

## Edward Iv The English Monarchs Series

In 1461 Edward earl of March, an able, handsome, and charming eighteen-year old, usurped the English throne from his feeble Lancastrian predecessor Henry VI. Ten years on, following outbreaks of civil conflict that culminated in him losing, then regaining the crown, he had finally secured his kingdom. The years that followed witnessed a period of rule that has been described as a golden age- a time of peace and economic and industrial expansion, which saw

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the establishment of a style of monarchy that the Tudors would later develop. Yet, argues A. J. Pollard, Edward, who was drawn to a life of sexual and epicurean excess, was a man of limited vision, his reign remaining to the very end the narrow rule of a victorious faction in civil war. Ultimately, his failure was dynastic- barely two months after his death in April 1483, the throne was usurped by Edward's youngest brother, Richard III.

A central personality in both historical study and literary fame, Edward IV is as fascinating a character now as he was for William Shakespeare. Drawing together research and original sources, Hannes

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Kleineke reassesses the debate in this concise and accessible biography.

Richard II is one of the most enigmatic of English kings. Shakespeare depicted him as a tragic figure, an irresponsible, cruel monarch who nevertheless rose in stature as the substance of power slipped from him. By later writers he has been variously portrayed as a half-crazed autocrat or a conventional ruler whose principal errors were the mismanagement of his nobility and disregard for the political conventions of his age. This book—the first full-length biography of Richard in more than fifty years—offers a radical reinterpretation of the king.

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Nigel Saul paints a picture of Richard as a highly assertive and determined ruler, one whose key aim was to exalt and dignify the crown. In Richard's view, the crown was threatened by the factiousness of the nobility and the assertiveness of the common people. The king met these challenges by exacting obedience, encouraging lofty new forms of address, and constructing an elaborate system of rule by bonds and oaths. Saul traces the sources of Richard's political ideas and finds that he was influenced by a deeply felt orthodox piety and by the ideas of the civil lawyers. He shows that, although Richard's kingship resembled that of other rulers of

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the period, unlike theirs, his reign ended in failure because of tactical errors and contradictions in his policies. For all that he promoted the image of a distant, all-powerful monarch, Richard II's rule was in practice characterized by faction and feud. The king was obsessed by the search for personal security: in his subjects, however, he bred only insecurity and fear. A revealing portrait of a complex and fascinating figure, the book is essential reading for anyone with an interest in the politics and culture of the English middle ages.

Edward III (1312-1377) was the most successful European ruler of his age. Reigning for over fifty

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years, he achieved spectacular military triumphs and overcame grave threats to his authority, from parliamentary revolt to the Black Death. Revered by his subjects as a chivalric dynamo, he initiated the Hundred Years' War and gloriously led his men into battle against the Scots and the French. In this illuminating biography, W. Mark Ormrod takes a deeper look at Edward to reveal the man beneath the military muscle. What emerges is Edward's clear sense of his duty to rebuild the prestige of the Crown, and through military gains and shifting diplomacy, to secure a legacy for posterity. New details of the splendor of Edward's court, lavish

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national celebrations, and innovative use of imagery establish the king's instinctive understanding of the bond between ruler and people. With fresh emphasis on how Edward's rule was affected by his family relationships--including his roles as traumatized son, loving husband, and dutiful father--Ormrod gives a valuable new dimension to our understanding of this remarkable warrior king.

Richard III

From Joan of Navarre to Elizabeth Woodville  
Edward IV (Penguin Monarchs)

The Mother of Henry VIII.

Who's Who in the English Monarchy From Egbert to

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Elizabeth II

England's Most Controversial King

*In his own time Edward IV was seen as an able and successful king who rescued England from the miseries of civil war and provided the country with firm, judicious, and popular government. The prejudices of later historians diminished this high reputation, until recent research confirmed Edward as a ruler of substantial achievement, whose methods and policies formed the foundation of early Tudor government. This classic study by Charles Ross places the reign firmly in the context*



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*of late medieval power politics, analyzing the methods by which a usurper sought to retain his throne and reassert the power of a monarchy seriously weakened by the feeble rule of Henry VI. Edward's relations with the politically active classes—the merchants, gentry, and nobility—form a major theme, and against this background Ross provides an evaluation of the many innovations in government on which the king's achievement rests. The sixty-year reign of George III (1760-1820) witnessed and participated in some of the most critical events of modern world history: the ending*

