

The following programme is designed to give you an awareness of Early Modern A level History and especially the exciting period known as the 'Wars of the Roses'.

You <u>must</u> complete all sections of the programme to ensure you have a good overview before your September start. You can complete these tasks hand written or on computer. It is advisable you do Wars of the Roses and the Spain work separately as you will have folders for each.

The supporting reading can be found in the following locations:

War of the Roses

Britain 1483-1529

We look forward to meeting you in September.



This Course looks at Spain from 1468 to 1598 under the control of 3 Monarchs. Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, their grandson Charles V as joint regent with their daughter Juanna (de Loca /the mad) and their great grandson Philip II. It looks at the persecution of religious groups within Spain and the formation of the Spanish Inquisition. The growth of Spain's Empire that saw it conquer South America, parts of Italy and large areas of Northern Europe to have the largest Empire in the World. As an introduction to the course read through the following notes and then answer the questions in as much detail as you can. These will be looked at for detail and understanding at the start of Y12. The second task is an extension activity. Over the 2 years of study you will be required to read more challenging academic texts. The language in the second handout is more difficult and you may need to use a dictionary to help your understanding. The task is note making – this is something you will need to practice and you will get faster as you go.

When we think of Spain today, we tend to picture that part of the coast that borders the Mediterranean and which many seek for its 'sun, sand and sea'. This, however, is only one part of

Spain. Another coast borders the Atlantic Ocean. One land frontier is marked by the Pyrenees, and the other by modern- day Portugal. Together Spain and Portugal make up the Iberian Peninsula.

Although a part of continental Europe, it is very much a distinct unit. There are no easy channels of communication with the other countries of Europe. On the other hand, only 19 kilometres separate it from the coast of north Africa.

The peninsula is therefore at a crossroads, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic, and between the mainland of Europe and Africa. This is not to say that the peninsula enjoys close links with the world beyond. Geographical factors prevent this being so (see Figure 1.1, page 5). Around the edge is a narrow coastal plain. But a short journey into the interior quickly reveals rivers, valleys and, in particular, mountains. Spain is Europe's most mountainous country after Switzerland. Over one-sixth of the country is more than 1000 metres above sea level. The most important geographical feature in the interior is the Meseta, the enormous plateau at its centre. This is almost completely surrounded by high mountain ranges and is therefore remote from both the sea and the neighbouring countries of Portugal and France.

The Meseta is an area of extreme climate. Its long, hard winters are followed by short periods of intense heat — what some Spaniards of today refer to as 'nine months of winter and three of hell'. The areas near the Pyrenees are, in contrast, much wetter with no extremes of temperature. The east and south coasts are different again. Here it is very hot with little in the way of a winter, but the area suffers from a lack of rain.

Spain, a country shaped by its geography Such conditions make for a country in which food cannot easily be grown. In almost every part of Spain, apart from the river valleys and the narrow coastal plains, there are many areas where crop yields are too poor to provide enough food to sustain a large population. It is not surprising therefore, as the Spanish historian Pierre Vilar (1977) has shown, that so many of the maritime areas of Spain have sought to build up trade overseas — across the Mediterranean, over to Africa, or towards the Atlantic — rather than with the less productive central area.

The geography of the peninsula partly explains the way in which the political units in the area came to be formed as they did. Three main divisions can be distinguished: the area forming Portugal, that making Castile, and those regions which comprised the Crown of Aragon. However, there was no kingdom of Spain as there was a kingdom of Portugal. The word 'Spain' was not widely used by those living in the peninsula in the mid-fifteenth century, although there may have been some who referred to themselves as 'Spanish'.

Certainly, many foreigners called the people who lived in the Iberian Peninsula by this name. But most of the population thought of themselves as coming from particular parts of the peninsula, identifying first with Castile, Aragon, Catalonia, the Basque countries or Portugal. They called themselves not Spanish but Castilians, Aragonese, Catalans, Basque or Portuguese. It was not, however, just geographical factors which led to these groupings. The political history of the various regions also contributed.

Differences between Castile and Aragon in the mid-fifteenth century

Aragon's power did not last. By the middle of the fifteenth century it was clear that Castile would be the more important in the future. There were several reasons for this:

• Castile was four times larger in size than Aragon. Its population was also greater, possibly 5 million people in contrast to Aragon's 1 million.

• Castile was more unified. It possessed only one Cortes (or parliament), one language, one coinage and one administration.

