

'26

AUMUNS

# STUDY GUIDE

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**ACADEMIC  
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**GAME OF THRONES**

Committee: JCC : Game of Thrones

Agenda Item: Battle of the Bastards (303 AC)

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# 1. Welcoming Letters

## 1.1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Letter from Secretary-General

Honourable participants,

First order of business, I would like to welcome you all with open arms and utmost gratitude for attending our conference. I truly hope you can find a little solace and comfort with your

peers here, as our conference and team truly care about you and we will be trying our best to accommodate you.

I would also like to remind you that we intend to keep everyone involved in a place of safety, and comfort. As we all witnessed the last events in our country, I can promise that those who act out of order will be taken care of and thrown out of the conference immediately.

As the Secretary-General, I offer you a variety of global problems to work on and create solutions accordingly, as it is what boils down to with every Model United Nations conference around the globe. I truly hope this will be a place where you can learn and grow both intellectually and personally. You are in a place where you will be heard, valued, and supported.

What I offered is only possible with an academic team like this, so those who I have in my team should know that I offered their positions accordingly, and knowingly. I expected the best, which they gave in return. I am truly grateful for everyone in my team, and I know for a fact that also our delegates will feel the same way I do.

Those who will be attending a conference for the first time, I hope our conference will get you hooked on MUN conferences and make you expand your horizon as much as you can in order to become a better version of yourselves in every possible area that we can offer. Attending a conference where everyone is your peer might be a little overwhelming but rest assured, me and my academic team, will be here to ensure your careers as MUNers will begin smoothly, and in any occasion that might make you uncomfortable in or outside of our formal sessions, I truly have the greatest organization team that ever existed, so you can rely on them as much as you can rely on me.

I also would like to extend my special thanks to my executive team, Ekin Su Öztürk and Emir Güneş, who gave their incredible efforts to ensure our organization team is spotless, in and out of our conference. Also, Mert Sürücü, for sticking with me throughout this almost five year old journey of MUNing, with an unbelievable amount of ups and downs, and yet we are still here.

I truly can not wait to see you all in AUMUN'26.

Truly yours,  
Bedirhan CURA

Secretary General

## **1.2. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General**

Distinguished participants of AUMUN'26, I am deeply honored to see you all

at this magnificent conference and in our joint crisis committee, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. This committee is unique because it is a fictional crisis, unlike any other crisis committee we have seen mostly. I hope you all enjoy yourselves, gain some cultural knowledge, and have an unforgettable conference and committee experience. Please don't hesitate to ask any question. Good luck to everyone, and dress warmly because WINTER IS COMING!!

[ilterbaris007@gmail.com](mailto:ilterbaris007@gmail.com)

**05383742830**

### **1.3. Letter from the Academic Assistant**

Dear Delegates, First of all, we want to welcome you all to the JCC of AUMUN'26. It is a joy to call ourselves the Under-Secretary-General and Academic Assistant of this committee. We are sure beyond any doubt that no participant will encounter any trouble with anything. Game of Thrones is thoroughly fascinating, and The Battle of Bastards is an event that shaped the future of the series. We have compiled a beyond comprehensive study guide for you to be aware of critical points and ready to take actions. Nevertheless we encourage you to do watch the series which is going to improve yourself, especially regarding some more detailed plans you may have. Lastly, we wish to thank the executive board of our prestigious conference. Our Secretary Generals, Director General and Deputy Director General, as well as the advisory team. Come prepared, and Sleep well. Enjoy!

## **2. Committee Rules and Procedures**

### **2.1. What is a Crisis Committee**

#### **2.1.1. Directive**

Directives are the main materials of Joint Crisis Committees; they are what distinguish a JCC from the General Assembly. As the name implies, the term "directive" refers to an order or instruction. On the committee, any realistic and feasible action can be taken by writing directives. Consequently, it is guaranteed that the majority of the time spent on the committee will be devoted to writing directives. (Triumphs are attained through concrete actions, rather than mere speeches or campaigns.) Unlike the GA procedure, it is unnecessary to encourage, suggest, or demonstrate any ideas to make it happen; only a decent directive is required. There are several types of directives depending on what one wants to do, and they will be discussed in the latter section. To summarise, directives are written when one wishes to accomplish or do something. Writing a directive allows one to take any realistic action; therefore, instead of long discussions and talking sessions to execute your ideas and progress in the committee, directives will be written.

#### **2.1.2. Updates**

1- Updates are the outcomes of directives, which are either granted or rejected based on how precisely one wrote and phrased the directive. The crisis team evaluates whether they are adequate or not; every conference with crisis committees includes a crisis team that reads and inspects directives.

2- Updates can also come as a result of a new occurrence in your

cabinet. For example, if the other cabinet launches a successful attack on one of your cities and captures it, an update will come. If the directive only concerns your cabinet, such as building a new military base in your country, then the update will only come to your cabinet, but if it is a conflict that both sides participate in, then the update will come to both cabinets.

3- The update doesn't necessarily have to be the result of a directive; for instance, if you are in the Hundred Years' Wars committee during the 14th century, then the crisis team may bring a plague update that will infect the majority of soldiers. Hereupon, it can be understood that the update may also be a crisis.

### **2.1.3. Crisis**

Crisis emerge when one submits an insufficient directive, the other cabinet successfully affects you in a negative way, or temporal crises occur depending on the crisis teams' wishes. To clarify:

1- In order for a sufficient directive to be written, there are a few rules and necessities that must be followed; failing this, an inevitable crisis will occur based on what was wanted to be done in the directive.

2- If a cabinet were to create a virus and spread it to the other cabinet's people, the update would be a crisis that must be handled promptly. It does not necessarily have to be a virus or a plague; anything that affects one or one's cabinet negatively can be a crisis.

3- Finally, depending on how the committees' actions progress, a periodic crisis like a plague or a political disagreement may arise and affect a cabinet adversely.

## **2.2. Directive Types and How to Write Them**

### **2.2.1. Personal Directive**

Personal directives are written when an action is within your character's authority or is possible due to their abilities. Now take a look at how to write a personal directive: Firstly, there is a format for writing directives; thus, one has to write who is sending the directive and to whom (from, to). After that, the cabinet sending the directive, the real-world time and the current date of the committee. Lastly, the type of your directive and the headline of it. And that's it; this is all the format one needs to know to write a directive. The only thing left is the content of the directive, and the method by which one writes it is fairly straightforward; it is written by addressing the WH questions, which are what, why, when, who, where, and, most importantly, how. Write down the action you want to take by answering the WH questions, then detailing and explaining it as much as possible to ensure that your plan is as comprehensive as possible. Also, the use of the future tense is critical; try to use it whenever possible. Here is how a directive looks on paper

From: Menelaus            Personal Directive            Date: 1192 BC May 3  
To: Related Authorities            Capturing Tiryns            Time: 12.34  
(Spartan Cabinet)

What: I will capture Tiryns with my 5,000 agoge men stationed on the Tiryns frontline. My soldiers will kill and destroy any enemy forces they come across, as well as any enemy military bases. Women and children in the city will not be murdered unless they attack the soldiers.

Why: Tiryns plays a crucial role in the war, and it must be captured in order to cut the enemy's supply lines.

When: Soldiers will charge at 02.00 a.m. to catch the enemy off guard.

Who: I will be operating this attack, and if I fall during the war, my right-hand man, Analus, will take over. 5,000 agoge soldiers will assault the enemy under his command.

Where: 2,500 of my soldiers will charge from the southeast frontline, and the other 2,500 will charge from the west to capture Tiryns.

How\*: To reduce noise, the 5,000 agoge soldiers will be divided into 50 groups, with 100 soldiers per group. Soldiers will check and control their weapons before charging. Each group will have a commander, and the commanders will be the best warriors among their groups. They will be well-armed with their hoplons, xiphos, and dorus (Spartan agoge soldiers' shields, spearheads, and small swords). Each group will apply the doctrine properly to face the fewest casualties. If needed, 3 soldiers from each group will bring supplies to their own group from the frontlines, and these 3 soldiers will be picked randomly from the commanders. They will take the safest route and avoid the enemy. Our men will take the safe paths suggested by our spies. They will pray, remember how brave they are, and then honour their nation and gods by demolishing the enemy. They will not disobey their commander's orders and apply the doctrine as they say. To avoid being affected by attrition, our soldiers will study their geographical situation as well as the enemy's to use it in their favour. They will not be wearing inappropriate armour and clothing, only those that will fit the current climate. Any careless mistakes shall not be forgiven, and the commanders of the groups will eliminate the soldiers who made the mistake, such as sleeping on a night's watch. If by any chance a soldier catches a disease that may spread, he will be killed if there are no precautions that can be taken in order to heal him without letting it spread. If the siege and the road take unusually long to take and pass, they will shave properly to prevent any lice growing, mating and distracting the soldiers. Soldiers will use an offensive phalanx formation when I order them to charge, and they will slaughter each enemy troop they face. They will use the offensive formation until they face a larger enemy force to quickly capture as many critical areas as possible. If they face a larger enemy force, to be exact, 1.5 times larger than them, they will quickly change to a defensive phalanx formation and wait for recruitment while defending themselves. Their priority will be killing the enemy rather than cutting supply lines. In mountain areas, they will use the highlands in their favour and quickly oppress the enemy to finish them. Once they reach the city, their priority will be killing the cabinet members of Tiryns. If possible, they will defenestrate them to entertain themselves. The meaning of mercy will disappear from their minds, and any offers made by the enemy will be rejected, for they have disrespected our nation. After the military bases and the city are captured, soldiers will go to the possible conflict areas to recruit other soldiers. Even though we've sent spies before, our soldiers will be vigilant for any kind of trap. Their main objective is to capture the city, and for that purpose, they will sacrifice themselves

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Once one gets used to it, it is quite simple and straightforward to write. While it lacks details and additional information, the directive nicely illustrates its format. As one keeps writing and contributing to their cabinet's goals, in no time one will witness that the directives one has written have already surpassed that one above. And to write such a directive, here are a few tips and tricks: For every action that is written in the directive, it has to answer all the WH questions. The longer and more detailed, the better. Drawing your war doctrine, charging plan, or strategy may significantly increase the directive's preciseness and effectiveness. The success rate of the directive will grow in proportion to how clear your action and directive are. Do not use abbreviations such as "etc."; instead, detail the directive explicitly. WH questions are not necessarily broken into paragraphs (one can write the directive like a book), but if you are a beginner, doing so will dramatically improve the quality of your directive; hence, I strongly recommend it. In JCCs, one should not try to impose their ideas or policies on others but rather to achieve a specific goal, such as destroying the other cabinet; therefore, do not be hesitant to ask for help from other cabinet members or your chair; you are all in this together. If you are positive that there is no impostor in the cabinet, directives should be written separately because it will be much faster. If you need the authority of another cabinet member, simply ask that person to add their name to the "from:" section. That way, eight people will be working on eight different tasks, and it will save quite a lot of time. Precise information, like troop counts, is critical; do not forget to write it down. If needed, fake names can be used for strategic persons in the directives, like Coxus, the naval commander.

### **2.2.2. Joint Directive**

Directives written by more than one individual are considered joint directives. Joint directives are written when one can only achieve the purpose of the directive by utilising the authority of other cabinet members. Consider the scenario where one is a commander responsible for capturing Warsaw. Recognising the insurmountable challenge of achieving this objective without air superiority, a collaborative effort can be initiated by writing a joint directive with the Air Force general. In this case, the "from" field of the directive would include the commander's name alongside the name of the air force general, and instead of a personal directive, you write "Joint Directive" at the top of the directive. Everything else is the same.

### **2.2.3. Committee Directive**

A committee directive is written when one wishes to use everyone's authority or when one is about to deliver their final directive (in most cases). Delegates frequently ask, "How are we meant to write a committee directive with the other cabinet?" However, this concern stems from a widespread misunderstanding. The committee directive is essentially formulated collaboratively within the confines of your cabinet, with the members of your cabinet. Although it is formally referred to as a "committee directive", its essence remains akin to that

of a cabinet directive. So, simply writing "Committee Directive" in the "from:" part will do.

#### **2.2.4. Intelligence Directive**

Intelligence directives are written when one wants to acquire the necessary information about their country/cabinet/character. The format is exactly the same, except for the "WH Questions" part. For example:

---

From: Winston Churchill    Intelligence Directive    Date: 1942 May 3  
To: Crisis Team    Our Troop Counts    Time: 16.21  
(The Great Britain Cabinet)

How many troops does our country have? Do we possess any nuclear weapons? How many of our military factories are assigned to manufacture infantry weapons, and what kind of weapons are they producing?

---

When one wants to acquire a piece of information, one must write "To: Crisis Team", but when one wants to take action, one must write "To: Related Authorities". The reason behind this is that the crisis team are not the people who will cause the action to happen; hence, "Related Authorities" must be written.

