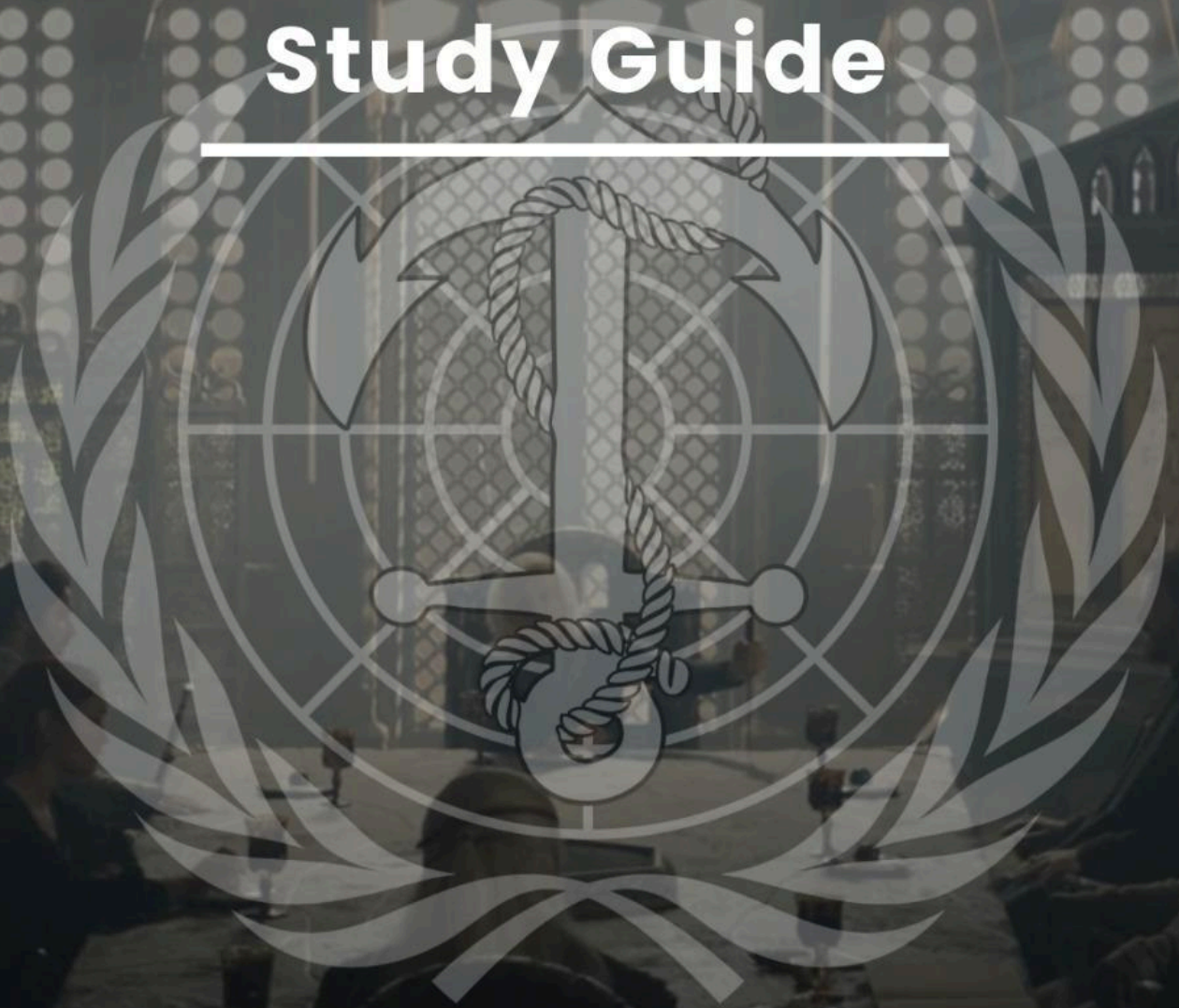


MUNAPAC'26

Game of Thrones Small Council Study Guide



— Fictional Crisis Committee —

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants of MUNAPAC'26,

My role as the Secretary-General grants me the distinct honor of contributing to a conference that embodies the principles of education, excellence, and collaboration. Engaging with a team of exceptionally dedicated and talented individuals, I am truly excited to help shape an event that reflects the very best of our community. Motivated by our shared vision, we strive to deliver an experience that captures the spirit and ambition of our club. Rooted in a strong tradition of Model United Nations excellence, this year's conference continues to build upon years of dedication and growth.

Every member of our academic and organizational teams has worked tirelessly to ensure that MUNAPAC'26 becomes an unforgettable experience. Not only do we aim to provide three remarkable days, but also to contribute meaningfully to your academic and personal growth. In this spirit, our conference offers a wide and dynamic range of committees designed to appeal to all styles of debate. Notably, this year we are proud to present 12 unique committees, each crafted with immense care and originality.

Among them are Historical GA1: DISEC where you can relieve the political tension of the breakup of a major state, GA4: SPECPOL which brings you an out-of-this-world debate experience; forming the backbone of our General Assembly and international governance discussions.

Moreover, our special committees consist of UNHRC in which you will be the voice of the unheard, Historical UNSC where the dust of the Middle East can be felt, Historical NATO and the desperate need for a reform, Parlamento Italiano with its unique Mediterranean atmosphere, World Trade Organization where global trade is in your hands, and the Worcester Convention where the fight for equality is born; all bringing diverse political perspectives to the table.

Keeping innovation and adrenaline at the core of our crisis committees; the Department of Homeland Security attempts to maintain public security, FCC: Small Council is challenged with the well-being of Westeros, FCC The Apocalypse of St. John plunges delegates into a world of prophecy and chaos, and JCC: Anglo-Soviet Invasion of Iran takes delegates back to WWII to relive the unjust nature of war.

On behalf of the APAC Model United Nations Team, I truly hope MUNAPAC'26 will be an unforgettable experience for each and every one of you, and eagerly anticipate welcoming you all to our conference this June.

Warm regards,
Saniyar Safari
Secretary-General, MUNAPAC'26

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Honorable Small Council Members,

Welcome to MUNAPAC'26 Small Council Committee.

I highly recommend that you watch the first two seasons of Game of Thrones. This will help you to understand the committee. If you have any questions at any point, you can reach me through the phone number provided below.

+90 501 341 3241

Under Secretary General

Zeynep Yılmaz

3. Letter from the Academic Assistant

My dear esteemed delegates and honorable Small Council members,

Hereby I welcome you to the APAC Model United Nations Fictional Crisis Committee about the legendary writings of George R. R. Martin, Game of Thrones also known as the book, A Song of Ice and Fire and in it the Small Council.

Initially I wish that every one of you shall have fun during the committee and the conference. As the whole chairboard we have worked day and night to create the committee upon you. Watched and read the series again, researched the whole lore again and many more things. And now the rest of the job belongs to you. Using your imagination, strategic and critical thinking and every other skill which I am sure that you hold, you shall direct and operate his Highness' Small Council with the allocations you have been given to reach the best ending you may. No more has to be said except for one thing: Please; watch the show if you have not already, read the study guide thoroughly and prepare for the conference.

Hoping to have a fun and great three days. If you have any questions at any point, you can reach me through the phone number provided below.

+90 551 847 63 36

Sincerely,

Ekin Ekrem Keçelioğlu
Academic Assistant

4. Introduction to the committee

“When the fire meets water, only power survives” as the maesters say. The tensions all over Westeros is beginning to rise, between the big houses begins an unseeable power struggle. Even though there is not a clear war the throne is in an unbalanced situation. Heir of the crown, Joffrey Baratheon, loyalty of the houses, power distribution inside the palace is becoming more and more questionable day by day. This silent tension is a harbinger of a major conflict that will soon erupt.

In a setting like this the Small Council became the most critical operating mechanism. When looked afar the kingdom seems as if it is still sturdy however it is quite the opposite. So the decisions made in the council do not just affect daily operations, rather how will the kingdom get out of the crises that’s nearing footsteps we are hearing right now.

The unity within the Council is extremely fragile. Its members are not merely servants of the king; each represents different houses and is an extension of different power centers. Personal ambitions, political calculations, and hidden loyalties form the backdrop to every discussion within the Council. Those sitting around the same table often plot against each other and attempt to shift the balance of power in their favor.

The delegates in this committee will determine not only the governance of Westeros but also how to prepare for the impending crisis. The legitimacy of the throne, potential rebellions, inter-house relations, and the balance of power within the court are central to this process. Although the war has not yet begun, every decision made could influence how and when it starts.

Ultimately, this committee represents the most critical stage before an open battlefield. The swords may not have been drawn yet, but the war has already begun only through conversations, decisions, and secret plans. The decisions made at the Small Council will constitute the first steps in the process that will determine the fate of Westeros.

5. Key Terms

Wildfire:

The Alchemists' Guild in King's Landing invented Wildfire, a magically enhanced green fire that is extremely unstable. It is kept in delicate clay pots that, if not properly sealed, might catch fire from heat, impact, or even sunshine. Once lit, it spreads like a live flame across surfaces and even water, burning so hot that it can melt stone and steel. It is also almost impossible to put out.

Golden Company Soldiers:



*Main symbol for the Golden Company

The Golden Company is the most disciplined and dependable mercenary army in Essos, known for never breaking a contract, fighting as a unified professional force, and fielding around 10,000 hardened veterans. In the War of the Five Kings, any side that hired them would gain a major military advantage: the Lannisters could have reinforced their stretched armies and secured King's Landing more easily, Stannis could have gained the land-based infantry he needed to besiege the city without relying on a risky naval assault, Robb Stark could have matched Lannister numbers and held the Riverlands securely, and Renly or Balon could have used them to strengthen their weaknesses: Renly for elite discipline, Balon for infantry the Ironborn lacked. Their involvement could have significantly shifted the war's balance for whoever secured their loyalty.

Iron Throne:



The **Iron Throne** is the seat of the Lord of the Seven Kingdoms, and is often used as a metonymic device to refer to the authority of the King of the Andals, the Rhoynar, and the First Men or to the polity born after Aegon's Conquest. The king often holds audiences and dispenses justice from atop it in the Red Keep's throne room, the Great Hall. The chair is cold and hard, with many jagged edges.