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*of the Seven Years' War with France, the American War of Independence, the French Revolutionary Wars, the campaign against Napoleon Bonaparte and battle of Waterloo in 1815, and Union with Ireland in 1801. Despite the pathos of the last years of the mad, blind, and neglected monarch, it is a life full of importance and interest. Jeremy Black's biography deals comprehensively with the politics, the wars, and the domestic issues, and harnesses the richest range of unpublished sources in Britain, Germany, and the United States. But, using George III's own prolific correspondence, it*

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*also interrogates the man himself, his strong religious faith, and his powerful sense of moral duty to his family and to his nation. Black considers the king's scientific, cultural, and intellectual interests as no other biographer has done, and explores how he was viewed by his contemporaries. Identifying George as the last British ruler of the Thirteen Colonies, Black reveals his strong personal engagement in the struggle for America and argues that George himself, his intentions and policies, were key to the conflict. During the Renaissance, the monarchy became the*

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*dominant ruling power in Europe. It was an era of formidable kings and queens who crushed the feudal rights of their nobles, defended the Catholic Church against the encroachments of Protestantism, fought self-aggrandizing wars and were great patrons of art, architecture, literature and music. This work chronicles the lives and reigns of the 42 monarchs in England, Scotland, France, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire between 1400 and 1600, presenting in the context of their era their personalities, accomplishments and failures.*

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*This book explores the place of loyalty in the relationship between the monarchy and their subjects in late medieval and early modern Britain. It focuses on a period in which political and religious upheaval tested the bonds of loyalty between ruler and ruled. The era also witnessed changes in how loyalty was developed and expressed. The first section focuses on royal propaganda and expressions of loyalty from the gentry and nobility under the Yorkist and early Tudor monarchs, as well as the fifteenth-century Scottish monarchy. The chapters illustrate late-*

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*medieval conceptions of loyalty, exploring how they manifested themselves and how they persisted and developed into early modernity. Loyalty to the later Tudors and early Stuarts is scrutinised in the second section, gauging the growing level of dissent in the build-up to the British Civil Wars of the seventeenth century. The final section dissects the role that the concept of loyalty played during and after the Civil Wars, looking at how divergent groups navigated this turbulent period and examining the ways in which loyalty could be used as a means of surviving the*

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*upheaval.*

*Loyalty to the Monarchy in Late Medieval and Early Modern Britain, c.1400-1688*

*The Life and Reign of Edward the Fourth  
A Ethelstan*

*America's Last King*

*Kings, Queens, Bones and Bastards  
By Thomas Heywood*

The three Richards who ruled England in the Middle Ages were among the most controversial and celebrated of its rulers. Richard I ('Coeur de Lion', 1189-99) was a great crusading hero; Richard II

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(1377-99) was an authoritarian aesthete deposed by his cousin, Henry IV, and murdered; while Richard III (1483-85), as the murderer of his nephews, 'The Princes in the Tower', was the most notorious villain in English history. This highly readable joint biography shows how much the three kings had in common, apart from their names. All were younger sons of monarchs, not expected to come to the throne; all failed to leave a legitimate heir, causing instability on their deaths; all were cultured and pious; and all died violently. All have attracted accusations but also fascination. In comparing them, Nigel Saul tells three gripping stories and shows what it took to be a medieval king.



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No English king has so divided opinion, both during his reign and in the centuries since, more than Richard III. He was loathed in his own time for the never-confirmed murder of his young nephews, the Princes in the Tower, and died fighting his own subjects on the battlefield. This is the vision of Richard we have inherited from Shakespeare. Equally, he inspired great loyalty in his followers. In this enlightening, even-handed study, Rosemary Horrox builds a complex picture of a king who by any standard failed as a monarch. He was killed after only two years on the throne, without an heir, and brought such a decisive end to the House of York that Henry Tudor was able to seize the throne, despite his

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extremely tenuous claim. Whether Richard was undone by his own fierce ambitions, or by the legacy of a Yorkist dynasty which was already profoundly dysfunctional, the end result was the same: Richard III destroyed the very dynasty that he had spent his life so passionately defending.

