**Nature of political opposition to Henry especially imposter**

* Henry was also challenged with the deaths of Prince Arthur (1502), Isabella of Castile and Philip of Burgundy.
* **Viscount Lovell and the Staffords**. The first rebellion was led by Francis, Viscount Lovell and Humphrey Stafford in Easter 1486. Lovell had prospered from being a loyal supporter of Richard III.
  + Lovell tried to raise a rebellion in the North Riding of Yorkshire whilst Stafford tried to gather forces in the Midlands.
  + Humphrey and Thomas Stafford took sanctuary in the Church for 40 days and 40 nights. Anyone who took sanctuary could not be killed but had to leave the country after this time period. If they did not, they had to wade into the nearest port and take the first boat, irrelevant of where it was going.
  + Henry went into the Church and pulled the Humphreys out.
  + Lovell ran off and hid and was never seen again. Humphrey Stafford was executed but Thomas was pardoned.
  + It seems significant that there was such little enthusiasm in Yorkshire: it was easily suppressed.
* **Lambert Simnel and the Earl of Lincoln (June 16th 1487)**. Because the Lovell rebellion was such a failure, Yorkists realised a change in strategy was required.
  + They used Lambert Simnel as a figurehead for the Earl of Warwick (he was imprisoned by Henry).
  + In response, Henry displayed the REAL Earl of Warwick for all to see.
  + John de la Pole was behind the conspiracy. He fled from Henry VII’s court and joined Lovell in the court of Margaret of Burgundy’s in the Netherlands.
  + They persuaded Margaret to support the plan and pay for mercenaries (hired soldiers) to invade England.
  + Richard’s power base was in the north of England so Henry reinstated the help of the Earl of Northumberland (a risk because he was untrustworthy since he helped Richard at the Battle of Bosworth).
    - This neutralised Richard’s power base.
    - This also ensured the Howards didn’t get involved with the conspiracy as they were descendants of the Earl of Northumberland.
  + Henry also reinforced coastal defences in East Anglia.
  + Instead, the rebels arrived on the North West coast of England, in Northumberland and travelled to the North Riding of Yorkshire to drum up support.
  + However, the Yorkists in the North West were reluctant to commit support.
  + Meanwhile, Henry gathered a group of advisors, including the relatives of former Yorkists who had not been treated well by Richard III in the South and the Midlands. They met at East Stoke. Henry feared that he may be double-crossed as Richard had at the Battle of Bosworth.
  + However, the army were lead efficiently by the Earl of Oxford and John de la Pole, the Earl of Lincoln, was killed.
  + The Battle of Stoke was important as it marked the end of the Wars of the Roses.
  + Henry was light on those who had rebelled against him which weakened the resolve of the Yorkists.
  + Henry began to develop the “bonds of good behaviour” which was a lump sum of money given to landowners. They didn’t have to pay it back if they behaved well. If they disobeyed, they had to pay the bonds back as penalties.
* Perkin Warbeck posed to be Richard, Duke of York over a period of 8 years.
* In early 1493, Perkin Warbeck was groomed to impersonate one of the princes by Yorkist exiles whilst an army was raised. Rather than a pest, he became a real threat because he attracted foreign patronage. Richard and Henry had wanted them out of the way. Henry had only been accepted as King because Britain had presumed the princes were dead. With a reappearance, instead their loyalties were torn.
  + In 1491, Warbeck began to impersonate Richard, Duke of York in Ireland.
  + He appeared briefly in the court of France belonging to Charles VIII but fled to Margaret of Burgundy’s court where he trained to impersonate a potential Yorkist prince and drew in English courtiers.
  + In 1495, Warbeck landed in England. Henry had already been informed by one royal agent, Sir Robert Clifford. Warbeck was quickly defeated and fled to the court of James IV of Scotland.
  + However, it wasn’t defeated because behind the conspiracy was Sir William Stanley who was the head of the household (a Medieval style of governance where the head had authority of the mobility, labour and property of all those living on the land). After Henry employed spies, he found that Sir William Stanley (who had helped at Bosworth) was at the heart of the conspiracy. He was Lord Chamberlain meaning he looked after the King’s security. His house was raided and a White roses chain as found as well as enough money to bankroll an army.
  + Stanley was executed.
  + As a result, Henry passed the “Statute on retaining” which entailed that Lords couldn’t have an army. If they did, they had to pay a large bond.
  + Henry had wanted for his son a marriage with Spanish Catherine of Aragon but he couldn’t as a result of his unstable throne.
  + In 1496, a small Scottish force working on behalf of Warbeck crossed the border but quickly retreated.
  + Warbeck was then forgotten when James IV agreed to marry Henry VI’s daughter, Margaret.
  + Warbeck made a final ditch attempt at the throne by exploiting the uncertainties created by the Cornish rebellion in 1497. However, forces were crushed and Warbeck surrendered.
  + Warbeck was at first allowed to stay in court but he absconded so was sent to the Tower of London.
  + Warbeck allegedly attempted to escape with the Earl of Warwick so both were executed for treason.
  + This was highly convenient for Henry VII since the Earl of Warwick was the most likely claimant for the throne.
* Final security threat was rom the brothers of John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln. They were Richard, the Earl of Suffolk and Edmund.
  + Suffolk had fled to Flanders in 1498. He returned after a brief exile but fled again to the Emperor of the court of Maximillian in 1501.
  + So long as Margaret of Burgundy was opposed to Henry VII, the Earl of Suffolk was safe.
  + However, the Treaty of Windsor in 1506 meant that more friendly relations were restored. This was demonstrated when Maximillian gave up Lincoln who was imprisoned in the Tower of London.
  + Henry later had him executed for treason in 1513.
  + Richard de la Pole was then left but he was executed in the Battle of Parvia in 1525.
* Genealogical roll owned by kings and noblemen had line of descent excluding Henry. De la Poles, specifically John (earl of Lincoln), hated Henry as he had been related to Richard who apparently promised John the throne.
* In 1486, John De la Pole went to battle at Stoke but was destroyed. For Henry, his York contender had been eradicated.