

The Ursuline School Model United Nations Conference

The Battle of The Queens

Background Guide

Meet Crisis

Hello delegates!

My name is Nuala Reynolds and I am excited to welcome you all to TUSMUNC IV and the Battle of the Queens Crisis conference. While a pandemic is unusual circumstances for a conference to operate in, and the usage of zoom for MUN is somewhat novel, this conference has been worked on for hours to ensure that it will go well, and I trust that it will.

To give some background information on myself, I am a Junior at Ursuline and will be working as the crisis director for this committee, while returning delegates to this conference may remember me working in TUSMUNC II as a crisis in the Ragnarok Committee. As well as in TUSMUNC III, where I chaired the Harry Potter Committee. Overall, this is my fifth year in Participating in Model UN, and over the years I have worked in a number of conferences, which translates to a lot of experience to put into this committee.

When I am not involved in MUN however, I am known for being the president of Ursuline's Philosophy Club, as well as playing an active role in the Mock Trial club, and if not, showing pictures of my dog to people!

To elaborate a bit more on the committee however, this is based on historically accurate events, but delegates are highly encouraged to take it upon themselves to change the direction of history through their actions. Due to this being a historical committee, feel free to do as much outside research as any delegate deems necessary, with there being a number of available sources because of this topic's importance in 16th century Western history. To clarify as well, this committee is set to take place in 1565, where many major events are on the brink of occurring, but can still be diverted by delegates if they try. Regardless, I hope you all have a brilliant time

during this and learn something new, whether about history or about debate skills, and please remember to reach out if you have any questions!

Nuala Reynolds '23, Crisis Director

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Hi delegates!!

My name is Amanda Erlichman and I am a junior at Ursuline and I've been involved in MUN for 2 years. Outside of MUN I have been on the Ursuline Cheerleading team for three years and I also do martial arts and boxing outside of school. I'm so sad that I can't make it to the conference but Nuala and I worked hard on this committee and we both really hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Amanda Erlichman '23, Crisis Simulator

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Hi delegates! My name is Theresa and I am a freshman here at Ursuline. This is my first year in MUN and at Ursuline, and I am so excited to participate in TUSMUNC IV. I am your crisis analyst for Battle of the Queens. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, especially classics, and I also ski and sail competitively. I'm so excited to see everyone at the conference and good luck!

Theresa Montana '25, Crisis Analyst

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Background

The 1400's and 1500's were a time of massive uproar both in global and English politics, with royalty, flaws and all, playing a persistent part and religion also contributing heavily. Henry VIII held a massive part in the conflict between Elizabeth I and Mary of Scots, and he was very well known for his six marriages throughout his life which resulted in his eleven children, and these marriages had lasting ramifications. During his first marriage, Henry VIII tried to have his marriage, with Cathrine of Aragon, annulled, causing a disagreement with Pope Clement VII. This disagreement with the pope caused Henry to initiate the English Reformation and appoint himself Supreme Head of the Church of England. Henry then used his position to dissolve convents and monasteries which then resulted in his excommunication. During King Henry VIII's reign he made very radical changes to the English Constitution, like introducing the theory of the Divine Right of Kings for example. Using the royal power that he had expanded, Henry charged many people for treason and heresy without a proper trial. Anyone during this time that fell out of his favour was often executed or banished immediately because of the power he appointed himself. Among his other notable actions was putting England in a state of financial ruin, as well as participating in many expensive wars with King Frances I of France, Holy Roman Emperor V, King James V of Scotland and the Scottish regency, which didn't help the financial state England was in.

By the time the mid-1500's roll around, Henry VIII has been out of power for the reignship of three rulers, but his influence has not faded, something that can primarily be seen through the battle for the English throne between two competitors, Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. While Henry VIII did have a lot of trouble with heirs, he did manage to create three,

Edward I, who reigned until 1553 at his death, Mary I, the daughter of his first wife who reigned until 1558, and Elizabeth I, the daughter of his second wife. Once the two previous heirs died, Elizabeth I rose to the throne and her parentage quickly caused problems. As the marriage between Henry VIII and Boleyn had never been certified by the Catholic Church and thus amounted to an affair in their eyes, the Protestant Elizabeth was considered by many to be an illegitimate ruler by Catholics. This proved an opening for Mary, Queen of Scots, the daughter of James V of Scotland and the great-granddaughter of Henry VII, as she was considered by many to be the true heir to the throne both due to her belief in Catholicism and her lack of potentially illegitimate claim. As various figures in England decide which ruler to support and while the two queens gather allies and try to cement their claim to the throne, 1565 looms on.