#### **2.2.5. Top Secret**

Top secret directives are those that your chair is not allowed to read. Top secret directives are directly handed to the admin. They are written precisely the same, but one must fold the paper and write "TOP SECRET" on the backside of it. The major reason for writing a Top Secret Directive is treason, a diabolical strategy to crash one's own cabinet or switch sides. For instance, if a person secretly kills his cabinet members and becomes dictator, the winning condition changes and only that person wins, whereas the cabinet loses. But I do not recommend writing top secret directives unless you're planning on writing a brilliant 10-page directive, because failing to do so will backfire much worse. If one fails to accomplish their nefarious plan and gets busted, one will earn their cabinet's distrust and may die and be given an insignificant character. Additionally, updates to the Top Secret Directives are only sent to the person who sent them unless they directly affect other cabinet members.

#### **2.2.6. Press Release (Declamation)**

Press releases are written when one wants to make a declaration, a speech, or a notice. When one writes a press release, depending on the era of the committee, the other cabinet members may hear it or not. In our case, there are no printers, social media, or newspapers, so it is very unlikely to hear other cabinets' press releases. The format is once again exactly the same, except for the "WH Questions" part. For example:

From: Erwin Smith    Press Release    Date: 845 July 23  
To: Related Authorities    Hying Up the Soldiers    Time: 18.17  
(Wall Maria Cabinet)

Everything that you thought had meaning: every hope, dream, or

moment of happiness. None of it matters as you lie bleeding out on the battlefield. None of it changes what a speeding rock does to a body; we all die. But does that mean our lives are meaningless? Does that mean that there was no point in our being born? Would you say that of our slain comrades? What about their lives? Were they meaningless? ... They were not! Their memory serves as an example to us all! The courageous have fallen! The anguished fallen! Their lives have meaning because we, the living, refuse to forget them! And as we ride to certain death, we trust our successors to do the same for us! Because my soldiers do not buckle or yield when faced with the cruelty of this world! My soldiers push forward! My soldiers scream out! My soldiers RAAAAAGE!

## **2.3. Procedure of the Committee**

### **2.3.1. Roll Call**

When your character's name is called out during a roll call, you can respond with "I", "present", or simply by raising your placard.

### **2.3.2. Tour de Table**

Tour de Table is an introduction, similar to the opening speech. Following the roll call, it can be done at the beginning or end of the sessions, depending on the chair's initiative. Delegates are expected to briefly introduce themselves and voice their goals or vision for their cabinet.

### **2.3.3. Semi-moderated Caucus**

Unlike moderated caucuses, delegates in a semi-moderated caucus are allowed to speak without the chair's permission, as long as they do not interrupt other cabinet members and treat each other with respect.

### **2.3.4. Unmoderated Caucus**

In an unmoderated caucus, delegates are free to draft any kind of paper they want to achieve their goals and support others. The majority of the cabinet's time should be spent on unmoderated caucuses rather than semi-moderated ones.

## **3. Procedure of the war**

### **3.1. New War System**

In a JCC, one of the most crucial factors is the way you write battle directives regarding the doctrine, soldier counts and geography of the map. And for that purpose alone, we have added and thus arranged the modern warfare symbols and inserted them into the procedure. Before each crucial city siege, or a crucial battle that will take place in an open field, you will be given a map of the city itself or the map of the field on your computer in a site, and both sides will be writing the directives solely on them by adding symbols on the map in your technological device and planning your war on that. Henceforth, you will be operating with the symbols and the particular map simultaneously.

### **3.2. Symbols of Units and War Plan Directives**

In our new system, as we mentioned above, when you are planning your strategy on the maps we gave, you are going to use the symbols we will give. The symbols will be the same for all delegates and all crisis committees in

which this academic team takes part. For the usage of these symbols, there will be numbers for all symbols, and they will represent divisions in your plans. More details are given below. Please be careful about using these symbols in your plans.

### **3.3. Field and Siege Warfare Plans**

The field warfares will be battles that will take place in grand operations such as the Blitzkrieg used by Germans to take control of the nations they invaded. When you are planning for a specific operation that will most probably take place in a city, you will need to inform us for a map, and we will give you a detailed map of the area for you to draw your strategy on it. Then when your operation begins as expected, your main will be to capture a strategic city when your armies arrives near to a city there, your field warfare will begin, for the field warfare, we will give both sides a map of the battlefield that will take place and both sides will draw their plans. If attackers win the field warfare, then the next step will be the city warfare. The city warfare will be the battle to capture the cities. When your armies are able to attack a crucial city, we are going to give the plans of the cities for both sides (Don't forget to send spies in order to learn the city plans if you are attacking). After you have the city maps, both sides will draw their defences and attacks for the city. For making everything simple, in history there is "Case Yellow", which was a grand operation used to capture Belgium, and there is "Blitzkrieg", which was a field warfare plan to be able to attack Brussels, and there is the "Battle of Brussels", which was a city warfare to capture the city. The order will be similar to this: first you plan your grand operation to attack enemy lands, then you have your field warfare for being able to attack the city you planned with your armies, and lastly you have your city warfare for capturing the city. This system is for both attacking and defending sides

#### **Unit Symbols:**

We will use mainly 5 ground division types and 1 marine division type. You are free to use any divisions you want, and you may specify the divisions you are using; just inform us about what you will do. The divisions are modern unit symbols, and for our committee, we will arrange them into the Middle Ages as this:

Infantry: For the normal armoured infantry units in the Middle Ages (Your Main Force)

Mech. Infantry: For the archers and crossbowmen in your army.

Armour: For the knights, royal units which have heavy armour in your army

Cavalry: For the cavalry units in your army

Artillery: For catapults, cannons, trebuchets, battering rams, etc. (Be Specific About Which One Are You Using)

Marines: For the naval armada of your kingdom



## Basic Guide to Military Unit Symbols

|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| Infantry           | Mech Infantry      | Armor                | Cavalry         | Artillery           |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| Airborne Infantry  | Motorized Infantry | Heavy Armor          | Armored Cavalry | Self-Prop Artillery |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| Airmobile Infantry | Glider Infantry    | Armored Anti-Tank    | Armored Recon   | Motorized Artillery |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| Mountain           | Glider Armor       | SP Assault Gun       | Motorcycle      | Mortar              |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| Amphibious         | Marines            | Ski                  | Bicycle         | Airborne Artillery  |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| HQ Unit            | Glider Artillery   | Anti-Aircraft        | Engineer        | Chem/Bio Artillery  |
|                    |                    |                      |                 |                     |
| HQ Unit            | Special Forces     | Surf-to-Surf Missile | Air Unit        | Rocket Artillery    |

