



Houston Area Model United Nations Crisis Committee

War for the English Throne

The Duchy of Normandy
Triple Joint Crisis Committee
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Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the 46th Houston Area Model United Nations Conference! The war for the English Throne, which took place in 1066 was the culmination of conflicts, which occurred after the Vikings came into contact with continental Europe and England. Here each one of you will have a chance to participate in events that took place just before the swords were crossed. The three main participants will be the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of England, and The Duchy of Normandy, along with some of their respective allies.

The Kingdom of Norway is Directed by,

Omama Ahmed, who is a current freshman at Lonestar college with plans to transfer to New York university. She is intending to study public health and has been a delegate in her high school Model UN in the past three years. She has always loved the program and was thrilled when given the opportunity to be a part of the crisis committees. She's very excited to be working with two great Crisis directors for her first year and cannot wait to see how the conference goes.

The Duchy of Normandy is directed by,

Joel Varghese who is a sophomore currently attending Texas A&M University at College Station, studying Industrial Engineering. He has been a part of Model UN, since his sophomore year at high school and he plans on pursuing this passion until he graduates college. His interest in Model U.N stems from his passion in History, Politics and International affairs. Medieval history has always excited him, and he never ignored a chance to study it. Therefore, he is thrilled to be writing this background guide and he hopes that all of you will enjoy this crisis as much as he enjoyed writing this.

The Kingdom of England is directed by,

Adan Leal who is a Junior at UT Austin. I am studying Finance and have been involved in MUN ever since my freshman year in high school, so that makes it, what, 7 years? Well, I guess it has been some time and I am pretty old. I am excited to finally direct one of my favorite periods in history, with one of my favorite ideas of a triple joint crisis committee. I am ecstatic to have been paired with my fellow directors and am ready to see what you guys have in store for us. I am sure we will all have a great time and will learn from each other. See you guys at the conference!

Duchy of Normandy

Background

Following the Viking invasions led by Sweyn Forkbeard and his son, Cnut, the House of Cerdic fled England and went into exile in Normandy. There they were hosted by the dukes of Normandy, as the wife of king Æthelred the Unready was Emma of Normandy, the daughter of Richard I of Normandy. With the death of Æthelred, the throne of England passed on to Edward, who had no way to enforce his claim, turned to his cousin Duke Robert I, who led an Invasion of England, which failed. After this Edward continued to stay in the Norman court and Robert's successor,



William hosted him graciously. After the death of this half-brother Harthacnut, Edward was invited by the Anglo-Saxon nobles to rule England, however there were severe restrictions on his power. Along with this his power was often matched and even exceeded by other Anglo-Saxon nobles, especially from that of the House of Godwin. Due to the need to balance the House of Godwin, Edward turned to his former host, bringing in Norman courtiers, soldiers, and clerics and appointing them to positions of power, particularly in the Church. This led to the establishment of a powerful Norman interest in English politics, as Edward drew heavily on his former hosts for support. Childless and embroiled in conflict with the formidable Godwin, Earl of Wessex and his sons, Edward encouraged Duke William of Normandy's ambitions for the English throne.

Duke William knew that a promise by Edward was not enough to secure his succession to the English throne. Therefore, he had the most powerful Earl in England, Harold Godwinson, swear to him that he will help Richard succeed to the English throne. However, when King Edward died at the beginning of 1066, this promise by King Edward and Earl Harold was not honored and Harold Godwinson, the richest and most powerful of the English aristocrats, was elected king by the Witenagemot of England and crowned by the Archbishop of York, Stigand, the uncanonically elected Archbishop of Canterbury.

To add on to this insult, the King of Norway Harald Hardrada also claimed the throne of England for himself. His claim to the throne is based on an earlier agreement between his predecessor, Magnus the Good, and the earlier English king, Harthacnut, whereby if either died without heir, the other would inherit both England and Norway. Now the King of Norway is preparing a fleet to invade England. Along with Duke Richard and King Harold, Tostig

Godwinson, Harold Godwinson's brother, also laid claim to the throne. But his claim can be treated as a claim of a usurper. He has a minor army that is assembled in Scotland and is waiting for the opportune moment to invade England.

