The Court of King Henry VIII, 1528
GatorMUN XII
Background Guide

Fred Kolb
Director
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the great honor of welcoming you to GatorMUN XII, which promises to be our most thrilling and most ambitious conference yet. My name is Fred Kolb and I will serve as your Director this weekend. I am a fourth year student at UF, majoring in Economics and Political Science. Ever since I came to college, Model UN has been an integral part of my life and I have competed at 21 conferences and staffed at 8, including in my capacity as the Director of the Star Wars committee at GatorMUN X and the League of the Extraordinary Gentlemen at GatorMUN XI.

The Court of King Henry VIII is a committee I have wanted to direct since my freshman year in college and I’m very excited that the time for it has finally come. In today’s day, King Henry VIII has unfortunately been reduced to a mere caricature of himself. Known as obese, temperamental and infamous for having had six wives (two of which were executed), the second monarch of the Tudor dynasty certainly has a less than favorable image in the minds of those who have studied European history. This however is a gross oversimplification of the volatile political and religious climate in Europe at the time and ignores some of the more overarching themes that defined King Henry’s reign from 1509-1547. Three of his children would end up on the English throne. One of them was the famous Queen Elizabeth I.

This committee consists of King Henry’s closest advisors, representatives of the court of the Holy Roman Empire, the French court, the Vatican, the German Protestant states and other high-ranking officials in England at the time. Note that I have taken a few liberties with some of the characters. If you research your position you might notice that they have passed away before 1528 already. I have altered history a little bit to include the strongest and most notorious figures on King Henry’s court in this committee. So, go by what the position descriptions reads first and whatever you find online on them second.

If you have any questions about the committee, do not hesitate to contact me at gatormunsecretariat@gmail.com.
Position Papers are required and will be due at the beginning of committee. I tend to prefer papers that are creative, both in their style and their content, and in character, rather than formatted precisely by the book. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you in February!

Best of luck and God save the King,

Fred Kolb
Director
The Court of King Henry VIII

My dear friends and counselors,

It is with immense joy and pleasure that I welcome you to my court. No wish shall be denied to you while you are present, and be assured that our meetings will be conducted with the utmost civility and respect. I treasure your advice and shall consider the words of each of you with great care.

There is much business to be done. As a great friend and benefactor of the Catholic Church, it is with much distress that I have received news of the Protestant infiltrators running rampant in our realm. Have we really fought so hard to protect the faith in the British kingdom for it to be stripped away by a band of misguided fools? I am confident that his Eminence, the Pope in Rome, shall eventually prove responsive to my recent request, which will allow me to finally present this country with a strong heir and preserver of our dynasty.

However, I shall also issue a word of warning. My friendship is not bought cheaply. Those I consider my faithful companions shall be rewarded handsomely for their loyalty and their dependability. But death to those who dare to stand against me! Be aware that if you are not standing with me, I shall treat you with the utmost contempt and your life shall be forfeit the moment you dare come before again.

Let these words caution any minds, which are already occupied with devious plans against my health and life. I
am a man of vigilance and I pride myself on having eyes and ears loyal to me everywhere in the realm. But now, that I have gone over this nasty business, feel welcome at my court and let these days be one of fruitful debate.

His Majesty, Henry R

Code of Conduct

Before I get into the actual background information for the committee, I will cover a few basic housekeeping items. The operational logistics of a crisis committee are considerably different than those of a General Assembly and some delegates may see the slightly more informal style of debate and parliamentary procedure as a reason not to take it as seriously. I strongly discourage anyone from making that assumption. I expect everyone to be professional, courteous and respectful to other delegates! Although aggressive and forceful debate is permitted and to an extent even encouraged, there will be no swearing or personal attacks directed at delegates at any point in time. The chair is responsible for the maintenance of decorum and will gavel you down if they feel like the atmosphere in the room becomes too charged.

You will recall that the committee is initially set in 1528, which means that recent technological miracles such as laptops, iPads and the Internet were still far beyond the horizon of anything imaginable. In any case, I have always felt that the use of electronic devices in committee (a) causes serious distractions and (b) presents an unfair advantage to certain people. Therefore, I ask you to refrain from using laptops and all other electronic devices in committee altogether. You will be in a room with respected advisors, clergy brilliant military minds and gifted orators, who have been entrusted with the safety and the fate of the English kingdom, in the midst of its rise to power. I would assume that at some point during their lives they also learned how to use a pen (quill) and paper correctly.
Parliamentary Procedure

Due to the nature of this committee, there will not be a speaker’s list at any point. Instead the entire committee will consist of two forms of debate: moderated and unmoderated caucuses. If no motions for either one are on the floor at any point in time, the default will be formal debate with a speaking time of thirty seconds.