### Main Divisions Soldier Amounts In Each Symbol For The Warfare:

Infantry: 500

Archer: 250

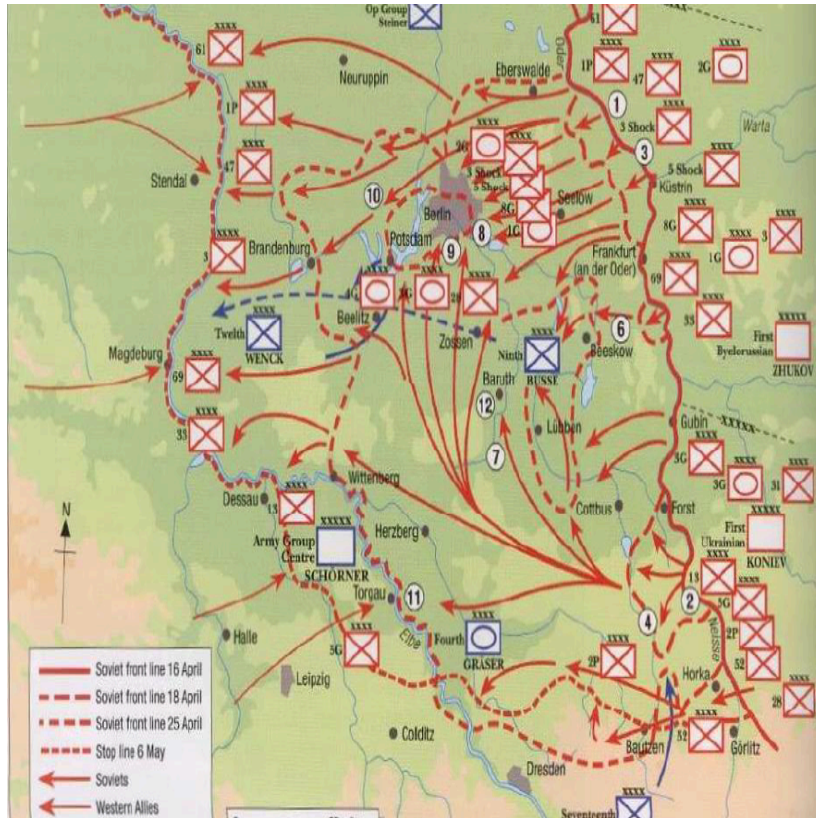
Cavalry: 150

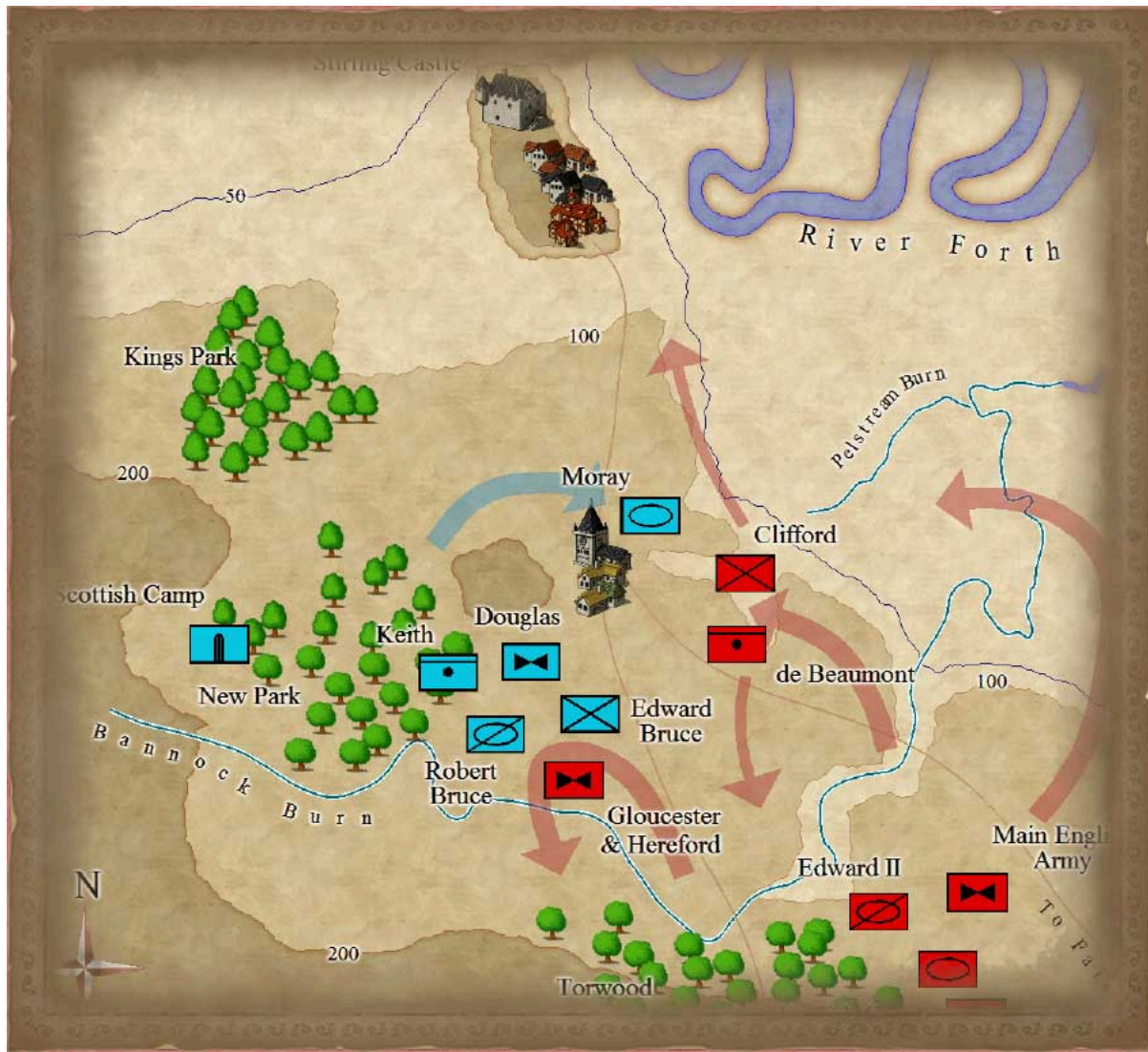
Knight: 50

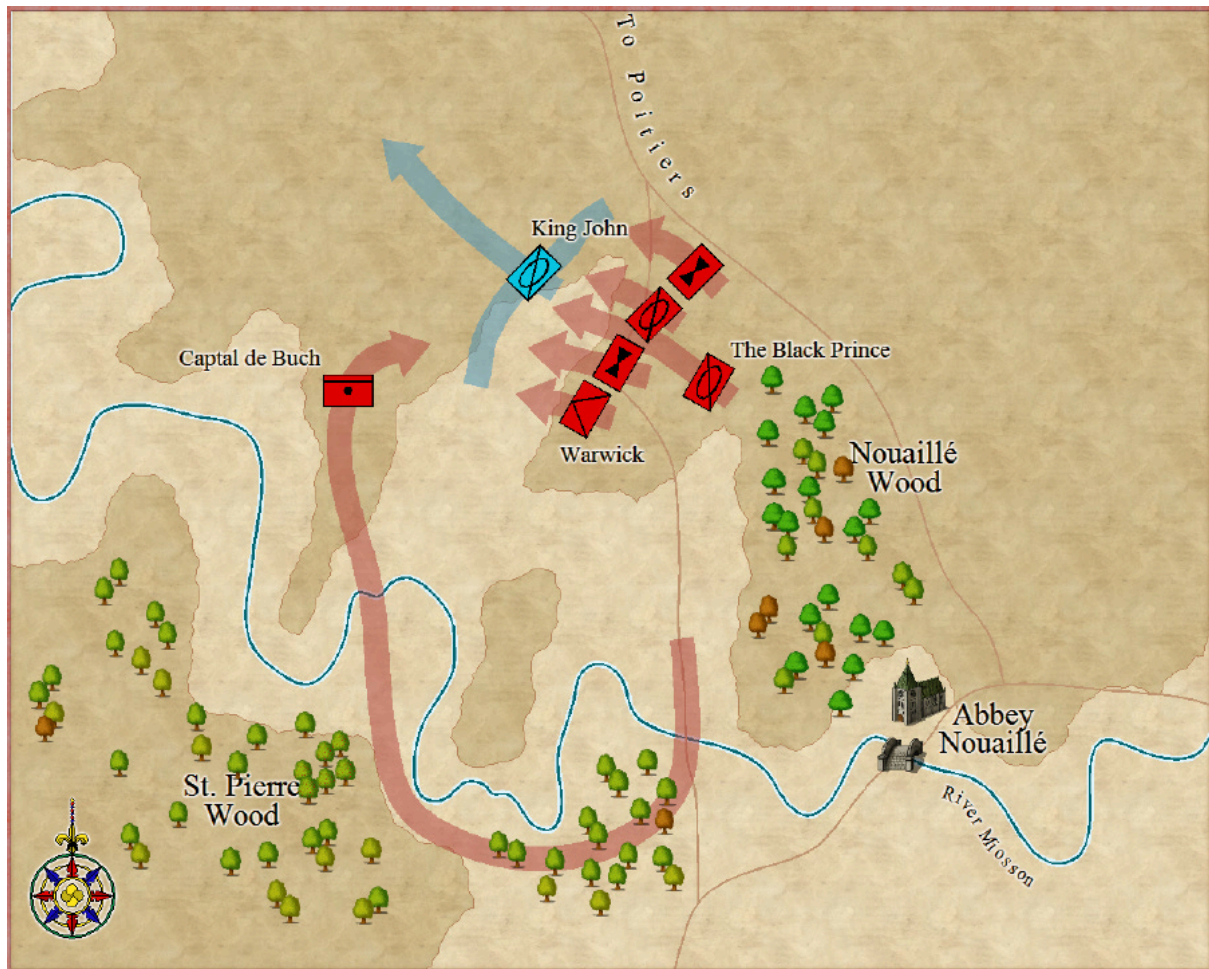
Siege Equipment: 5

Ships: 1

(If you want to use another amount of soldier in one symbol, please specify it in your directive.)







### 3.4. War Doctrines

#### 3.4.1. Land Doctrines

Mechanized Warfare (called as Modern Blitzkrieg) Emphasises the use of armoured vehicles, tanks, and infantry fighting vehicles to achieve rapid, mobile, and highly effective operations. Aimed at combining the speed of motorised units with the firepower and protection of armoured vehicles to break through enemy lines and manoeuvre around enemy forces. Infantry Warfare (It has been used since the Hun Emperor Mete Han, the son of Teoman.)

That kind of warfare focuses on infantry as the core of land forces, utilising small-unit tactics, terrain use, and close combat. Often involves specialised units such as paratroopers, mountain troops, or special forces.

Combined Arms Warfare (Today's United States) is a doctrine that integrates different types of military forces, such as infantry, artillery, tanks, and air support, to create synergies. The idea is to leverage the strengths of each type of unit in a coordinated manner to overwhelm the enemy and exploit weaknesses.

Guerrilla warfare (it was used in the Vietnam Conflict; god wills it) focuses on unconventional tactics, often used by smaller, more agile

forces against a larger, better-equipped enemy. Involves ambushes, sabotage, and raids rather than conventional battles.

Defensive warfare (Stalin throwing a man rather than ammo) centres around fortifying positions, defending key terrain, and attriting the enemy through well-prepared positions and counterattacks. This can also involve delaying tactics, with a focus on conserving strength for a future offensive.

Offensive Warfare (Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour Island) emphasises rapid movement, surprise, and overwhelming force to strike at key enemy targets and disrupt their ability to respond. Includes both large-scale advances and more surgical strikes aimed at critical infrastructure or leadership targets.

Network-centric warfare (the United Kingdom used it for the Luftwaffe in Operation Sealion, and the United States used it against Japan between 1940 and 1945) focuses on using technology and information networks to coordinate military actions more efficiently. Relies on real-time intelligence, communications, and integrated sensors to improve decision-making and operational coordination.

Asymmetric Warfare (9/11 Twin Towers NGL) involves combat between forces of unequal strength, often with one side using unconventional tactics (like guerrilla tactics or cyber attacks) to counterbalance the technological or numerical superiority of the enemy

Counterinsurgency (American Civil War) (COIN) is a doctrine designed to combat insurgent groups and maintain control over populations in contested areas. Focuses not just on military engagement but also on winning hearts and minds, providing security, and addressing local grievances.

The Air-Land Battle Doctrine (German General Heinz Guderian used the blitzkrieg to roll through Poland) emphasises the integration of land and air forces to create a continuous battlefield where air power supports ground operations. Aimed at blurring the lines between air and land combat to create more dynamic and effective operations.



### 3.4.2. Special Doctrines

Unconventional Warfare (UW) Doctrine Special Forces are often tasked with training, advising, and supporting indigenous or allied forces who are fighting against a common enemy (e.g., in Afghanistan or Vietnam).

Missions are often carried out in secrecy or in coordination with insurgent groups to destabilise a government or force. Part of unconventional warfare involves creating the right psychological atmosphere, often through propaganda and influence campaigns. Support to indigenous forces (guerrillas, partisans, or insurgents). Covert and deniable operations. Infiltration and sabotage operations. Intelligence gathering and sabotage behind enemy lines.

Special Reconnaissance (SR) involves gathering intelligence in denied or enemy-controlled areas. These operations are critical for providing accurate, actionable intelligence to command structures and for targeting high-value objectives.

Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) are a critical element of special warfare that aim to influence the emotions, motives, and behaviours of individuals or groups. The doctrine behind PSYOPS involves using communication and media to manipulate perceptions and create strategic advantages.

## 4. Westeros Before the Battle

### 4.1. Robert's Rebellion

Robert's Rebellion, also known as the War of the Usurper according to a semi-canon source, was a rebellion against House Targaryen, primarily instigated by Eddard Stark, Jon Arryn, and Robert Baratheon, for whom it is named. It lasted "close to a year" and resulted in the end of the Targaryen dynasty in the Seven Kingdoms and the beginning of Robert Baratheon's reign.

In 281 AC, a grand tourney was held by Lord Walter Whent at Harrenhal. Many nobles from all over the Seven Kingdoms came to the riverlands to take part in the festivities. Amongst them were the heir to Winterfell, Brandon Stark, and his younger siblings, Eddard, Lyanna and Benjen.

The most prominent visitor of the tourney was King Aerys II Targaryen, however. Aerys had not left the Red Keep for many years, ever since his half-year capture during the Defiance of Duskendale in 277 AC, but he was inspired to come to the tourney by words from his master of whisperers, the eunuch Varys.

The tourney was cause for great celebration, as spring had come to Westeros, or so men thought. In addition, all of the Kingsguard had gathered to welcome their newest member, Ser Jaime Lannister. However, the tourney's ending was less joyful. After winning the final tilt, Prince Rhaegar Targaryen was to crown the new queen of love and beauty. Instead of crowning his wife, the Dornish princess Elia Martell, Rhaegar rode past her and crowned Lyanna Stark of Winterfell instead. Eddard Stark would later recall this moment as "the moment when all smiles died"

#### 4.1.1. Abduction of Lyanna Stark

At the coming of the new year, Lyanna Stark was abducted by Prince Rhaegar Targaryen near Harrenhal. Her brother, Brandon Stark, was on his way to Riverrun to wed Catelyn Tully, when the news reached him. Brandon rode at once to King's Landing with his companions: Ethan Glover, Brandon's squire, Elbert Arryn, nephew to Lord Jon Arryn and the heir of the Eyrie, Kyle Royce, and Jeffory Mallister. Brandon rode for the Red Keep, and outside its gates, unaware that Rhaegar was not present, shouted for him to come out and die. King Aerys II had them all arrested for plotting the murder of the crown prince, and summoned the fathers of all those who stood accused to court. Lord Rickard Stark, who had been on his way south with the wedding party for Brandon's wedding, went to King's Landing with two hundred men. None of them returned north. In King's Landing, all of those who stood accused were executed, with the sole exception of Ethan Glover.

King Aerys did allow for trials, of a sort. Lord Rickard Stark demanded a trial by battle, and the king granted his request. Rickard dressed for battle, but Aerys declared fire to be the champion of House Targaryen. He had Rickard suspended from the rafters in the throne room, where his pyromancers, Rossart amongst them, kindled a blaze beneath the Lord of Winterfell. Brandon Stark was brought in as well, and placed in a Tyroshi strangling device, while a longsword was placed just outside his reach. Brandon was allowed to try and free his

father, but the more he struggled to reach the sword, the tighter the cord around his neck became. Brandon strangled himself in an attempt to reach the sword and save his father, while Lord Rickard cooked in his armor.

Next, Aerys demanded that Lord Jon Arryn send him the heads of Lord Robert Baratheon of Storm's End, Lyanna's betrothed, and Eddard Stark, now the Lord of Winterfell after the deaths of his father and older brother. Robert and Eddard were Jon's wards at the Eyrie, however, and Jon instead raised his banners in revolt. This act is seen as the start of the war, which would last "close to a year"

#### **4.1.2. Rebellion**

##### **4.1.2.1. Taking of Gulltown**

Fighting began in the Vale of Arryn. Though Jon Arryn called for all his banners, not all of his bannermen sided with him. There were those who sided with the king, chief among them Marq Grafton. Grafton called the other loyalists to aid him in barring the rebels from entering the port of Gulltown. With the port blocked, Eddard Stark decided to make his own way back to the north by crossing the Mountains of the Moon to the Fingers, where he would need to find a fisherman to carry him across the Bite. Once north, Eddard could call his banners. Gulltown's defenses eventually fell after an unknown amount of time, with Robert Baratheon slaying Marq Grafton in the taking of Gulltown. Robert sailed to Storm's End to call his own banners as well.

##### **4.1.2.2. Battles in Summerhall**

Just as not all the lords in the Vale had sided with Jon Arryn, not all the lords in the stormlands sided with Robert Baratheon. The first major battle in the stormlands took place at Summerhall. They were three battles, in truth, all fought on one day. Lords Grandison, Cafferren, and Fell had gathered their hosts and planned to join forces at Summerhall. From there, they would march on Storm's End. However, thanks to an informer, Robert learned of their plans and rode with his knights and squires to Summerhall, where he attacked each host in turn. Robert killed Lord Fell in battle.

Lord Cafferren and Grandison, as well as Lord Fell's son, Silveraxe, were taken captive and brought to Storm's End when Robert's returned there after the battles, for unknown reasons. There, Robert turned his enemies into friends, as both Lords Grandison and Cafferren, as well as Silveraxe would later be loyal to Robert.

Following his victory at Summerhall, Robert was now free to march north, to join up with Jon Arryn and the northmen.

##### **4.1.2.3. Battle of Ashford**

The next major battle was the Battle of Ashford. Robert marched out again, leaving his younger brother Stannis Baratheon in charge of Storm's End. At Ashford, Lord Randyll Tarly fell upon Robert's forces. Lord Randyll was the first of the loyalists to arrive, and with his van defeated Robert's forces

before Lord Mace Tyrell could arrive with the main force from the Reach. Despite the fact that it had been Randyll's victory, Mace Tyrell has taken the credit for the victory. The battle is considered to have been indecisive.

