

**iMUNC (2023)**

Background Guide

**iHENRY**

King Henry's Court

Chair: Spencer Kaufman

Director: Asif Haque, Joshua Ng

iMUNC 2023

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## Dais Letters

Hello Delegates,

My name is Joshua Ng. I am a senior at the NYC iSchool and I will be serving as the crisis director for this committee. I decided to join Model UN back in freshman year, but my interest really took off in my junior year when I participated in several crisis committees as well as my participation in Model UN module. Since then, I've been seeking to get more involved in MUN and participate in some conferences, and I felt that participating in iMUNC would allow me to do so by contributing to this background guide that is being used at iMUNC 2023. My participation in Model UN activities has shown me that exploring and becoming involved is a large part of the fun; as such I encourage delegates to actively participate in this committee and explore different ways of portraying yourself. I hope you find this committee enjoyable.

Joshua Ng (He/Him/His)

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Asif Haque

My name is Asif Haque and I will be serving as the crisis director for this committee. I am a sophomore at the NYC iSchool. I decided to join Model UN in my freshman year because I value group cooperation and communication when

trying to solve important issues, and this idea is the heart and soul of Model UN. The first conference I attended was last year's iMUNC and then I went on to attend StuyMUNC 2022 in May. iHENRY will be the first ever committee I help run. I'm excited about this committee and I hope it will be an awesome experience for everyone who is a part of it!

Asif Haque (He/Him/His)

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Spencer Kaufman

My name is Spencer Kaufman and I will be serving as the chair for this committee. I am a sophomore at the NYC iSchool and this is my second year doing model U.N. During the first club fair I experienced at the iSchool I discovered the model U.N. club where I uncovered my interest in global and American politics, global issues, and how to solve them. This passion for global politics and issues has led me to join iSchool's newspaper; iNews. Since going to my first model U.N conference during my freshman year in Boston, I've wanted to create and run a model U.N committee of my own. I'm very excited to run my first model U.N committee with you and I look forward to this committee.

Spencer Kaufman (He/Him/His)

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## Secretariat Notes

Hello everyone, thank you all for coming to iMUNC 2023! My name is Caroline Mulcahy, I am a senior at the iSchool and the Co-Secretary general of iMUNC. I've been in Model UN here for as long as possible. I joined and stayed because MUN provided an outlet for creativity and the foundation for many friendships. We are so excited to have you all and we are working to make this the best experience possible for all of you. If you have any questions about the logistics of this conference please don't hesitate to reach out at [ischoolmunc@gmail.com](mailto:ischoolmunc@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Caroline Mulcahy

Hello all, I would like to personally like to thank you all for coming to iMUNC 2023! My name is Trent Ford, I am a Junior at the iSchool and the other Co-Secretary general and Director of Content for iMUNC. I've been doing Model UN since freshman year when we had to do it over Zoom. I joined originally, because I was forced to go to my school's club fair and Model UN was the only club that really spoke out to me. The reason I stayed in Model UN was because of iMUNC 2021, so the fact that I am now running the conference is like a dream come true. I am beyond excited to have you all here and we are working to make this the best possible experience for you. If you have any questions about the conference or just want to tell us your excited please reach out at [ischoolmunc@gmail.com](mailto:ischoolmunc@gmail.com)

Thank you and we will see you soon,

Trent Ford

# Accepted Documents

## **Crisis Note**

This is a direct action taken by you as a delegate. They should be written as notes to the chair and must have three core pieces: what you want to do, how you are going to achieve it or what means you will use, and why you are trying to do it. This will help your chairs effectively build crisis narratives for you and will make more of what you want to happen come true. Notes can be written directly to the chair, or in character as the person/delegation you are representing.

## **Directive**

This is an action taken by the whole committee, either collective action by each delegate or using a power vested in the whole committee. They have sponsors (who wrote it), signatories (who want to see it voted on—not necessarily supporting it), and operative clauses that specify what actions are being taken. Directives must be voted on, passed, and then will be implemented by the crisis team.

## **Communiqué**

A communique is a communication sent by the whole committee to another person or group. They are a way of representing the interests of everyone to other groups you may be trying to work with or are bargaining with.

## **Press Release**

A press release is an announcement from the committee to the public at large. It's a useful way to generate public sentiment, and some countries may demand them in the name of transparency at certain points.