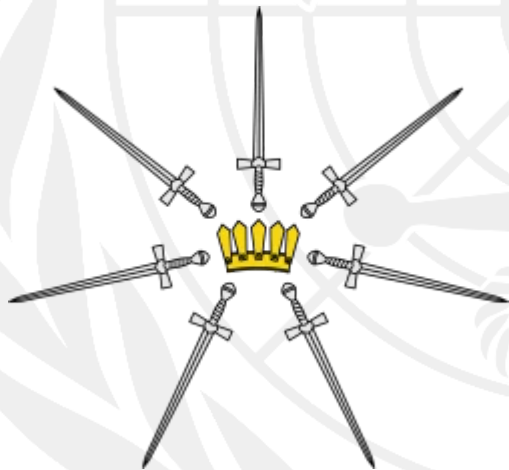
In the king's absence, only his Hand may sit on the throne. Such privilege does not extend to royal regents. However, three exceptions exist: Queen Rhaenys Targaryen and Queen Visenya Targaryen, who were King Aegon I Targaryen's partners in power; and Queen Rhaenyra Targaryen, who sat the throne when she took King's Landing during the Dance of the Dragons.

*According to George R. R. Martin, this painting by Marc Simonetti is the closest to how he envisions the Iron Throne.

Bannermen:

A **bannerman**, **lord bannerman**, or **banner lord** is a vassal who owes military service to his lord under the feudalism of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros. Bannermen are expected to provide their military strength to their liege lords. According to George R. R. Martin, "The lords have vassals, the vassals have vassals, and sometimes the vassals of the vassals have vassals, down to the guy who can raise five friends." Poor relationships between liege and bannerman might lead to vassals not providing all or any of their swords, however, or even the bannermen siding with their liege's enemy. Bannermen might hold back their support from a losing cause. Bannermen can act in their own self-interest, sometimes to the detriment of their liege. Disgraceful actions by a bannerman can bring shame on his liege and homeland. Bannermen can test new lords to judge their worth. Some liege lords pit their bannermen against each other to keep them weak. As part of peace efforts, bannermen can be asked to send their kin to serve as hostages. The families of bannermen can also befriend those of their liege.

Kingsguard:



*Standard symbol: A crown surrounded by seven white swords

The **Sworn Brotherhood of the Kingsguard**, also known poetically as the White Swords or white cloaks, are the royal bodyguards of the Iron Throne. Regarded as the finest knights in the Seven Kingdoms, they are sworn to protect their king and the royal family with their own lives, to obey his commands, and to keep his secrets. The Kingsguard are sworn for life and are forbidden from owning land, taking a wife, or fathering children, although they can hold non-hereditary commands, such as being warden or Hand of the King.

The Kingsguard is composed of seven men, all of them sworn knights. A Kingsguard knight serves for life, regardless of age or any physical or mental ailments. When an invalid Kingsguard knight is incapable of performing his duties, they are taken up by his sworn brothers. The knights of the Kingsguard are forbidden to marry, father children, and to hold

land. Regardless, the White Swords may retain or be granted certain titles. Aemon Targaryen and Lewyn Martell continued to use the style of "prince", while Lords Commander Ryam Redwyne, Criston Cole, and Marston Waters also acted as Hand of the King, and Ser Jaime Lannister was named Warden of the East.

The first duty of the Kingsguard is defending the king from harm. They are sworn to obey the king's commands, to keep his secrets, to counsel him when requested and to keep silent when not, and to defend his name and honor. The king can decide to extend the protection offered by the Kingsguard to others. Some kings have chosen to extend this protection to their wives, children, and other relatives, and some have even chosen to grant this protection to their lovers, mistresses, and bastards. The Kingsguard are sworn to protect the queen, though not from anything the king might do. They are also sworn not to harm any member of the royal family.

In order to protect the king and the royal family night and day, the seven-man Kingsguard must rely to some degree on others. Prince Joffrey Baratheon has Sandor Clegane as his sworn shield, and other knights are trusted with the king's security when the entire Kingsguard meets in White Sword Tower. The queen may be guarded by her own sworn shield, such as Jonquil Darke for Alysanne Targaryen, or household knights, such as Vylarr and his red cloaks for Cersei Lannister.

The Lord Commander of the Kingsguard serves on the king's small council.

When the small council is in session, one of the Kingsguard always stands guard outside the council chambers, while another is usually posted at the end of the bridge into Maegor's Holdfast.

Smallfolk:

Smallfolk or **lowborn** are the common people of the known world. Most are peasants who have to obey their local lord, even though they may never catch a glimpse of him during their life. The nobility of Westeros have great power over their smallfolk, whom they are expected to protect.

Most smallfolk are poor, illiterate people living provincial, humble, and simple lives. Most do not have surnames. They use roads which are crooked muddy tracks that do not appear on parchment maps. Instead of castle-forged steel or lances, they are more likely to use staffs as weapons. In Westeros, they often name their daughters after flowers and herbs, like Violet or Tansy, and peasant girls are more likely to bleed from losing their maidenhead on wedding nights, as it is uncommon for them to ride horses. They are far removed from the major players of the game of thrones, but are affected by those decisions, good or bad. Bastards with a lowborn parent can be called baseborn.

In Westeros the smallfolk often dress in raw wool and dull brown roughspun, while nobles wear colored velvets, silks, and samites. The opposite is true in Braavos, where nobles dress in dark hues while bravos are brightly colored. The people of Lys, both noble and smallfolk, resemble the Valyrians of old.

Most smallfolk remain on the lower end of the social ladder all their lives. They usually learn their trade from their parents who have learned it from their parents and so forth. Even though they are born in the lowest social status in Westeros, it is possible for smallfolk to rise in social status.

Gold Cloaks:

The **City Watch of King's Landing**, also known as the **gold cloaks**, are the defenders of the city of King's Landing (including the Red Keep) and the enforcers of the law, sworn only to the Iron Throne. The Watch presumably falls under the bailiwick of the master of laws. They are not as well trained as the City Watch of Lannisport. The City Watch wear cloaks, usually made of heavy wool, dyed gold. They are equipped with mail armor, iron cudgels, iron spears, dirks, and occasionally longswords. Their armor, boots, and gloves are black. The officers (such as the captains of the gates of the city) wear black breastplates ornamented with four golden disks. They can be used as guards, foot soldiers, or in some cases, as mounted lancers. Nonetheless, the watchmen are not true soldiers.

The Wall:



The **Wall** is a massive barrier of mostly ice stretching across the northern border of the Seven Kingdoms, separating it from the wild lands beyond. The Wall is one hundred leagues

long(three hundred miles)and reaches over seven hundred feet at its highest point, although some foundation blocks in hilly regions, such as near Greyguard, send it nine hundred feet in the air. The Wall stretches for three hundred miles and is approximately seven hundred feet tall. It is made of solid ice, stone, and earth, and can be seen for miles round. It appears grey or blue depending on the weather and time of day. The top is wide enough for a dozen mounted knights to ride abreast and it is thicker at the base.The top is wider in many places than the kingsroad, and crushed stone is spread on walkways to aid with footing.Led by Othell Yarwyck, the First Builder, the builders of the Watch monitor and repair the Wall. According to myth, there are old spells woven into the Wall, to strengthen it and keep creatures of a magical nature such as the Others from passing it.

5.1 Small Council



*Symbol for the Small Council

The small council is a small group of advisers who aid the Lord of the Seven Kingdoms, the monarch on the Iron Throne, on matters of policy and their areas of expertise.

The Small Council is one of the most important political institutions which governs the Seven Kingdoms. In theory the ultimate ruler of the kingdom might seem as the king or the queen but it's neither in practice. Most of the daily operations in the kingdom is done via the Small Council from taxes to navy, laws to intelligence, diplomacy to war preparations; nearly every building stone of the kingdom is handled in the Small Council therefore it is the actual and the ultimate ruling mechanism of the kingdom. The Small Council, whose members have considerable influence behind the scenes, frequently becomes the real engine of administration in Westeros because many of the country's monarchs are inexperienced, preoccupied, or politically weak.

Council mostly gathers in the Tower of the King within the Red Keep inside of King's Landing or in the council room. The purpose of these meetings are not only to advise the king, but also to share information between different authorities, to assess crises', monitoring what the other lords are doing and protecting the king's balance. However the structure that seems so balanced and easy in theory mostly turns into a place where houses rivalries and their secret plans happen therefore the Small Council is not only the operating base of Westeros it is also one of the most dangerous political courts.

The most robust authority is the **Hand of the King** who serves as the monarch's principal advisor and, frequently, the de facto ruler, is in the center of the council. The Hand especially handles the kingdom's affairs similar to a king when the king is too young, like Tommen, or uninterested in ruling, like Robert Baratheon. In Robert's case even though he is the ultimate ruler of the kingdom most of the operations happened through initially Jon Arryn and afterwards Eddard Stark, people who were in the office as the Hand of the King. In later periods Tyrion Lannister too played a decisive role in topics ranging from the defense of the capital to political balances. This shows that in Westeros, the Iron Throne itself is not enough and the real power lies in the person that makes the decision for the throne not in the person that has the throne.

Another important role in the Council is the **Master of Coin**, this role is responsible for the economics of the kingdom; collecting taxes, trade routes, port incomes, debts, spendings, festivals, tournaments and war spendings all enter Master of Coin's responsibility. When looked superficial it may seem as just handling money however in a place like Westeros that is built on a big and sensitive feudal system money directly correlates with power. In Robert Baratheon's period of ruling the kingdom being in enormous debt rose the dependency to money sources like House Lannister and Iron Bank. Petyr Baelish, also known as "Littlefinger", being in this position is no coincidence; since he knows that economy directly affects diplomacy. Therefore in the Small Council exchequer is not only an operating part it is a factor for the throne fight.

Master of Laws in theory represents the judicial structure. Enforcing the laws, judicial orders, handling disputes between lords and protecting the balance in the kingdom's constitution are some of the many duties of this position. However law in Westeros has never been a modern and unbiased system. It has mostly been forced through power, houses and military power. For this reason the job of Master of Laws is not only knowing the jus but protecting the political structure of the kingdom. Renly Baratheon being in this position directly shows that this authority does not come from knowing the law but from nobility and closeness to the royal family

One of the most dangerous and mysterious authorities in the council is the **Master of Whisperers**. This authority's job is to gather intel, seeing threats before they even become threats, monitoring lords to learn their overall plans, listening to the whispers in the palace and when needed creating a web of sometimes spies and sometimes intercommunication. The power of this does not come from the military or money, it comes from knowledge. Varys being in this position shows the importance of the information war in the palace and the Small Council. Varys' web known as "**Little Bird**" is able to control and foresee any threats or movements due to its and Varys' nature. And furthermore these prove that knowledge is

ever and anon is more substantial than armies and men.

The Master of Ships is as the name proposes is about the navy. Protection of the ports, warships, transportation via the sea, naval blockades and any tries of naval superiority, both strategically and military wise is the responsibility of the Master of Ships. In a region like Westeros where both trade and war is connected with seas this authority carries immense importance. Particularly taking into account places like Dragonstone and Blackwater Bay the fleets are not only a military tool, but also an economic and political power. Figures such as Stannis Baratheon being associated with the naval powers are important for these sole reasons.