Catholic vs. Protestants:

Just as the two queens battle for supremacy over the English throne, an even bigger conflict envelopes Europe, one of deciding the religion of the English, whether it be Catholicism or Protestantism. Ever since the Protestant Revolution flooded Europe in the 1520's, there has been consistent fighting between Catholics and Protestants over which section of Christianity should flourish in Europe, and England and Scotland are far from exempt from that fight. In 1526, when the first complete English Bible in print was published, many common people had new access to a Bible and had joined the Protestant Revolution, leaving Catholicism. England was one of the first places that had these printed Bibles and very quickly the Protestant doctrines had started to challenge the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics and Protestants quickly had a lot

of belief issues with one another because of the different ways each side believes the Bible should be interpreted. Things got worse once King Henry VIII decided to separate England from the Catholic Church due to personal issues with Pope Clement VII.

Now that the Pope had diminished control over what happened in England, Protestantism spread throughout England. Henry VIII designed the Church of England of which he was the leader. Any Protestant that threatened his church was threatened because he tried to keep the practices relatively the same as that of the ones before. When Queen Mary I of England was put in the throne, she executed many Protestants, but it only made more people join the revolution after seeing the resolve of those who continued to practice. Queen Elizabeth, on the other hand, did not attempt as much persecution, though her laws were far from above the harming of Catholics. Previous to her reign however, the Queen before her had imprisoned her for a year, on suspicion that she was consorting with Protestant rebels. The Queen also didn't believe that Catholics and Protestants should fight with each other because she thought they were of the same fundamental faith. "There is only one Christ, Jesus, one faith," she said.

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth's religion was a central focus of both allies and enemies. As Catholic based extremists grew, public opinion shifted against them and she punished Catholicism harshly. Many wanted her to strip the church of certain Catholic traditions and move into a more Protestant direction, but the Queen had very little sympathy for the Protestant extremists either, with persecution being common for both types of extremists. With her church being Protestant, Catholicism became the minority of her realm. On the other hand, Queen Mary of the Scots was devoutly Catholic, and quickly became seen as a Catholic hero in the eyes of her supporters. During this time period, the Catholic Reformation was also taking place, in which the Church was making moves against Protestantism through the changing of

laws, increased focus on Priest's literacy and knowledge of the Bible, and doubling down on certain Catholic values that Protestants were generally against, such as displays of saints and Mary the Mother of God in Churches. In this fast-paced time, where two sections of Christianity were in heavy tension with each other and constant changes were being made on both sides, Catholics generally liked the idea of a Catholic monarch. Overall, religion was instrumental in the politics of the era, and the conflicting faiths of the two monarchs was the cause of fights and many questions.

Future & Current Lineage:

Religion was not the only important factor in British and Scottish politics at the time, with lineage and questions of legitimacy being just as important. To expand on this, an heir to the throne could only be considered for said throne if they were the legitimate child of the previous ruler, with legitimacy being decided by whether or not the child's parents were married. As was mentioned in a previous paragraph, Henry VIII had multiple wives and the original divorce that led to this was not seen as allowed in the eyes of the Catholic Church, and so the king created his own church so as to allow him to divorce his first wife. Depending on whether a person was Catholic or Protestant, his later marriages, and any children that came with them, namely Elizabeth I, were either legitimate or illegitimate. Thus, a crisis was bound to happen when Elizabeth rose to the English throne, especially as Queen Mary of Scots also had direct and legitimate claims to royal heritage, even from the Catholic point of view. This is because Mary was the child of King James II of Scotland and Mary of Guise, making her the great grandchild

of King Henry II, with Henry VIII being her great uncle and Elizabeth her cousin. These connections to the English throne made her a strong contestant to Elizabeth, even if her claim was not as direct as Elizabeth's was.

Further complicating the situation was the questions at the time of whose lineage should be used to establish the line to the throne from this point on. To the Scottish and Catholic nobles, Queen Mary was seen as a potential way to gather power in the Scottish throne, or to reestablish England as Catholic. On the other hand, with Queen Elizabeth, the Tudor family of which she was a part of, had been going for several centuries at that point, and was seen as the norm at that point, while also being a way to keep Protestantism in England. Lineage and Legitimacy are focal points within the conflict between the two claims to the English throne, with most everyone having an opinion on where each ruler should stand.