During the battle, Lord Cafferen was cut down by Randyll Tarly, who sent his head to King Aerys II. Robert managed to escape capture with the bulk of his forces, to join his strength with Lord Eddard Stark and Lord Jon Arryn. Following the battle, Mace Tyrell marched on Storm's End and laid siege to the castle. This siege would last "close to a year".

King Aerys, due to the events in the stormlands, came to believe that his Hand of the King, Lord Owen Merryweather, was ineffectual. The king was even considering that Merryweather might have been so ineffectual as to possibly aid the rebellion. In result, Owen was stripped of his lands and titles, and exiled. Lord Jon Connington, a friend of Rhaegar's with a reputation of a warrior, was named as Hand in Owen's stead.

#### **4.1.2.4. Battle of the Bells**

Eddard Stark had managed to reach Winterfell, where he called his banners. He marched south with his forces, and joined up with Lord Jon Arryn. Together, they negotiated with Lord Hoster Tully, the Lord of Riverrun, for his support.

Lord Jon Connington led a mighty army into the field. The forces he commanded gave chase, and Robert's march became a grueling one. Robert, wounded through unknown means, and all alone, eventually took refuge at Stoney Sept, which would become the site of the Battle of the Bells, the first major battle known to have taken place in 283 AC. Jon Connington's forces took the town by force and began to search every house. The residents of the town were actively helping Robert however, and despite the search, the offered pardons and rewards, the threats and the hostages Connington took and hung in crow cages, they could not find Robert.

Battle began when Lords Stark and Tully arrived with a rebel army. The soldiers fought in the streets and alleys and on the rooftops, and the septons rang the bells to warn the residents to lock their doors. Battle was fierce, and Jon Connington managed to wound Hoster Tully and kill Jon Arryn's cousin, Ser Denys Arryn. Eventually, Robert Baratheon came out of the Peach, the brothel in which he had been hiding, and fought with Connington, almost killing him.

Suspicious of the loss at the Stoney Sept, King Aerys exiled Jon Connington, stripping him of his titles. Aerys began to realize that Robert was the greatest threat to his dynasty since Daemon I Blackfyre, and he named Lord Qarlton Chelsted as his Hand of the King in Connington's stead. Ser Jonothor Darry and Ser Barristan Selmy of the Kingsguard were sent to rally Connington's men, while their Lord Commander, Ser Gerold Hightower, was sent by King Aerys to find Rhaegar Targaryen.

The crown prince finally returned from the south and convinced Aerys to ask Tywin Lannister for help, just as the rebels had or would do, at one point. Additionally, Aerys commanded his alchemists to place caches of wildfire on multiple locations in King's Landing.

With both Elbert Arryn and Denys Arryn now dead, Jon Arryn was in need of an heir. Hoster Tully swiftly betrothed his daughter, Lysa, who had previously proven fertile, to Jon. In a double ceremony at Riverrun, Eddard Stark and Jon Arryn married Hoster's daughters, Catelyn and Lysa, respectively. Amongst those present at the wedding was Robert.

#### **4.1.2.5. Battle of the Trident**

After at first refusing to send aid to Aerys, both due to his caution as well as due to his anger over Elia's treatment, Prince Doran Martell agreed to send ten thousand Dornishmen to strengthen the army Prince Rhaegar Targaryen was gathering. King Aerys sent Prince Lewyn Martell, Doran's uncle, to take command of these forces, but also threatened him by stating that he held Princess Elia Martell, Prince Rhaegar's wife, and their two young children, Rhaenys and Aegon, hostage.

The Battle of the Trident was the decisive battle in the war. Fought in 283 AC between the loyalist and rebels, the battle took place at a place known as the ruby ford since the battle, located on the northern bank of the Trident, where Rhaegar tried to cross the river. The loyalists had forty thousand men, while the army of the rebels numbered fewer men, who were more battle hardened. Rhaegar and Lord Robert Baratheon met in single combat with the battle raging on all around them.

Rhaegar managed to wound Robert before Robert killed Rhaegar with a blow to the chest from his warhammer. Eventually, the Targaryen host broke and ran.

Around the time the Battle of the Trident was fought, Robert proclaimed his intention to claim the Iron Throne. Out of all three leaders of the rebellion, Robert had the better claim, due to the fact that his grandmother had been Princess Rhaelle Targaryen, the youngest daughter of King Aegon V Targaryen. To justify Robert's claim, the maesters would later use his bloodties to House Targaryen, though it was conquest which won him the throne.

Because Robert had taken a wound from Rhaegar during battle, he gave the pursuit of the remnants of the Targaryen army to Eddard Stark. Eddard followed the remnants of the army back to King's Landing, where the Red Keep was being held by several thousand loyalists.

from this battle Robert Baratheon took the nickname of "demon of the Trident"

#### **4.1.2.6. Battle of the Mander**

Quellon Greyjoy, Lord of the Iron Islands, desired neutrality for the ironborn during the war. After Pyke was informed of Rhaegar's death, however, Quellon was convinced by his eldest

sons—Balon, Euron, and Victarion—to join the rebels as soon as possible or else lose all chance at spoils. Since it was still unknown whether House Lannister of Casterly Rock would side with the loyalists or the rebels, most of the ironmen's fleet remained at home, while Quellan led fifty longships in attacking the Reach.

The Greyjoys captured some ships and raided some towns and villages. They were intercepted by the longships of the Shield Islands, however, at the mouth of the Mander. After Lord Quellan was slain in the battle at the Mander, his heir, Balon, led the remaining ironmen back to the Iron Islands, having accomplished little.

#### **4.1.2.7. Sack of King's Landing**

Already prior to the Battle of the Trident, King Aerys had been preparing his wildfire plot. His Hand of the King, Lord Qarlton Chelsted, however, eventually became suspicious of the frequency with which the pyromancers visited the king. When he discovered the king's wildfire plot, he attempted to change the king's mind, and when nothing worked, he chose to resign his position. For this, Aerys had him burned alive. Following the Trident, Aerys named Rossart, his favorite pyromancer, as his new Hand of the King. He would only be Hand for a fortnight. Meanwhile, Aerys sent his wife, Queen Rhaella, and his new heir, their second son, Prince Viserys, to Dragonstone for safety, where they would have the protection of, amongst others, Ser Willem Darry, the master-at-arms of the Red Keep, and royal fleet. Aerys refused to allow Rhaegar's wife, Princess Elia Martell, and their children Rhaenys and Aegon, to leave the city, keeping them by his side instead.

While the Trident is seen by many as the decisive battle of the war, the capital remained untaken until the Sack of King's Landing in 283 AC, the last major battle of the war. Because Robert Baratheon had been injured in battle, Lord Eddard Stark and his army pursued the remnants of Rhaegar's army, who had fled back to the capital. Lord Tywin Lannister, who had refused calls to arms from both the loyalists and the rebels until that point, appeared at the gates of King's Landing with an army of twelve thousand men, mere hours before Eddard Stark would arrive. Lord Tywin professed his loyalty to King Aerys, and while Lord Varys counseled Aerys to keep the gates locked, the king chose to listen to Grand Maester Pycelle and open the gates to Tywin's men. Once inside, the forces from the westerlands began to sack the city.

Upon the realization that all was lost, Aerys ordered Rossart to ignite the wildfire caches throughout the city, wishing to leave Robert nothing but “ashes and bones”. He ordered Ser Jaime Lannister, Lord Tywin's eldest son and the only knight of his Kingsguard present in the city, to kill Tywin and bring his head to Aerys. Instead, Jaime killed Rossart, and upon the realization that Aerys would simply give the order to burn the city down to

another pyromancer, returned to the Red Keep and murdered Aerys himself in the throne room, mere seconds before soldiers from the westerlands entered.

Meanwhile, Ser Gregor Clegane and Ser Amory Lorch had entered Maegor's Holdfast to deal with the rest of the royal family, to secure the throne for Robert, and to prove that House Lannister had forsaken the Targaryens forever. Gregor killed Prince Aegon Targaryen, Rhaegar's son and heir in front of the child's mother, Princess Elia Martell, and then raped and murdered Elia herself with Aegon's blood and brains still on his hands. Amory dragged Princess Rhaenys Targaryen from under her father's bed and killed her, stabbing her half a hundred times.

When Eddard Stark arrived in the city, he found Jaime seated on the Iron Throne and Aerys's corpse slumped below it. Robert Baratheon arrived in the city at a later point, upon which he was presented with the bodies of Elia, Rhaenys and Aegon by Lord Tywin. Robert was pleased by these deaths, but Eddard called it murder of children. This resulted in an argument between Eddard and Robert, and Eddard rode out alone in anger to fight the final battles of the war in the south.

While Robert's Rebellion is considered to have ended at the Sack of King's Landing, not all battles were fought. In the south, the siege of Storm's End continued, while Lyanna Stark was still missing.

#### **4.1.2.8. End of the Siege of the Storm's End**

The siege of Storm's End had begun after the Battle of Ashford. Lord Mace Tyrell had led his forces to Storm's End, where they had laid siege to the castle for the better part of a year. Storm's End was being held by Stannis Baratheon, the younger brother of Robert Baratheon. While the castle garrison was starving and ate rats to survive, the forces of the Reach feasted in sight of the castle. A smuggler named Davos managed to sail past the blockade of the Redwyne fleet and sold his cargo of onions and fish to the residents of Storm's End, thereby preventing them from resorting to cannibalism. The new food supply allowed Storm's End to hold out long enough until Eddard Stark arrived from King's Landing to lift the siege. The lords of the Reach were quick to dip their banners.

#### **4.1.2.9. Combat at the Tower of Joy**

After lifting the siege at Storm's End, Lord Eddard Stark rode further south with six companions: Howland Reed, Lord Willam Dustin, Ethan Glover, Martyn Cassel, Theo Wull, and Ser Mark Ryswell. According to a semi-canon source, Ned's army did not accompany him south to Dorne.

Near the Red Mountains of Dorne, they found three knights of Aerys II's Kingsguard, Ser Arthur Dayne, Ser Oswell Whent, and the Lord Commander, Ser Gerold Hightower. They were guarding a tower which Rhaegar is said to have named the

tower of joy. The northmen and Kingsguard fought, with only Eddard and Howland surviving the combat at the tower of joy. Inside the tower, Eddard found his sister, Lyanna Stark, who extracted a promise from Eddard, and Lyanna died shortly after with her brother by her side. Eddard later tore down the tower, so he could use the stones to make cairns for the eight dead men.

Afterwards, Eddard travelled further south, to Starfall, where he delivered the famed sword Dawn, which had been in the possession of the Sword of the Morning, to Arthur's sister, Lady Ashara Dayne. The woman jumped into the sea to her death.

#### **4.1.3. Robert's Reign**

After king Aerys II dies (stabbed by ser Jaime Lannister a.k.a. kingslayer), Eddard of house Stark gets into the throne room and sees ser Jaime while he kills the king. Eddard waited for Robert and let Robert sit the throne even though he can do it. Robert Baratheon becomes king and sits the iron throne as the first king non-Targaryen. Eddard Stark goes back to his home Winterfell as warden of the north and Robert makes Jon Arryn his hand and protector of the realm.

##### **4.1.3.1. Jon Arryn as the Hand of the King**

The first task Jon undertook was making peace with Dorne. The southern region was incensed by the deaths of Prince Lewyn and Princess Elia during the war, and Prince Oberyn Martell tried to raise the kingdom to support Viserys Targaryen, the surviving son of King Aerys II. The year after Robert I Baratheon took the throne (284 AC), Jon returned the bones of Lewyn to Sunspear and brokered a peace with Doran Martell, the Prince of Dorne. However, Ser Gregor Clegane and Ser Amory Lorch, who had killed Elia and her children, went unpunished by Robert, creating a persistent bone of contention between the Iron Throne and Dorne.

To strengthen Robert's hold on the throne, Jon negotiated the king's marriage with Cersei Lannister and advised that he retain her brother, Ser Jaime, on the Kingsguard, thereby opposing Lord Eddard Stark, who proposed sending Jaime to the Wall for his killing of King Aerys. Robert also considered the assassinations of Viserys and Daenerys, believed to be the last two Targaryens and thus possible threats, but Jon dissuaded the king from the idea.

Robert left Jon with much of the responsibility of running the Seven Kingdoms, but Jon could not stop Robert from spending huge amounts of coin on tournaments and excess, putting the realm in serious debt. While he was at court, Lord Nestor Royce ruled as High Steward of the Vale. Jon appointed Janos Slynt as Commander of the City Watch after the death of Manly Stokeworth.

Jon's marriage with Lysa was loveless, with Lysa finding Jon to be too old and hating his bad breath. After three girls and two boys miscarried, Lysa gave Jon a sickly son and heir, Robert

Arryn. Lysa organized for her childhood friend, Petyr Baelish, to administer the customs at Gulltown and later convinced her husband to bring him to the court in King's Landing. Petyr was made master of coin under Jon as Hand. Hugh became Jon's squire. Jon brought Ser Mandon Moore to King's Landing and King Robert made him a member of his Kingsguard, though neither of the two loved him very much.

