

# HST

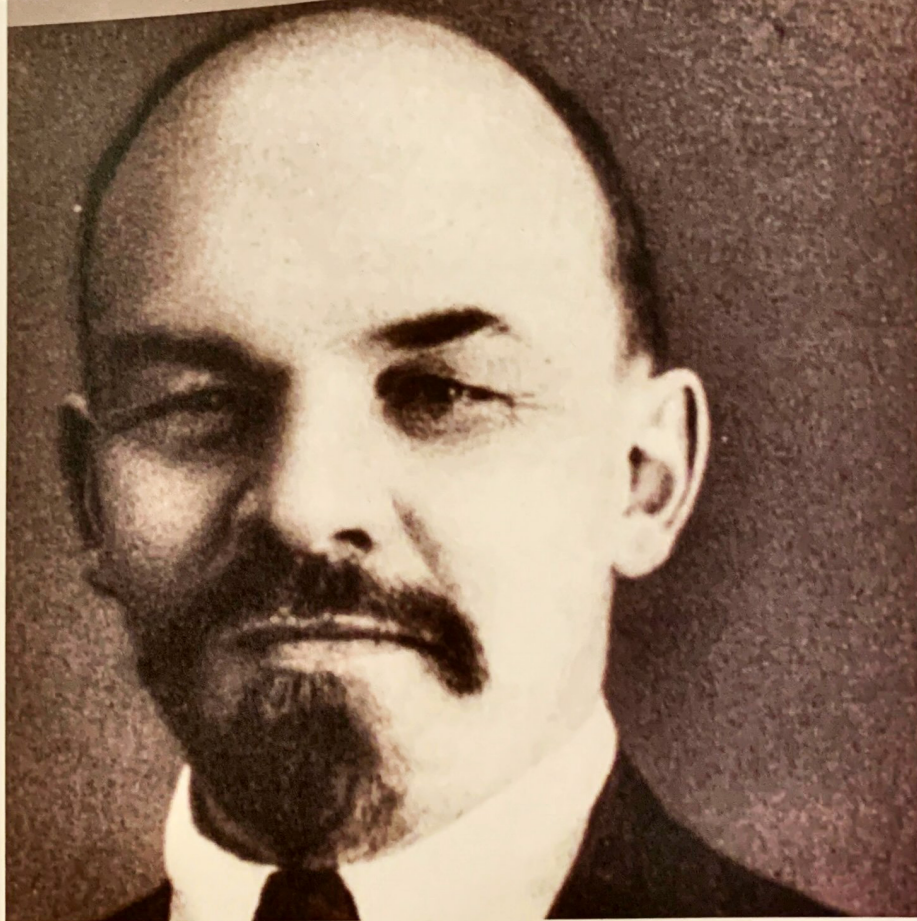


UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## HISTORY STUDENT TIMES

Issue 3 2017/18

Revolt and Revolution





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### *Letter From the Editor*

Welcome to Issue 3!

It is, unfortunately, the final issue of the 2017/18 History Student Times, sporting the theme 'Revolt and Revolution'. Writers have surprised me once more and approached the theme from a number of intriguing angles and have produced some incredible articles; from rebel fashion to betrayal in the Wars of the Roses.

As the final issue, it is also my final collaboration with HST. It has been a wonderful experience to produce HST this year, and I'm looking forward to watching it blossom further under the guidance of next year's editor.

Thank you to everyone who has written and edited over this year, especially those who were always reliable despite the pressures of university life.

Steph



# Swinging London: Fashion as Rebellion

## Rosie Plummer

The word 'rebellion' tends to evoke imagery of armed riots or French-revolution style massacres, resulting in the subtler forms of rebellion are often overlooked. One of these unnoticed counter-cultures is the hippie movement. The style which developed in the early 1960's was about far more than just long hair and bad hygiene, it was a rebellion against a society which promoted a 'sensible' image of mindless obedience as an ideal. Through their style, the hippies started a subtle and peaceful revolution, the effects of which can still be seen to this day.