Another one of the members is the **Grand Maester**. Grand Maester is the highest rated maester sent by the Citadel to help the king and his council for science, healthcare, history and information. Officially an unbiased structure, the Maesters are the representation of information in Westeros. Grand Maester does not only cure diseases, they create messaging webs with the raven system, organise files and become an advisor in the council meetings. This authority being neutral does not mean it is fully away from politics. Especially in a setting like King's Landing information is by itself a gold worth advantage in diplomacy. Pycelle is a great example of this; since he has been in the palace for years, monitored many kings and the council's inner balance.

The last member of the Small Council is the **Commander of the Kingsguard**. Not always being counted amongst the authorities, the Commander of the Kingsguard is one of the most important members since they are responsible for the protection of the king. In theory Kingsguard members are only protectors. However in practice since they are always with the king, queen, heir or any royal member they are right in the middle of politics. A Lord Commander like Ser Barristan Selmy carries great weight, not only in a military sense but also in a symbolic sense. Because in Westeros, sword sometimes as much as law, sometimes even more than information itself carries effectiveness.

The real importance of the Small Council comes not from the official definitions of the places rather comes from the people that hold these positions and their intentions. In theory all of the members are there for the king and its ruling however in practice each one of them serve different houses, personal loyalties, phobias and personal directions. For this reason the council meetings are not only official meetings, they are also war zones in which the words are the most effective weapons and needs special care for it, information being artillery having to protect it for when it will be useful and a test space for foes. This "war time" is most significantly seen in Robert's governance. Since he himself did not care enough for the kingdom and Small Council became the main and ultimate decision center.

For these reasons the Small Council is one of the most important structures of Westeros. Since any decision that is made here not just affects the palace but the whole continent if not the realm. A wedding decision, war, arrest warrant, tax rearrangement or sharing confidential information can change the lives of thousands.

The Small Council turns into a battlefield for political power plays throughout the series. **To obtain control or defend their own interests**, members frequently form alliances, conceal intentions, and undermine one another. Littlefinger and Varys serve as examples of how deception, silence, and calculated choices can transform entire kingdoms. Due to this

ongoing planning, the Small Council is no longer just an administrative body but rather one of the most dangerous political venues in Westeros, where every meeting has the potential to change the realm's power dynamics and every decision could affect thousands of lives.

6. Song of Ice and Fire Lore

A song of Ice and Fire or Game of Thrones is a realm built by George R. R. Martin has a complex and large geography, politics and centuries long history. Most of the story is in the continent named Westeros, the continent in the east Essos has a vast effect over the realm.

6.1 The Lore

Westeros and Its Geographic Structure



*A map of Westeros and the Free Cities

This world mostly consists of feudal political states. Power is highly in the hands of major noble families and these families control big amounts of land. While these families, called Houses, control their own lands they still hold an oath for the king. This is why the political state of Westeros is always complicated and has multiple stratum between different power centers.

Westeros is the continent that the story is fixed on. Politically it is united in the Seven Kingdoms and its Iron Throne with the crown. Westeros has a big geography consisting of multiple regions that have different climates, cultures and politics. While the north of the continent consists of enormous forests, harsh climate and big castles, the south has more efficient soil and big city centers. This geographic difference directly affects the region's economics and manpower. In Westeros power is divided mostly in major noble houses. These houses govern their own land, tax the people in it and in war time recruit for the army. At the same time they continue their loyalty to the king.

The Seven Kingdoms

Westeros, politically, is controlled by the Seven Kingdoms. This name comes from a tradition since in the past there were really seven different kingdoms. However after some time these seven kingdoms merged into one therefore creating the Seven Kingdoms. There are 9 major regions in the Seven Kingdoms: The North, The Vale, The Riverlands, The Westerlands, The Reach, The Stormlands, Dorne, The Crownlands and The Iron Islands with each having a strong lord in control.

These lords have big authority in their own regions however in theory they are all united in the name of the King of Westeros. These create a thin balance over the political state of Westeros. Marriages are one of the most important ways of creating political or military alliances. In the east of Westeros sits a much bigger continent Essos.

The king has the greatest authority, in theory. However, because of the military power and economical resources that major houses contain, kings had to have political balance with the lords of these houses. For this and many other reasons alliances hold a very significant place in Westeros' diplomacy and King's Landing is the base for these types of political relations therefore most of the decisions that affect the kingdom are taken here.

Essos

Essos has a different culture, city state(which are named Free Cities). and political structure. Different from Westeros in Essos there is no one singular controlling mechanism like a King or a Throne. There are many different sovereign city states which have their own laws, economies and political structures. Trade plays a very important role in Essos and made many states rich because of it. Some important regions which can make both political and trade wise relations with Westeros are as follows: The Free Cities, The Dothraki Sea, Slaver's Bay, Qarth.

Society in Westeros

In Westeros people are divided into different social status. In the top remains the Nobles like the Lannisters. Nobles mostly govern big amounts of soils and have political power. They do indeed control the status beneath them at most times.

Under the Nobles sits the Knights. Knights mostly train as Squires and they have to be knighted. They play important roles in politics and in lord's armies.

Most of Westeros' people are in the lowest stair beneath all named smallfolk. These people make the farmers, artisans, traders and soldiers. A vast part of the economy stays running due to the part of the community called smallfolk and their hard work.

Westeros has multiple religions and different religions are superior differing by the regions. One of the most common religion is the Faith of the Seven. This religion especially is widespread in the south. The Faith of the Seven believes in a god which shows the seven different ways. In the north the Old Gods religion is more common. This religion is linked with nature and the holy trees play an important role. In Essos there are different religions, one of the most significant being Lord of Light (R'hllor). This dyne believes in a fire god that is the most effective in the east regions.

Relationship Between Essos and Westeros

Between Westeros and Essos there has been a cultural and mercantile relationship for years. Many Free Cities in Essos trade with Westeros, these trades especially happen through port cities. Free Cities that reside in Essos are the main trading center and route with Westeros. These cities are highly developed in areas like trading, banking and marine. In the meantime Essos is a continent that has many different cultures, paid soldiers and trade webs. For these reasons Westeros' political balance may affect the developments in Essos.

6.2. Historical Background

In a place like Westeros today's political structure and balance of powers comes directly from history. Seven Kingdoms being merged under one, wars that lasted years, changes in houses and big alliances are all the reasons for these new results. Therefore, every single political crisis that happened is a direct reflection of yesterday.

The first people that lived in Westeros are named as First Men. These were the people that were more common in the north, living intertwined with nature, believing in the Old Gods. Afterwards Andals came to the continent. Captured most of Westeros and integrated their own cultures and most significantly the **Faith of the Seven**. This migration completely changed the cultural and religious structure of Westeros. In today's world we can see that while generally the Faith of the Seven is more common the Old Gods religion still exists in the north.

For a very long time Westeros did not consist of a single kingdom but did as seven independent major kingdoms. Between these kingdoms there were always wars, alliances and

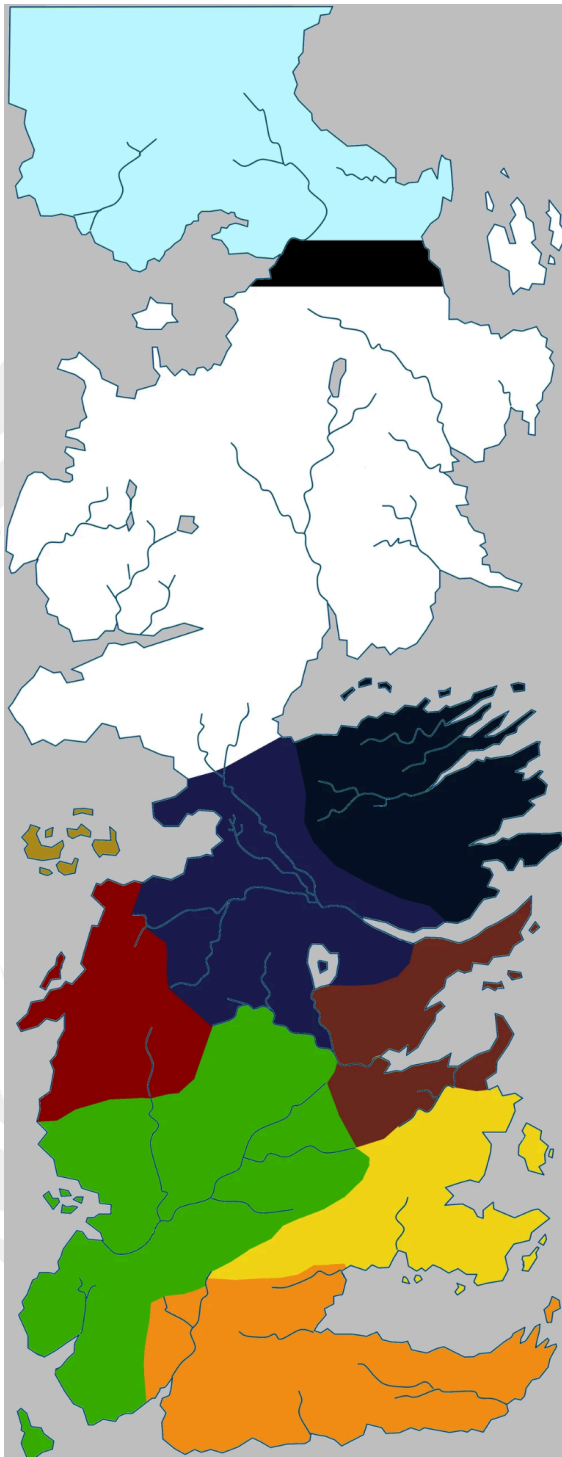
power struggles. However this structure completely changed when the Targaryen House started to rise in power. Coming from Essos and having dragons, Targaryens conquered all of Westeros and merged it under one singular crown. This period is known as **Aegon's Conquest** and it resulted in the creation of the Iron Throne. The military superiority that the dragons provide Targaryens were able to govern Westeros for 300 years.

During the Targaryen government even though Westeros generally were under one crown disputes in the House and throne struggle have happened very much. One of the most important wars of this period is the **Dance of the Dragons**. This war is a direct result of the throne struggles inside the Targaryen house and as a consequence most of the dragons vanished due to this war. Dragons being no more weakened the ultimate power of the Targaryens and resulted in the House's authority to be shaken.