## **Background**

In 1491, a child named Henry was born, who would change the course of global history and impact people's beliefs forever. He was second in line for the throne of England at a time when monarchs ruled the continent of Europe. Europe at the time was ruled by four major powers. England, France, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Papal states (where the pope has control). Later, Henry's older brother Arthur Prince of Wales died, making Henry first in line. He was married to his brother's widow Catherine of Aragon as part of an alliance with Spain. In 1509, Henry was crowned King of England and was given the title King Henry VIII.

King Henry VIII spent a lot in his early years, almost bankrupting England several times. This led Henry to take money from Peasants and Monasteries, angering many people. Henry was impressionable, which allowed for his advisors Cardinal Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell to significantly influence the young king. Henry also had many wives and mistresses, causing them to be jealous of each other. All of Henry's wives aimed to become his only spouse and Queen of England, a title Catherine of Aragon currently holds. Henry's wives have their own

goals, from Anne Boleyn convincing Henry to convert England to Protestantism to Catherine of Aragon disposing of Henry so she can be the sole ruler of England.

Henry had an alliance with the Pope and fought France for the Pope, but is now not sure if he wants to continue supporting the Pope. This is because Henry wants to divorce Catherine of Aragon and the Pope sent Cardinal Campeggio to oversee the divorce trial, but he's delaying all of the proceedings.

King Henry VIII has become paranoid. No one is safe from his paranoia, including those closest to him. This has caused public opinion of the king to sour, and many people have become angry enough to take consequential action against the king. King Henry started out as popular due to the hatred of the former king whose taxes were highly unpopular.

## **Current Status**

The year is 1511 and tensions are rising all across Europe. The center of European power is Britain—it's ruler, King Henry VII. King Henry's Court is the court of the British monarchy and consists of influential people from all over Europe. The court discusses the most pressing issues affecting Europe and how to proceed.

Right now, world leaders and people concerned about politics are all on their way to King Henry's Court to discuss the current tumultuous status of martial, religious, and hierarchical affairs in England.

The current Queen of England is Catherine of Aragon, who is married to King Henry VIII. However, due to King Henry's immaturity and impressionability, all of his other mistresses are vying for the power of the throne. Jane Seymour possesses the most influence over King Henry, as she cares the most about him and vice versa. Due to their hate for Jane Seymour and the increasing probability of her marriage to King Henry, his other wives and mistresses plan to argue why they are better suited to becoming Queen of England at the Court.

As of now, England is a Catholic state and allied with the Pope. Historically, King Henry supported the pope, but has recently grown further from both the papacy and Catholicism. England's Protestant movement, led by Anne Boleyn, is fighting to separate England from the Catholic Church and completely Protestantize the country. A portion of England's population has given their support to this movement, but Anne Boleyn is seeking to amplify the message of Protestantism at the Court. On the other hand, Catherine of Aragon is looking forward to using the Court as a way of promoting the maintenance of Catholicism in England and anti-Protestant rhetoric.

The King, Edmund, and Basil are working together to help the king divorce Catherine of Aragon. Each wife has separate motives to marry Henry for his



power. (Ex. Anne Boleyn wants to make England Protestant not Catholic.) England is allied with the Vatican, which is Cardinal Campeggio and the pope because he's protecting them from France. The King of France wants to thwart Henry and the Vatican in any way possible. Henry's children, Mary, Elizabeth, and Edward, are all vying for the throne in order to accomplish their own motive, which is up to the discretion of the delegate.

## **Delegate List:**

King Henry VIII (King of England):

King Henry VIII ruled England when he was crowned king in 1509. Henry is a tyrannical king who ordered the execution of anyone who displeases him, including several of his wives. King Henry VIII is responsible for converting England from Catholicism to Protestantism with the monarch (himself) being the supreme leader of the Church of England. He has gone on many conquests of France, practically bankrupting England in all of his conquests. Henry VIII has many mistresses, but favors some over others like Anne Boleyn. In addition to Anne Boleyn, Henry wants to marry Jane Seymour, the only wife he has said to ever have loved, and the only wife that ever loved him and not his power.

Catherine of Aragon:

Catherine of Aragon was Henry's first wife, and they are only married because of an arranged marriage orchestrated by Henry's dad as part of an alliance with Spain. Unlike most arranged marriages, Henry and Catherine love each other. However, this marriage has become more and more tenuous in the past few months. Catherine of Aragon, a devout Catholic, is loyal to the papacy and has devoted herself to keep England Catholic despite the sizable Protestant movement spearheaded by none other than Anne of Cleves.