In a moderated caucus, the delegates raise their placards and the director chooses a person to speak. This process is repeated until time runs out. Unlike a speaker’s list, this allows the delegates to speak whenever they have something to contribute immediately, rather than wait for several minutes. If you move for a moderated caucus, specify the length, the speaker’s time and the topic.

An unmoderated caucus is a type of informal debate. If a motion for an unmoderated caucus passes, the delegates have permission to get up, congregate and work on directives together. If you move for an unmoderated caucus, specify the length and the topic.

Points/Motions

Delegates can make three types of points: a point of personal privilege, a point of information or a point of order.

A point of personal privilege can be made at any point in time and is used to express some sort of personal discomfort or issue, such as the room temperature being too high or something obscuring their view of the dais for example.

A point of information is used to inquire about an element of the committee or its history that is vital to debate, but not provided in the background guide.

A point of order is used to point out a mistake of procedure by the chair. Although some delegates are reluctant to use this, I intend to run a flawless committee, without any procedural errors, so please, use it if you have reason to believe that something was not handled correctly.
Voting

There are three types of voting: by placard, by roll call or by acclamation. The placard vote is considered the default way and the chair will first ask for those in favor of the directive, and then for those opposed to it. Raise your placard for whichever position you are taking.

The roll call vote is done by the chair reading off the name of every person in the committee and each delegate gets to vote separately. At that point you can either vote yes, no, abstain or pass. If you choose to abstain, your vote will neither be counted as a yes or no. If you choose to pass, everybody else will vote on the issue and afterwards, you will get to vote, but by passing you automatically also waive your right to abstain. At that point you have to vote either in favor or against.

A vote by acclamation occurs when every person in a committee is in favor of a directive. If a motion to adopt by acclamation is made, the chair will ask if anyone is against the motion. If not, the directive passes automatically.

Unless specified otherwise in committee, a directive has to pass by a simple majority, meaning 50% +1.

Committee Documents

Committee Directives

As a committee, you have the power to pass directives as a body. In order to be introduced, a directive will require at least 4 signatures. There will not be author’s panels, but you may make a motion for a moderated caucus specifically pertaining to a directive, whether it has been introduced already or not.

Press Releases

Press Releases can be done individually only by Thomas Wyatt or as a group. If anyone else wishes to draft up a
press releases, it will also require 3 sponsors and will be dealt with in the same manner as a directive in terms of presenting it to the committee.

**Personal Directive**

Each delegate has a unique set of portfolio powers that allows them to conduct solo operations without the rest of the body knowing. If you send in a personal directive, it will not be read aloud nor will it have to be voted on. Unless the directive does not match your individual powers as a delegate, it will be approved by the dais. On the first day of committee I will provide you with additional information about your role and powers.

**Brief Background Information:**

**Concerning King Henry VIII**

At some point towards the end of his life, King Henry VIII commissioned a portrait of himself by Hans Holbein, the Younger, the certified painter of the court. This is the most widely known depiction of him. It shows him with a red coat, a beard, and a dark top hat, not only attempting to coat over that he was morbidly obese at this point, but also suffering from a gruesome leg infection. He had become paranoid, temperamental and prone to violent mood swings, not rarely at the expense of his six wives and closest friends. Being in Henry’s good graces was often merely a temporary state, rather than permanent, and a quick reversal of fortune could turn out fatal.

In his younger days however, Henry was the epitome of a cultured Renaissance man. He was athletic, strongly built and taller than six feet, making him both an excellent joust and hunter. He also was an accomplished musician, author and poet, and is reputed to have been an excellent singer. The love song “Greensleeves” is often attributed to him. He was also a well-read man, who prided himself of cultivating the image of his court as a cultural hub. He was fluent in both French and Latin, and a strong adherent
of the Catholic faith, as was his wife Catherine of Aragon, a Spanish princess and aunt of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V,

Henry however was known to be erratic and unforgiving. He executed several of his ministers and advisors, as well as members of the clergy.

**The King’s Great Matter**

This was the euphemism put on King Henry’s plan to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragorn and marry Anne Boleyn, a Protestant. This however was far from popular with the public. Catherine was immensely well liked, even revered by the English people and many feared for the future of England if their king chose to defy the Pope and God, which were almost synonymous in those days.