Positions:

Mary Queen of Scots - Queen of Scotland who ascended to the throne after her mother's death as a child, spent a significant amount of childhood in France, which further cemented her stance as a Catholic. She is currently married to Lord Darnely, which happened within the past few months.

Queen Elizabeth I - Queen of England as well as the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was raised Protestant and held the position of the Head of the Church of England. Notably, she has not married nor shown any inclination towards marriage, despite offers from other heads of states.

Lord Darnely - husband of Queen Mary and thus is the King consort of Scotland, in addition to being the heir apparent to the Earl of Lennox, a district in Scotland. He also had family ties to Henry VII of England and James II of Scotland, which secured him connections to both the English and Scottish Throne.

Catherine de' Medici - Former Regent of France up until 1563, mother of Charles IX, is known for being extremely influential in French politics and culture, and was married to King Henry II of France before his death in 1559.

James Hepburn - Fourth earl of Bothwell, and a very prominent noble, both through his birth and his connections in marriage to Anna Thronsen, the daughter of a Norwegian Admiral. He

also held the title of Lord High Admiral of Scotland, an important naval position in the aforementioned country.

John Knox - Important Protestant figure at the time who staunchly opposed Mary due to her devoutness to Catholicism, and had a heavy impact on the Church of England as well as Protestantism in England as a whole..

James Stewart - 1st Earl of Moray and the illegitimate son of James V, making him the half-brother of Queen Mary and part of the House of Stewart. He was also known as a devout Protestant, being a proud supporter of the Scottish Reformation and was one of the chief advisors to his half-sister after her return to Scotland.

James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh- A known supporter of Queen Mary, was born near Clyde Valley in Scotland to a noble family under the name of Hamilton, and later married Isobel Sinclear, the daughter of a noble family well known for working under James V of Scotland, who was Queen Mary's father.

Philip II of Spain - King of Spain, was married to the previous Queen of England before Elizabeth's rise to the throne, Was allied with Elizabeth but later turned against her and considered Mary's claim to the throne to be legitimate

David Riccio - Secretary of Queen Mary who helped arrange her marriage to Lord Darnely and was a close correspondent of hers. His family was well known in Italy for its power and ancient

lineage, and first came to Scotland in 1561, where he caught the attention of Queen Mary and quickly rose the ranks.

William Kirkcaldy - Leader of Scottish Protestants during Mary's reign, staunchly opposed Mary after her marriage, and worked a secret agent during the 1550's against France, which he started due to being allegedly involved in the murder of Cardinal Beaton and getting discovered and arrested in France, where he enlisted in the army as a spy. During this period, he served as a double agent against France for Britain.

Charles IX of France - King of France, was ruler during the massacre of Vassy, during which Huguenots were murdered by soldiers of an aristocrat in 1562, rose to the throne in 1560 with his mother as regent and came to be a king in his own right in 1563.

William Maitland of Lethington - A Scottish politician and ambassador sent from Scotland to England on behalf of Mary to present the case of her being a potential heir to the English throne, and is prized for his knowledge of political affairs, both within and outside of the state of England.

William Cecil - The 1st Baron of Burghley, as well as the primary chief advisor to Queen Elizabeth. Also held the position of the Secretary of State, both from 1550 to 1553 and from 1558 to the current day, and was a member of the Church of England.

Ralph Sadler - A previous Secretary of State to Henry VIII, who has regained much of his positions in the rule of Queen Elizabeth that he lost during Queen Mary I's rule. Also served as an ambassador to Scotland and currently works under Queen Elizabeth's government.

Archibald Campbell - Held a major part of Scottish politics during Mary's rule and a close friend to James Stewart, becoming a devout Protestant with him. Also played a large role in the creation of the Treaty of Edinburgh in 1560, earning himself political prestige.

Lady Jean Stewart - Illegitimate daughter of King James V of Scotland, and was brought up in Mary of Guise's household for a period as a child. Later married Archibald Campbell, and was a friend of Queen Mary.

Thomas Randolph - English Ambassador under Queen Elizabeth, who spent the majority of his work in Scotland, during which he participated in the courts of Queen Mary. Here he continuously worked to help Elizabeth gain footholds in Scotland and help ease tensions between the two nations.

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