Cardinal Wolsey:

Cardinal Wolsey is Henry's advisor who ran England when Henry was young. He let Henry get around the royal council, but made Henry unhappy when Cardinal Wolsey couldn't secure an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon from the Pope. However, Wolsey still has a considerable amount of power and influence due to his many followers, people and people he bribes. Cardinal Wolsey has always been ambitious and takes chances to get ahead.

The Pope (Pope Clement VII):

The pope is the supreme leader of Catholicism and lives in Italy, in Vatican City. The pope has a huge amount of power and is allied with the Holy Roman Empire, and for a little bit, England. They are bitter enemies with France and went

to war with each other multiple times. He isn't allowing Henry to divorce Catherine of Aragon which is resulting in England possibly leaving Catholicism.

Francis I (King of France):

King Francis I is the king of France and is surrounded by enemies. England to the north, the Holy Roman Empire (which controlled Spain at the time) to the east and west, and Italy (The Pope) to the south. Therefore France is constantly at war especially with Italy because Francis I hates the Pope. Francis is dealing with two years of conquests from the British who almost took Paris and lost battle after battle, nearly escaping being captured by the Holy Roman Empire and Charles V. Francis I would like nothing more than to control Italy, the Holy Roman Empire, and to reoccupy England as they did in the 1300s and 1400s.

Anne Boleyn:

Anne Boleyn is the first mistress of King Henry VIII. She is an extremist Protestant and was the King's mistress before Catherine of Aragon fell from his good graces. Henry wanted to have an affair but Anne Boleyn wanted more than just being the King's mistress, she wanted to be Queen. She drove Henry VIII crazy about divorcing Catherine of Aragon and is very close to getting him to leave the Catholic Church and create the Church of England which is Protestant. Protestantism just so happens to allow for divorce without special approval or there

being a scandal. Anne Boleyn is very powerful and dangerous. Anne Boleyn wants nothing more than to be the Queen of England, with or without Henry VIII. She is dead set on making England Protestant by convincing Henry VIII to leave the Catholic Church and breaking ties with the pope.

Anne of Cleves:

Anne of Cleves was kicked out of King Henry's palace for scheming against him. Originally from Germany, Anne of Cleves traveled to the English Royal palace to advocate for Germany secretly, however she was caught and she traveled to Germany. Now, two months later, she has arrived at King Henry's Court with the goal of establishing herself as Henry's wife and Queen of England to once again secretly advocate for Germany. However, she cannot advocate for Germany unless she takes power.

Edmund:

Edmund is extremely loyal to King Henry VIII and to England. However, Edmund hates Basil, which is well known because of their public squabbles, including when King Henry VIII is present. Although there's no proof, Edmund has been accused of trying to kick Basil out of the King's council.

Basil:

Basil, like Edmund, is extremely loyal to King Henry VIII and to England. He doesn't wish to gain power beyond what he has. However, it is well known that Basil hates Edmund due to their public squabbles, including when King Henry VIII is present. In response to the rumors of Edmund trying to kick Basil out of the King's council, Basil in turn has attempted to remove Edmund from his position in the King's council.

Mary:

Mary is the daughter of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. She is currently in her mid-twenties and hasn't chosen who she is loyal to yet. However, Mary is known to have support for the Catholic Church's authority in England. Like her half-siblings Elizabeth and Edward, she has a desire for power and influence over the throne and shouldn't be underestimated despite her young age.

Cardinal Campeggio:

Cardinal Campeggio was sent to England to oversee the possible divorce of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. He is a very simple man who lived a very unhealthy curial lifestyle. Cardinal Campeggio has severe gout which impedes his ability to administer the trial of whether or not Henry VIII's divorce is justified. Cardinal Campeggio's mind about if the divorce is justified is already made up before he gets to England. He is refusing to allow the divorce to be

approved by the Catholic Church. Cardinal Campeggio wants to be cured of his gout and to prevent King Henry VIII from divorcing Catherine of Aragon.

Jane Seymour:

Jane Seymour is King Henry VIII's most recent mistress. She is his companion and friend, and has a unique relationship with him, unlike any of his other mistresses. She doesn't hate Henry, and so Henry favors her above his other mistresses. This has caused his other wives to be jealous of Jane Seymour and be mean to her. Jane Seymour wants to convince King Henry VIII to divorce his other wife, disregard what they are telling him, and execute or hurt them to show his loyalty to her. She's the only wife who truly wants to be with and loves Henry and doesn't want to be with him because of his power and title.