#### **4.1.3.2. Death of Jon Arryn**

Jon was considered robust for his age, but he became ill the night after he borrowed Grand Maester Malleon's book, and quickly wasted away. Jon's maester, Colemon, tried treating an assumed stomach illness by purging the body. The moribund Jon kept mentioning the name Robert, and his final words to his wife Lysa Arryn and King Robert I Baratheon were "the seed is strong". Lysa believes this to be a reference to their own son, Robert Arryn, but it is more likely that Jon was referring to what he had learned about the Baratheon lineage while studying Malleon's book. Afterwards, his speech became too slurred to comprehend and he died the following morning. After Jon's death, King Robert suggested to Lysa that her young son Robert should become a ward of Lord Tywin Lannister and be sent to Casterly Rock, as he feared that being raised by his mother would make his namesake weak. Lysa refused the suggestion brusquely and, against the wishes of the king, one night fled from King's Landing with her son and returned to the Vale of Arryn. She was accompanied by Maester Colemon, Jon's steward, the captain of the guard, and knights and retainers.

#### **4.1.3.3. Ned Stark's South Campaign**

As a second son, Eddard had never expected to become the Lord of Winterfell, and as such did not always feel equal to the task, determined it had all been meant for his elder brother Brandon. Lord Stark has taken little interest in affairs south of the Neck. Eddard had a small sept built at Winterfell so that his new wife Catelyn could pray to the Seven.

In 289 AC, Eddard traveled south to help Robert suppress Greyjoy's Rebellion, and he participated in the decisive battle at Pyke. Greyjoy's Rebellion was the most recent time that Eddard saw Robert. After Lord Balon Greyjoy's surrender, Eddard took Balon's only surviving son, Theon, to Winterfell as a ward and hostage. While Eddard tried to be like a father to Theon from time to time, the boy still found Lord Stark to be cold.

Eddard last saw Prince Tommen Baratheon when the boy was breastfeeding from his mother, Queen Cersei Lannister.

When Lord Jorah Mormont tried to sell poachers he had caught on his lands into slavery in 293 AC, Eddard traveled to Bear Island to bring him to justice for his crime. Upon arrival, Ned found that Jorah and Lynesse Hightower had fled into exile, however.

During his marriage to Catelyn, Eddard had five children with

her: Robb, Sansa, Arya, Bran, and Rickon. Eddard has taught Robb and Jon Snow, his bastard son, about command in battle. Arya has visited White Harbor twice with her father, and Theon Greyjoy accompanied Lord Stark during a visit to Ser Helman Tallhart at Torrhen's Square and several visits to the Glovers at Deepwood Motte. The hill clans have always treated Lord Stark generously when he visited the northern mountains, calling him "the Ned". Eddard hosted Lord Rickard Karstark and his daughter, Alys, when the girl was six. Mance Rayder was part of Lord Commander Qorgyle's expedition to Winterfell to see Lord Stark. Eddard is wary of Roose Bolton, Lord of the Dreadfort.

#### **4.1.3.4. A Game of thrones**

Lord Eddard executes Gared, a deserter of the Night's Watch who claims to have been attacked by Others, at a holdfast in the hills. On the return to Winterfell, the party discovers a direwolf dead near a bridge, her throat pierced by a stag she had slain. Swayed by his bastard son, Jon Snow, Eddard decides not to slay her newborn pups, and instead allow his children to raise them.

That same day, a raven arrives bearing word of the death of Lord Jon Arryn, who fostered Eddard as well as Robert Baratheon, and who had long served Robert as Hand of the King. Soon Robert arrives with half the court, and the king insists that Eddard bring him to the crypts so he can pay his respects to Eddard's late sister, Lyanna. The Starks hold a feast in honor of King Robert's visit to Winterfell. Eddard grudgingly accepts Robert's offer to replace Lord Arryn as Hand, as well as a betrothal of Prince Joffrey to his daughter Sansa.

Another message arrives, this one from Lysa Arryn, Jon's widow and the sister of Eddard's wife Catelyn, sent to Winterfell in secret. Lysa warns the Starks that the Lannisters were involved in her husband's death. When Eddard's son Bran falls and slips into a coma, Eddard and the royal court remain at Winterfell for almost another fortnight, though they eventually decide to leave.

During the journey south, Eddard and Robert are at odds whether or not to be concerned about the wedding of the exiled Princess Daenerys Targaryen to Khal Drogo of the Dothraki. Eddard's youngest daughter Arya is involved in an incident in which crown prince Joffrey Baratheon is injured by Arya's direwolf, Nymeria. When Nymeria cannot be found, Queen Cersei Lannister demands the death of Sansa's direwolf, Lady, and Eddard executes the wolf himself at Darry. In order to prevent Queen Cersei from acquiring the pelt, he has her body sent north to be buried at Winterfell.

Upon arriving at King's Landing, Eddard is summoned to a small council meeting. Afterwards, Lord Petyr Baelish takes Eddard to one of his brothels, where he has been hiding Eddard's wife, Catelyn. She reveals how a catspaw tried to kill

their son Bran with a Valyrian steel dagger. Petyr, known as Littlefinger, claims that the dagger used to be his, but was won in a bet by Tyrion Lannister. Littlefinger promises to aid Eddard. After receiving Maester Luwin's message that Bran is awake, Lord Stark and his daughters stay overnight in the godswood of the Red Keep.

Eddard is shocked to learn that the crown is heavily indebted due to Robert's extravagance, and Jon Arryn and the small council had been unable to restrain him. Robert decrees a great tournament is to be held in honor of Eddard's appointment as Hand of the King, despite Eddard's protests of the cost. The Hand's tourney, featuring a joust, melee, and archery contest, attracts knights and freeriders from all over the Seven Kingdoms. Ned and Ser Barristan Selmy, Lord Commander of the Kingsguard, convince Robert not to participate in the melee.

Eddard discovers that his daughter Arya is in the possession of a sword, Needle, but decides to have her trained in how to use it, instead of taking her sword away. He hires Syrio Forel, a former First Sword of Braavos. While Ned later wonders whether Syrio is a proper teacher for Arya, he allows the lessons to continue, and is eventually willing to ask Syrio to continue his work at Winterfell.

Eddard investigates Jon Arryn's activities before his death, and he discovers that Jon spent a great deal of time with Lord Stannis Baratheon and had been visiting several of Robert's bastard children in the city. Grand Maester Pycelle provides the Hand with *The Lineages and Histories of the Great Houses of the Seven Kingdoms*, which Jon had been reading.

When news reaches King's Landing that Daenerys is pregnant, Robert holds a council meeting demanding she be put to death. Eddard and Barristan are the only ones to speak out against the move, but Robert, driven by his hatred of the Targaryens, insists on the assassination. Eddard, unwilling to cooperate, resigns his office in protest.

Before his planned departure from King's Landing to return to Winterfell, Eddard visits another of Robert's bastard children, a girl named Barra, found by Lord Baelish. Returning from this meeting he is ambushed by Ser Jaime Lannister, who wants revenge for the seizure of his brother Tyrion by Catelyn at the crossroads inn, a fact Eddard had learned the day before from Yoren, a wandering crow. Eight men die from the ensuing melee, including Jory Cassel, Heward, Wyl, and Tregar, and Ned's leg is broken when his horse falls upon him. Pycelle treats Ned, who has a fever dream of the tower of joy. While recovering, Robert visits his friend, pardoning him and returning him to office as Hand of the King.

Eddard sits on the Iron Throne and hears petitions while Robert is out on a hunt. Ser Raymun Darry, Ser Marq Piper, and Ser Karyl Vance bring the news that several villages near the border

of the westerlands have been ravaged by Ser Gregor Clegane. Eddard sends Lord Beric Dondarrion, Thoros of Myr, and a number of knights, and members of his own household guard to bring the Mountain to justice for his crimes against the riverlands.

While investigating Jon Arryn's interest in Robert's bastard children, Eddard discovers to his horror that Robert's three legitimate children are the product of incest between Queen Cersei and her brother, Jaime. Eddard decides to confront Cersei, giving her a chance to flee with her children while she still can. However, Cersei has orchestrated Robert's assassination. As Robert lays on his deathbed, Eddard rebuffs both the suggestion of Robert's youngest brother, Lord Renly Baratheon, that they seize control of the royal children, and Petyr Baelish's urgings to rule as regent while Cersei and Jaime's thirteen-year-old son, Prince Joffrey, accedes to the Iron Throne, instead planning to deliver it to the elder of Robert's younger brothers, Lord Stannis. Littlefinger promises Eddard the support of the City Watch of King's Landing. Vayon Poole arranges for Sansa and Arya to return north on the *Wind Witch*, and Ned orders Tomard to deliver a letter to Stannis at Dragonstone.

In response to his father's imprisonment for treason by Cersei, Robb Stark calls the northern banners to Winterfell and marches south. For his part in Ned's downfall, Janos Slynt is named Lord of Harrenhal by King Joffrey.

Varys visits Eddard Stark in the dungeons, informing him that if he confesses to treason his life will be spared and he will be given the opportunity to join the Night's Watch. Eddard initially refuses but agrees to swallow his honor to save the life of his daughter Sansa, who is in Lannister custody. He is taken to the steps of the Great Sept of Baelor where, unbeknownst to him, Yoren, his daughter Arya, and the disguised Barristan are amongst the crowd. Eddard makes a false public confession but the plan goes awry when King Joffrey declares that Eddard must be executed, to the evident shock of Cersei, Varys, and the High Septon. Ser Ilyn Payne beheads Eddard with his own greatsword, Ice. Joffrey has Eddard's head placed on a spike and forces Sansa to view it.

Bran and Rickon Stark dream of their father's death before a raven arrives at Winterfell. After the Battle of the Camps, Robb is proclaimed King in the North by northmen and rivermen at Riverrun.

## **4.2. The War of the Five Kings**

The War of the Five Kings, or simply the War of Five Kings, was a major multi-theater civil war in the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros that erupted in the wake of the death of King Robert I. In essence, the war was a three-way battle for the Iron Throne fought alongside two independence movements. The five kings in question were Robert's heir apparent, Joffrey Baratheon, Robert's younger brothers, Stannis and Renly Baratheon, the "King in the North" Robb

Stark, and the "King of the Iron Islands" Balon Greyjoy. The conflict was orchestrated by Petyr Baelish, the Master of Coin, with the help of Lysa Arryn, who poisoned her husband Jon Arryn, Hand of the King to Robert Baratheon, and sent a letter to her sister Catelyn Stark claiming that it was the Lannisters who had poisoned her husband. Petyr, from the small House Baelish, ignited the war in order to gain more power for himself.

Upon Robert's death, his heir apparent Joffrey takes the Iron Throne. However, the revelation that he, along with his brother and sister, are bastards born of incest between Queen Consort Cersei and her twin brother Jaime, leads both Stannis and Renly to claim the throne for themselves. Stannis sees himself as the rightful heir by right of blood, being Robert's heir with the removal of Joffrey, Myrcella, and Tommen from the line of succession, due to them being bastards born of incest. Renly claims the throne on the basis that he would be a better king, despite being second to Stannis in the lawful line of succession.

Meanwhile, Robb Stark, the Lord of Winterfell, is declared the King in the North by his bannermen in the wake of the execution of his father, on false charges of treason by Joffrey. Robb had been in command of a host marching south to free his then-imprisoned father and to relieve a Lannister attack on the Riverlands. As the King in the North, Robb declares that the North and the Riverlands, ruled by his maternal grandfather Hoster Tully, are a sovereign Kingdom of the North no longer subject to the rule of the Iron Throne.

With the attention of the North and the Iron Throne diverted, Balon Greyjoy, Lord Reaper of Pyke and ruler of the Iron Islands, seizes the opportunity to declare the Iron Islands independent once more. He then styles himself King of the Iron Islands and launches raids in the North, while most of the Northern armies are distracted south of the Neck fighting the Lannisters in the Riverlands and the Westerlands.

By 303 AC, all of the original five kings were either assassinated or killed in battle, leading to the total and complete end of the War of the Five Kings. Ironically, many of the same events Littlefinger put in motion to increase his own power and influence were eventually discovered by the remaining members of House Stark, which were ultimately used as evidence against him for his execution, marking the official end of the War of the Five Kings.

#### **4.2.1. Death of Robert Baratheon**

Rather than use his authority to defuse the situation, King Robert I Baratheon left King's Landing for his entertainment, and soon afterwards died in a hunting accident secretly arranged by Queen Cersei. Upon Robert's death, Lord Renly Baratheon tried to secure the support of his Hand, Lord Eddard Stark, but when he refused, Renly fled the capital with Ser Loras Tyrell, the heir to the Reach, and rode for Highgarden. Prince Joffrey Baratheon immediately claimed the Iron Throne upon Robert's death with his mother's backing as Queen Regent. However, Eddard had learned from previous research conducted by his predecessor Jon Arryn, who had been secretly assassinated by his wife and Baelish, of the true parentage of Joffrey and his siblings: that they were in fact bastards born of incest between Cersei and Jaime. Eddard had a proclamation written by Robert which named him regent and Protector of the Realm, but it was ignored by

Cersei, whom Eddard had forewarned of his knowledge about her children in an attempt to allow them to flee.