• The Castilian economy had begun to thrive. Trade was mainly in raw materials, above all wool. The wool trade was controlled by the Mesta, which was a group of all the producers of wool in Castile. Exports were sent to the markets of northern Europe, particularly Flanders in the Netherlands, where Castilian merchants played a leading role. Castilian ports through which such exports were sent also co-operated with each other.

• In the Crown of Aragon, in contrast, there was no such economic unity.

• Towns even competed against each other for trade as much as against any rivals outside Aragon. Much economic damage was done to Aragon by a lengthy civil war. In addition, its major port, Barcelona, in the kingdom of Catalonia, was hit by an economic crisis which affected most of the Mediterranean ports after 1350, and which led to bankruptcies and unemployment.

The institutions of Aragon and Castile

Just as Aragon and Castile had developed in different ways, so were the institutions within the two realms different. The Crown of Aragon consisted mainly of the three separate kingdoms of Catalonia, Aragon and Valencia.

Each was governed independently, and had its own laws and its own Cortes. In contrast, Castile consisted of a number of former kingdoms which held their institutions in common. There were, however, even in Castile, areas which had a great deal of independence. Although the Basque provinces recognised the sovereignty of the King of Castile, their geographic isolation meant that they were virtually independent from the rest of the peninsula. Asturias and Galicia had their own regional governments. In other parts of Castile there were local privileges, particularly those held by the nobility.

The Cortes

The Cortes was the means by which the political views of the important people in the country were heard. However, the powers held by the Cortes in each of the kingdoms were very different. In Aragon, the various Cortes sometimes met at the same time and in the same city (Cortes generales). More frequently they met separately in their own kingdoms. All laws in the Crown of Aragon (meaning all the kingdoms in Aragon) had to be approved by the individual Cortes. The monarch's powers for administering justice, imposing taxes or raising armies were all severely limited by the fueros (the laws and privileges possessed by these kingdoms). These were defended by the justicia — a law officer with wide powers, who could not be removed from office by the king. In Castile, in contrast, the Cortes was weak, and had few powers to prevent a ruler from doing as he or she wished. The Crown here had the right to make and unmake laws without the consent of the Cortes.

Religion

By the mid-fifteenth century the main religion in the peninsula was Christianity there were large communities of both Muslims and Jews. All three fell that they had to coexist if they were to survive economically. At times of peace during the Reconquest, it had been common for Muslims and Christians to visit each other, to trade and even to intermarry.

The historian Henry Kamen (2005) quotes from a Czech traveller in 1466, who was astonished to find that in the household of the Count of Haro there were 'Christians, Moors and Jews, and he lets them all live in peace in their faith'.

Within the Christian territories Jews mainly lived in the towns. They were often leading financiers, lending to both the kings of Aragon and Castile. One king of Aragon claimed that, our predecessors have tolerated and suffered the Jews in their territories because these Jews are the strong box and treasury of the kings'

Many Jews were important in trade and in professions such as medicine. The Muslims, on the other hand, resided mainly in the countryside, working on the lands of the nobility.

The Christian victories of the Reconquest altered the relationship between the three religious groupings. Although the rulers might continue to show support for Jews and Muslims, there was a general hostility towards them, particularly during times of economic depression and epidemics. Most Jews suffered increasingly during the fourteenth century from pogroms (organised massacres). Many were forcibly converted to Christianity. They were then known as conversos or 'new' Christians to distinguish them from those who had been Christians for many generations — the 'old' Christians.

Religion in Spain

Catholicism (Christianity). The Catholic Church in the mid-fifteenth century was in need of reform. Its leader was the pope who, in theory, had complete power over the Church from his base in Rome. Many of the popes during this period were more interested in secular rather than spiritual matters. There were frequent complaints about a number of abuses in the Church and the poor education and low standards of many of the clergy.

Protestantism (Christianity).

A religion that had splintered off from Catholicism. Up to the early sixteenth century there was only one accepted Christian faith in Europe: Roman Catholicism. In 1517 a German monk called Martin Luther produced a list of complaints of abuses in the Catholic Church. Followers of Luther believed that many of the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church were unnecessary and 'faith' alone was all that was necessary in one's belief. His ideas spread quickly and Luther's followers became known as 'Protestants' — a general term referring to anyone who 'protested' against the Catholic Church. The Lutherans were the first of these Protestant Churches. Later others formed such as the Calvinists. Luther and the Protestant German princes who supported his movement were to become a great problem for Charles V (Charles I of Spain). In the reign of Philip II it was the Protestants in the Netherlands who were to be the major problem.

