A Tamed Nobility? An Evaluation of the Relationship between the English Monarchy and the Late Medieval Peerage

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Abstract
The fifteenth century in England was an extremely tumultuous period. The beginning of the century saw the continuation and eventual end of the Hundred Years War while the latter half saw a period of noble-led civil war known as the Wars of the Roses. The Wars of the Roses lasted for approximately thirty years and spanned the reigns of four kings: Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III, and Henry VII. The English peerage was intimately involved throughout the entire conflict. Nobles such as Richard, Duke of York and Richard, Earl of Salisbury were responsible for beginning the Wars of the Roses, and other members of the nobility supported the Duke of York and the deposition of Henry VI in favor of Edward IV in 1461. Nine years later, Richard, Earl of Warwick and George, Duke of Clarence were responsible for the brief deposition of Edward IV. In 1483, the Duke of Buckingham aided Richard III in usurping his young nephew. Finally, in 1485, John, Earl of Oxford, Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, and Thomas, Lord Stanley were integral in placing Henry VII on the throne. Some scholars have argued that Henry VII recognized that the main cause of the previous thirty years of civil war was the unrestrained and independent nobility which is why he sought to tame his nobility. This study will look at the Calendar of the Patent Rolls, Calendar of the Fine Rolls, Calendar of the Charter Rolls, and Calendar of the Close Rolls from the reigns of the four kings intimately involved with the Wars of the Roses and its immediate aftermath. These sources will be used to examine the patronage given to the nobility by each king as well as any punitive measures taken against the nobility for misbehavior. This evidence will show that Henry VII did, in fact, tame his nobility. He did so by restricting his patronage to the nobility in comparison to his predecessors. He also placed troublesome nobles under repressive bonds to ensure their loyalty.

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England in the Late Middle Ages concerns the history of England during the late medieval period, from the thirteenth century, the end of the Angevins, and the accession of Henry III – considered by many to mark the start of the Plantagenet dynasty – until the accession to the throne of the Tudor dynasty in 1485, which is often taken as the most convenient marker for the end of the Middle Ages and the start of the English Renaissance and early modern Britain. Medieval Latin Literature, Late Medieval English History. "Scripture Transformed in Late Medieval England: The Religious, Artistic, and Social Worlds of the Welles-Ros Bible (Paris, BnF fr. 1)" Fordham Center for Medieval Studies/Department of Art History and Music, February 27, 2020. Royal and Urban Gunpowder Weapons in Late Medieval England. One of the most important technological developments of the Middle Ages was the adoption of gunpowder weapons in medieval Europe. From the fourteenth century onwards, this new technology was to eventually transform the conduct of warfare more. The Roman connection is then linked to Medieval times and to the nascent trend of constitutional monarchies after late 17th century. For a thousand years England had been vulnerable to invasion from the Continent. But the last invaders changed all that. They were the Normans, descended from Germanic tribes that had invaded a broad stretch of northern France early in the tenth century. They adopted the French language and owed nominal allegiance to the French king. For this reason their ruler had the title of duke. But he was, in fact, more powerful than many kings. For more than 200 years thereafter members of the royal court and the upper class spoke French. Only the common people continued to speak English. By about 1300,