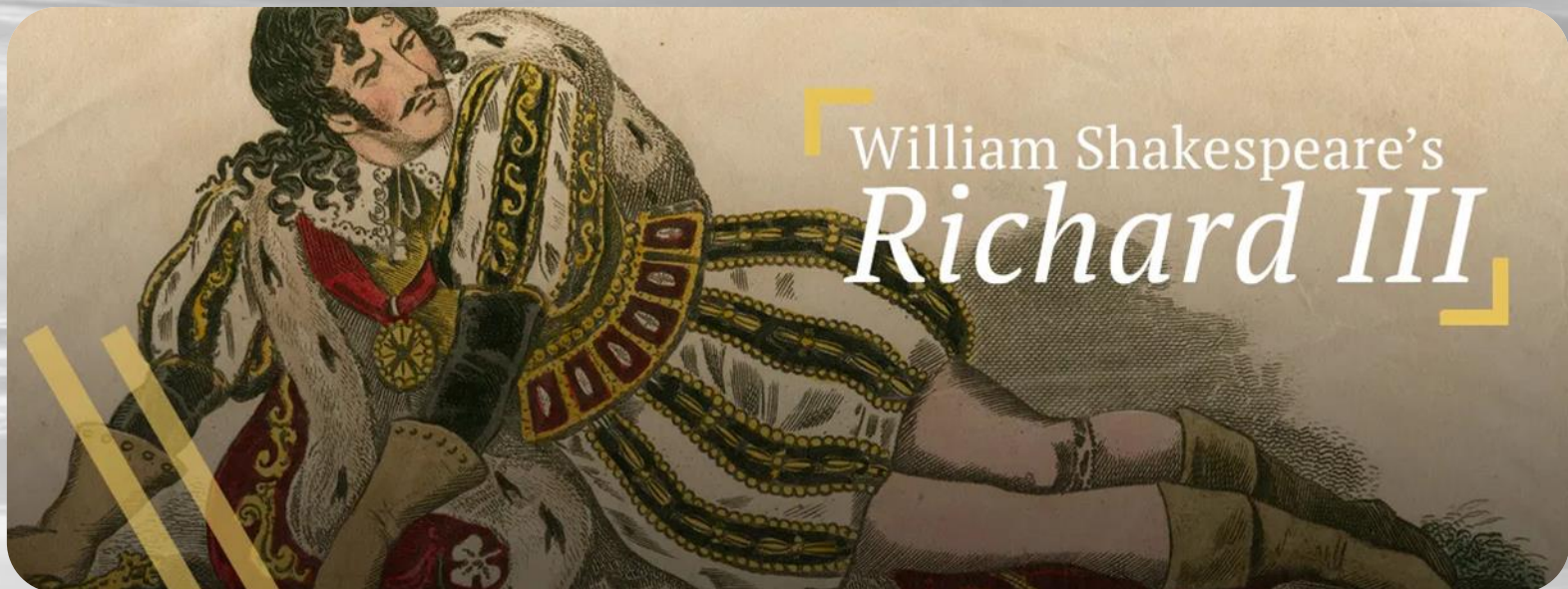
- Richard becomes king.
- He is killed by *Henry*, Earl of Richmond at the battle of Bosworth .
- Henry becomes king putting an end to the War of the Roses.





# *Richard III*

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



# *The End*