### Long Hair- Don't Care

The Bohemianism inspired style of the hippies was a direct defiance of the norms of the 1950s. The fifties generated a focus on career and image, but, by the 1960's, people were becoming disillusioned with this focus on capitalist stability and began looking for alternative inspiration. As a result of this disillusionment with capitalism, the

'flower power' movement developed, abandoning 'sensible' clothes for freedom and colour. Gone were the days of rigid suits, hippie style was about expressing comfort in oneself, regardless of career or social status. This counterculture had a lack of concern about security and, combined with their interest in socialism, led to mass involvement in campaigns to tackle societal inequality. The hippie style was so much more than just carelessness, it was a form of defiance against a broken system.

### Peace Dude

Alongside flowers, the other major symbol of the hippies was, of course, the peace sign. In the 1960s, this symbol had an enormous significance in light of the growing Cold-War arms race, and, of course, the infamous Vietnam war. This symbol was in fact designed in 1958 as part of the campaign for nuclear disarmament and was used worldwide in anti-war protests. The



hippie fashion was specifically designed to promote peace and condemn violence.

mental attitude towards drugs, especially acid and marijuana, created a moral pan-

ic in society about the direction of the youth. While the hippies themselves viewed their experimentation with drugs as compatible with new-age spirituality, the older generation viewed this substance abuse as a sign of the moral collapse of society.

The battle between these views was clearly demonstrated in the psychedelic patterns worn by hippies, not only inspired



### Love and other drugs

The hippies were themselves part of the wider ongoing sexual-revolution within society, as sex became less of a taboo and monogamy began to decline. The hippies used loose clothing; such as the abandonment of restrictive underwear, including bras, to propel the sexual-revolution. The sexual-revolution was of course enabled by technological developments, including the increasing availability of the pill, however, without this insurgent group pushing for a change in attitudes, it is arguable that such contraceptives may have never become readily available. This 'free love' was not the only taboo which the hippies broke, as their experi-





by hallucinogenics but also designed as a stark reminder of the counterculture's unapologetic attitude about their substitute abuse.

It is important to remember that not all rebels are violent, indeed some of the most effective rebels in our recent history have been remarkably pro-peace. Not all revolutions are instantaneous, but this doesn't necessarily make them less effective, as we can see from the ongoing benefits of the hippie movement's focus on peace and freedom. The hippies weren't the first to use fashion as a form of rebellion and they certainly weren't the last.





# WARWICK THE KINGMAKER – CHIVALROUS KNIGHT OR SELF-SERVING TRAITOR?

Matthew Hough

Richard Neville, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick, was the foremost magnate in fifteenth-century England, and the extent of his power and influence was clearly demonstrated by his prominent role in the Wars of the Roses. During the conflict, he was famously instrumental in the deposition of the Lancastrian king, Henry VI in 1461, having been a loyal supporter of the Yorkist cause under both Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and later his son Edward, who, following Henry's deposition, became King Edward IV. However, Warwick later turned his back on Edward and played a key role in Henry VI's reinstatement in 1470. Consequently, from the sixteenth century onwards, Warwick was referred to by the epithet, 'the Kingmaker' – a nickname which endures to this day.

He became the Earl of Warwick through his marriage to Anne de Beauchamp, Countess of Warwick, although the Neville family already held a substantial number of titles and their associated lands. Following the death of his father, also Richard Neville, who was Earl of Salisbury, at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, Warwick held more land than anyone in England besides the king himself. Having helped Edward IV take the throne, he was rewarded with several additional titles by the new king, including High Admiral of England, and the Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, cementing his position as the most powerful English nobleman of his day. However, his shift in allegiance to the Lancastrian faction, and his subsequent role in the restoration of Henry VI have proven extremely controversial, and it is this

which will be the primary focus of this article.

Perceptions of Warwick have varied greatly since his death, ranging from the view that he acted in the best interests of England, and followed a strict code of honour, to the view that he acted selfishly and immorally, and lent his support to whichever king he thought he could most easily control. As is the case for several key figures in fifteenth-century England, including all of England's kings from Richard II to Henry VII, William Shakespeare's portrayal of Warwick has had a profound influence on his reputation, most notably in *Henry VI, Part 3*, where Edward IV refers to Warwick as "setter-up and plucker-down of kings."



