

HIU34093/94 The Wars of the Roses: Entangled Worlds I & II



In the mid-fifteenth century, England was convulsed by the greatest crisis of political authority in the later Middle Ages: the dynastic conflict known as the Wars of the Roses. Yet this was not simply an English story. The conflict reverberated across England and the wider insular world, drawing rulers, nobles and communities into a web of dynastic intrigue and political violence. Through sources such as the *Paston Letters*, Sir John Fortescue's *The Governance of England*, chronicles and political propaganda, students will explore the nature of political society, kingship and governance in the fifteenth-century English polity and its wider dominions. Particular attention is paid to the role of Wales and Ireland in the conflict, culminating in the crowning of a rival king in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in 1487, one of the earliest challenges to the authority of Henry VII. Finally, the module asks how a Welsh dynasty emerged victorious from the conflict and established itself on the English throne.