'Never was a king so thoroughly disciplined by adversity before he came to the throne as was King Henry VII'. James Gairdner's historical biography of Henry the Seventh offers a fascinating insight into the life of the founder of England's most famous dynasty: The Tudors. He argues that Henry's noble birth as the head of the house of Lancaster set him inadvertently on

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the path to rule, despite never displaying any desire to dispossess either Edward IV or Richard III of the throne. Born in 1457 to a father who was already two months dead, and to a mother who was only a teenage, Henry Tudor could hardly be said to have had an easy start in life. Tensions between the House of Lancaster and the House of York led to a turbulent upbringing for young Henry, and he was eventually implored by his mother to escape to France as a political exile, following the execution of Henry VI in 1471 in the Tower. Fortune changed yet again for Henry after the death of Edward IV. Edward's son, Edward V, who was just a boy of twelve, was usurped by his uncle, Richard III. Support

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for Henry grew after Richard's perceived villainy, and the pair famously met at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Henry was crowned King Henry VII on the top of Crown Hill, after Richard was defeated and killed on the battlefield. Less well-known than his fiery, impulsive son and successor, Henry VIII who famously had a taste for lavish feasts, expensive wars, and for disposing of his wives, Henry VII's reign was conversely characterised by thrift, prudence, and cool-headed political strategies. His decision to marry Edward IV's daughter, Elizabeth of York, was possibly the first example of the shrewdness of his stratagems. By combining the white rose of the House of York with the

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red rose of the House of Lancaster, Henry VII famously created the Tudor Rose, and stabilised the ongoing tensions that for so long had caused war throughout England. Gairdner's well-researched and lucid biography is essential reading for anyone interested in the Tudor dynasty. James Gairdner (22 March 1828 - 4 November 1912) was a British historian. He specialised in 15th-century and early Tudor history, and among other tasks edited the Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII series. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com).

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The powerful and innovative King Aethelstan reigned only briefly (924-939), yet his achievements during those eventful fifteen years changed the course of English history. He won spectacular military victories (most notably at Brunanburh), forged unprecedented political connections across Europe, and succeeded in creating the first unified kingdom of the English. To

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claim for him the title of "first English monarch" is no exaggeration. In this nuanced portrait of Aethelstan, Sarah Foot offers the first full account of the king ever written. She traces his life through the various spheres in which he lived and worked, beginning with the intimate context of his family, then extending outward to his unusual multiethnic royal court, the Church and his kingdom, the wars he conducted, and finally his death and legacy. Foot describes a sophisticated man who was not only a great military leader but also a worthy king. He governed brilliantly, developed creative ways to project his image as a ruler, and devised strategic marriage treaties and gift exchanges

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to cement alliances with the leading royal and ducal houses of Europe. AÆthelstan's legacy, seen in the new light of this masterful biography, is inextricably connected to the very forging of England and early English identity.

Richard I, Richard II and Richard III  
Monarchs of England

Henry VIII

Henry the Seventh (Albion Monarchs)

A Failed King?

Henry VI

Edward IV's struggle to gain and retain the kingship



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of England during a period of sustained dynastic turmoil in the middle of the Wars of the Roses Henry I, son of William the Conqueror, ruled from 1100 to 1135, a time of fundamental change in the Anglo-Norman world. This long-awaited biography, written by one of the most distinguished medievalists of his generation, offers a major reassessment of Henry's character and reign. Challenging the dark and dated portrait of the king as brutal, greedy, and repressive, it argues instead that Henry's rule was based on reason and order. C. Warren Hollister points out that Henry laid the foundations for judicial

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and financial institutions usually attributed to his grandson, Henry II. Royal government was centralized and systematized, leading to firm, stable, and peaceful rule for his subjects in both England and Normandy. By mid-reign Henry I was the most powerful king in Western Europe, and with astute diplomacy, an intelligence network, and strategic marriages of his children (legitimate and illegitimate), he was able to undermine the various coalitions mounted against him. Henry strove throughout his reign to solidify the Anglo-Norman dynasty, and his marriage linked the Normans to the Old English line.

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Hollister vividly describes Henry's life and reign, places them against the political background of the time, and provides analytical studies of the king and his magnates, the royal administration, and relations between king and church. The resulting volume is one that will be welcomed by students and general readers alike.