The end of the House Targaryen was because of Robert's Rebellion. This revolt was not only a change of the crown but also changed the balance of powers upside down. With the support of strong lords like Robert Baratheon, Eddard Stark and Jon Arryn the "Mad King" Aerys II Targaryen fell from power. Incidents like Jaime Lannister killing Aerys and Tywin Lannister capturing Kingslanding were the critical factors that decided the winner of the war.

With Robert sitting on the throne, House Baratheon became the new governor of the Seven Kingdoms, Westeros. However this new foundation is not as sturdy as it may seem from the outside view. The governing style of Robert, especially his unwillingness towards the management of the kingdom caused the government to rot from the inside to the out. During this time House Lannister gained power in the palace due to the newly found relations with the palace.

6.3. Houses



House Stark, the North (white);
House Arryn, the Vale of Arryn (dark blue);
House Tully, the Riverlands (navy blue);
House Greyjoy, the Iron Islands (gold);
House Martell, Dorne (orange);

Bronn's house, the Reach (green);
House Baratheon, the Stormlands (yellow);
House Lannister, the Westerlands (red);
Free Folk, Beyond the Wall (sky blue);
Night's Watch, the Gift and the Wall (black)

The **Great Houses** are the most powerful of the noble houses of the Seven Kingdoms. They exercise immense authority and power over their vassals and territories and are answerable only to the King of the Andals and the Rhoynar and the First Men, with the exception of House Stark, which rules over an independent kingdom.

Before Aegon's Conquest, each of the Seven Kingdoms was ruled independently by a powerful royal family. During the Conquest these families were either destroyed, replaced, or defeated and made to swear allegiance to King Aegon, who reigned from the Iron Throne in King's Landing. The Gardeners, Hoares, and Durrandons were slain and replaced by the Tyrells, Greyjoys, and Baratheons respectively, while the Lannisters, Arryns, and Starks surrendered peacefully and were allowed to remain in control of their lands. In addition, Aegon raised up the Tullys to rule over the Riverlands, which had been under Ironborn occupation prior to his arrival. Only House Martell of Dorne resisted his armies, but was later brought into the fold through a peaceful marriage-alliance some two centuries later.

Each Great House has a large number of vassal houses serving it, most of whom in turn have smaller vassals under them, extending all the way down to farmers and landed knights. Each Great House rules over its territory and is responsible for collecting taxes and, in times of war, raising troops to fight for the king. Otherwise they are largely left to operate autonomously to simplify the bureaucracy and governance of the realm. Robert's Rebellion ended in the exile of the last Targaryens, with House Baratheon replacing them on the Iron Throne, forming the royal cadet branch House Baratheon of King's Landing.

Current Great Houses

Bronn's house



*Main sigil of the Bronn's House

Bronn's house is a newly formed Great House of Westeros. It rules over the Reach, a vast, fertile, and heavily-populated region of southwestern Westeros, from their castle-seat of Highgarden as Lords Paramount of the Reach after taking control of the region from House Tyrell, following their extinction as a result of the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor and the Sack of Highgarden.

The house was founded by Ser Bronn of the Blackwater and raised to power as fulfillment of a debt owed by Tyrion of House Lannister, the Hand of the King to the first elected king, Bran I the Broken. The sigil of the house is a flaming arrow, symbolizing Bronn's role during the Battle of the Blackwater. The official name and words of the house are unknown.

House Arryn



*Main sigil of the House Arryn

Rulers of the Vale of Arryn from the castle of the Eyrie. It was integrated with the Kingdom of the North until King Jon Snow abdicated. Its current head is Lord Robin Arryn, who is also the only current member. According to legend, the house was founded by Ser Artys Arryn, the Winged Knight. He is said to have flown atop a giant falcon, landing on the topmost mountain of the Vale, and defeated the Griffin King, the last of the First Men Mountain Kings. Afterward, he took the Eyrie and became the first King of the Mountain and the Vale. His descendants continued to rule the Vale ever since. The Eyrie has never fallen to invaders. During Aegon's Conquest, House Arryn repulsed a Targaryen invasion at Gulltown with Braavosi aid, but ultimately bent the knee peacefully to Queen Visenya after young boy-king Ronnel yielded the crown and Queen Regent Sharra ordered the Vale's army to stand down, for which Ronnel was allowed to ride Vhagar with the Queen.. By submitting peacefully instead of being conquered, they were allowed to continue to rule as Lords Paramount of the Vale and Wardens of the East in the name of the Iron Throne. The Eyrie is considered impregnable and defends House Arryn from the violent Hill tribes of the Mountains of the Moon.

Jon Arryn is the most recent head of House Arryn, Warden of the East and Defender of the Vale. He was a respected nobleman and both Eddard Stark and Robert Baratheon

fostered with him. The Mad King condoned the kidnap of Eddard's sister and Robert's betrothed, Lyanna Stark. The Mad King had Eddard's father and brother killed for protesting against the kidnapping. When he then demanded that Eddard be turned over to the King's justice, Lord Arryn rebelled, calling his banners to war. House Stark and House Baratheon followed suit. The rebels forged an alliance with House Tully through marriage, with Eddard married to Catelyn Tully and the then-elderly Jon to the young Lysa.

After the rebel victory in the war, Robert became King and appointed Jon as his Hand. Jon served the realm well for many years as Hand of the King. He died immediately prior to the events of the series, sparking King Robert's search for a replacement. Jon is survived by his wife Lysa and their six-year-old son, Robin. Jon was investigating the legitimacy of the children of Cersei when he died. He found that they were not Robert's offspring by comparing their appearance to Robert's bastards based on the genetic preponderance for dark hair in House Baratheon.

House Baratheon



*Main sigil of the House Baratheon

House Baratheon of Storm's End is a Great House of Westeros that traditionally rules the Stormlands on the eastern coast of Westeros, aptly named for its frequent storms. House

Baratheon became the royal house of the Seven Kingdoms (as House Baratheon of King's Landing) after Robert Baratheon led a rebellion against the Targaryen dynasty. At the end of the rebellion, Robert ascended the Iron Throne as Robert I and married Cersei Lannister after the death of Lyanna Stark.

House Baratheon became officially extinct after the deaths of Stannis Baratheon and his family, but was revived when Robert's last known bastard was legitimized by Queen Daenerys Targaryen as Gendry Baratheon. House Baratheon's sigil is a crowned black stag on a gold field and their house words are "Ours is the Fury."

Rulers of the Stormlands from the castle of Storm's End. The former royal house of the Seven Kingdoms after Robert's Rebellion. The bloodline went extinct after Stannis Baratheon was killed at the battle in the ice. Legally went extinct when King Tommen Baratheon killed himself in King's Landing after the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor. Restored when Queen Daenerys Targaryen legitimized Robert's unacknowledged bastard son Gendry Baratheon.

House Greyjoy



*Main sigil of the House Greyjoy

House Greyjoy of Pyke is one of the Great Houses of Westeros. It rules over the Iron Islands, a harsh and bleak collection of islands off the west coast of Westeros, from the castle at Pyke. The head of the house is the Lord Reaper of Pyke.

House Greyjoy's sigil is traditionally a golden kraken on a black field. Their house words are "We Do Not Sow," although the phrase "What Is Dead May Never Die" is also closely associated with House Greyjoy and their bannermen, as they are associated with the faith of the Drowned God.

Following the extinction of House Hoare, the Ironborn elected House Greyjoy as Lord of the Iron Islands, an administrative region of the Seven Kingdoms, as vassals to House Targaryen. During Robert's Rebellion, House Greyjoy declared for House Baratheon. During the Greyjoy Rebellion, Balon Greyjoy declared sovereignty and seceded from the Seven Kingdoms, but the rebellion was put down. House Greyjoy bent the knee to Robert Baratheon.

During the War of the Five Kings, Balon Greyjoy declared himself King of the Iron Islands and the Iron Islands independent once more, seceding from the Seven Kingdoms. Following his assassination and the election of his brother and murderer, Euron, as the new King of the Iron Islands, House Greyjoy was divided between Euron and his followers, and Balon's surviving children, Yara and Theon, and their followers. During the Last War, Euron allied with Cersei of House Lannister, while Yara and her followers allied with Daenerys Targaryen, who Euron originally intended to ally with. After being set free by Theon, Yara retook the Iron Islands in Daenerys's name. Theon died at the Battle of Winterfell while Euron died at the Battle of King's Landing, leaving Yara firmly as the head and last living member of House Greyjoy.

House Lannister



*Main sigil of the House Lannister

House Lannister of Casterly Rock is one of the Great Houses of Westeros, one of its richest and most powerful families and one of its oldest dynasties. It was briefly the royal house of the Seven Kingdoms until their defeat in the Last War.

The Lannisters rule over the Westerlands. Their seat is Casterly Rock, a massive rocky promontory overlooking the Sunset Sea which has had habitations and fortifications built into it over the millennia. They are the Lords Paramount of the Westerlands and Wardens of the West. As the new royal house, they also ruled directly over the Crownlands from their seat of the Red Keep in King's Landing, the traditional seat of the royal family. House Lannister's heraldry consists of a golden lion on a crimson background, and their house words are "Hear me roar!", which are rarely mentioned. Their unofficial motto, which is as well known as the official one, is "A Lannister always pays his debts" - which is used much more often and mostly in negative context, though it can also be used in the original, literal sense.

The incestuous relationship of Cersei and Jaime had been concealed in a conspiracy. Their son Joffrey Baratheon had claimed the Iron Throne on the premise that he was actually fathered by the late King Robert Baratheon. Lord Tywin was a key supporter of his reign in the War of the Five Kings. The Lannisters continued to hold sway when Tommen Baratheon

ascended the throne, with Kevan Lannister as Hand of the King and Protector of the Realm, but lost their hold over Tommen to the Faith of the Seven, and, after destroying the Great Sept of Baelor, Cersei took the throne. With the deaths of Cersei and Jaime at the Battle of King's Landing, Tyrion is now the head of House Lannister and has given up the crown in favor of an elective monarchy. It currently swears fealty directly to the King of the Andals and the First Men, an office which is currently held by Bran Stark.

Rulers of the Westerlands from the castle of Casterly Rock. The former royal house of the Seven Kingdoms after the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor until the Battle of King's Landing. Its leadership was disputed by Queen Cersei I Lannister and Hand of the Queen to Daenerys Targaryen, Lord Tyrion Lannister, who became the head of House Lannister after the Battle of King's Landing.

House Martell



*Main sigil of the House Martell

House Martell of Sunspear is one of the Great Houses of Westeros. It rules the peninsula of Dorne in the far south of the continent. Though loyal to the Iron Throne, the Martells were never conquered by the Targaryens and have pursued a more isolated role in wider political events since Robert's Rebellion.