<u>Islam.</u>

A follower of Islam is called a Muslim. There were different groups of Muslims in the mid-fifteenth century. The Muslims who lived in Spain were called Moors. In the east was the vast Ottoman Empire, also referred to as the Turkish Empire or Turkey. The Ottomans had overthrown the Byzantine Empire in 1453 when they had conquered Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). During the sixteenth century this powerful empire, under Suleiman the Magnificent, controlled vast areas, including much of southeast Europe, west Asia and north Africa. It struck fear into the heart of most of Christian western Europe.

<u>Judaism.</u>

A follower of Judaism is called a Jew. Many Christians in Europe considered Jews to be anti-Christian. By the mid-fifteenth century in Spain they were often treated as scapegoats for any wrongs in society. From time to time this led to massacres and forcible conversions to Christianity.

The growth of the Spanish Empire

By the middle of the fifteenth century Castile was in a position from which it could become an important power in Europe. The marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile in 1469 brought most of the peninsula under the same rulers. Other marriages were to further extend the Spanish Empire, or Monarchy, as it was called to distinguish it from the Holy Roman Empire (a collection of hundreds of states in the lands which today make up Germany and beyond). In 1496 two portentous marriages were arranged: those of two children of Ferdinand and Isabella with two children of the Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian.

The Habsburg connection

Maximilian was the head of the Habsburg family, whose lands lay mainly in Austria. In 1438 a member of this family had become Holy Roman Emperor and from then on members of the family were to hold the title continuously. However, although the title brought prestige, it brought little influence. Power came from the lands the Habsburgs had acquired through a series of advantageous marriage alliances. In 1477 Maximilian had married Mary of Burgundy. As a result, he had obtained much additional land, including Artois, Franche-Comté and the Netherlands.

The marriages of two of the Habsburg children to two of those of Ferdinand Isabella were eventually to bring a Habsburg to the thrones of Aragon and Castile in the person of Charles I, who was also to inherit the Habsburg lands in northern and central Europe and thereby not only extended his empire considerably but also brought Spanish involvement in the affairs of northern Europe.

The inheritance of Philip II

Charles's son, Philip II, was to inherit the Habsburg lands in Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Spain's empire in the New World, which had been discovered during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, and had grown considerably in size by the mid-sixteenth century. In addition, he became ruler of Portugal and acquired the vast Portuguese Empire in the east. Writers of the time commented on the vast extent of the Spanish Empire by the end of the sixteenth century).

The problems created by Spain's empire

The sheer size of the lands over which Charles and his successors ruled was to lead to difficulties. The increased power which it gave them led to the Habsburg name being feared and envied throughout this period by the other powers of Europe, particularly France. All countries in western Europe feared a Habsburg takeover. France felt particularly vulnerable as it was almost entirely surrounded by countries which were under Habsburg control. To the northeast were the Netherlands, to the east Franche-Comté and to the south-west Spain itself.

If the other European powers feared Habsburg domination, the Habsburg rulers felt it a matter of pride that they should not lose any of their patrimony. At all costs, the lands that they had inherited had to be held on to and handed to their successors intact. Charles I of Spain becomes Holy Roman Emperor Charles I had not just acquired territorial power. He had also become Holy Roman Emperor as Charles V. This had brought him the responsibility of defending the Roman Catholic religion both against the threat of Islam and against the growing threat of Protestantism even within the very lands over which he ruled.

The duty to defend the Roman Catholic religion against Islam, especially the Ottoman Empire ruled over by the Turks, was to have serious repercussions on the ability of the Habsburgs to defend their

lands against other Christian rulers and against the Protestant threat. From the fourteenth century, the Ottoman Empire had expanded from Anatolia, into Europe via the Balkans, and into the Middle East via Palestine. In the early sixteenth century, under Suleiman the Magnificent, the Turks took the island of Rhodes. Control of the eastern Mediterranean was then theirs. On land they conquered part of Hungary and also controlled north Africa. On all sides the Habsburgs were therefore to feel the Islamic threat. The safety of their lands as well as the defence of the Roman Catholic religion demanded Habsburg action against both the followers of Islam and those of a growing Protestantism.