Elizabeth Blount:

Elizabeth Blount is one of King Henry's most significant mistresses who never became his wife. She is also a devout Protestant. She and King Henry had an illegitimate child. Due to this she and her child were thrown out of the castle. Several years later Elizabeth is back for revenge and to help turn England Protestant. Elizabeth is the leader of a large Protestant movement with a good amount of power along with her son Henry FitzRoy.

Henry FitzRoy:

Henry FitzRoy is the illegitimate child of King Henry VIII. Thrown out of the castle when he was born, he and his mother fled to the outskirts of London looking for a church to take them in. That church happened to be Protestant. Despite being Catholic at birth, Henry and his mother became Protestants and vowed to take revenge on the king for throwing him out by spreading Protestantism across primarily Catholic England. Henry is the leader of a large Protestant movement with a good amount of power along with his mother Elizabeth Blount.

King James VI of Scotland:

King James VI of Scotland is fighting a losing war against Catherine of Aragon. England is trying to unite Scotland and Wales to form a larger Catholic kingdom consisting of the entirety of Britain. King James is fighting as hard as he can causing massive losses for the British. Scotland is Protestant, and the war against Scotland is causing unrest and enlarging the Protestant movement in England. King James' intention is to support the English Protestant movement in any way he can.

Elizabeth:

Elizabeth is the second child of King Henry VIII and daughter of Anne Boleyn. Her mother's devout Protestantism has had considerable sway over her religious identity, despite only being in her late teens. Elizabeth may find herself in a future conflict with her older half-sister Mary and her younger half-brother Edward over who assumes their father's throne.

Edward:

Edward is the third child of King Henry VIII and son of Jane Seymour. Although Edward is the son of Henry's unmarried romantic partner and is younger than both Mary and Elizabeth, he is favored to become the next English monarch due to his male identity. Described by King Henry VIII as "his most noble and most precious jewel," Edward is being pampered by the rest of English royalty, but he will certainly have to fight off challenges from his other siblings in order to take over the role of King.

Thomas Cromwell:

Thomas Cromwell was formerly the Chief Minister to King Henry VIII, helping him forge romantic relationships with Anne Boleyn and then Anne of Cleves. He was later fired by King Henry for connecting him to Anne of Cleves, as she secretly advocated for Germany and schemed against the King. At King Henry's Court, Cromwell will look to reestablish his once-extensive influence over



the English monarchy. However, it is unclear if he will accomplish this by attempting to regain King Henry's trust or by seeking revenge against him for his firing.

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V:

Charles V is the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Being the *Holy* Roman Empire, Charles V defended the Pope and Catholicism. Being Catholic himself, Charles V staunchly opposed the spread of Protestantism and other non-Catholic forms of Christianity. He is closely allied with King Henry because his cousin is Catherine of Aragon, King Henry's wife. However, Charles V and Henry's relationship has turned sour since rumors of Henry wanting to divorce Catherine of Aragon have arisen.

Phillip of Spain:

In order to keep the peace in Spain which they rule, the Holy Roman Empire has installed a puppet leader named Phillip. Being a very Catholic nation, Spain opposes non-Catholic forms of Christianity anyway they can. Phillip is going to King Henry's Court with two goals in mind; to stop the spread of Protestantism and to expand the influence and power of the papacy.

## Questions to Consider/Committee Mission

- How will England align religiously? Will the Catholic Church's power in England be maintained or will it be wiped out by the Protestant Reformation?
- Will King Henry VIII decide to marry someone? If so, who will he marry?
- Will King Henry VIII remain King of England?
- Which of King Henry VIII's children will become the heir apparent to the throne?
- Who will have the most influence over King Henry VIII's actions and decisions as English monarch?
- How will the lines of borders shift and control of territories change in Europe, if at all?
- Will the papacy gain more power?
- How will the populations of different religions shift?
- How will Protestantism affect countries other than England?

## Notes:

The timeline in which this committee takes place does not match the timeline in history. This way different people from different times in history are all present during the time of which this committee makes place. Events leading

to the death or irrelevance of certain characters regarding to this committee did not occur.

## Research

- [Henry VIII - OverSimplified](#)
- [Henry VIII | Biography, Wives, Religion, Death, & Facts | Britannica](#)
- [Henry VIII \(r.1509-1547\) | The Royal Family](#)
- [Henry VIII: King, Wives & Children - HISTORY](#)
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-V-Holy-Roman-emperor>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Clement-VII-pope>