With the assassinations of Prince Doran Martell and his only heir, Prince Trystane, by Ellaria Sand and the three eldest Sand Snakes, the Sand Snakes carry the Martell blood

through their father Oberyn Martell. The Sand Snakes also continue to use the Martell sigil to represent themselves and Dorne.

Under the leadership of Ellaria Sand, the forces of House Martell and Dorne were aligned with Daenerys Targaryen against House Lannister. Following the deaths of Ellaria and the three eldest Sand Snakes, a Martell rises to power as the new Prince of Dorne.

House Martell's sigil is a red sun pierced by a golden spear, on an orange field, a combination of the original Martell sigil - a yellow spear - and the emblem of Princess Nymeria - a red sun - to symbolize the marriage of the warrior-queen to Mors Martell. Their house words are "Unbowed, Unbent, Unbroken."

Rulers of Dorne from the castle of Sunspear. Deposed by Ellaria Sand and three of the Sand Snakes in their coup. The new Prince of Dorne retook control over Dorne after Ellaria's defeat.

House Stark



*Main sigil of the House Stark

House Stark of Winterfell is a Great House of Westeros and the royal house of the Kingdom of the North. They rule over the vast region known as the North. It is one of the oldest lines of Westerosi nobility by far, claiming a line of descent stretching back over eight thousand years. Before Aegon's Conquest, as well as during the War of the Five Kings and early on in the Last War, the leaders of House Stark ruled over the region as the Kings in the North.

Their rule in the North seemingly ended after the events of the Red Wedding when House Frey and House Bolton betrayed House Stark after forming a secret alliance with House Lannister, during which Roose Bolton murdered King Robb Stark. Both the North and Winterfell were taken over by House Bolton. However, the Boltons' hold was jeopardized when Sansa Stark escaped their clutches after learning her brothers Bran and Rickon Stark were still alive and reunited with her half-brother, Jon Snow, at Castle Black. Sansa and Jon marched on the Boltons to save their younger brother Rickon, who was later murdered by Ramsay Bolton, and retake Winterfell. House Stark was restored to their former stature after the Battle of the Bastards. The Stark victory led to House Stark's return to royal status in the North with their bannermen declaring Jon as the King in the North. He later abdicated his title as king in order to gain the full support of Daenerys Targaryen in the Great War, becoming the Warden of the North. Following the Battle of King's Landing, Bran Stark was chosen as the new king of the Six Kingdoms, allowing the North to secede as an independent kingdom under Sansa.

House Stark's sigil is a grey direwolf on a white background, over green. They are one of the few noble houses whose words are not a boast or threat. Instead, the House Stark family motto is a warning, one that, no matter the circumstances, will always be relevant: "Winter Is Coming," which served as a reminder of their beginnings in the wake of the Long Night and a grim portent of things to come.

House Stark, as the only First Men dynasty to resist the coming of the Andals, proudly hold on to the worship of the Old Gods. Due to their rule over the North and knowledge of its troubles, they are unfailing supporters of the importance of the Night's Watch, despite its fall from glory in current times. As one of the last remaining Valyrian steel items from Old Valyria, House Stark greatly treasures its ancestral sword of Ice, which has been used in battles and executions.

Rulers of the North from the castle of Winterfell and the royal house of the independent Kingdom of the North. Retook their lands from House Bolton, who usurped House Stark at the Red Wedding, after the Battle of the Bastards. The house is ruled by Sansa Stark, the Queen in the North. The heir is Princess Arya Stark.

House Tully



*Main sigil of the House Tully

House Tully of Riverrun is a Great House of Westeros. Its most senior member carried the title of Lord of Riverrun and Lord Paramount of the Trident, until the Red Wedding. The current head is Lord Edmure Tully, son of the late Hoster Tully. The Tully sigil is a silver trout on a red and blue background. Their house words are "Family, Duty, Honor."

At the onset of the War of the Five Kings, House Tully came under attack by House Lannister and lent its support for House Stark when they came to their aid in the liberation of the Riverlands. House Tully has since been formally stripped of lands and titles for rebellion against the Iron Throne, with Lord Edmure a captive of House Frey following the Red Wedding.

Later, Brynden Tully gathered the remaining Tully forces and reclaimed Riverrun from the Freys, reopening conflict between the Tullys and the Iron Throne. The Freys lay siege to Riverrun, and were later assisted by the Lannisters on the orders of King Tommen I. Jaime Lannister managed to end the siege by convincing Edmure Tully to command the garrison to lay down their weapons in return for clemency and protection. Brynden was killed during a final stand with Lannister and Frey forces while Edmure was returned to the Freys as a prisoner. Following the deaths of most of House Frey and the defeat of Cersei Lannister at King's Landing, Edmure is freed and restored to his titles and lands.

Rulers of the Riverlands from their seat at Riverrun. Riverrun was under Frey and Lannister control until Daenerys Targaryen overthrew Queen Cersei Lannister in the Battle of King's Landing. Lord Edmure Tully was restored to his former positions sometime after Arya Stark assassinated all the males of House Frey.

Former Great Houses

House Frey

Former vassals to House Tully, rulers of the Riverlands from the castle of Riverrun after usurping their positions as a result of the Red Wedding. Lord Walder Frey and his male descendants were murdered by Arya Stark, leaving its lordship uncertain and briefly descending the Riverlands into anarchy, until Lannister soldiers were sent to maintain order. While House Frey survived Arya Stark's massacre, particularly through Walder Frey's many daughters and other female descendants, it is no longer a Great House following Edmure Tully's restoration as Lord Paramount of the Trident.

House Royce

At the time of the coming of the Andals about 6,000 years ago, the lords of the Vale united behind Robar Royce, proclaiming him as their High King. Robar's rule of the Vale would prove brief, as the Vale was shortly thereafter conquered by the Andal knight Ser Artys Arryn, whose descendants, House Arryn, has ruled the Vale ever since.

Extinct Great Houses

Nine Great Houses have gone extinct, three of which were as a result of their defeat in Aegon's Conquest, four of which as a result of the War of the Five Kings:

House Casterly of the Westerlands until they were swayed away from their home by the legendary trickster Lann the Clever, the founder of House Lannister.

House Mudd rulers of the Riverlands until their bloodline was extinguished by Andal invaders.

House Justman rulers of the Riverlands until they were exterminated by House Durrandon.

House Hoare rulers of the Iron Islands and (through conquest) the Riverlands. After their defeat, Aegon the Conqueror commanded the Ironborn to select a new family from among their number to rule over the rest, under the Targaryens. They selected House Greyjoy.

House Durrandon rulers of the Stormlands. Orys Baratheon, the founder of House Baratheon, married the daughter of the last king of House Durrandon, thus House Baratheon descends from the Durrandons through the female line.

House Gardener rulers of the Reach. House Tyrell claims descent from House Gardener through the female line, and House Florent is actually a cadet branch of House Gardener, with a better claim to rule based on lineage than the Tyrells. Several other Houses from the Reach also descend from House Gardener.

House Baratheon of Dragonstone rulers of the Stormlands from the castle of Dragonstone, claiming the Iron Throne. Extinct as of the battle in the ice and the death of claimant King Stannis Baratheon.

House Baratheon of King's Landing, ruler of the Crownlands from the castle of the Red Keep in King's Landing, and the former royal house. Extinct as of King Tommen's suicide following the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor.

House Bolton former vassals to House Stark, rulers of the North from the castle of Winterfell after usurping their positions from House Stark during the Red Wedding. Ramsay Bolton, the sole heir, was killed in the aftermath of the Battle of the Bastards by his own hounds, rendering the house extinct.

House Tyrell rulers of the Reach from the castle of Highgarden after the extinction of House Gardener. The bloodline is wiped out as a result of the destruction of the Great Sept of Baelor and the Sack of Highgarden.

House Targaryen



*Main sigil of the House Targaryen

House Targaryen of Dragonstone is an exiled Great House of Westeros and the former royal house of the Seven Kingdoms. House Targaryen conquered and unified the realm before it was deposed during Robert's Rebellion, where House Baratheon replaced it as the new royal house. The two surviving Targaryens, Viserys and Daenerys, fled into exile to the Free Cities of Essos across the Narrow Sea.

House Lannister replaced House Baratheon as the royal house in the aftermath of the War of the Five Kings, but they were defeated in the Last War. After Daenerys burnt King's Landing, she was assassinated by her nephew Jon Snow to prevent further destruction. Jon is the last known Targaryen, but his identity as the son of Rhaegar Targaryen is kept a secret, and he was exiled to the Night's Watch for the assassination of Daenerys, effectively ending House Targaryen. However, the bloodline of House Targaryen still exists in various houses, such as House Baratheon, House Velaryon, and House Martell.

House Targaryen's sigil is a three-headed red dragon on a black background, and their house words are "Fire and Blood." The head of House Targaryen is referred to as "the

dragon." the former royal house of the Seven Kingdoms since Aegon's Conquest. Overthrown in Robert's Rebellion, but restored following the Battle of King's Landing. After Jon Snow rejoined the Night's Watch, House Targaryen became legally extinct. The bloodline of House Targaryen lives in House Baratheon and House Martell.

7. Key Characters

Robert Baratheon



King Robert Baratheon, led the rebellion against the Targaryen's overthrowing them and therefore becoming the King of The Seven Kingdoms hence the rebellion is called "Robert's Rebellion". He is the leader of House Baratheon and an elder brother for both Stannis and Renly Baratheon. Robert, a strong warrior in his youth, is mostly known due to his victory in the Battle of the Trident killing Prince Rhaegar Targaryen and had a colossal effect overall in the war. However after rising into power he lost his interest in governing and started spending time hunting, drinking and entertaining himself. While Robert was busy with these hobbies the kingdom was mostly managed by his highness' Small Council especially the Hand of the King. Robert married into the Lannisters with Cersei Lannister thus creating an alliance between the Houses Lannister and Baratheon. Robert Baratheon maintained a close friendship with Eddard Stark, whom he later appointed as Hand of the King following the death of Jon Arryn. Robert, in law, has 3 children as following:

Joffrey Baratheon,
Myrcella Baratheon,
Tommen Baratheon.

Robert Baratheon led one of the most important political changes in Westeros. Robert's Rebellion not only made a House change in power but destroyed a 300 year Targaryen governing. This completely changed the power balance in Westeros. And another change in power happened due to Robert too: His death. Robert's death stunned Westeros as a whole, who will be the heir of the Iron Throne and how will the Seven Kingdoms be governed is one of the most important political questions in Westeros.