Defending the faith against Protestantism

At the same time, the growth of Protestantism forced the Habsburgs to strive for the purity of the faith within their own lands. Protection of that faith was a prime consideration in dealing with the component parts that made up their empire and failure to compromise led to long and costly struggles. As a result, the Habsburgs were involved in almost continuous warfare throughout the sixteenth century. The importance of the army and navy Defence of Habsburg territories and religion required an effective army and navy. The Habsburgs were generally fortunate in this respect. During the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella the 'Great Captain', Gonzalo de C6rdoba, had created a professional army based on the infantry. At the core of this army were the Spanish troops who were to dominate warfare in Europe for much of the sixteenth century, under the skilled leadership of such commanders as the Duke of Alba, Don John of Austria and Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma. Spain also made a major contribution to the navy, with the Netherlands and the Habsburg states in Italy, in particular Genoa, after contributing additional vessels.

The individual nature of each part of the empire It must be remembered that the empire was never a Spanish one. Each realm considered itself an equal among the others and worthy of equal esteem from its ruler. For the people in each realm, the ruler was their king, their count or their duke. They were not interested in the wider aspects of his rule beyond their realm. Each part of the empire had a different history. Each part had developed different methods of government and had different rights and privileges in relation to its ruler. Their only common elements were loyalty to the ruler and loyalty to the Roman Catholic faith.

In practice, the base of the Spanish Empire became Castile, which was to become under Charles I the most loyal and obedient province in the empire. From the time of Philip II, Madrid became the centre of Habsburg rule and the king was rarely to leave the city. Castile alone bore the high cost of the royal court. Its economic position meant that it could, at least in the sixteenth century, provide much of the financial support needed by the Crown. It was also able until the end of the century to provide much of the manpower needed for the army and navy. The cost to Castile was high. In return, it gained the expensive symbols of royalty — fine buildings, works of art and the elaborate ceremony of the court; and the pride that it was at the heart of one of the greatest empires ever known.

Glossary of terms

Ottoman Empire

The former Turkish (and largely Muslim) Empire in Europe, Asia and Africa, which lasted from the late thirteenth century until the end of the first World War.

Suleiman I (1494—1566)

Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1 520, was known as 'the Magnificent' in the west and 'the Lawgiver' in the east. His armies attacked Hungary, Belgrade and Rhodes before being stopped outside Vienna in 1529; his fleet dominated the eastern Mediterranean, much of north Africa came under his rule.

New World

A name for the Americas, especially during the time of first exploration and colonisation of the region by Europeans; also called the Indies in contemporary sources.

Patrimony

An inheritance or legacy handed down to someone. Moors Muslims who invaded in the eighth century and established a rule that lasted until the fifteenth century in Andalusia.

Pogrom

The officially ordered persecution and massacre of a minority group, especially Jews. Conversos Jews who converted to Christianity, many forcibly, to avoid persecution or expulsion from Spain or Portugal.

Fueros

Aragonese laws and privileges.

Justicia Aragonese law officer in charge of courts and justice, appointed by the Crown for life.

Cortes

The parliament in each of the kingdoms in Castile and Aragon (called Corts in Catalonia).

Aragon

In the mid-fifteenth century, the Crown of Aragon consisted of three kingdoms, Aragon, Catalonia and Valencia. In this book the term Crown of Aragon' is used to mean all three References to the kingdoms of Aragon, Catalonia or 'Valencia mean the individual kingdoms.

Basque countries

Consisted of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa, Alava and Navarre and were in the western end of the Pyrenees. In the mid-fifteenth century Navarre, the main Basque country, was partly in Spain and partly in France.

Iberian Peninsula

The land mass occupied by today's Spain and Portugal. It is separated from France by the Pyrenees Mountains and from Africa by the Strait of Gibraltar.

Meseta

The vast highland plateau that occupies the interior of Spain at an average elevation of 600 metres.

Castile In the mid-fifteenth century the Crown of Castile occupied the area from Burgos in the north to Toledo in the south, equivalent to the modern day provinces of Leon, Madrid and La Mancha.

Questions: answer the following in as much detail as possible:

1) What geographical features of Spain would have an effect on its history?

2) What was the Reconquest?

3) By the mid-fifteenth century what did Aragon's overseas empire consist of?

4) What were the Cortes, and how were they different in Aragon and in Castile?

5) What territories are included under the umbrella term 'Crown of Aragon'?