A portrait of Sir Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, 'The Kingmaker'



As such a characterisation would suggest, the character of the Earl of Warwick plays a pivotal role in both *Henry VI, Part 2* and *Henry VI, Part 3*, and is portrayed as a chivalrous figure, who supports Richard of York's claim to the throne, and, following his death, continues to aid his son Edward. However, he later turns his back on Edward and lends his support to the Lancastrian cause following Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, which he learns of whilst negotiating a match for Edward in France, and which deeply offends his chivalrous sensibilities. This portrayal of Warwick remained largely unquestioned until the mid-eighteenth century, and for many, it is still what comes to mind at the mention of the 'Kingmaker.'

Nonetheless, the actions of the actual Kingmaker have been the subject of much scrutiny by modern historians, who have accused him of acting out of his own interests. Such assessments have described him as over-ambitious at best, and an amoral traitor at worst. These interpretations revolve largely around the idea that his primary motivation was to install a king he could control, and effectively rule England through them. Henry VI, often remembered as England's weakest king, was particularly susceptible to those around him, however, at the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses, it was Henry's queen, Margaret of Anjou, and her supporters, who exercised the most influence over the king. The death of Warwick's ally, Richard of York, at Wakefield in 1460, left his eighteen-year-old son, Edward, as the head of the House of York, and consequently, it has been argued that Warwick sought to take advantage of Edward's youth to exercise authority through him.

This proved unsuccessful, as is clearly demonstrated by Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville in 1464, and while, as Shakespeare suggests,

Warwick was negotiating with Louis XI when he learned of Edward's marriage, his humiliation was not his sole motivation for turning against Edward – Warwick did not turn against Edward for a further five years. The promotion of Elizabeth Woodville's family, who were in the middle tier of the English nobility prior to her marriage to Edward, is a more likely cause of Warwick's disillusionment with Edward's rule, as he was increasingly sidelined as the Woodvilles' power influence increased.



Edward IV, portrait by an unknown artist; in the National Portrait Gallery, London



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Although he remained in favour with Edward until this time, he did not appear at court as he had done earlier, and after being forced to cede some of his territories, Warwick began to openly rebel against Edward. He was joined by the king's nineteen-year-old brother, George, Duke of Clarence. The aim of the rebellion was most likely to replace Edward with George, and while this plot ultimately failed, it seems to further support the claim that Warwick sought to install an easily-manipulated king, perhaps having accepted that Edward was a lost cause in this regard.

Both Warwick and Clarence then fled to France, and having joined the Lancastrian cause, they both helped to restore Henry VI to the throne in October 1470. Henry, having suffered from severe mental health issues most of his life, in addition to the effects of his imprisonment in the Tower of London during Edward's reign, could not rule by himself, and Warwick ruled on his behalf. It may have been Warwick's intention to use Henry as a means of ruling himself, as his attempt to enthrone Clarence prior to joining the Lancastrians demonstrates that he supported Henry as a means of opposing Edward, rather than out of genuine loyalty. Henry's second reign lasted little

over six months, and Warwick was killed at the Battle of Barnet in 1471, shortly before Edward retook the throne and had Henry VI murdered.

As such, the view of the Kingmaker seen in the works of Shakespeare has little historical basis, relying on a grossly over-simplified view of events. The more modern interpretation, that Warwick acted in his own interests, is clearly more plausible, but is still too black and white, failing to fully consider Edward's actions towards Warwick during his first reign. It is, therefore,



Sir Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick,

more likely that the reality lies somewhere in between – Warwick acted out of his own interest but was hardly unprovoked in turning on Edward, and by the standards of the time, his actions were not entirely unjustified.



# Robert 'Curthose': Eleventh-century Duke and three-time medieval rebel

Lauren Walker

A little-known medieval rebel, Robert 'Curthose' was the eldest son of William the Conqueror and was Duke of Normandy from William's death in 1087. However, he rebelled against three consecutive rulers of England which were all members of his immediate family: his father William the Conqueror, and his younger brothers William II 'Rufus' and Henry I.



Robert Curthose

due to his short stature and the short cut of the breeches he wore. Robert resented his father from the time of William's 1066 invasion of England, because, during this campaign, William left the government of Normandy in the hands of his wife, passing over his son, who was by this time a young man. Furthermore, after William's pacification of England and return to Normandy after 1070, William still did not devolve much responsibility to Robert regarding the governance of Normandy. In fact, the opposite occurred, as William began to spend more time in Normandy after the pacification of England and thus governed himself.