Duke William of Normandy have gathered all of you, his liegemen, here at Lillebonne to find an answer to this predicament. He wants your council before he takes any action.

The cause of Normandy



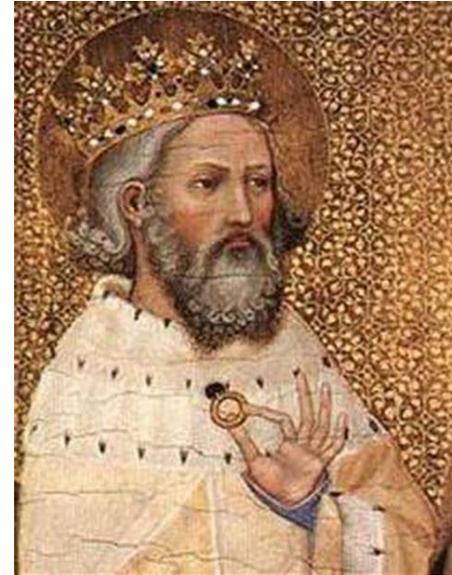
William was born in 1027 at Falaise, Duchy of Normandy, and was the only son of Robert I, his mother was Herleva, however Herleva did not marry Duke Robert I and therefore William was considered as illegitimate. Robert, I succeeded his elder brother Richard III as duke. The brothers had been at odds over the succession, and Richard's death was sudden, and Robert was accused of killing Richard. Due to this, Conditions in

Normandy were unsettled, as noble families despoiled the Church, and Alan III of Brittany waged war against the duchy, to take control. By 1031 Robert had gathered considerable support from noblemen, many of whom are close with Duke William currently. They include the duke's uncle Robert, the archbishop of Rouen, who had originally opposed the duke; Osbern, a nephew of Gunnor the wife of Richard I; and Gilbert of Brionne, a grandson of Richard I. After his accession, Robert continued Norman support for the English princes Edward and Alfred, who were still in exile in northern France, and this set the stage for Norman involvement in English affairs.

In 1034 the duke decided to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Although some of his supporters tried to dissuade him from undertaking the journey, he convened a council in January 1035 and had the assembled Norman magnates swear fealty to William as his heir before leaving for Jerusalem, however this measure was unpopular among the nobles. Further destabilizing the situation was the fact that Duke Robert died in early July at Nicaea, on his way back to Normandy.

Being eight years old at the time of his father's death, William faced several challenges on becoming duke. He enjoyed the support of his great-uncle, Archbishop Robert, as well as King Henry I of France, enabling him to succeed to his father's duchy. The support given to the

exiled English princes in their attempt to return to England in 1036 shows that the new duke's guardians were attempting to continue his father's policies, but Archbishop Robert's death in March 1037 removed one of William's main supporters, and conditions in Normandy quickly descended into chaos. The anarchy in the duchy lasted until 1047, and control of the young duke was one of the priorities of those contending for power. This involved several powerful nobles, most of whom died trying to take control of Normandy. The turning point in this struggle came after the battle of Val-ès-Dunes near Caen, where Duke William and King Henry defeated Guy of Burgundy. Duke further secured his power in Normandy through his marriage to Matilda of Flanders, the daughter of Count Baldwin V of Flanders. Flanders was one of the more powerful French territories, with ties to the French royal house and to the German emperors, and this ensured Williams control over Normandy.



After he had consolidated his power in Normandy and secured his position as the Duke, William was able to focus on external matters concerning him, namely the issue in that of England. The childless King Edward of England was a weak ruler and his control over England was tumultuous at best. He was challenged mainly by the Godwin family and to offset their power choose William as his successor. William was the grandson of Edward's maternal uncle, Richard II of Normandy and therefore and a legitimate claim. However, King Edward died before he could secure the throne for Duke William and it is up to Duke William to take it for himself.