6) What three religious groups were established in Spain in the mid-fifteenth century?

7) Why did many Christians become hostile to Jews and Muslims?

8) Who were the conversos or 'new' Christians?

9) Who were the Habsburgs? How extensive was their power in Europe?

10) What was significant about a Habsburg becoming King of Spain?

11) How much unity was there within the Spanish Empire in the mid-fifteenth century?

12) What aspects of life would make governing a country and an Empire much harder in the 15th Century than today? List as many things as you can think of. Think about the things in life we take for granted – try to imagine what it was like to live without these things)

Unit 3: NEA the Witch Hunts - Interpretations

Passage A

The East Anglian witch hunt between 1645 and 1647 is usually associated with Matthew Hopkins. In reality, however, Hopkins worked closely with John Stearne. The two men were to become England's most notorious witch-finders. By 1642, Charles I and Parliament were at odds. Civil War convulsed England for the next four years. Each side had a different religious perspective. The King's most aggressive opponents were the Puritans - strict Calvinists who had urged further reformation of religion before the war. By the 1640s, many Puritan clerics feared that the Devil was everywhere: some even believed that Charles I was Satan's agent. The Civil War saw the collapse of traditional authority and traditional institutions. Parliament legislated without royal assent, excluded bishops from the House of Lords, executed William Laud, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and dismantled the Church courts. In parliamentary-held areas religious images in churches were destroyed. Some Puritan activists came to regard witches as they did devotional art: as something that needed to be rooted out and destroyed. By early 1645, the eastern counties of England, the heartland of the parliamentarian and Puritan cause, were in a state of crisis. The outcome of the Civil War was far from certain. (It did not become so until parliamentary forces defeated the King's army at Naseby in June 1645.) It seemed possible that royalist forces might advance into East Anglia. People were fearful and overtaxed. Inflation had led to growing poverty. The principal concerns of the County Committees that ruled parliamentary-controlled areas were money, order, resources and obedience. Communities fighting for their lives also seemed threatened from within – by witches.

Adapted from: Alan Farmer, The Witchcraze of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century, published in 2016.

Passage B

Why Essex? Is it possible that Essex as a local society was peculiarly conscious of the threat of witchcraft? But why should that be so? It's quite clear that people might feel threatened by maleficium in any part of England. Why should they act against it so much more in the county of Essex? And the only suggestion I can make on that issue is that the use of the criminal law against witches had had terrible publicity in Essex. Essex was unusual in the sense that it saw three causes celebres, three group trials. They took place in 1566, only three years after the passage of Elizabeth's statute; in 1582; and in 1589. In each of these cases an initial accusation was vigorously pursued by local justices of the peace who happened to have a particular personal concern about witchcraft. That meant that instead of just one person going on trial small groups of women went on trial and these trials were well publicised in pamphlets which were written about them. All of this, then, may have given peculiar publicity to witchcraft as a threat and what could be done about it. One wonders, then, whether a number of particularly scandalous local cases occurring in this county had the effect of heightening anxiety about witchcraft within Essex, enhancing the sense of threat which people felt, making it more intense than elsewhere, and of course providing an object lesson in how to deal with it. So are we dealing then with a moral panic breaking out within a particular local society, which subsequently died down in the seventeenth century until it was artificially revived again by the activities of Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General, in 1645? *causes celebres = cases which attracted widespread public interest and/or became notorious

Adapted from: Keith Wrightson, Witchcraft and Magic, published in 2012.

Early Modern History wider reading

Tasks:

1.Read the 2 Interpretations above.

2. What arguments do the 2 Historians put forward as causes of the witch Hunts in Essex?

You should explain in detail the arguments and support your answer with quotations from the interpretations.

3. What questions would you need to ask and answer to verify if the interpretations are accurate?

Look at your answer to question 1 what questions do you need to follow up?

4. Where might you find the answers to your interpretations?

This task requires you to identify texts, books, articles, websites, documentaries, podcasts that you might read in order to help you find out if these 2 interpretations are valid.

Historical Association <u>https://www.history.org.uk/</u> Username = 12901 Password = highstorrs19

Jstor (an academic library of articles) <u>https://www.jstor.org/</u>

Username = highstorrs Password = jstor2021

Research of your own.

5. Create a bibliography of sources that you might use.

6. Choose one item from your bibliography and complete the wider reading sheet attached.

You will need to hand this in on your first lesson.