In early 1078, Robert rebelled against his father for the first time, along with some of his followers. This occurred during a military campaign in Normandy. Robert fled his father's army and took refuge in a border castle from which he could raid his father's territory. Robert was given another castle by the king of France, Philippe I, but was subsequently besieged by his father's forces. It was during this conflict that Robert's forces actually wounded William, but William was soon rescued by a member of his army. However, Robert and his father were soon reconciled. Orderic Vitalis, a twelfth-century historian, records that Queen Matilda and several Norman noblemen intervened in this dispute and reconciled father and son. Accordingly, in 1080 Robert accompanied William to England and was involved in diplomatic relations with Malcolm Canmore, King of Scots.

Robert was born around 1050 in Normandy. According to his biographer William Aird, the nickname 'Curthose' was appended to his name



However, this period of amicable relations between Robert and his father was relatively short. In 1083 they fell out again, and in 1087, when William died, the quarrel over Robert's succession to power was resolved in a manner unfavourable to Robert. William, apparently not believing his eldest son capable of ruling England, left him only the duchy of Normandy, and appointed his second son William (called 'Rufus' due to his red colouring) as King of England. Robert was viewed as an ineffectual ruler and was subsequently labelled 'weak' and 'indolent' by Orderic Vitalis. It has also been suggested that Robert was not very good at managing the finances of his territories, and frivolously distributed money and gifts to his followers.

Initially, Robert did little to antagonise his younger brother upon the English throne. However, some magnates (such as Robert's uncle Odo of Bayeaux) attempted to raise a rebellion in England with the purpose of reuniting both of the Conqueror's territories under one ruler. This failed because Robert himself never arrived in England and therefore the rebellion was quashed. William Rufus then challenged his rebellious brother's authority: he persuaded the inhabitants of some Norman castles to fortify themselves against Robert and his forces. Rufus then attacked Normandy in 1091 and forced his brother to accept terms. Relations were restored for a while, but after a tumultuous few years in the duchy of Normandy, Robert felt that he had received little assistance from his brother the King, and he renounced their earlier terms of peace. Rufus then returned to Normandy in order to teach his brother a les-

son, and their youngest brother Henry (future King Henry I of England) became involved, continuing Rufus' campaign in his absence.



A painting of Robert Curthose during the siege of Antioch during the First Crusade

In 1095, Pope Urban II proclaimed the First Crusade, and Robert decided to heed this call. His brother Rufus provided money for the costs that Robert's journey would incur, and this provision may be interpreted as a tactic on the part of Rufus to rid himself of a troublesome brother for a potentially long period of time. Robert did not return to Normandy until 1100, by which time William Rufus had died and his younger brother Henry sat on the throne of England. Accordingly, Robert now instigated rebellion against the kingship of another brother and travelled to England to confront him. However, this rebellion was also short-lived: Henry intercepted Robert and forced him to recognise his claim to the throne of England via the Treaty of Winchester, formalised in 1101.

By: Jean-Joseph Dassy - Painting by J. J. Dassy, 1850. "Crusades, origines et consequences" via Wikipedia commons: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Curthose#/media/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Curthose#/media/)



This stated that Robert would renounce his own claim to the throne of England in return for a generous payment from Henry. The agreement also provided that if the death of one brother occurred, the other stood as his heir, but these terms were more favourable to Henry than Robert because Henry's wife was already expecting a child. Robert, therefore, stood little chance of gaining the English throne and was reconciled with his brother for the moment.

something and willingly retired from secular life. He caused trouble for three successive rulers of England, but despite the failure of these attempts to increase his power, he lived to reflect upon his experiences: Robert died in 1134 aged around 84.

Robert found the warring factions in his duchy of Normandy difficult to control and was persuaded by one to enter into a military campaign against another. Unfortunately, this constituted a break with the Treaty made previously between himself and Henry, and Henry travelled to Normandy, besieging and capturing castles. He was eventually able to capture Robert himself and transport him to England in 1106. Henry decided that his older brother's rebellions had caused enough trouble, and he imprisoned Robert in the custody of the Bishop of Salisbury. Robert remained imprisoned in England for the next twenty-eight years, and no record exists of any attempt to reassert his claims. It has been suggested that he spent his time learning Welsh and lived in relative comfort.