Henry was obsessed with preserving the Tudor dynasty and feared that if he wouldn’t leave any male heirs, the reign of his family would come to an abrupt end. However, he and Catherine only had a daughter at that point in time, Mary, and she was a rather small and timid child, who wouldn’t be able to produce a grandson for Henry in time. Although Henry did have a son with one of his mistresses, Henry Fitzroy, he would have needed the authority of the Pope to legitimize him.

For a while, Henry was having an affair with one of Catherine’s ladies-in-waiting, Mary Boleyn. Eventually though he became infatuated with her sister Anne, who initially refused to respond to his advances though and chose not to become his mistress. Several scholars believe that her decision eventually lead Henry to the desperate measures he took to get rid of his wife Catherine.

Catherine had first been married to Henry’s brother, Arthur, who died after 20 weeks of marriage to her at the age of 15. Due to their marriage having been an attempt to forge an alliance between England and Spain, she was then given to Henry. Because it is said in the Bible that 'If a
man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. They will be childless.’ Henry argued that he had committed a grave sin in marrying Catherine and appealed directly to the Holy See in Rome. But the Pope, more than likely under the pressure of Catherine’s nephew, the Holy Roman Emperor, refused the request.

Thus Henry placed the controversial cleric Thomas Cranmer into the powerful position of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to grant him his divorce. Whether this shall indeed come to pass is up to the committee.

**The Catholic Church and Protestantism**

King Henry’s decision to denounce the authority of the Vatican by attempting to get his marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled was far from being popular in several circles. Not only did his sacrilegious handling of the religious affairs of his country alienate him from some of his closest advisors, namely the Cardinals Wolsey and More, but he also made an enemy out of the Holy Roman Emperor, Catherine’s nephew, a devout Catholic and King of Spain. And then of course there was the Vatican. The Pope, furious that a European monarch would dare defy him, threatened the king with excommunication, which would almost certainly constitute a serious threat to his authority as the ruler.

It will ultimately be up to the court to not only come to a final decision in the question of whether to defy the Pope, but also how to treat the Protestants within their ranks. English subjects defying Catholicism dates back to the 1300s already, when John Wycliffe translated the Bible from Latin to English, to make it available to people regardless of wealth or social standing. In 1526, William Tyndale published the first complete Bible in print, making it more accessible to commoners and soon several of them began flocking to the Protestant religion. Less than a decade earlier, the German friar Martin Luther had written his famous Ninety-Five Theses and posted them on the doors of the church in Wittenberg, But since the King still prides
himself on being a devout Catholic, most Protestants practice their religion in secret.

**Relationship with France**

Following the Anglo-French Treaty of 1514, King Henry VIII and his French counterpart Francis I met from June 7-24, 1920 in Northern France at the so-called Field of the Cloth of Gold. There were many similarities between the two. They were almost the same age and both viewed themselves as cultured Renaissance men, using the opportunity primarily to show off the glamour of their court, rather than talk about politics. They set up dazzling tents and wore expensive clothes, threw huge feasts with music, jousting and games. At one point Henry and Francis even engaged in a wrestling match despite the previously set up rules that they wouldn’t compete. Henry ended up losing. The meeting was a colorful spectacle, but there were few political consequences and an alliance between the two kingdoms did not come to pass.

**Relationship with the Holy Roman Empire**

In 1521, the so-called Italian War broke out, which pitted France and the Republic of Venice against the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, the Papal States and England. In late 1521, the French had attempted to conquer the Spanish territory of Navarre and the Pope, Emperor Charles V (a nephew of Henry’s wife Catherine of Aragon) and Henry VIII signed an alliance against King Francis. The English invaded France in 1523 and after France lost both Lombary and the Provence to Papal and Imperial forces, Francis was finally captured at the Battle of Pavia in 1525. In 1526 he was forced to sign the Treaty of Madrid, surrendering any French claims to Italy, Flanders and Burgundy. Shortly after his release, he realigned himself with Pope Clement VII and formed the League of Cognac, which included the Papal States, France, England, Venice, Milan and Florence. In 1527, Charles’s underpaid troops launched a mutiny and sacked Rome, forcing
the Pope to flee and King Francis to sign a Treaty with King Henry VIII in 1527, the Treaty of Westminster.

**Current Important Issues:**

- **The Rise of Protestantism** - should Catholicism remain the only religion in the Kingdom of England?

- **The King’s Great Matter** - should the King be allowed to annul his marriage to Queen Catherine to marry his Protestant mistress Anne Boleyn?

- **The Treaty of Westminster** - should England honor its peace treaty with the French or once again ally themselves with the Holy Roman Empire?

