

Olli Spring 2017

**English History from the Wars of the Roses to the Act of Union
(15th to 18th Centuries)**

The text used (again) is Clayton Roberts, et al. *A History of England, Vol. 1 (5th edition)* Please note this edition is much less expensive and as good as the 6th edition

March 28 (Week 1): The Wars of the Roses, Chapter 8

In this first day of the class, we shall consider the colorfully named Wars of the Roses and their consequences for the English Monarchy. In the main, there will be an emphasis on both the usurpation of Henry IV from the last Plantagenet, Richard II, and its consequences as well as the rise and fall of everyone's favorite villain, King Richard III.

April 4 (Week 2): The Tudor Monarchy and Henry VII, Chapter 9

The first Tudor has been described in many ways, some complimentary and others not so much. In our second session, we shall describe Henry's goals and aims for his kingdom as well as his dynasty and assess the results he enjoyed during his reign. The specific areas of concern will be his schemes to eliminate all his enemies as well as his efforts to strengthen his family's hold on the English throne. Specifically, of course, we shall consider the rise of the future Henry VIII and the sad story that preceded him.

April 11 (Week 3): Henry VIII and Edward VI, Chapters 10, 11

In this class, we shall consider the infamous monarch and his son as each rules England. We shall pay attention to the changes in Parliament as well as the English Church as we note Henry's marital issues, and his six wives and three legitimate children. As we turn to the brief reign of Edward VI, we shall note the radical shifts in the direction of the faith as well as the royal politics swirling around the young ill-fated monarch.

April 18 (Week 4): Mary and Elizabeth, Chapters 11, 12

This class is devoted to the reigns of these two most famous female English rulers. From restored Catholicism to moderate state ruled Protestantism, the English state church underwent significant changes over the course of these years, essentially the second half of the sixteenth century. In addition,

we shall note the origins of England's colonial interests as well as the continuing evolution of Parliament and its dominant social and economic classes.

April 25 (Week 5): The Stuart Dynasty to the Puritan Revolution, Chapters 13, 14

In this first half of the 17th century, the Stuarts of Scotland ruled in England as well as their own kingdom. We shall be discussing the two monarchs, James I and Charles I, and their unwillingness and inability to work with effectively with Parliament. We shall consider the rise of Puritanism along with the gentry class and the role they play in the civil war, the royal execution, and the ascendancy of Oliver Cromwell.

May 2 (Week 6): The Glorious Revolution and the Act of Union Chapters 15, 16

Concluding our year-long study of English history, we shall discuss the Restoration and the events leading up to the Glorious Revolution and the ascendancy of William and Mary, concluding with the end of the Stuart dynasty and the legal establishment of one government for both England and Scotland.