Robert 'Curthose' rebelled against his father and both of his brothers but made little ultimate gain from his efforts. Contemporary sources generally assert that Robert was unfit to rule a kingdom, as he lacked political skill and acted in a frivolous manner regarding his finances. He does seem to have been quite easily persuaded by both of his brothers to come to terms and accept payment in return for renouncing his claim to authority. Furthermore, Aird suggests that after his success during the First Crusade, Robert felt he had achieved



# Wat Tyler: shadowy leader of the Peasants' Revolt, 1381

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By study.com via <https://study.com/academy/lesson/wat-tyler-biography-death-facts.html>

Lauren Hunter

Wat Tyler was the self-appointed leader of the Peasants' Revolt, an uprising in south-eastern England which occurred during June 1381. Little is known about his origins or his life aside from his part in the Revolt, but Tyler has nevertheless achieved notoriety resulting from his part in this episode of violence. According to a monk of Malmesbury, writing in the late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century, Tyler may have actually been a Kentish tiler, but this cannot be verified.

The period of unrest and violence termed 'The Peasants' Revolt' was the result of the levying of a poll tax on those who were unable and unwilling to pay the increased amount. Peasants demonstrated their anger at their continued serfdom and the pressure from the wealthy exerted upon the poor. A legend relates that a tax collector made threatening advances towards Tyler's daughter and he, therefore, became angry, injuring the collector and instigating a march to London in order to revolt. Tyler and his comrades marched from Canterbury to London, and this marked the rise of his power, as he became a leader during this time. He may also have had a partner in leadership: Jack Rackstraw led the men of Essex. However, some historians believe that this name was, in fact, an alias used by Tyler in order to evade apprehension.

From the point of view of the leaders of fourteenth-century English society, Tyler sinned against God as well as against the hierarchical

ciety as he led the Revolt. He is said to have ordered the seizure of a sheriff from Kent and subsequently burnt the sheriff's records. However, Tyler himself attained a measure of hierarchical power from his involvement in the Revolt: proclamations were issued in Kent during the time he was present in London, and these were acted upon by the Kentish rebels. According to historian Andrew Prescott, Tyler wielded real authority among his bands of rebels. This is demonstrated by the rebels' destruction of John of Gaunt's Savoy Palace, during which they largely refrained from looting the treasures within.





A meeting occurred between rebel leaders and the teenage King Richard II at Mile End in London on 14 June 1381. However, it is unclear whether Tyler attended this meeting. During this time, several prominent figures were seized and executed by the rebels, including the Archbishop of Canterbury. Sources disagree whether Tyler took part in the seizure of these persons, or was present at the meeting at Mile End. Either way, Tyler and his comrades demonstrated their clear possession of power at this moment in the Revolt. A further meeting took place the next day, this time between Tyler and the King. Tyler is alleged to have presented the King with a list of demands, including the abolishment of lordships and the division of the goods of the church. However, a subsequent disturbance was to cost Tyler his life.

Dobson asserts that the Peasants' Revolt failed to have an effect upon the power balance between the upper and lower echelons of society within towns because it was ultimately not an urban revolution. Wat Tyler was not someone that well-established Londoners would support, but the rebels did attract some London support as they were able to affect the destruction of a palace and a meeting with the King. Despite Tyler's quick rise to notoriety and the brief success, he enjoyed in attracting the attention of the leaders of society, his part in the Revolt ultimately cost him his life and made little immediate change within fourteenth-century society.

A member of the King's retinue is said to have recognised Tyler as a known thief, and in the violence following this accusation, Tyler was mortally wounded. He encouraged his followers to avenge his death, but King Richard managed to calm the situation and persuade the rebels that he would act upon their concerns. Tyler was taken to a nearby hospital, but subsequently dragged out and beheaded as a traitor. According to historian Richard Dobson, the collapse of the Revolt after Tyler's death proves that the rebellion was doomed to fail because it relied too much upon the charisma of its leader. Indeed, Tyler has been much romanticised in literature since his death: he is the subject of a dramatic eighteenth-century poem by Robert Southey and has been characterised by countless works of historical fiction.