**Positions:**

**Charles Brandon, The Duke of Suffolk** - Married to Mary Tudor, the beloved sister of the king, he is among his majesty’s closest advisors and is also a great friend of the king. As a military man he has experience fighting against the French, and has been put in charge of acquisition and distribution of handguns (muskets) and is the commander of 5,000 men.

**Thomas Cromwell** - The Chief Minister and Lord Privy Seal of King Henry VIII, he is a practicing protestant and among the strongest advocates for breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church. He is in charge of taxation and the royal budget, but there have been rumors of his corrupt character and his tendency to embezzle funds for his own use.

**Thomas More** - A devout Catholic and the leading opponent of Protestant reformation. He holds the position of Lord Chancellor, putting him in charge of the courts and the observance of the law in Great Britain. He is well respected in Rome, a greatly admired scholar and currently extremely high in the king’s graces.
Cardinal Wolsey- A Roman Catholic cardinal and Archbishop of York. He is the king's almoner in charge of distributing money to the poor, so he has strong ties to the lowest class of English subjects. He is also extremely well connected within the Catholic church in England and prides himself on his very good relations with the Spanish kingdoms.

Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk- The Duke of Norfolk is one of the most battle-tested men at King Henry’s court. He is among King Henry’s closest advisors in his martial affairs, as he is Anne Boleyn’s uncle, and he is also in charge of the acquisition of heavier artillery (cannons) and also the commander of 7,000 men.

George Talbot, Earl of Shrewbury- The Earl of Shrewsbury is widely renowned as a great diplomat and skilled negotiator. He is extremely respected by the people for his hospitality and generosity. He is also the commander of 3,000 men and a talented tactician for defensive fortifications.

Thomas Boleyn- One of the richest men in King Henry’s court. He stands high in the king’s graces and has strong purchasing power of resources that can be utilized in case of recession. He has few scruples and has put several high-ranking members of the court on his personal payroll already. His daughter, Anne Boleyn, is currently the King’s mistress and he is also a known Protestant.
Sir Francis Bryan- The "Vicar of Hell" is an utterly ruthless but cunning man, who essentially does the king's dirty work behind the scenes, eliminating people who have fallen out of the king's favor. He is an experienced spy and soldier, and has 30 highly trained intelligence officers under his command that will serve as his eyes and ears at the court.

Imperial Ambassador Chapuys- The ambassador to the Holy Roman Empire in King Henry’s court. Chapuys is greatly respected among Henry's men and is also a close confidant of Queen Catherine. He is considered an expert on legal issues and any treaty made with the Holy Roman Empire must be approved by him. He also speaks for the Holy Roman Emperor in the committee.

French Ambassador Marillac- The ambassador to the French at King Henry’s court. He is a man of great influence and power, who represents one of England's former great enemies. Any treaty made with France must be approved by him and he also speaks for the French king Francis in the committee.

Thomas Cranmer- The archbishop of Canterbury fell out of favor with the Catholics after trying making a case for the king's divorce with Queen Catherine. He is much liked by the Protestants and responsible for the official correspondence with Rome but the Holy See is less than pleased with his willingness to grant the king’s request for an annulment.

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey- The Earl of Surrey is a notorious troublemaker and gambler, and is connected to several criminals and the black market. He is both a man of literature and battle, and prides himself in his noble birth and pristine ancestry, and believes anyone appointed to high-ranking positions on
the court to be inferior if they weren’t born into aristocracy. He is in charge of 3,000 men

**Cardinal Reginald Pole** - Cardinal Pole is a devout Catholic and on good terms with Pope Paul III. He is also the representative of the Vatican in King Henry’s court, but his support has increasingly gone down since King Henry’s infatuation with Anne Boleyn started.

**John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland** - The Lord Admiral of the Navy is in charge of 100 ships and 1,500 men. He is considered to be a great tactician and highly respected for his wit at sea.

**Philip, Duke of Bavaria** - The Duke of Bavaria is a German prince, who represents the interest of the German Protestants in the English court. He is highly opposed to the Emperor and Queen Catherine, but is a suitable match for King Henry’s daughter Mary.

**Thomas Wyatt** - Wyatt is a poet and advisor of Henry VIII who knows the English word better than anyone, in charge of the king's image among the people. He is the only one in the committee with the power to draft up press releases and the people will often be swayed by his opinion on a matter.

**Anthony Knivert** - Famous and well-liked, Knivert is an excellent horseman and revered for his successes in jousting tournaments. In battle, he is responsible for the cavalry and he has 2,000 men, all with horses under his direct command.