When Eddard tried to take Joffrey into custody as an imposter, Joffrey, who had been forewarned by Baelish, instead had Eddard arrested. Baelish held Eddard with a dagger to his throat while Janos Slynt led the City Watch in turning against Eddard's household guards. Joffrey and Cersei were unaware, however, that Eddard had already sent a letter to Stannis Baratheon informing him that Joffrey was not legitimate, and thus the crown rightfully belonged to him. They were further unaware that Renly knew of this as well, and was gathering his supporters in the Stormlands and the Reach. On Dragonstone, Stannis also claimed the Iron Throne and began gathering his own supporters.

#### **4.2.2. Robb Stark Invades The Westerlands**

With Tywin encamped at Harrenhal, Robb launched a limited invasion of the Lannister homelands in the Westerlands, winning several more battles: the Battle of Oxcross, a battle at the Yellow Fork, and the surrender of the Crag. With the Lannister homelands under attack by the Northmen, and a Baratheon attack on the capital imminent, Tywin decided to quietly march the Lannister forces from Harrenhal to King's Landing to reinforce the capital.

All of the lands between Riverrun and Harrenhal became a warzone, facing constant raids and counter-raids by Stark-Tully and Lannister forces. As a result of Edmure Tully's mistake at the Battle of the Fords, Robb failed to lure the Lannisters into a trap; instead, the Lannister forces in the Riverlands regrouped and then rushed to the defense of King's Landing against Stannis

#### **4.2.3. The Death Of Renly Baratheon**

The Baratheon brothers Stannis and Renly both claimed the Iron Throne. Stannis had a small army at Dragonstone, and was under the influence of Melisandre, a red priestess of the Lord of Light and a powerful sorceress. Renly, on the other hand, amassed the strength of his bannermen in the Stormlands. He had also secured the backing House Tyrell and their bannermen from the Reach by marrying Margaery Tyrell, daughter of Lord Mace Tyrell

Renly commanded the most powerful army in Westeros by sheer numbers, having gathered all the bannermen of the Stormlands and the Reach, the two most populous kingdoms of Westeros. Looking for allies, Robb sent his mother Catelyn to the Stormlands to negotiate with the southern king, while Theon Greyjoy was sent to the Iron Islands. Renly was receptive to an alliance with the Starks on the condition that Robb recognized his sovereignty over the North.

However, before negotiations could continue, Renly was murdered by a shadow, bearing the face of Stannis, secretly born by Melisandre. The assassination was witnessed only by Catelyn and Brienne of Tarth; Brienne was accused of Renly's murder, and she and Catelyn subsequently fled his camp together.

Following Renly's death, the stormlords swore fealty to Stannis as the remaining legal head of House Baratheon. However, the Tyrells and their vassals did not join Stannis, and instead returned to the Reach. With the Baratheon army under his command, and the Dragonstone

fleet augmented by pirates led by Salladhor Saan, Stannis began preparations for an invasion of King's Landing.

#### **4.2.4. Riot In King's Landing**

During the course of the war, the streets of King's Landing began to overflow with starving refugees looking to escape the war. Joffrey and the royal court left the Red Keep and gathered in the city's docks to witness Princess Myrcella's leave to Dorne, as part of their hopes to secure an alliance with House Martell. On their way back, the commoners of King's Landing hurled insults at Joffrey. The situation escalated when one threw cow excrement into Joffrey's face, and when the culprit could not be found, the young king ordered his guards to have them all killed. Riots then erupted in the chaos; they were eventually put down, but many were killed, including the High Septon

#### **4.2.5. Battle Of The Blackwater**

Stannis's army and fleet launched an assault on King's Landing in what came to be known as the Battle of the Blackwater. The initial attack was blunted when Tyrion sprung a trap, destroying half of Stannis's ships and many of his men with wildfire. Stannis rallied the surviving troops and launched an assault on the city.

Just as the city seemed about to fall, a combined Lannister-Tyrell host charged and broke through Stannis's flank, sending his army into a panic and routing them. Stannis retreated to Dragonstone with only the tattered remnants of his army. An alliance between the Tyrells and the Lannisters had secretly been brokered by Baelish and Tywin Lannister following Renly's death. The Tyrells formally declared themselves for King Joffrey in return for a marriage pact between him and Margaery, giving Joffrey a massive numerical advantage over the houses in rebellion.

The decisive Lannister-Tyrell victory also coincided with several political blunders made by Robb. Robb lost the support of House Frey when he broke his pact with them to instead marry Talisa Maegyr. Not long after, his powerful vassal House Karstark deserted him after he executed Lord Rickard Karstark for the murder of Lannister prisoners. Having lost a large number of troops, and his enemies having more than doubled in numbers, Robb's army suddenly found itself in great danger.

### **4.3. Red Wedding**

#### **4.3.1. Background**

During the War of the Five Kings, the Freys initially rise in rebellion against the Iron Throne, securing an invaluable strategic position for the northmen. The rebellion is contingent on Robb Stark's betrothal to a daughter of Walder Frey, Lord of the Crossing. Robb becomes King in the North and King of the Trident after the Battle of the Camps.

After Robb is wounded during the storming of the Crag, Lady Sybell Spicer and her brother, Ser Rolph, maneuver Sybell's maiden daughter, Jeyne Westerling, into treating the fevered king in her own bed. After learning of the alleged deaths of his brothers Bran and Rickon in the aftermath of the capture of Winterfell, Robb sleeps with Jeyne and then marries her, a slight that Walder is unlikely to overlook.

The Freys at Harrenhal with Roose Bolton, Lord of the Dreadfort, are

outraged after learning of Robb's marriage to Jeyne, and the Freys at the Crag and Riverrun angrily return to the Twins. After learning of the broken pact, Walder secretly begins corresponding with Roose, who has wed Walder's granddaughter Walda, and with Lord Tywin Lannister, the Hand of the King, for terms to bring House Frey back as a supporter of the Iron Throne and King Joffrey I Baratheon. Separately, Robb's mother, Catelyn Stark, releases Tywin's son, Ser Jaime Lannister, from imprisonment at Riverrun, hoping Tyrion Lannister in King's Landing will exchange Jaime for Robb's sisters, Sansa and Arya. En route, however, Vargo Hoat has his Brave Companions chop off Jaime's sword hand and bring him to Lord Bolton at Harrenhal. Disavowing the Brave Companions' actions, Roose, whose son Ramsay was responsible for the sack of Winterfell, does not return Jaime to Robb or Edmure Tully, but instead sends Jaime back to his family in King's Landing. Before parting, Jaime and Roose agree to give the other's regards to Robb and Tywin. After Lord Hoster Tully passes away, Lord Frey sends his son Lame Lothar to Riverrun with an offer to have Edmure, now Lord of Riverrun, marry Walder's daughter Roslin at the Twins, and thereby restore the alliance between Houses Stark and Frey. Robb cannot decline after already slighting his allies once, since he needs House Frey's assistance for his planned siege of Moat Cailin. Robb leaves Jeyne at Riverrun with his great uncle, Ser Brynden Tully, while he journeys north with an army of thirty-five hundred, mostly northmen but with some rivermen in Edmure's retinue. The ghost of High Heart tells the brotherhood without banners about dreams she had involving a howling wolf, tumultuous music, and sad bells.

#### **4.3.2. Arrival**

When King Robb Stark and his army arrive at the western castle of the Twins in heavy rain, the Freys are displeased that Queen Jeyne Westerling has not made the journey as well. Robb apologizes to Lord Walder Frey for having broken his promise, but Walder insists that Robb apologize instead to the Frey women he might have married. Lord Edmure Tully is pleased with Roslin Frey, although the girl cries during their introduction. Catelyn Stark asks Walder for bread and salt to secure guest right.

Robb, Catelyn, and Edmure are given chambers in the Water Tower between the two castles. Catelyn learns that Ser Perwyn Frey, who had guarded her earlier in the War of the Five Kings, is away from the Twins. Robb's men cross the roaring Green Fork to the eastern shore, where several thousand Freys are encamped amidst three great feast tents. Freys use several wagons and carts as a perimeter wall for the eastern camp's three tents and numerous pavilions. Lord Roose Bolton arrives at the Twins from Harrenhal with five hundred horse and three thousand foot, mostly men from the Dreadfort, as well as some Karstarks whose loyalty is in question after Robb's earlier execution for treason of Rickard Karstark, Lord of Karhold, at Riverrun. Lord Walder forbids Robb from keeping Grey Wind within his castles, since the Lord of the Crossing considers the direwolf dangerous.

### 4.3.3. Feast

After Edmure weds Roslin, Walder hosts a feast for the highborn in one of his castles, and a "bastard feast" for lesser ranks is held in the second castle. Common soldiers celebrate in tents outside the castle. The Freys provide wagons and casks of ale, mead, and wine to their guests inside and outside of the Twins. At the start of the highborn feast, Roose toasts Walder's grandsons, Big Walder and Little Walder, who are in the care of Roose's son, Ramsay Snow, after the sack of Winterfell. Catelyn notices Walder squinting at Roose in response to the unspoken threat. The songs performed for the cramped nobles by fiddlers, flutists, and drummers in the gallery include "Alysanne", "Flowers of Spring", "Iron Lances", and "The Queen Took Off Her Sandal, the King Took Off His Crown"; Catelyn thinks the musicians are poor performers, and the blaring horns and pounding drums make it difficult to hear. A drunken Greatjon Umber bellows "The Bear and the Maiden Fair" and "The Lusty Lad". To please Lord Walder, Robb dances with numerous Frey women—including Roslin, Alyx, Fair Walda, Lady Joyeuse, Ami, Fat Walda, Serra, Sarra, and Shirei—as well as Dacey Mormont. Several poor dishes are served, the most appetizing being pink lamb. Catelyn learns that Robb's former squire, Olyvar Frey, and the singer Alesander are also away from the Twins. Amid the feasting, the outlaw Sandor Clegane arrives at the tents with Robb's missing sister, Arya Stark, hoping to receive a reward for her return. Arya sees hundreds of men in one of the feast tents, and she hears northmen singing their traditional songs. As part of the bedding custom, Edmure and Roslin depart the hall in the company of many raucous guests of the opposite gender. Robb and Catelyn remain behind with Lord Walder.

### 4.3.4. Massacre

Shortly after the bride and groom depart for the bedding, Walder's musicians begin playing "The Rains of Castamere", a song associated with Robb's enemy, Lord Tywin Lannister. Few of the northmen in the hall have a chance to react, and most are butchered on the spot by crossbow-wielding musicians or Frey knives. Ser Ryman Frey leads a dozen Frey men-at-arms with longaxes. By using sellswords and knights at the feast disguised as musicians, and getting Robb's men too drunk to fight, Lord Walder has coordinated a massacre with little loss to his own men. Mailed northmen in shaggy fur cloaks—Boltons and possibly Karstarks—join the Freys, and the betrayers kill many of Robb Stark's personal guard, including Smalljon Umber, Dacey, and Ser Wendel Manderly. Wielding a fallen knife, Catelyn takes hostage Jinglebell, Walder's simple grandson, and offers to exchange his life for Robb, who has been wounded by multiple arrows. Lord Frey refuses, however, and Roose slays Robb with a thrust to the heart while stating that "Jaime Lannister sends his regards." Catelyn sees Jinglebell's neck in response with the knife, and then claws at her own face with her fingernails. Ser Raymund Frey then slits Catelyn's throat. While the Starks are being slaughtered in the hall, the unknowing Edmure impregnates Roslin in a bedchamber, with fiddlers performing outside of the room to prevent Edmure from hearing the

sounds of battle. Some guests who had accompanied them, such as the Greatjon, Patek Mallister, and Ser Marq Piper, are overwhelmed and taken captive. Freys kill Grey Wind in the yard with crossbow quarrels, despite Ser Raynald Westerling's attempt to save the direwolf.

In the camp outside, Arya sees men moving on the bridge from the western castle toward the eastern castle, and she hears "The Rains of Castamere" being performed within both castles of the Twins. The three feast tents collapse and are set aflame with fire arrows during the slaughter, having been oiled earlier and rigged to collapse by Lothar Frey. While drunken northmen burn inside the tents, Bastard Walder Rivers leads a column of armored Frey riders from within the Twins against Robb's men outside of the tents, cutting them down and burning their pavilions. Sandor defends Arya against three men, including Ser Garse Goodbrook and Ser Tytos Frey. When Arya, unaware that her mother and brother have been killed, runs toward the Twins, the Hound knocks the girl unconscious and escapes with her. Though no definitive count is known, most of Robb's men are killed or captured, while House Frey loses approximately fifty men in the camps. After the battle, the Freys hack and mutilate Robb's body and cut off his head along with that of Grey Wind. In a mockery of Robb's relationship with his direwolf, the Freys sew Grey Wind's head onto Robb's decapitated body and nail a crown atop the direwolf's head. Robb's bronze and iron crown is kept by Ryman Frey. Catelyn is thrown naked into the river in a mockery of House Tully funeral customs.