# The Reign of Terror: the height of the French Revolution

**Steph Bennett**

The French Revolution was one of the farthest-reaching social and political upheavals that was partially fuelled by Napoleon from 1789 until the late 1790s. The Revolution toppled the monarchy and established a republic that is notorious for its violence and brutality. Like the American revolution before it, the French revolution was influenced by the ideals of the Enlightenment. This finally culminated in a dictatorship under the ascent of Napoleon as he continued to conquer western Europe. One of the most significant aspects of the Revolution was the inspiration of liberal and radical ideas that triggered a massive decline of absolute monarchies across the world. They were replaced with republics and liberal democracies and it is widely considered to be one of the most important events in history. Despite its commendable ideals, it swiftly degenerated into a bloodbath nicknamed 'the Reign of Terror'.

The causes of the Revolution are complex and are constantly debated by historians. However, years of increasingly poor harvests inflamed popular resentment and exacerbated tensions over heavily regressive tax schemes. France was on the brink of bankruptcy from costly involvement in the American Revolution and the frivolous spending of King Louis XVI (1754 - 1793). Arguments about social reform began to emerge influenced by the philosophies of 17<sup>th</sup>-century theorists like Descartes and Locke. Popular resentment in the form of looting, rioting and striking continued to radicalise the Revolution, concluding in the rise of Maximilien Robespierre and the Jacobins during the Reign of Terror. Over 17,000 people were tried and executed during the Reign of Terror, with an indeterminable number of others died in



The Storming of the Bastille

prison.

As fear and violence consumed the capital, Parisians began to panic over circulating rumours of an impending military coup. This swiftly burgeoned into the storming of the Bastille in an attempt to secure weapons and gunpowder. This date, July 14<sup>th</sup>, is now commemorated as a national holiday and is generally believed to be the start of the Revolution. Fervour and hysteria for the Revolution became widespread and swept over the countryside. Peasants began looting and burning the homes of notorious tax collectors and landlords in an upheaval against years of exploitative taxes.

The French king Louis XVI was shockingly executed in January 1793 and it led to international condemnation. Robespierre played a significant role in arranging Louis's execution. Several months later Louis's queen Marie Antionette suffered the same fate under the merciless blade of the guillotine. The murder



of the king ushered in the Revolution's most turbulent phase as war with Europe became ever more likely. In June 1793 the Jacobins seized control of the National Convention, the government hastily-established to prop up France, and implemented radical alterations like the eradication of Christianity. Over the next ten months, thousands were executed by guillotine under the order of draconian Robespierre until his own execution on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1794. Popular art and literature often present this time with French streets running red with the blood of the dead. Robespierre's death marked a shift in the Revolution, however, and many began to criticise the excesses of the Reign of Terror and the Revolution as a whole.

In the wake of the Terror, an ambitious and industrious general swiftly silenced the Jacobins with the power of the army. The legislation was approved and

a new constitution altered France's course. A five-member Directory was appointed by Parliament and they would wield executive power. The Directory had four years in power, and these years were riddled with political corruption, inefficiency and crisis. By the 1790s, the army was the sole backbone supporting the inadequate Directory. Frustration worsened until November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1799 when Napoleon Bonaparte staged a coup and abolished the Directory before appointing himself as France's 'first consul'. While this marked the end of the Revolution, it was only the beginning of the Napoleonic era in which France would dominate the rest of Europe as Napoleon conquered country after country.



A popular representation of the Revolution



**Don't forget to visit the blog for more articles, study abroad posts, and HistSoc's Primary Source!**

**[historystudenttimes.wordpress.com](http://historystudenttimes.wordpress.com)**



# THE FIRST AND SECOND BOER WAR

**STEPH BENNETT**

The First Boer War is often referred to by many other names: the First Anglo-Boer War, the Transvaal War and the Transvaal Rebellion. As one of the greatest British defeats, the clash between the English and the South African Republic between 16 December 1880 until 23 March 1881 resulted from British greed and expansion. Three significant factors fuelled British expansion into southern Africa: the need to control all trade routes around the Cape; the discovery of large mineral deposits of diamond in 1868 and the gold rush in the Transvaal; the third was the race against the other European colonial powers to expand into Africa.