England from the Norman perspective



Major interactions between the Normans and the English started in 1002 when the English king Æthelred the Unready married Emma of Normandy, the sister of Richard II, Duke of Normandy. Their son Edward the Confessor, who spent many years in exile in Normandy, succeeded to the English throne in 1042.

Edward was not welcome in his own kingdom and many there opposed their rule. He was able to solidify his position as the King of England with the help of the Normans, who provided him with a loyal base of courtiers, soldiers, and clerics. He was able to entrust with position with power, particularly in the Church, because unlike his English nobility, the Normans were trustworthy. Being childless, Edward embroiled in conflict with the formidable Godwin, Earl of Wessex and his sons, who had ambitions on his

throne. Not wanting to see his enemy acquire the throne, Edward promised Duke William of Normandy, his former benefactor, the English throne.

Duke William understood that a promise from a weak king was not enough to secure the Throne of England for him and therefore looked for occasions to solidify his claim. Once such opportunity struck when in 1064, Harold Godwinson was shipwrecked at Ponthieu. King Edward had previously sent Robert of Jumièges, Archbishop of Canterbury, to appoint as his heir Edward's maternal kinsman, William of Normandy, and that at this later date Harold was sent to swear fealty. William helped Harold during his troubled times and in return Harold swore an oath on sacred relics to William to support his claim to the English throne. Now by having accepted the crown of England, Harold not only usurped William from his rightful claim, he had broken his sacred oath.

Norway from the Norman perspective

Not much is known about Harald Sigurdsson, more commonly known as Harald Hardrada; Hard Ruler. When he was fifteen years Harald was exiled by Danish king Cnut the Great, who conquered Norway, into Kievan Rus. He thereafter spent some time in the army of Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise, until he moved on to Constantinople with his companions around 1034. In Constantinople, he soon rose to become the commander of the Byzantine Varangian Guard, and saw action on the Mediterranean Sea, in Asia Minor, Sicily, possibly in the Holy Land, Bulgaria and in Constantinople itself, where he became involved in the imperial dynastic disputes. Harald amassed considerable wealth, influence and commander skills, during his time in the Byzantine Empire. He finally left the Byzantine empire in 1042 to reclaim his Norwegian throne.



After gaining control of Norway, Harald crushed all local and regional opposition, and outlined the territorial unification of Norway under a national governance. Harald's reign was one of relative peace and stability, and he instituted a viable coin economy and foreign trade. Seeking to restore Cnut's "North Sea Empire", Harald also laid claim to the Danish throne, fought his former ally, Sweyn. Although the campaigns were successful, he was never able to conquer Denmark. Accepting this, Harald switched his attention to England. His claim was based on a 1038 agreement between Magnus and its previous ruler, Harthacnut, who died childless in 1042. This stated if either died, the other would inherit their lands. However, this pact was never followed through and Magnus never pursued his claim to England. Tostig Godwinson, brother of the newly chosen English king Harold Godwinson, pledged his allegiance to Harald and invited him to claim the English throne and Harald not wanting to waste an opportunity to for gold and glory accepted it. After all, he is a Viking and the best way to die is to die in battle!

Character List

William fitzOsbern

Lord of Breteuil, in Normandy, is a relative and close counsellor of William. A nephew of Duchess Gunnor, the wife of Duke Richard I of Normandy, William's father, was the steward of Duke Robert I of Normandy. When Robert left the Duchy to his young son William, fitzOsbern became one of Duke William's guardians and closest confidant. fitzOsbern places his full trust in Duke William and believe that the invasion into England can be successful.

Roger de Beaumont

A son of Humphrey de Vieilles (who was a great-nephew of the Duchess Gunnor of Normandy), Roger de Beaumont is a second cousin once removed of Duke William. Described as the noblest, the wealthiest, and the most valiant seigneur of Normandy, and the greatest and most trusted friend of the Duke William you hold an exalted position in his court. Being an older cousin who had never rebelled against the young Duke, you are part of the kinship group of noblemen that William relies upon in governing Normandy and fighting-off frequent rebellion and invasions. De Beaumont have always seen the interest of William as his own and his enemies likewise.