As the 100 Years War ground to its dismal end, England groaned under the misrule of Henry VI and his Lancastrian favorites. The House of York rose in rebellion; and Parliament restored York in the line of inheritance to the throne. Edward, Earl of March,

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triumphed at the Battle of Mortimer's Cross; Parliament asked him to be King and the people proclaimed him Edward IV. His life and legacy are chronicled in *Edward IV, England's Forgotten Warrior King*. For ten years, Edward struggled against repeated Lancastrian rebellions. He was driven from his kingdom by Richard, Earl of Warwick, but then he won decisive victories at the Battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury in 1471. For another twelve years, he reigned wisely with peace and prosperity, as a beloved King; but then he died at age forty one and his twelve-year-old son was proclaimed Edward

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V. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, seized the throne and put young Edward and his brother in the Tower of London, from where they never emerged alive. Richard III was a good King and wanted to be respected, but the people believed he had murdered the Princes in the Tower, and would not forgive him. Queen Elizabeth and Margaret Beaufort plotted with Henry Tudor, who invaded England in 1485. Henry Tudor then defeated and killed Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry Tudor (Henry VII) was crowned King and married Edward IV's daughter Elizabeth; the resultant Tudor dynasty

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would rule England for another 118 years. Yet the playwright produced a text which was at once generically complex (the play blurs the distinction between chronicle history and 'domestic' tragedy), brilliantly assured in its dramatic craftsmanship, and politically explosive. The play depicts the streets and houses in which its original spectators lived and worked with a precision unprecedented in English writing. But this vividly realised London is under assault, first from rebels outside its walls, and subsequently (and more seriously) from the predations of two monarchs."

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Richard II

The Life and Reign of Edward the Fourth, King of England and France and Lord of Ireland

Henry IV

The First and Second Parts of King Edward IV

A Book of Royal Days

Edward IV, England's Forgotten Warrior King

Edward I—one of the outstanding monarchs of the English Middle Ages—pioneered legal and parliamentary change in England, conquered Wales, and came close to conquering Scotland. A major player in European diplomacy and war, he acted as peacemaker during the 1280s but became

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involved in a bitter war with Philip IV a decade later. This book is the definitive account of a remarkable king and his long and significant reign. Widely praised when it was first published in 1988, it is now reissued with a new introduction and updated bibliographic guide. Praise for the earlier edition: "A masterly achievement. . . . A work of enduring value and one certain to remain the standard life for many years."—Times Literary Supplement "A fine book: learned, judicious, carefully thought out and skillfully presented. It is as near comprehensive as any single volume could be."—History Today "To have died more revered than any other English monarch was an outstanding achievement; and it is worthily commemorated by this outstanding addition



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to the . . . corpus of royal biographies."—Times Education Supplement

Which 'ill-prepared' monarch was on the English throne at the turn of the last millenium? How many English monarchs have been crowned on St George's Day? When, how and why did England 'lose' eleven days? "Monarchs, Murders & Mistresses" answers these questions and many more, presenting a royal event for each day of the calendar year in vivid detail with close-ups of the personalities involved. The book reveals the recurring occupational difficulties faced by the royal family over the centuries: as Shakespeare's Henry VI so memorably concludes. 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown'. Today the royal family is plagued by the press, but

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even 300 years ago Charles II felt the need to apologise to a crowd of onlookers for taking so long to die. This book contains topics ranging from the death of William III, who was killed by a mole to the beheading of Mary, Queen of Scots. These, and over 400 other tales of royal days, bring alive the drama of what it was, and is, to be a king or a queen.

Richard III: villain or hero? He was only on the throne for just over two years, yet Richard is probably the most controversial monarch in British history: to some a hunchbacked schemer, usurper and murderer of the 'prince in the Tower', to others a very capable and much maligned ruler. Now you can judge for yourself. Surviving documents

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from his reign, including letters in Richard's own hand and extracts from official papers, are reproduced here from the 500-year-old originals. Each key document is beautifully reproduced in a double-page spread which also includes an extended contextualising caption and a modern transcription where necessary. The original sources are woven together with a brief narrative history of the reign, fully illustrated in colour with portraits, photographs and other material from the archives. Featured documents include: \* Letter from Richard to his mother, 1484 \* Richard's official justification for taking the throne, 1484 proclamation against Henry Tudor, 1485 \* Richard's letter to the Lord Chancellor requesting the Great Seal 1483

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Few English monarchs had to fight harder for the right to rule than King Edward IV - Shakespeare's 'Glorious Sun of York'. Cast in true Plantagenet mold, over six foot tall, he was a naturally charismatic leader. Edward had the knack of seizing the initiative and winning battles and is free from unflattering characterizations that plagued his brother, Richard III, having been portrayed as a good-looking and formidable military tactician. Described sometimes as reckless and profligate, all sources remark on his personal bravery. In the eleven years between 1460 and 1471 he fought five major battles in the Wars of the Roses. Three of them - Towton, Barnet and Tewkesbury - rank among the most decisive of the medieval period. The story covers