While British expansion had occasionally resulted in skirmishes before, the discovery of diamonds in 1867 near the Vaal River triggered a rush of attraction from around the world. The small town of Kimberly had soon ballooned to a population of 50,000 within five years. The British continued to annex sites in the attempt to control the diamonds but it was the annexation of West Griqualand in the 1870s that caused a deep, simmering unease to emerge in the Boer republics. In 1877 the voices of the Transvaal erupted to complain about continued British annexation as a violation of the 1852 Sand River Convention. It wasn't until the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1880 that the Boers revolted and attacked a British site.

However, the common cause attributed to triggering the First Boer War was a single man's refusal to pay illegally inflated tax. Government officials swiftly seized Piet Bezuidenhout's wagon and attempted to auction it off to cover his unpaid tax. A hundred armed Boers disturbed the auction in November 1880 and assaulted the presiding sheriff to reclaim Bezuidenhout's wagon. The Transvaal officially declared independence from the British and the war truly began on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1880 when shots were first fired by the Boers. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1880 to the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1881 the Boers besieged British army garrisons all over the Transvaal.



The British army during the war



Despite being referred to as a 'war', the actual 'battles' were somewhat minor and combat was short. The Boers had no regular army, just a devotion to their independence. When threatened the men in a district would form military units and elect their own officers. They wore neutral and earthy tones and brought their own weapons and horses. The average Boer citizens were farmers and so naturally skilled with rifles and expert marksmen. They learned to kill on the first shot and how to shoot from under cover.

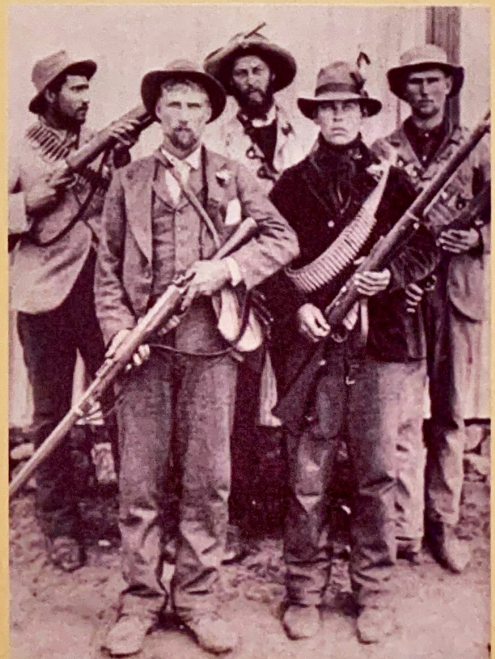
In comparison, the British infantry uniforms were red jackets, dark blue trousers with red piping and white helmets – this was a stark contrast to the African landscape and only made them easier targets. They were often attacked at long distances because the Boers lacked bayonets and so were weaker in close combat. The Boers relied on stealth, mobility, initiative and their marksmanship in contrast to the British emphasis on tradition, discipline and formation. An example of their polarity is evident in their first battle at Bronkhorstspuit. Within the first few minutes one hundred and twenty men had been shot while Boer losses were two killed and five wounded.

The British forces continually suffered exceedingly heavy losses, and not all of this can be attributed to the expertise of the Boers. The losses are generally ascribed to the poor communication and poor leadership of the British. The First Boer War was the first conflict that the British had been so decisively defeated since the American War of Independence. The humiliation of its defeat would lead to the introduction of the khaki uniform. The Boer's use of guerrilla tactics was also a harbinger of future

battle technique.

Under the Prime Minister William Gladstone, the British accepted that any other action would be exceedingly expensive and the government ordered a truce to be sought with the Boers. The peace treaty was eventually signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March after an issued armistice on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The British were forced to agree to Boer self-government and the Boers had to accept the Queen's distant rule.