Student Name:
Title
Author
Publisher & Year of publication
Edition
Focus of reading: choose article on a particular topic look up the author and add a few notes about who they are.
Outling briefly what you have learnt from reading this
Outline briefly what you have learnt from reading this:
Interpretation: Try to summarise the authors interpretation of this particular topic. Are they positive/ negative. Do
they state facts or do they over exaggerate their argument?
Look at the language they use to evaluin thisse, sive or evenue
Look at the language they use to explain things –give an example.
Write down at least 3 words you had to look up the meaning of along with the meaning .
white down at least 5 words you had to look up the meaning of doing with the meaning i



Early Modern History Bridging Work

Unit 2B: Wars of the Roses

The following programme is designed to give you an awareness of Early Modern A level History and especially the exciting period known as the 'Wars of the Roses'.

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We look forward to meeting you in September.

Section A: Developing Knowledge & Understanding:

Task One:	Read Turvey, The Wars of the Roses and Henry VII: Britain 1450-1509, p.1-13. Your main title
anth a start	is '15 th Century England'. Make notes under the following sub-headings. Your notes will be
15 th Century Engla	analysed for detail, selection, presentation and understanding.
Notes	<u>The Kingdom of England</u>
	<u>Monarchs of England</u>
	<u>Breakdown in Royal Authority</u>
	<u>Government of England</u>
	Law and Order
	• <u>Economy</u>
	• Society and Social Order (in addition create a diagram to illustrate social order in
	England)
	Lingianuj
	• Foreign Policy
	<u>roreign roney</u>
Task Two:	Research and write definitions for the following key terms:
Glossary	Divine Right
	Dynasty
	Magnate
	• Gentry
	Commonality
	• Council
	Court
	Patronage
	Act of Resumption
	Act of Attainder
	Accord
	Manifesto
	Embargo

	 Hundred Year's War Heir-male presumptive Minority government Protector Wardship Usurper/Usurpation Vanguard
Task Three:	Watch the following Documentary ('British History's Biggest Fibs With Lucy Worsley - Episode 1:
The War of the Roses: A Tudor	<i>War of the Roses'</i>). Lucy Worsley is a great popular historian of the Early Modern Period. Answer the 18 questions:
interpretation of events?	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReaHYCmb7fg
	 What is the story of the Battle of Stubbins in the Wars of the Roses? What were the 2 sides in the Wars of the Roses? What happened in 1461 on the 29th March and why was it exceptional? What happened at the Battle of Bosworth according to the Tudors and Shakespeare? What problems did Henry VII face immediately after Bosworth? How did Henry use the story of the War of the Roses to solve his problems? How did Henry VIII continue thenry VII manipulate the Wars of the Roses? How did Henry VIII continue the propaganda started by his father? What problems did Elizabeth I have when she became queen? How did she use the War of the Roses to help her? How did the Stuarts use the tale of the Princes in the Tower? What is Whig History and what was its view of the Wars of the Roses? How have the Wars of the Roses continued into the 20th century? What is the view of 'Good King Richard'? What is the link with a car park in Leicester? Do you agree more with the Henry Tudor Society or the Richard III Society? Why?

Section B: A'Level Compulsory Source Question

Read C. Lee, 'Britain 1483-1529' for contextual knowledge. Then answer the question below. You should write out this question, then your response.

Source A: From 'English History' written by Polydore Vergil, c1513. Vergil was a highly respected Italian cleric and Tudor historian.

John, Earl of Lincoln and Francis Lovell arrived at Dublin, having received from Margaret an army of about 2000 Germans under the command of Martin Schwartz, a high-born German outstanding for his skill in war. They treated Lambert Simnel just as if he were born of royal blood and deserving of being crowned king in the traditional way. After this, having scraped together a multitude of impoverished and all but unarmed Irishmen, they sailed to England with the new king. They were relying on the assistance of Thomas Broughton, the leading conspirator. But King Henry, who was not slow to react and had anticipated this, had dispatched cavalry both to keep watch for his enemies' arrival and also to arrest certain men coming from Ireland so he might learn his enemies' plans. King Henry assembled his forces and went to Coventry. However, the King had scarcely arrived there when the cavalrymen reported that the Earl, his hastily assembled army and the boy, Simnel, had landed on the Lancashire coast.

With reference to the source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of this source to a historian studying the threat from the Simnel Rebellion.