Joffrey Baratheon



Joffrey Baratheon, he is the eldest child of King Robert Baratheon and Queen Cersei Lannister and the official heir of the Iron Throne itself. The day he was born meant multiple things: It meant that the Baratheon dynasty appeared secure and he was one of the most important figures of the House Baratheon and House Lannister's alliance. Joffrey was being raised as the next king of the Seven Kingdoms. Growing in palaces he was strongly shaped by his mother, Cersei Lannister. In the meantime he was protected by one of the most influential knights, Ser Barristan Selmy and other Kingsguard members. Prince Joffrey did not and still does not have enough experience in governing and managing, not even being able to govern cities he is especially not ready to take control of the Seven Kingdoms and this creates diverse thoughts about him in the palace about his future. Some lords think that he will ensure the continuation of the Baratheon House while others think that his young age and character could create problems within the helm. He, as of right now, has vast and symbolic power in the palace's politics.

Even though Joffrey is young now he has the most significant role in Westeros because of Robert's death and him being the heir to the Iron Throne. And due to this many lords watch him and his every move with care. Prince Joffrey did not quite catch the political balance in Westeros when he was growing in the palace. This is the main reason that people question his ability to become the next king. If Joffrey were to rise to the Throne and become the next king many new alliances will be formed to protect their own desires.

Cersei Lannister



Cersei Lannister is a member of one of the strongest houses in Westeros: House Lannister. The daughter of Tywin Lannister, and a sister to Jaime and Tyrion Lannister. Cersei became the Queen of the Seven Kingdoms when she married into the Baratheon House, Robert Baratheon. This marriage was mostly made to bring balance into the kingdom after Robert's rebellion. Due to this marriage House Lannister rose to power in the governing of the kingdom. Queen Cersei plays an active role in the palace's politics and is one of the most influential figures over the balance of powers in King's Landing. The future of her children and the power of House Lannister plays an important role in her decisions. Furthermore she has even more political power in the palace due to her being the mother of the lawful heir of the throne: Prince Joffrey.

Jaime Lannister



Jaime Lannister is the eldest son of House Lannister. Son of Tywin Lannister, twin brother of Cersei and elder brother of Tyrion, Jaime had been accepted into Kingsguard at a young age. Members of the Kingsguard serve the king and the royalty all their lives. They can not marry, have children or inherit the legacy of their houses. Therefore Jaime, even though is the eldest son of Tywin Lannister is not counted as a future lord of Casterly Rock. Jaime is mostly known as “Kingslayer” all around Westeros. A title which he carried with contrite. This is because in the last phases of Robert's Rebellion, while he was serving in King's Landing he

killed the king of the time, Aerys II Targaryen. Jaime killed Aerys II while he was preparing to destroy the city with the wildfire. However since not everybody in Westeros knew this Jaime has been known as “The knight who broke his oath” for many years. Even though his “nonloyalty” saved thousands of innocent lives. Therefore, even though Jaime succeeds in the army his loyalty and honour is a question.

Jaime Lannister is known and accepted as the greatest and most talented knight of Westeros. Especially his sword fighting skills and abilities in the battlefield made him a famous warrior in Westeros. Him being a Kingsguard member makes him directly responsible for the king’s safety and this duty is taken as one noble to the biggest degree.

With this the reputation of Jaime has always been a question for all. The nickname “Kingslayer” made him seen as nonloyal for many lords in Westeros. Most people know the story of Jaime killing the king however do not know that Aerys was trying to destroy King’s Landing as a whole. This situation created misunderstandings all over Westeros.

Right before Robert Baratheon died Jaime had both been a Kingsguard member and one of the most significant representatives of House Lannister’s military power. Lannister’s richness and power taken into account Jaime is not only a guard or a knight in the palace and its politics.

Tyrion Lannister



Tyrion Lannister is the youngest child of Tywin Lannister. He is the Hand of the King as of right now. During his birth, his mother Joanna Lannister lost her life and due to this his sister

Cersei and his father hated Tyrion. In his childhood Tywin, his father, was mostly in King's Landing to serve King II. Aerys as Hand of the King. Tyrion had a lonely childhood. His best friend Jaime left Casterly Rock after the conquest in 277 to Summer Crakehall and in 278 his elder sister Cersei left for King's Landing. Afterwards Tyrion secretly eloped and married Tysha, a peasant's daughter, his father Tywin had the marriage forcefully annulled. Even though he is a dwarf with physical properties he is known with his mind and political understanding furthermore being the richest person in Westeros. Tyrion always had a complicated state in his family. His relationship with his father, Tywin Lannister is and has mostly been tense. Nevertheless Tyrion as a member of the House Lannister plays a role in the politics of the kingdom from time to time. Tyrion is especially known for his debate, diplomatic and strategic thinking skills.

Tywin Lannister



Tywin Lannister is the lord of House Lannister and Casterly Rock, Shield of Lannisport and Warden of the West. Born heir apparent to Lord Tytos Lannister, who was an ineffectual

leader and often ridiculed by the public, Tywin developed an early distrust of comedy as a whole. Tywin eventually married his first cousin, Joanna. Afterwards she died, giving birth to Tyrion which then Tywin accused him, Tyrion, of being the murderer of her wife and strongly resented him for Joanna. He is accepted as one of the strongest lords in Westeros and today is an Advisor for the Small Council. Tywin was the Hand of the King for a long time in the past and played a great role in governing the Kingdom and since House Lannister is the richest house in Westeros Tywin's effect in politics is great. Furthermore due to her daughter, Cersei, being married to the King hence being a Queen, Tywin has even more status in the palace politics. During Robert's rebellion, Tywin remained neutral until Robert won the war. He then captured King's Landing through treachery and ordered the murder of the royal family before Ned Stark could capture the city. Fearing Tywin, "the Mad King" ordered Jaime to kill his father and commanded the city of King's Landing to be burned down with fire. Instead, Jaime murdered Aerys.

Petyr Baelish



Petyr Baelish, more commonly known as "Littlefinger" has been one of the members of the Small Council as the Master of Coin. Petyr was born into a little noble family called "The Fingers" being in a small and poor region in Vale. For this reason Baelish did not inherit a big army, vast soils or does not have any strong House history unlike the many other lords.

Baelish is especially known for his intelligence and skills in finance hence his position as the Master of Coin. The Kingdom's economical system and trading mostly goes through Petyr's name. Petyr invested in relationships all over the country with traders, bankers and other strong financial companies.

Lord Varys



Lord Varys serves as the Master of Whispers in the Small Council. He is responsible for the kingdom's intelligence agency and information system. Varys' job is to monitor the country and the regions of Westeros to identify potential threats, and transfer this information to the king and his Small Council. Varys was not born in Westeros. He comes from the Free Cities of Essos. He lived in various cities when he was young and later he came to Westeros to enter his Highness' rule. Over time, he rose to an important position and began managing the information agency of the Kingdom. Varys is known for his extensive network of spies. He works with numerous informants in different regions of Westeros, especially King's Landing. These informants are often referred to as "Little Birds." Through these informants, Varys is able to obtain information about rumors in the court, the lords' plans, and developments in different regions of the kingdom.

Ser Barristan Selmy



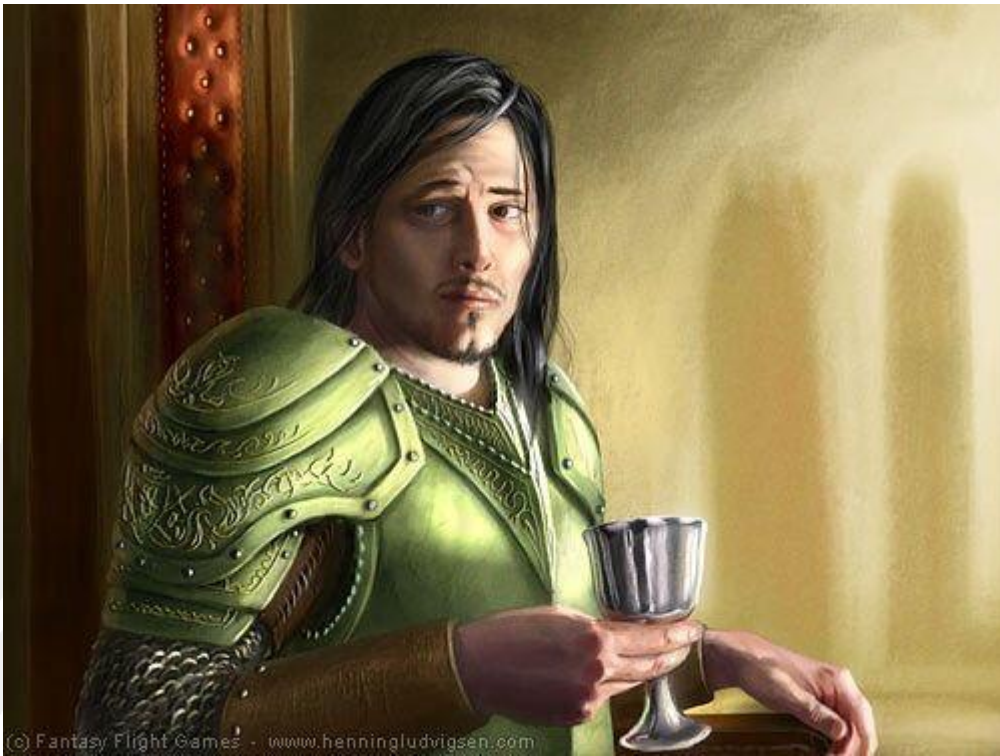
Ser Barristan Selmy is one of the most renowned and respected knights of Westeros. Being the Kingsguard's Lord Commander as of right now he is one of the most important guardians of his Highness Robert Baratheon. Barristan gained great fame from his youth in wars and knighthood. He has shown accomplishments in tournaments all over Westeros and due to this became a famous knight in no time. During his long career as a knight he took part in a lot of wars. Selmy served Targaryen King's beforehand however during and after Robert's rebellion he took a stance against the Targaryen's. Afterwards he continued his service as a Kingsguard before becoming its Lord Commander.

Grand Maester Pycelle



Grand Maester Pycelle is the highest grade Maester sent by the Citadel to King's Landing. At the same time he is a member of the Small Council. Maesters are people of the public who serve in areas such as science, history, nursery, education and many more in Westeros. Pycelle has been in King's Landing for a long time and is an experienced member of palace politics. He has seen many rulers during his time in King's Landing and has seen the city's overall change in politics and in life styles. In the Small Council Pycelle is more of an Advisor rather than an actual member. Due to the Maester Order's nature and its neutrality he avoids using direct political power but advises the Council.