However, it wasn't long before a second major mineral deposit was discovered in 1886 which reignited imperial interests in the Transvaal. Tensions continued to rise until they erupted in 1899 into the Second Boer War, the lure of gold and riches too much to ignore. The British believed that the vast wealth was worth committing the resources and costs required for another war. Despite the sharp lessons that the British had undeniably suffered in the first war, including Boer marksmanship and their tactical flexibility, had been forgotten. While the British were ultimately victorious in the second war, it could arguably be called a pyrrhic victory because of their staggering losses and setbacks.





Despite British overconfidence and lack of preparation, the army continued to march until the Boers were overwhelmed; the numbers are so disproportionate that this is not entirely surprising. The British regulars had a force of 347,00 with between 103,000-153,000 colonial forces and 100,000 black south African auxiliaries. In contrast, the Boers had 25,000 Transvaal Boers, 15,000 free state volunteers and 10,000 black Boer auxiliaries.

The way in which the British fought against the guerrilla tactics of the Boers is still frowned upon today. They set up nets of blockhouses and barbed wire fences to partition the conquered territory and the civilian farmers living there were forced into concentration camps where huge numbers died from disease. The war ended with the Boer surrender in May 1902 with the Treaty of Vereeniging.

Both wars resulted from British greed and desire for expansion and the Boers attempted to revolt against the British power forced upon them. While they won the first war, their land's resources were too valuable to be ignored and the Boers fell to the imperial might of Britain in the second war. Despite their loss, the Boers fortitude and cunning to fight against Britain for their freedom and independence is still inspiring.



Look out for some helpful advice in the module enrolment articles from HistSoc's Primary Source!

[historystudenttimes.wordpress.com](http://historystudenttimes.wordpress.com)



# History Society Letter



Hello Historians! Hope you all had a restful and productive Easter and are excited to be back in Leeds, even though the dreaded exam season is approaching.

This is the final issue of HST this academic year so I'd like to take the opportunity to say some thank yous. First of all to our wonderful editor Stephanie, I hope you're happy to see that all your hard work has paid off! Secondly to my fellow HistSoc Committee members: this year has been a blast and I'm so proud of us all and happy to have spent such a fab year with you wonderful lot. And finally to you, our members, because without you none of what we do would be possible! We hope you've had an amazing time on our many booze-filled socials and most recently on our Easter themed Otley run, which was another massive success!

Thank you also to everyone who came to Prague at the beginning of the Easter holidays - somehow everyone managed to get back in one piece after having such an amazing time: we hope you all enjoyed that crazy but wonderful weekend! Special shoutout to our fabulous trip sec Perri who organised it all - you are a star and we would all like to thank you for the best trip ever!

Before Easter we also held our elections for next year's HistSoc Committee! If you somehow managed to miss all the campaigning, here's a reminder of the results for your 2018/19 Committee:

President - James Beetham  
Vice President - Perri Rowe  
Treasurer - Anna Dukhovnikova  
Social Secretary (Ball) - Georgia Leatherland  
Social Secretary (Trip) - Becca Heath  
Social Media Secretary - Olivia Flynn  
Publicity Secretary - Lucy Slater  
Academic Secretary - Claire McArdle  
Sponsorship Secretary - Evie Chalmers  
Sports Secretary (Football) - Kieran Fowler  
Sports Secretary (Netball) - Lissy Dinnes

Congratulations to our new committee and well done to everyone who ran! Good luck for next year guys - I'm sure you will all do a great job and have a brilliant year!

Onto the more boring stuff (apologies). Make sure to keep your eyes peeled on HST's online blog for some important upcoming articles. Firstly, I will soon be posting a 'Guide to Module Enrolment' which will include some tips for how to survive the dreaded process that is History's module enrolment which I hope will be of some use. As exam season is approaching us, I'll also be making a 'How to Survive Summer Exams' guide. I'll be compiling a list of hints and tips (specific to history and generally) on how to keep yourself just about sane during what is a stressful time for all, and how to get the most out of your revision. It may sound boring, but I hope it is of some help! All of us at HistSoc wish you every success and we will make sure to have some wild celebrations to celebrate when summer is finally upon us!

Well that's me over and out! I'll soon be handing over the reigns to Claire so I'd like to say thank you again so much for this wonderful opportunity I have had this year which has made my third year in Leeds the best, despite the current dissertation stress!

Historians, it's been a blast.

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