Robert, Count of Mortain

Is a Norman nobleman and the half-brother of Duke William. Around 1049 his brother, Duke William, made him Count of Mortain, in place of William Werlenc, who had been banished by Duke William. This shows how much trust William places in Robert. Being the Count of a coastal county, Robert have access to many ships, and this is very important to William.

Odo, Bishop of Bayeux

Odo was the son of William the Conqueror's mother Herleva and Herluin de Conteville. Count Robert of Mortain was his younger brother. Although an ordained Christian cleric, Odo is best known as a warrior and statesman, preferring to fight his enemies rather than to praying for them. Being a Bishop, Odo have a lot of influence, especially in Rome and Paris, and you are very wealthy. You are one of William's closest companions and your support, diplomatically and financially, is essential to his cause.

Odo, Count of Champagne

In 1060, Odo married Adelaide of Normandy, daughter of Robert I, Duke of Normandy and sister to Duke William, therefor Duke William is family. However, family does not mean anything when it comes to politics. Count Odo's loyalty is with William as long as he is providing you with a profit, but your loyalty is up to sale for the highest bidder.

William, Count of Évreux

Count of Évreux is a powerful Norman nobleman hoping to gain lands and wealth in England. His County is a coastal county and therefore has a powerful navy. Having a lot of ships means that William has a lot of influence over how this invasion pans out. You are a true Norman; however, you are more than willing to use your powerful position to get concessions out of William and other nobles.

Hugh of Eu, Bishop of Lisieux

Hugh of Eu is the bishop of Lisieux. Under your episcopacy you completed the reconstruction of the cathedral and proceeded your dedication according to the Neustria Pia on 8 July 1060 and brought the relics of Arcadius of Bourges to Saint Ursin's. Hugh of Eu organized the cathedral chapter, composed of a dean, a treasurer and a cantor. Being a man of efficiency, Hugh of Eu is very good at collecting taxes and therefore very rich. Duke William has invited him to the Council at Lillebonne to seek his advice on this matter and for the Bishop to lend his hand financially to the Duke and his lords for the invasion.

Raoul II de Conches

Raoul II de Conches is the standard bearer of Duke William, a hereditary office, an office his family has held for generations. Due to this Raoul has access to the Duke quite a lot. You are a fierce warrior and a staunch supporter of William and his quest, however Raoul II de Conches does hate William, count of Évreux, and will do anything to get one up on him.

Hugh de Grandmesnil

The Grandmesnil family achieved prominence in about 1050 in central Normandy, where the Grandmesnil family became famous for breeding and training war horses. The Grandmesnil family had made a fortune from a string of stud farms they own on the plains of Ouche. Hugh de Grandmesnil, wielded power at the court of William Duke of Normandy, but the paranoid Duke banished him in 1058. For five years Hugh de Grandmesnil was out of favor at court. However, in 1063 he was reinstated as Captain of the castle of Neuf-Marché en Lyons and holds a prominent command in Cavalry and he is very innovative in its tactics. Along with that you control the flow of the best war horses in Normandy and due to this hold immense influence. Your decisions can either make or break this invasion.

Roger de Montgomerie

Roger de Montgomerie is a relative of the Duchess Gunnor, wife of Duke Richard I of Normandy. He has large land holdings in central Normandy, chiefly in the valley of the Dives. Roger de Montgomerie is one of William's principal counsellors, and the duke hopes that he will be able to convince the lord to support his invasion of England.

Walter Giffard

Walter Giffard is one of the most loyal supporters of Duke William and one of the six great magnates of Normandy. When William told Walter of his plans to launch the invasion Walter expressed his support for William and urged him to call this council to gain the support of other lords. Along with that Walter Giffard have ships that he can offer to the other lords which will enable them to transport their troops. Giffard's main goal is to get concessions from the other lords, in terms of money and land ownership for you and Duke William.