Renly Baratheon



Renly Baratheon is the youngest brother of King Robert Baratheon and is one of the most important members of House Baratheon. He is the third male member of the Baratheon family, after Robert and Stannis Baratheon. Renly serves as the Master of Laws in the Small Council. His office is related to the legal system of the kingdom, advising the King on legal matters. Renly is known as a young, charismatic, and popular figure in court. He has established social and political relationships with many lords of Westeros. This situation has allowed him to create strong connections within the court. Because he is the brother of the king, Renly holds an important position, both as a council member but also as a direct member of the royal family.

Ser Kevan Lannister



Ser Kevan Lannister is the younger brother of Tywin Lannister and a member of House Lannister, one of the strongest houses in Westeros. Being the brother of the lord of Casterly Rock places Kevan in an important position within the structure of the Lannister family and its politics. Kevan Lannister has spent most of his life serving the interests of House Lannister. Known for his loyalty to his brother Tywin, Kevan assists him in matters regarding the administration of the house and its military organization. Because of his experience and reliability Kevan is considered one of the trusted men within the Lannister power structure. Although Ser Kevan is not a permanent member of the Small Council, his importance comes from his strong connection to the Lannister family, which currently holds great influence in the capital due to Queen Cersei Lannister's marriage to King Robert Baratheon. Through these connections Kevan remains an important figure within the political environment of the Seven Kingdoms.

Mace Tyrell



Mace Tyrell is the lord of House Tyrell and the ruler of Highgarden, the capital of the Reach. House Tyrell is one of the great houses in Westeros and controls the Reach, which is widely known as one of the most fertile and prosperous regions in the Seven Kingdoms. Because of the agricultural wealth and large population of the Reach, House Tyrell commands considerable economic resources and military strength. Many powerful noble houses in the region serve as bannermen to Highgarden, providing soldiers and support when needed. This makes House Tyrell an important political force in the realm. Lord Mace Tyrell, as the head of this powerful house, holds significant influence within the balance of power in Westeros. Even though he does not permanently reside in King's Landing or serve on the Small Council being the Master of Ships, his position as the ruler of the Reach means that the alliances and decisions of House Tyrell can have important consequences for the political stability of the Seven Kingdoms. Furthermore being eloped to Joffrey she is the future Queen of the Seven Kingdoms.

8. Current state of the Realm

Although Westeros under King Robert Baratheon still seems calm on the outside, the country is already beginning to fall apart. His expensive lifestyle and lack of interest in ruling, Robert's reign has become more and more weak and chaotic. Ambitious individuals like Varys and Petyr Baelish (Littlefinger) have subtly taken control of the Small Council and are using it to further their own agendas. With Cersei Lannister's position as queen and Tywin Lannister's influence in politics, the Lannisters have become deeply rooted in the Crown's institutions and are getting ready to seize power after Robert leaves. Ned Stark's presence in King's Landing has sparked a dangerous clash of values between northern honor and southern plotting, and tensions between the Starks and Lannisters are growing. Even though the

conflict hasn't started yet, the coalitions that will influence the upcoming civil war, the War of the Five Kings, are already taking shape.

The factual mystery surrounding Robert's "children" is an important cause of the majority of the realm is unaware that Joffrey, Myrcella, and Tommer of Cersei's incestuous connection with her brother Jaime rather than ko kids. Ned's discovery of this fact is a political powder keg since, if made public, it would undermine the Lannisters' authority and spark hostilities with influential houses like the Baratheons of Dragonstone and Storm's End. Robert's strict and uncompromising brother, Stannis Baratheon, has already discovered the truth and is secretly planning his claim. The primary cause of Robert's death is the succession issue; after his passing, conflicting claims will split the kingdom.

The Seven Kingdoms are in poor economic condition. The majority of the Crown's enormous debt is owing to the Iron Bank of Braavos and, more seriously, to House Lannister as a result of years of Robert's excessive spending on feasts, tournaments, and luxury. Tywin has a great deal of power over the monarchy because of this financial reliance. In order to preserve his power, Littlefinger purposefully hides the gravity of the situation, giving the impression of prosperity while the realm's resources steadily decline. Because of this financial instability, Westeros will not have enough resources to fight a long lasting civil war, which will make the misery of the general populace worse.

The realm is weak militarily. Although Robert's uprising once brought the kingdoms together, years of peace have allowed regional rivalries to come back to life. Houses Stark and Lannister are already headed for conflict when Tywin mobilizes his forces after Catelyn Stark detains Tyrion for trying to kill Bran. Robert's growing fear of Daenerys Targaryen, who is gaining power among the Dothraki in the east, prompts him to commission an assassination attempt that further strains his +political ties. Strange sightings outside the Wall frighten the Watch in the North, but the southern lords disregard these alerts. The genuine old threat in the far north is subtly gaining strength while the realm's political elite vie for power.

9. Robert's Death

Kral Robert Baratheon took immense blows during the boar hunt and this has caused him to die. When the king's death was officially issued the palace had a sudden emptiness in power. Before dying Robert named Ned Stark as Protector of the Realm until Joffrey comes of age. However Ned, taking in measure the pressure Lannisters have on the palace, knows that this issue is not easy as it may seem. Deepening the investigation over Jon Arryn's death; Ned, following the lines of the family tree and Robert's children's attributes, uncovers the connection between the children and the Lannisters. Meaning that Joffrey's real father was not Robert and therefore he is not the rightful heir of the Iron Throne.

At this point while Ned was preparing to take over the kingdom plans to contact the real heir to the throne **Stannis Baratheon**. In the Small Council balance is vastly fragile: Renly Baratheon advises Ned to act quickly and use force if needed to gain control. However Ned disapproves of this suggestion and wants to operate things under law. In the meantime Littlefinger tries to gain Ned's trust by saying to him that he can take the The City Watch of King's Landing, also known as the gold cloaks to his side. All these developments drag Ned

right into the middle of an upcoming throne war. He has in his hands the official right of the throne and a critical fact that will undermine the legitimacy of the throne.

9.1 Ned Stark's Execution

Ned approaches **Cersei** after learning that Joffrey, Myrcella, and Tommen are actually the children of Jaime and Cersei Lannister rather than Robert Baratheon, and he warns her to leave with her kids before Robert comes back. Rather, Cersei takes advantage of the situation to plan a coup. In an attempt to carry out Robert's last desires, Ned declares himself Protector of the Realm until Stannis Baratheon, the legitimate heir, is able to ascend to the throne. But in the throne room, Ned is arrested for treason after Littlefinger betrays him and the City Watch turns against him.

Torture, despair, and hopelessness erode Ned's body and mind as he spends time in the Black Cells. In the meantime, he is being used as a political instrument by Cersei and the Small Council in an effort to prevent war with the North. Desperate to save her father, Sansa Stark asks the queen for forgiveness. As a result, Varys goes to see Ned and convinces him to publicly confess to treason in exchange for forgiveness, guaranteeing that he will be taken to the Wall rather than executed. Ned gives up his ethical standards and consents to make a false confession, knowing that Sansa's life and safety depend on it, in the hopes that the deception will shield his children and prevent a battle.

Ned reluctantly admits treason in front of a sizable crowd on the steps of the Great Sept of Baelor, claiming that Joffrey is the rightful ruler and that he plotted against the throne. Before Joffrey suddenly chooses to ignore the restrictions, the scheme appears to be working. Despite the council's and even Cersei's protests, he orders Ned's instant death in an unexpected act of brutality and uncontrolled power. Ser Ilyn Payne uses Ice, the ancient greatsword of the Stark family, to murder Ned Stark in front of Sansa and the gathered crowd of people.

Any idea of peace is destroyed by Ned's death. The Stark and Lannister negotiations are destroyed, Sansa is emotionally shattered, Arya, who observes it from the crowd, is traumatized, and the whole rage of the North is sparked. The War of the Five Kings begins after Robb Stark mobilizes the northern bannermen and declares himself King in the North. As a result, Ned's passing serves as the motivation for Westeros' bloody power war.

10. The War of the Five Kings

A number of lords, most notably Stannis and Renly Baratheon, suspect or know that Joffrey is not actually Robert's son, casting doubt on Joffrey Baratheon's claim to the throne. As Robert's elder brother, Stannis claims to be the legitimate heir, but Renly rejects this claim and proclaims himself king with the Tyrells' strong backing. In the meantime, Robb Stark rises to power in the North following Ned Stark's execution, and the northern lords rebel against the Lannisters by crowning him King in the North. In an attempt to capitalize on the chaos, Balon Greyjoy immediately proclaims the Iron Islands' independence and establishes

himself as King of the Ironborn in the Riverlands. These rival claims, motivated by ambition, vengeance, and political opportunity, erupt into a huge, multi sided conflict known as the War of the Five Kings.

In Game of Thrones, open conflict begins with Gregor Clegane's Riverlands raids. After Tyrion is captured by Catelyn Stark, Tywin Lannister surreptitiously dispatches the Mountain to burn villages, murder smallfolk, and cause mayhem. In order to wage war without formally declaring it, Tywin uses these vicious attacks to incite the Tullys and Starks, entice their armies into the field, and assert that a rogue bannerman is to blame for the violence. The destruction compels the Riverlords to react, prompts Ned Stark to kill Beric Dondarrion (founding the future Brotherhood Without Banners), and finally starts the larger War of the Five Kings.

One of the first significant battles of the War of the Five Kings, the Battle of the Golden Tooth marks the actual start of open warfare between the Tully-Stark alliance and the Lannisters. Jaime Lannister spearheads a swift, focused attack into the Golden Tooth, a slender mountain pass that acts as the western entrance to the Riverlands, under Tywin Lannister's leadership. Lord Vance and Lord Piper have been sent by Edmure Tully to guard the pass, but they are unprepared for Jaime's forceful attack. The Riverlands' western defenses are essentially destroyed when Jaime's seasoned cavalry crushes their forces, killing many and capturing important prisoners. The Lannisters are able to invade Tully territory as a result of this victory, forcing the Starks and Tullys to fully mobilize and turning the realm into a full-scale conflict.

Gregor Clegane's vicious raids across the Riverlands set off the somber opening battle of the War of the Five Kings, known as the Battle at the Mummer's Ford. Beric Dondarrion's small group of knights and men-at-arms rides into the Riverlands after Ned Stark dispatches him to bring Gregor to justice. Eventually, they come across a much larger Lannister force at the Mummer's Ford. The majority of Beric's outnumbered group are killed by Gregor and his men, leaving the ford covered in dead bodies. Even though Beric is thought to be dead, the survivors reorganize and carry on fighting for the smallfolk, marking the beginning of the future Brotherhood Without Banners. The conflict between the Starks, Tullys, and Lannisters intensifies as a result of the battle, which also deepens the chaos in the Riverlands.