#### **4.3.5. Aftermaths**

According to author George R. R. Martin, Lord Walder Frey had Robb Stark and his followers killed in such a bloody manner to wash out the dishonor done to him. The massacre ends the northern rebellion against the Iron Throne, and Frey soldiers ride along the Green Fork in search of stray Stark survivors. Roose Bolton is named Warden of the North for his aid, and Walder's second son, Emmon, is named Lord of Riverrun. When Salladhor Saan tells Stannis Baratheon of the massacre, he reports that the smallfolk call it the Red Wedding. According to Merrett Frey, the Red Wedding was ordered by Walder and then arranged by Lame Lothar and Roose, with Ryman Frey involved as well. Tywin Lannister takes no personal responsibility for the slaughter when speaking with his son Tyrion, although the Hand of the King admits he countered Walder's actions to prevent the Freys from rejoining Robb's cause and further extending the War of the Five Kings. According to Tywin, Robb was always going to be killed at the feast, although Walder had intended for Catelyn to be captured. The Iron Throne gains a number of valuable prisoners which help resolve hostilities around Westeros, and most river lords bend the knee. Black Walder Frey threatens to hang Patek Mallister outside his father's castle which results in Lord Jason's surrender at the siege of Seagard. Greatjon Umber and Ser Marq Piper are held as hostages to ensure their houses' loyalty; Hother Umber allies with Lord Bolton, and Lord Clement Piper is forced to help the Freys in their siege of Riverrun. Lord Jonos Bracken besieges Lord Tytos Blackwood at Raventree.

With Edmure Tully captive, Ser Jaime Lannister is able to eventually negotiate a peaceful resolution to the siege of Riverrun. To the displeasure of the Freys, they are informed by Jaime that King Tommen I Baratheon requires that all prisoners taken during the Red Wedding be turned over to the Iron Throne.

The Red Wedding stains the ancient custom of guest right, with safety and security in another's home no longer being considered guaranteed. The massacre ruins House Frey's reputation, and they are treated with antipathy and disgust by many Westerosi] including their own allies. When Edwyn Frey calls those of House Piper who died at the Twins "traitors and rebels", Jaime Lannister tells his Frey allies that they are "twice as treacherous as Piper". Lord John Royce mentions the Freys as an example of guest right violators.

Still traveling with Arya Stark, Sandor Clegane gives the gift of mercy to a dying Piper bowman who had been betrayed by a Bolton soldier. Arya has a dream of her direwolf, Nymeria, recovering a body from a river. This turns out to be the corpse of Catelyn Stark, and Lord Beric Dondarrion gives his life to revive her with the last kiss. Catelyn, now the vengeful Lady Stoneheart, takes leadership of Beric's brotherhood without banners, and they kill Petyr and Merrett Frey. During the siege of Riverrun, Jaime sees Robb's crown worn by Ryman's whore, and the crown ends up in the grasp of Stoneheart after Ryman's party is ambushed by the outlaws while returning to the Twins.

Ser Jared Frey tells Lord Wyman Manderly, Lord of White Harbor, that the Red Wedding was actually Robb Stark's work. According to the Frey story, Robb changed into a wolf as a warg before the eyes of the Freys and tore out the throat of Jinglebell, a harmless simpleton. Furthermore, he allegedly would have slain Lord Walder if Wyman's son, Ser Wendel Manderly, had not put himself in the way. According to Jared, the other northmen also turned into wolves to join Robb's attack. Wyman supports the Freys and Boltons publicly, but he privately disbelieves their lies. When Jared and his kin, Rhaegar and Symond, go missing after departing White Harbor, Wyman pleads ignorance about their fates. Since many lost kin at the Red Wedding, northmen resent the presence of Frey's who travel with Lord Bolton to Winterfell for the wedding of his son Ramsay to "Arya Stark". Theon Greyjoy, a captive of the Boltons, wishes he had died by Robb's side. Thousands of sparrows in King's Landing are furious about the massacre and its violation of guest rights. The small council of King Tommen I Baratheon discusses how to blame the Freys, and not the Iron Throne, for the Red Wedding, as did Tywin before his death. Qyburn suggests once Lord Walder dies, blame should be placed on the Freys that lose the impending fight over succession.

#### **4.4. Stannis's Campaign in the North**

After the Red Wedding, Roose Bolton was appointed Warden of the North. Since the Ironborn were in possession of Moat Cailin, Roose instructed Ramsay to retake the fortress.

After a failed attempt by Yara to rescue her brother from the Boltons, Ramsay retook Moat Cailin. Roose rewarded Ramsay's actions by legitimizing him as a Bolton. With the surrender of Moat Cailin, the Bolton army returned north

and the Ironborn began evacuating the North. Roose subsequently led his reassembled forces to reclaim the Stark ancestral seat of Winterfell. Facing invasion from a wildling army under the command of Mance Rayder and with rumours of an even greater threat coming from beyond the Wall, the Night's Watch sent word to all the high lords of Westeros to send aid. Only one answered: Stannis. He headed north to the Wall and defeated the wildling army, taking their leader prisoner and saving the Night's Watch from destruction, and the North from invasion. With this victory, Stannis planned to march south to liberate Winterfell and gain the support of the disgruntled Northern Houses against Lannister-backed Bolton rule. However, he was rebuffed by most, such as House Mormont.

As Roose Bolton set up his seat of power at Winterfell, he planned a marriage for Ramsay with Sansa, the heir to Winterfell who was hiding from the Lannisters in the Vale under the protection of Littlefinger. Littlefinger proposed an alliance between the North and the Vale, for protection against their enemies and to react against any Lannister retaliation once they learnt that Sansa has wed Ramsay.

Littlefinger returned to King's Landing, where he informed Cersei that the Boltons planned to marry Sansa to Ramsay. He requested permission to lead the Knights of the Vale to the North. Once Stannis and the Boltons had bled each other dry, he planned to destroy the remaining forces and take the North. Cersei approved his plans and promised to appoint him Warden of the North once the battle was won.

As Stannis marched on Winterfell, the weather worsened, and men started to abandon Stannis. Melisandre, however, believed that it was still possible to move towards Winterfell, and suggested to sacrifice Shireen. Stannis initially refused.

Ramsay wreaked havoc on Stannis's camp; his few remaining supplies were destroyed, as well as the few hundred horses he had left. Additionally, all of the sellswords paid for by the Iron Bank deserted. In his desperation, Stannis conceded to sacrificing Shireen so that his army could move once again. After it was done, Stannis mobilized his few remaining troops towards Winterfell. Eventually, Stannis was defeated by the Boltons. After the bulk of his remaining army was slaughtered to a man, Stannis was tracked down and killed by Brienne.

With Stannis's defeat, the Boltons claimed a great victory, discouraging further resistance against them. By this time, most of the Northmen had, if ever reluctantly, accepted their rule. Houses Umber and Karstark declared their allegiance to Boltons, but House Manderly refused to bend the knee to the Boltons. Meanwhile, the last of the Ironborn had been expelled from the North after House Glover successfully reclaimed Deepwood Motte. House Bolton's rule over the North was now seemingly unopposed; Sansa's escape, however, has weakened their claim.

#### **4.5. Conflict in the Riverlands**

After the Red Wedding, Brynden Tully managed to gather a small Tully army and retake Riverrun from the Freys. Tommen sent Jaime at the head of a Lannister detachment to force Riverrun's surrender. Jaime tried to negotiate with Brynden to peacefully surrender, but the Blackfish refused to yield. Jaime is able to coerce Edmure into yielding Riverrun, however, by threatening his son's life. After the fall of Riverrun, Jaime is informed of Brynden's death by

Lannister soldiers.

After a celebration at the Twins, Arya Stark murdered Walder Frey. While posing as Walder, Arya then had the rest of the Frey men poisoned in revenge for the Red Wedding. In response, Lannister soldiers are sent to the Riverlands to keep the peace. However, the army is later recalled to fight in the Last War.

## 5. Road to Battle of the Bastards

### 5.1. Jon Snow's Campaign

#### 5.1.1. Death of Jeor Mormont (Former Lord Commander)

Jeor Mormont the Old Bear was the 997th Lord Commander of the Night's Watch. At the Fist of the First Men, Jeor and his men await the return of the scouting parties. A small group of men led by Chett plan to desert and head south, with Softfoot and Small Paul tasked with assassinating Lord Commander Mormont. Before the plot can be put into action, however, the encampment is attacked by wights. Jeor tries to organize the defense, and Samwell Tarly releases some ravens to inform the Wall of the battle. The ranging party is broken in the fight at the Fist, however, and Jeor leads the survivors on a grim march back to Craster's Keep. During the journey, Samwell kills a lone Other with an obsidian dagger given to him by Jon Snow.

Craster reluctantly hosts the survivors at his keep. Jeor discusses dragonglass daggers with Sam and the need to supply the Watch with dragonglass weaponry, and he leads a eulogy for Bannen after the ranger succumbs to his wounds.

Craster holds a feast for the Watch the night before they are to depart his home, but several of the black brothers feel that Craster's offerings are meager. When they come to blows, Dirk slits Craster's throat and takes hostage one of his wives. The outraged Lord Commander advances toward Dirk, but he is held back by Garth of Greenaway and then stabbed in the stomach by Ollo Lophand during the mutiny at Craster's Keep. As Jeor lies dying, he orders Sam to head for the Wall to inform the remaining Watch of all that has happened. Jeor's last wish is for Sam to tell his exiled son, Ser Jorah Mormont, to take the black. Sam takes Jeor's dagger before fleeing with Gilly and her child.

After the battle beneath the Wall, King Stannis Baratheon takes up residence in the King's Tower at Castle Black and the Night's Watch holds a choosing to pick the next Lord Commander of the Night's Watch. Sam offers Jon Snow's name to Ser Denys Mallister, reminding him that Jon had been trusted by Jeor. Mormont's raven later emerges from the voting kettle and repeatedly says "Snow", and the amazed black brothers select Jon as their new leader.

#### 5.1.2. Jon as the Lord Commander

Jon Snow known as the Bastard son of Eddard (Ned) Stark and after Ned Stark chosen hand of the king by King Robert himself, Ned sends his bastard to the Castle Black and made him apprentice of Lord Commander Jeor the Old Bear.

After Ser Jeor the Old Bear killed by his own men, Jon became the Lord Commander of the Night's Watch. When Stannis Baratheon plans to

attack to winterfell he search for new allies since he's manpower not enough and he came to Castle Black for ask jon's help. Jon refuses because Night's Watch is not meant to be in wars or battles their mission is protect the wall and humans against the death and white walkers and wildlings beyond the wall but since jon let the wildlings pass the wall for protect them from the night king stannis replies they owe you their lives you can send them to my command but jon says this is not their battle.

After Stannis loses the battle of winterfell and killed by brianne of tarth. Ramsay Snow (all bastards in north has surname of snow) become more stronger and powerful henceforth he shall be known as Ramsay Bolton by Queen Cersei Lannister.

### **5.1.3. Death of Jon Snow**

Meanwhile Jon gains many enemy from Night's Watch because of he let wildlings to pass the wall. Since Watch's main mission is protect the westeros from wildlings members of the watch didn't like jon's decision and one night while jon read some letters in his chamber ollie (10-11 year old apprentice of jon) comes to jon's room and tells him that one of the wildlings he saved told them his uncle benjen Stark is living. Jon immediately run to garden of Castle Black to see this man but its a trap stablished by the watchers there is no benjen or wildling just a wooden writing "traitor" Jon turns his back and 10-14 members of the watch starts to stab him with daggers and say to jon "For the Watch" jon lies on the ground with bleeding and dies with his eyes open.

### **5.1.4. Back of Jon Snow**

The morning of that day his friends found Jon's corpse and get him to his chamber and ser davos seaworth call the red woman melisandre to reawake the Jon first melisandre refuses but then she say the magical words from old valyrian and not instantly but after few hours Jon Snow came back to life and after gains his health back hang the traitors including the ollie, a 10 year old boy. Meanwhile Sansa Stark and Theon Greyjoy escapes from Ramsay Bolton and Winterfell. Came to Castle Black and reunion with Jon and planned to attack Winterfell but jon doesn't want to fight but Sansa speaks and persuade jon. Since night's Watch and wildlings has not enough to beat Ramsay, Jon and Sansa decide to call the banners of north but after red wedding almost all banners of the north has bond to Boltons. So only few houses join them.