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Edward's family background, the Yorkist takeover and the drift to war. It charts the tensions created by the controversial Woodville marriage and Edward's deposition by the Earl of Warwick and subsequent exile. The return of the king brought with it battles anew and Edward's decisive campaigns against Warwick and Margaret of Anjou. Finally, Edward's sudden death heralded the demise of the House of York and the triumph of the Tudors against Richard III. This is a history of Edward IV's struggle to gain and retain the kingship of England during a period of sustained dynastic turmoil in the middle of the Wars of the Roses. REVIEWS "I considered myself relatively well-informed on the period before I picked this one up, but I

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learnt from it and found it a very enjoyable refresher course and I would unreservedly recommend it to any enthusiast of British medieval history."The Bookbag

Edward III

A Royal Tragedy

The Summer King

The Three Richards

59 Royal Flashcards

***This detailed biography concentrates on the domestic life of the monarch, foreign affairs in which he was involved and his influence on religion. Bibliogs***

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*From acclaimed historian Chris Skidmore comes the authoritative biography of Richard III, England's most controversial king, a man alternately praised as a saint and cursed as a villain. Richard III is one of English history's best known and least understood monarchs. Immortalized by Shakespeare as a hunchbacked murderer, the discovery in 2012 of his skeleton in a Leicester parking lot re-ignited debate over the true character of England's most controversial king. Richard was born into an age of brutality, when civil war*

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*gripped the land and the Yorkist dynasty clung to the crown with their fingertips. Was he really a power-crazed monster who killed his nephews, or the victim of the first political smear campaign conducted by the Tudors? In the first full biography of Richard III for fifty years, Chris Skidmore draws on new manuscript evidence to reassess Richard's life and times. Richard III examines in intense detail Richard's inner nature and his complex relations with those around him to unravel the mystery of the last English monarch to*



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*die on the battlefield.*

*"For fans of Hilary Mantel and The Tudors, this is the dramatic story of the concluding episode in England's War of the Roses, featuring three brothers, two of whom became kings, Edward IV and Richard III, famous from Shakespeare's great history play Richard III" --*

*From King Athelstan to Queen Elizabeth II, this deck of all 59 English monarchs effortlessly tells a story that spans more than 1,000 years. Featuring portraits from prestigious galleries like the National*

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*Portrait Gallery in London, each page showcases a beautiful, miniature work of art set in an elegant gilt frame, paired with fascinating details of the monarch's reign. Monarchs of England makes learning about the English monarchy a visual treat.*

*A Royal Enigma*

*Glorious Son of York*

*Monarchs, Murders & Mistresses*

*Lives of England's Monarchs*

*Villain or hero? - Shakespeare's image of Richard III*

*Henry VII*

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*Founder of the Tudor dynasty, Henry VII was a crucial figure in English history. In this acclaimed study of the king's life and reign, the distinguished historian S. B. Chrimes explores the circumstances surrounding Henry's acquisition of the throne, examines the personnel and machinery of government, and surveys the king's social, political, and economic policies, law enforcement, and foreign strategy. This edition of the book includes a new critical introduction and bibliographical updating by George Bernard.*

*Henry IV (1399-1413), the son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, seized the English throne at the age of thirty-two from his cousin Richard II and held it until his death, aged forty-five, when he was succeeded by his son, Henry V. This comprehensive and nuanced biography restores to his rightful*

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*place a king often overlooked in favor of his illustrious progeny. Henry faced the usual problems of usurpers: foreign wars, rebellions, and plots, as well as the ambitions and demands of the Lancastrian retainers who had helped him win the throne. By 1406 his rule was broadly established, and although he became ill shortly after this and never fully recovered, he retained ultimate power until his death. Using a wide variety of previously untapped archival materials, Chris Given-Wilson reveals a cultured, extravagant, and skeptical monarch who crushed opposition ruthlessly but never quite succeeded in satisfying the expectations of his own supporters.*

*'An important and timely book' - Philippa Gregory. Joan of Navarre was the richest woman in the land, at a time when*

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*war-torn England was penniless. Eleanor Cobham was the wife of a weak king's uncle – and her husband was about to fall from grace. Jacquetta Woodville was a personal enemy of Warwick the Kingmaker, who was about to take his revenge. Elizabeth Woodville was the widowed mother of a child king, fighting Richard III for her children's lives. In Royal Witches, Gemma Hollman explores the lives of these four unique women, looking at how rumours of witchcraft brought them to their knees in a time when superstition and suspicion was rife.*

*Edward IV* Yale University Press

*The Life and Death of Henry VI*

*Elizabeth of York*

*George III*

*Edward IV*

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*The Story of Our American English Heritage  
King of England and France and Lord of Ireland*

"First published in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, 1923"--Title page verso.

