**Henry VII’s Foreign Relations with Spain**

Spain was important to Henry due to it being a powerful state.

The Treaty of Medina del Campo in 1489 gave Henry international peace and security:

* Protection: Mutual Protection in event of the attack.
* Security: Promised not to harbour rebels.
* Marriage: Catherine of Aragon (Isabella and Ferdinand’s daughter) and Prince Arthur of Wales.

However, the marriage term did not run smoothly:

* Ferdinand was reluctant to hand over Catherine when Henry’s throne was unstable due to Perkin Warbeck.
* There were arguments over the size of dowry of Catherine.

Finally, the details were agreed in 1499 and the marriage went ahead in 1501.

Arthur died in 152 which brought complications:

* Henry suggested that Catherine of Aragon marry Henry VII but Ferdinand had little need for an alliance with England. Also, he needed a papal dispensation (permission from the Pope to be exempt from laws) which was available but would cost.

When Isabella died in 1504, Ferdinand became a less important political figure so Henry lost all enthusiasm for the marriage.

There was a resultant power struggle with Ferdinand and Juana (Catherine of Argon’s sister). Henry chose to support Juana.

Juana and her husband Philip of Burgundy had set sail for Spain in 1506 but their ship was wrecked at sea so they were forced to take refuge in England.

Henry could take advantage of the situation and by the Treaty of Windsor in 1506, Henry had secured a stronger relationship with the:

* Intercursus Malus (restoring trade relations with England and Burgundy).
* The return of the Earl of Suffolk (strengthening Henry’s claim to the throne).
* Marriage for Henry VII to the Archduchess Margaret (Philip’s sister) which was planned for after Elizabeth’s death but it never happened.
* Henry’s recognition of Juana and Philip as the rulers of Castile (strengthened their claim to the throne).

However, disaster struck for Henry when Philip died just after his and Juana’s arrival in Spain. Juana was described as having gone mad with grief by Ferdinand which gave him the opportunity to become regent of Castile once again.

Due to this, Henry was left diplomatically isolated as he had been diplomatically outsmarted by another European Monarch.

Ferdinand ensured that Prince Henry and Catherine of Aragon’s marriage did not go ahead in Henry VII’s lifetime. However, once Prince Henry had the throne, the marriage went ahead.