Hugh de Montfort, Lord of Montfort-sur-Risle

Hugh de Montfort is the Lord of Montfort-sur-Risle and a proven companion of Duke William. Being one of the Duke's early ally, de Montfort helped him fight in the Battle of Mortemer in 1054, and defeated King Henry I of France. de Montfort is a powerful lord and have a large fleet of ships, along with a large retinue of knights. Duke William look forward for de Montfort's support in convincing the lords gathered in this assembly to support his campaigns in England.

William de Warenne

William de Warenne was not a major landholder, as a second son, he did not stand to inherit the family's small estates. During the rebellions of 1052–1054, he proved himself loyal to the Duke and played a strong part in the Battle of Mortemer for which he was rewarded with lands confiscated from his kinsman, Roger of Mortemer, including the Castle of Mortimer and most of its lands. Due to this Roger of Mortemer has a feud with William de Warenne.

Robert, Count of Eu

Robert, Count of Eu is the powerful Lord of Eu. He commands a large fleet of ship which could be useful for William in his conquest. Along with he is one of the wealthiest lords in Normandy. Robert, Count of Eu holds a special hatred towards the Danes and the Norse as they have been a constant nuisance for his territory. He opposes any alliance with these barbaric people.

Roger of Mortemer

During the troubled times in Normandy Roger of Mortemer entertained an enemy of Duke William, who was a French operative known as Count Ralph III "the Great". Count Ralph was Roger's father-in-law, and thus he gave him shelter for three days at his castle in Mortemer until Count Ralph was able to safely return to his own territories. Upon discovering the news that Roger provided safe haven for an enemy, Duke William banished Roger from Normandy and confiscated his possessions, giving them to Roger's nephew, William de Warenne. Due to this Roger have a grudge against William and his supporters and hate your nephew who took your castle.

Baldwin VI the Good, Count of Flanders and of Hainaut

Baldwin is one of the most powerful lords in all of Europe. Ruling Flanders, one of the most agriculturally and economically productive lands in all of Europe, Baldwin and his family have acquired immense amount o wealth. He has familial ties to Duke William and is sympathetic towards his cause. He is willing to lend William a hand as long as he and his council is willing to reward him.

Brian of Brittany

Brian of Brittany is one of the more powerful magnates in France. Culturally, you are more like the Angles in England, you have many shared ties, especially that of trade with England. Brian is not a great a supporter of this planned invasion and is reluctant to commit his forces unless he is given certain guarantees on trade and land ownership . Duke William invited Brian of Brittany to the council to voice any objections that Brian may have over the invasion.

Maurilius Archbishop of Rouen

Originating from humble backgrounds Maurilius trained as a priest at Liege and became a member of the cathedral chapter of Halberstadt. He became a monk at Fecamp Abbey, but then became a hermit at Vallombrosa. Maurilius was appointed as the Archbishop after his predecessor was deposed by the Papal legate. Even though he is of humble origins, Maurilius was appointed as Archbishop because of his support for church reform and because of his loyalty towards the Pope. As a staunch Christian Maurilius is opposed to Christians fighting against each other and look towards diplomatic means to solve this issue.

Lanfranc prior of Bec Abbey

Lanfranc was trained in the liberal arts in northern Italy and is famous for your wisdom throughout Northern Italy and in France. Duke William invited him to be the prior of Bec Abbey and in the midst of his scholastic and controversial activities Lanfranc became a political force. As Prior of Bec he opposed the non-canonical marriage of Duke William with Matilda of Flanders and carried matters so far that he incurred a sentence of exile. However, the Duke later forgave Lanfranc and invited him back into Normandy. Being a close friend of Pope Alexander Duke William hope that you will be able to convince the Pope and along with the other nobles to sanction your invasion.

Aimery IV viscount of Thouars

Being a descendant of Charlemagne Aimery holds fame and prestige throughout France. In 1055 he was allied with Geoffroy Martel, Count of Anjou, against William, Duke of Normandy. However, he settled on and uneasy peace with the Duke. With his influence around France Aimery can either be a bane or a boon to the Duke and his plans.