"The definitive biography and assessment of the wily and formidable prince who unexpectedly became monarch-the most infamous king in British history. The reign of Richard III, the last Yorkist king and the final monarch of the Plantagenet dynasty, marked a turning point in British history. But despite his lasting legacy, Richard only ruled as king for the final two years of his life. While much attention has been given to his short reign, Michael Hicks

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explores the whole of Richard's fascinating life and traces the unfolding of his character and career from his early years as the son of a duke to his violent death at the battle of Bosworth. Hicks explores how Richard-villainized for his imprisonment and probable killing of the princes-applied his experience to overcome numerous setbacks and adversaries. Richard proves a complex, conflicted individual whose Machiavellian tact and strategic foresight won him a kingdom. He was a reformer who planned big changes, but lost the opportunity to fulfill them and to retain his crown."--Provided by publisher.

"Elizabeth of York (11 February 1466? 11 February 1503)

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was Queen consort of England as spouse of King Henry VII from 1486 until 1503. Elizabeth of York was a daughter, sister, niece, wife, mother and grandmother of English monarchs - Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III, Henry VII, Henry VIII and Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth respectively. All English monarchs beginning with Henry VIII are descendants of Elizabeth of York; either through Henry VIII (for Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I), or through Margaret Tudor, Queen of Scots."--Wikipedia.

In 1461 Edward earl of March, an able, handsome, and charming eighteen-year old, usurped the English throne



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from his feeble Lancastrian predecessor Henry VI. Ten years on, following outbreaks of civil conflict that culminated in him losing, then regaining the crown, he had finally secured his kingdom. The years that followed witnessed a period of rule that has been described as a golden age: a time of peace and economic and industrial expansion, which saw the establishment of a style of monarchy that the Tudors would later develop. Yet, argues A. J. Pollard, Edward, who was drawn to a life of sexual and epicurean excess, was a man of limited vision, his reign remaining to the very end the narrow rule of a victorious faction in civil war. Ultimately, his failure was

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dynastic: barely two months after his death in April 1483, the throne was usurped by Edward's youngest brother, Richard III.

The Brothers York

THE KINGS & QUEENS OF ENGLAND & BRITAIN

The Shadow King

Edward I

Edward IV, 1461-1483

Richard III (Penguin Monarchs)

***In this widely acclaimed biography, Bertram Wolffe challenges the traditional view of Henry VI as an***

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*unworldly, innocent, and saintly monarch and offers instead a finely drawn but critical portrait of an ineffectual ruler. Drawing on widespread contemporary evidence, Wolfe describes the failures of Henry's long reign from 1422 to 1471, which included the collapse of justice, the loss of the French territories, and the final disintegration of his government. He argues that the posthumous cult of Henry was promoted*

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*by Henry VII as a way of excusing his uncle's political failures while enhancing the image of the dynasty.*

*This edition includes a new foreword by John Watts that discusses the book and its place in the evolving literature.*

*Reviews of the earlier edition: "A brilliant biography that brings us as near as we are ever likely to come to this elusive personality."--Sunday Times (London) "A powerful, compulsively readable*

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*portrait."--Observer "Much learning, skillfully deployed as here, evokes pleasure as well as admiration."--R.L. Storey, Times Literary Supplement*

*Who invented the 'House of Windsor' as a royal name? Who founded Westminster Abbey? Which king had twenty-one illegitimate children? David Halliam answers all these questions and more. Here is a continuous history of the English monarchy, showing how the nine dynasties rose and fell. The book*

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*describes the most memorable features of the life and times of each king or queen - from Egbert, crowned in 802 and considered the first king of England, to Queen Elizabeth II - as well as recording the extraordinary lives of their queens, consorts, mistresses and bastard children. It also tells the story of the Saxons, describes what has happened to the monarchs' mortal remains, and relates many lively incidents of royal history that rarely*