Robb Stark splits his army and sends Roose Bolton to fight Tywin Lannister while he leads the main host west in the Battle of the Green Fork, a significant early battle in the War of the Five Kings. At the Green Fork of the Trident, Tywin's seasoned army confronts Bolton's force, which is composed of many inexperienced soldiers and levies from the north. Tywin launches a strong, well-planned attack that breaches the northern defenses, causing significant casualties and compelling Bolton to flee. Despite the obvious Lannister victory, it also serves as a tactical diversion: Robb's real scheme is successful as he eludes Tywin, apprehends Jaime Lannister at Riverrun, and changes the course of the conflict in spite of the loss at the Green Fork.

Robb Stark's tactical prowess is demonstrated in the early and pivotal Battle of the Whispering Wood in the War of the Five Kings. Robb divides his forces and sets up a well-thought-out ambush along the wooded roads close to the Whispering Wood as Tywin Lannister moves into the Riverlands. The Lannister vanguard is overrun by the Stark army,

who use the trees' cover and the element of surprise to cut them off before they can gather. Jaime Lannister is apprehended during the mayhem, giving Robb a useful negotiating tool and greatly boosting morale in the North and Riverlands. In addition to shifting the early momentum in favor of the Starks and establishing Robb as a formidable military leader, this victory shows that strategy and timing can prevail over numbers.

The Battle of the Camps, also called the Lannister Camps Attack, takes place soon after the Whispering Wood in Robb Stark's Riverlands campaign. Robb prepares a daring assault against Tywin Lannister's dispersed camps after apprehending Jaime Lannister in order to undermine the Lannister army before it can reorganize. The Stark forces use coordination, speed, and surprise to attack several camps at once, wreaking havoc and suffering significant casualties. Tywin's advance is slowed and he is unable to immediately reinforce other Lannister positions as a result of the attack, which forces him to retreat and concentrate his forces. Robb's reputation as a crafty commander is strengthened, his bannermen's morale is raised, and this operation shows his developing military acumen. Stark's early-war momentum is sustained by the Battle of the Camps.

During Robb Stark's initial campaign in the War of the Five Kings, the Siege of Riverrun Lifted takes place. Tywin Lannister besieges the castle to exact revenge on the Tullys and protect the Riverlands after Edmure Tully's army repels Lannister attacks on Riverrun. Leading an army from the north, Robb marches swiftly to relieve the castle, using strategy and speed to compel Tywin to lift the siege. The Lannisters retreat to avoid a fierce battle in unfavorable circumstances after being intimidated by the arrival of Stark forces. By lifting the siege, Stark's influence in the Riverlands is maintained, Tully retains control of the castle, and Robb is able to carry on his campaign against Lannister forces. Robb's leadership and strategic adaptability early in the conflict are demonstrated by this move.

A startling turning point in the War of the Five Kings occurs when the shadow kills Renly Baratheon. Renly gathers a sizable and well-liked army in the Stormlands and challenges his brother Stannis' claim to the Iron Throne by proclaiming himself king. That evening, Melisandre uses Stannis's magical ability to summon a mysterious shadow creature that appears in Renly's tent and instantly kills him, leaving his army stunned and without a leader. In addition to eliminating Renly as a competitor and solidifying Stannis's position as the main Baratheon claimant, the assassination breeds distrust, suspicion, and fear among allies. This sinister deed foreshadows the high price of ambition and power struggles in Westeros and illustrates the lethal impact of magic in the conflict.

One of the Ironborn's first aggressive actions during the War of the Five Kings is their landing on the Stony Shore. Under the command of Balon Greyjoy, the Iron Fleet departs from the Iron Islands and assaults the fertile Riverlands coastline known as the Stony Shore. Before the local lords can set up defenses, the Ironborn use their speed and naval mobility to raid villages, burn crops, and seize livestock. The Riverlands' lords are forced to reroute forces to defend their homes as a result of the attacks, which terrorize smallfolk and interfere with trade and food supplies. This landing weakens Stark and Tully's influence early in the war and illustrates the Ironborn's raiding strategy of swift, vicious strikes rather than holding territory. It also adds to the general chaos in the Riverlands.

During the War of the Five Kings, Theon Greyjoy made the audacious and contentious decision to seize Winterfell. Theon leads a small Ironborn force into the northern heartland after Balon Greyjoy assigns him to attack the North while Robb Stark campaigns in the Riverlands. He sneaks into Winterfell, overwhelms its small garrison, and captures the castle with little opposition by using speed, cunning, and the element of surprise. Robb's kingdom descends into chaos as Theon seizes the ancestral Stark seat, shocking the North and alienating many former allies. It gives the Ironborn a brief foothold in the North, but it also breeds mistrust, damages Theon's reputation, and paves the way for more tragedies, highlighting the dangers of ambition and overreach during times of conflict.

As Robb Stark tries to take advantage of Lannister's weaknesses after winning the Riverlands, the siege preparations for King's Landing take place during the War of the Five Kings. Robb's army plans a coordinated march toward the capital with the goal of applying pressure to King Joffrey and the Lannisters after securing important strongholds like Harrenhal. In order to cut off reinforcements and control river crossings that lead to the city, the northern army plans supplies, scouts important routes, and strategically places forces. The goal of these preparations is to take advantage of Lannister's overreach while maximizing northern strengths such as mobility, discipline, and morale. The planning highlights Robb's developing military skills, illustrates the logistical difficulties of attacking the Iron Throne, and emphasizes the strategic thinking needed for a decisive strike in Westeros, even though Robb never establishes a full siege.

The War of the Five Kings culminates in the Battle of Blackwater, where King's Landing is protected from Stannis Baratheon's attack. Confident in his power, Stannis advances with a sizable fleet and army in search of the Iron Throne. As Hand of the King, Tyrion Lannister sets up the city's defenses, using infantry and siege engines to fortify the walls and using wildfire in the Blackwater River to destroy a large portion of Stannis's fleet. The unexpected wildfire explosion during the attack throws Stannis's forces into disarray, but the city's defenders resist repeated attacks. In the end, Tywin Lannister's and the Tyrell army's arrival seals King's Landing and decisively ends Stannis's campaign, proving the value of strategy, resourcefulness, and prompt reinforcement.

10.1. War Preparations

Long before either side faced off on the river, the Battle of the Blackwater was being prepared for. Tyrion Lannister was the de facto commander of the city's fortifications at King's Landing, and his planning was influenced by his acute awareness of their greatest weakness: the sea. Tyrion concentrated nearly just on converting the Blackwater Rush into a deadly trap since he knew that Stannis Baratheon's power was based in his navy. The most important part of this was the massive boom chain that he secretly gave the city's foundries and smiths instructions to build. Day and night, every forge has been shifted from producing swords or armor to iron links. After it was finished, the chain was kept submerged and anchored across the river to avoid being discovered by Stannis's fleet.

Tyrion's intention was to let the enemy sail deep into the river's mouth and then raise the chain, trapping the ships inside at the moment of his choosing.

Tyrion made the choice to increase wildfire production parallel with this engineering effort. He took control of the alchemists' guild and gave them orders to make thousands of jars: much more than anybody had dared to ask for since Aerys II's reign. Once the trap was triggered, these jars were loaded onto small, disposable vessels that would be set on fire and launched into the center of Stannis's fleet. In addition to harming the enemy, the wildfire was designed to create panic, chaos, and total destruction inside a small area where the ships were unable to move or flee.

Additionally, Tyrion strengthened King's Landing's physical defenses. He expected a massive attack if Stannis tried an instant landing, therefore the city walls were strengthened, particularly around the Mud Gate. Along the riverfront, towers held scorpions, archers, and catapults that were loaded with stones, blazing pitch, and even more jars of wildfire. He restructured the Gold Cloaks inside the city, removing disloyal members and putting Ser Jacelyn Bywater in command to maintain order.

This was important because the city's internal instability, which was brought on by food shortages, terror, and dissatisfaction was threatening to undermine the war effort. Tyrion spent a great deal of time managing morale among nobles, soldiers, and commoners alike, even forcing influential lords to stay in the city so that their presence would reassure the population. Despite friction with Cersei, he tried to keep the royal family visible enough to prevent accusations of cowardice while secretly preparing escape plans for key individuals if the walls fell.

Stannis Baratheon was ready to deal the final blow, while King's Landing was ready to withstand a siege. Building and assembling a sizable fleet from Dragonstone, the Stormlands, and other coastal vassals was the first step in his preparations. In order to get his soldiers inside the city before the defenders could build a strong defense, Stannis planned a quick and decisive naval attack. He assumed that the disorganized forces defending Joffrey Baratheon would be outmatched by his plan, which depended on his naval advantage and the discipline of his army. In order to

to maintain unity among his supporters, he also brought Melisandre along for a large portion of his planning phase. However, he left her behind for the final approach in order to prevent conflict among traditional minded lords and sailors.

On land, Stannis made simple preparations: gather a veteran army, equip them for a direct assault, and move swiftly to prevent the Lannisters from gathering allies. He didn't want an extended siege; he wanted to move quickly and decisively. He used rams, scaling ladders, siege towers, and heavily equipped men that had been trained to break through city fortifications. Given that they were unaware of the buried chain and the size of the blaze that awaited them, his commanders thought the river crossing and landing would be difficult but achievable

Thus, both sides prepared for the same battle with entirely different philosophies. Stannis prepared for a fast, forceful strike based on his superior navy and disciplined troops. Tyrion prepared for a defensive ambush that would cripple that very navy before it could deploy its strength. The clash between these preparations; the fleet sailing confidently into the Blackwater, and the wildfire igniting once the chain rose were the things that determined the course and outcome of one of the most dramatic battles of the war.

10.2. Time of the Events

1. Gregor Clegane's Riverland Raids
2. Battle of The Golden Tooth
3. Sack of the Riverlands Villages
4. Battle at the Mummer's Ford
5. Battle of the Green Fork
6. Battle of the Whispering Wood
7. Battle of the Camps
8. Siege of Riverrun Lifted
9. Siege of Storm's End
10. Renly and Stannis Meet at Storm's End
11. Renly's Assassination by the Shadow
12. Stannis Breaks Siege of Storm's End
13. Ironborn Landing on the Stony Shore
14. Capture of Deppwood Motte
15. Moat Cailin Reinforced by Ironborn
16. Theon's Capture of Winterfell
17. Sack of Winterfell
18. Battle of Oxcross
19. Raids on Ashemark, the Crag and Crakehall
20. Capture of Harrenhal
21. Siege preparations for King's Landing
22. Battle of Blackwater
23. The Red Wedding
24. Sack of Harrenhal
25. Battle of Duskendale
26. Battle of the Fords
27. Surrender of Riverrun

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