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appear in the text books. Read of the saintly Edward the Confessor, who is believed to have refused to consummate his marriage; of the rumbustious Henry VIII, given to beheading those who displeased him; of the 'little gentleman in black velvet', who caused the death of William III; and of Queen Victoria's strange servant, the 'Munshi', Queen Emma, who endured a trial by ordeal; and Anne Boleyn, widely suspected of being a witch. A

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*complete list of the monarchs' reigns and a genealogical table showing the royal descent down thirty-seven generations from Egbert to Elizabeth II adds to the volume's reference value. Though in his own time Edward IV was popularly seen as an able and successful king who rescued England from the miseries of civil war and provided the country with firm, judicious and popular government, later historians cast doubt on his*



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*achievement. This classic study - now reissued with a substantial new foreword by R. A. Griffiths - places the reign firmly in the context of late-medieval power politics, assessing the king's relations with the politically-active classes, and evaluating the many innovations in government on which Edward's reputation rests. Revealing the king as an enigmatic character intelligent, active and forceful, but also pleasure-loving and, in his later*

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*years, increasingly arbitrary and avaricious, Ross endorses Edward as a ruler of substantial accomplishment, whose methods and policies carved the foundation of early Tudor government. A thrilling new account of the tragic story and troubled times of Henry VI, who inherited the crowns of both England and France and lost both. Firstborn son of a warrior father who defeated the French at Agincourt, Henry VI of the House of Lancaster inherited*

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*the crown not only of England but also of France, at a time when Plantagenet dominance over the Valois dynasty was at its glorious height. And yet, by the time he died in the Tower of London in 1471, France was lost, his throne had been seized by his rival, Edward IV of the House of York, and his kingdom had descended into the violent chaos of the Wars of the Roses. Henry VI is perhaps the most troubled of English monarchs, a pious, gentle, well-intentioned man*

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*who was plagued by bouts of mental illness. In The Shadow King, Lauren Johnson tells his remarkable and sometimes shocking story in a fast-paced and colorful narrative that captures both the poignancy of Henry's life and the tumultuous and bloody nature of the times in which he lived.*

*Royal Witches*

*Monarchs of the Renaissance*

*Henry I*

*The Lives and Reigns of 42 European*

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### *Kings and Queens*

***This informative entertaining read tells, with wit and understanding, England Richard III ruled England for a mere twenty-six months, yet few English monarchs remain as compulsively fascinating, and none has been more persistently vilified. In his absorbing and universally praised account, Charles Ross assesses the king within the context of his violent age and explores the critical questions of the reign: why and how Richard Plantagenet usurped the throne; the belief that he ordered the murder of "the Princes in the Tower"; the events leading to the battle of Bosworth in***

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**1485; and the death of the Yorkist dynasty with Richard himself. In a new foreword, Professor Richard A. Griffiths identifies the attributes that have made Ross's account the leading biography in the field, and assesses the impact of the research published since the book first appeared in 1981. "A fascinating study on a perennially fascinating topic... the base against which will be measured any future research."--Times Higher Education Supplement Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 2,0, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), language: English, abstract: In**

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***contemporary books about the English history, the entry about Richard III reads approximately as follows: According to popular belief the most villainous King in English history was a hunchback who plotted all his life to become King. This relentless pursuit of the crown was done at any cost, even it seems down to the murder of the royal princes, the sons of Edward IV [...]. When reading on, most of the works revise their opinion and admit that actually Richard was not any more blood thirsty or brutal than other contemporary monarchs, that the “popular belief” that he killed his Nephews in the Tower, and that he was malformed, was***

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***actually not a fact, but an assumption, which has not been proven up to this day. Although most of the time the reliable sources revise their opinion about this monarch a few paragraphs later, the first impression on the history-interested person is made. The question here is what creates or created this image of the villainous and deformed Richard III? Some history books mention William Shakespeare's history The Tragedy of King Richard III as one of the possible works that have been influencing the people's opinions about this English king. This essay is intended to analyze in what way Shakespeare's work undermines this thesis and***



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***what picture he really drew of the monarch Richard III. In order to understand this complex matter, the essay will guide through the historical background of the drama and will try to analyze the notion of Shakespeare's portrayal. Furthermore, as the character of Richard appears in earlier plays already, the beginnings of the character will be presented in order to highlight the complexity of the character's development. In addition, two characterizing scenes will be examined, so that the different views on Richard's complexion can be observed. The last part consists of a short analysis of Richard's counterpart Richmond,***

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***which emphasizes the impact that Richard's complexion has on the audience.***