## **5.2. Loyalty and Governance**

When Eddard is later imprisoned in the Red Keep after the death of Robert, his heir, Robb Stark, calls the northern banners to Winterfell and marches south to rescue Eddard with a strength of nearly twenty thousand close to the start of autumn. House Karstark contributes at least two thousand three hundred men, mostly infantry. House Manderly provides at least fifteen hundred, but it is not their full strength. House Dustin sends a minimal amount. Of the four thousand armored lances who come to Winterfell, only

three or four hundred are knights. Robb is victorious over House Lannister forces in the Whispering Wood and the Battle of the Camps, but Lord Roose Bolton is defeated by Lord Tywin Lannister on the Green Fork. After hearing that King Joffrey I Baratheon ordered the execution of Eddard, the assembled northern and river lords in Riverrun reject the sovereignty of the Iron Throne and proclaim Robb to be King in the North.

### **5.3. The Role of the Vale**

The tradition of knighthood is strong in the Vale. During the Andal invasion of Westeros, the Andals first landed in the Fingers. Legends claim that the first King of Mountain and Vale, Ser Artys I Arryn, was the Winged Knight. The knights of the Vale are sent out in search of the Vale mountain clans on occasion. The lesser clansmen tend to be wiped out by these knights.

Ser Hugh, a young knight who squired in King's Landing with the late Defender of the Vale, Lord Jon Arryn, is killed in the Hand's tourney in the capital. Following her return to the Eyrie, Jon's widow, Lady Lysa Arryn, refuses to permit any of the knights of the Vale to travel to King's Landing to participate in the tourney.

Lady Catelyn Stark arrests Tyrion Lannister and takes him to her sister Lysa at the Eyrie. When Tyrion sarcastically replies to the accusation of murdering Jon, Lysa warns him to speak politely, for she is protected by the knights of the Vale. When Tyrion later demands trial by combat, many knights and nobles ask for the honor of championing Lysa.

After winning his trial by combat against Ser Vardis Egen thanks to his champion Bronn and departing the Eyrie, Tyrion appeals to the mountain clans, who reject his offers of gold, by offering them weapons and armor to face the knights of the Vale.

After Catelyn reunites with her son, Robb Stark, she informs him that the only knight of the Vale that will join them is her uncle Ser Brynden Tully, formerly the Knight of the Gate.

Despite their pleas for aid, Lysa ignores the messages urging the Vale to join forces with her nephew Robb, now the King in the North and King of the Trident.

After Robb ponders his next move after the betrayal of Lord Rickard Karstark at Riverrun, he considers that the knights of the Vale could make all the difference in the War of the Five Kings. Lord Petyr Baelish claims to Sansa Stark that the knights of the Vale will all pledge their swords to her to win her back her birthright, after she is wed to Ser Harrold Hardyng.

### **5.4. The Battle of the Bastards (303 AC)**

#### **5.4.1. Stark Forces**

According to Davos and Sansa, the Starks have gathered 2,000 wildlings, 62 Mormont soldiers, 200 Hornwoods and 143 Mazins. There are also several Stark men-at-arms present. This brings Jon's host to the size of over 2,405 men, as well as a giant, Wun Wun. Most of the soldiers are infantry, and the rest are archers and cavalry, creating a disadvantage against the Bolton forces. Only an estimated sixth of the original force survives the battle.

#### **5.4.2. Arryn Forces**

Due to the altitude in the Vale, the Arryn troops are trained to fight in winter conditions, a huge advantage in the North. According to Sansa,

the expeditionary force (cavalry, as seen in the episode) consists of 2,000 men, still leaving the pro-Stark forces at a numerical disadvantage. However, by the time they arrive, the Northern armies have nearly wiped each other out, with the Bolton forces having clearly suffered much higher casualties than the Stark forces. The all-cavalry Arryn force also has a clear qualitative advantage, and is able to wipe out the remaining Boltons and rescue what remains of the Stark force with ease.

#### **5.4.3. Bolton Forces**

At the parley one day before the battle, Ramsay states that he has 6,000 men (including his allies, the Karstark and Umber troops). He is rumored to command some 5,000 Bolton men, although possibly weakened after the battle in the ice against Stannis.

Most of Ramsay's horsemen are killed after the charge and ensuing melee against Jon's cavalry, also suffering losses as Ramsay's own archers begin to rain arrows on friend and foe alike. Ramsay's infantry were mostly comprised of pikemen, shield-bearers, and mixed infantry - these men were annihilated by the Arryn cavalry late in the battle, when they are hit from behind.

A token force of mostly archers and a few crossbowmen remains holding Winterfell, most of which are killed when remnants of the Stark army take the castle.

#### **5.4.4. The Conflict For Winterfell**

Jon, Sansa, Tormund, Davos, Lyanna, and the other Northern lords that declared for House Stark have a parley with Ramsay, Harald Karstark, and Smalljon Umber before they commence battle. Ramsay offers surrender terms, saying he will pardon Jon for deserting the Night's Watch and the Northerners in Jon's forces for rebelling against him if Jon hands over Sansa. Jon refuses and offers Ramsay a chance to settle their dispute in one-on-one combat. Ramsay rejects a one-on-one combat with Jon, noting that he doubts he can best Jon in a duel but he is confident his numerically superior forces will triumph in battle. Jon counters that Ramsay's men may not want to fight for him if he will not fight for them. In response, Ramsay threatens Rickon. Jon and Sansa are wary of whether Ramsay actually has their brother to which Umber throws out Shaggydog's head as proof. Sansa refuses the terms of surrender and tells Ramsay he will die the following day before riding off.

After a meeting where Jon discusses the battle plan with Tormund and Davos, Sansa admonishes Jon for attacking too early, insisting that they should have gathered more men. Jon retorts that this is the largest army they could possibly gather. Sansa, knowing Ramsay the best, warns Jon of his cunning and cruel nature, but Jon assures her that he has faced worse. In the end, he promises to protect Sansa from Ramsay, to which she cynically replies that no one can keep anyone safe.

In the camp, Davos and Tormund discuss their time serving both Stannis and Mance respectively, with both acknowledging that they may have been serving the wrong king. After parting ways, Tormund goes to drink and Davos takes a walk. As the sun rises, he comes

across the pyre on which Shireen Baratheon was sacrificed, and in the remains, finds the wooden stag he carved and gave to her the last time they were together. He finally realizes how she died. Meanwhile, Jon meets with Melisandre and orders her not to bring him back if he should fall in the battle. Melisandre contends that she will try anyway, and that it was not her gift that has brought Jon back but the Lord of Light's, and that only the Lord of Light can decide Jon's fate. Melisandre ponders that the Lord of Light may have brought Jon back to only die in the battle.

The armies gather the following morning as Ramsay brings out Rickon. After menacingly raising a knife, he cuts Rickon's bonds and tells him that they are to play a game. The only rule is to run towards his brother. As he does so, Ramsay pulls out a bow and nocks an arrow, prompting Jon to urgently ride out on horseback to try to save Rickon as Ramsay fires arrows at him. Ramsay appears to have no intention of hitting Rickon with his first shots but, just as Jon approaches his brother, Rickon is struck in the back with an arrow and killed. Devastated and enraged over his brother's murder, Jon charges at Ramsay and the Bolton forces alone. Davos tells the Stark cavalry to charge. The Bolton archers fire at Jon and strike his horse. With Jon now defenseless in the middle of the battlefield, Ramsay orders the Bolton cavalry to charge at him.

As Jon brandishes Longclaw (Jon's Valerian Steel Sword) and prepares to fight to the death, the Stark cavalry smashes into the Boltons, narrowly saving Jon from being trampled. In the rear, Davos belays his order to his archers to release arrows into the melee of infantry, as he announces that they would kill his men, engaged in close-quarter fighting, as well the enemy. He eventually sends the archers forward to be of more use in the middle of the battlefield. Ramsay, however, has no such compunction; he has twice the men to lose and little concern for killing his own. He repeatedly and purposefully orders arrow fusillades that kill all combatants in the middle of the field, apparently in an effort to create a strategic barrier of human death in the center of the battlefield.

The Stark forces seem unaware of this strategy and developing trap. Bolton soldiers are ordered forward to create an impenetrable horseshoe formation of tall shields and spears (in a phalanx configuration) that surround three sides of the Stark forces against the death mound and progressively compresses them into a helpless and dysfunctional mass. Simultaneously, Smalljon Umber leads a group of soldiers across the mound of corpses to attack the beleaguered Stark infantry from behind and complete the deadly envelopment. While Wun Wun is able to kill a few Bolton soldiers, it is not enough to break their phalanx. Panic sets in and Tormund, sensing futility, urges his wildlings backward towards the pile and possible escape.

#### **5.4.5. The Arrival of Reinforcements**

Amidst all of this, Jon is trampled by his own forces, nearly suffocating under a group of men crawling on top of him, but is eventually able to get back to his feet. At this point, where the Stark forces face imminent destruction, a horn sounds out in the distance as

Sansa and Littlefinger arrive with the Knights of the Vale, waving banners bearing the Arryn sigil. On horseback, they begin to cut down the Bolton soldiers from behind to disrupt the encirclement. Smalljon, momentarily distracted by the arrival of the Arryn forces, is caught off-guard by Tormund, who bites out his foe's throat and then kills the stricken northman, stabbing him multiple times in the face with a dagger.

As Ramsay sees his soldiers being cut down, he decides to retreat inside Winterfell, but Jon, Wun Wun, and Tormund begin to give chase. His general insists the battle is lost but Ramsay assures him they still have Winterfell, and the Stark Army is too weak for a siege (despite the Vale reinforcements). Wun Wun, however, is able to break down Winterfell's gates, allowing wildling archers to pour into the castle; the last vestiges of the Bolton garrison are quickly overwhelmed and slaughtered. Despite his valiant effort, Wun Wun is still overwhelmed by arrows and finally killed when Ramsay shoots him through an eye. Despite the defeat of his army, he taunts Jon, saying he has reconsidered the option of one-on-one combat. As Jon approaches, Ramsay fires three arrows at him with his bow but Jon blocks them all with a Mormont shield that he picked up from the ground. Before Ramsay can fire the fourth arrow, Jon gets close enough and smacks the bow out of Ramsay's hands before striking him in the chest and knocking him to the ground. Before Ramsay can stand up, Jon pounces on him and proceeds to savagely beat him with his fists, while Ramsay uncharacteristically does not attempt to defend himself and fight back, merely grinning maniacally through the beating, convinced Jon won't kill him. The smile is soon wiped off his face however, as Jon continues brutally pounding the coward again and again, only stopping upon finally noticing Sansa, realizing she has as much right for revenge as he does, and subsequently orders Ramsay locked up as a prisoner.

The Bolton banners on Winterfell are torn down and the Stark banners are raised in their place. Melisandre looks over the courtyard while Davos glares at her from below, clutching Shireen's burned stag. Jon orders Rickon's body to be buried next to his father in the crypts as Sansa demands Jon tell her where he is keeping Ramsay prisoner. That night, Sansa goes to Ramsay's kennels to confront her former tormentor, who is lashed to a chair within the common area of the kennels. Ramsay, belligerent and sadistic to the end, goads her by telling her how she will never be rid of him because he is "part of [her] now." Sansa retorts that Ramsay's deeds and names will disappear from future memory. He then realizes that his hounds are slowly approaching him, Jon having deliberately left the kennel doors open to where Ramsay is bound, still covered in his own blood. At first, Ramsay denies his peril, claiming that his dogs are loyal to him. Sansa coolly reminds him that he'd been starving his dogs for a week. As they begin sniffing at him and licking their chops, Ramsay desperately orders them to heel, but they refuse to listen, and as Ramsay's smug overconfidence finally crumbles into panicking terror, the hounds attack and begin to tear him apart as Sansa walks away, smirking with

dark satisfaction as the barking of the hounds mingles with Ramsay's screams.

## 6. Sides of the War in the North

### 6.1. House Stark

House Stark of Winterfell is one of the Great Houses of Westeros and the principal noble house of the north. In days of old they ruled as Kings of Winter, but since Aegon's Conquest they have been Wardens of the North and ruled as Lords of Winterfell. Their seat, Winterfell, is an ancient castle renowned for its strength.

#### 6.1.1. History of Starks

The Starks are an ancient house of First Men descent. House Stark was founded by Brandon the Builder, a legendary figure who lived during the Age of Heroes. Bran the Builder is said to have raised Winterfell, the seat of the Starks, and the Wall, and other legends connect him with Storm's End and the Hightower. The Starks were Kings of Winter in the north for eight thousand years since the Age of Heroes, possibly beginning with Bran the Builder. The Night's King, the attainted thirteenth Lord Commander of the Night's Watch, has been suggested to have been a Stark, among other possibilities. The Night's King is said to have been defeated by Brandon the Breaker and Joramun. The ancient Starks gradually defeated rival kings, such as the Barrow Kings to their south and the Red Kings to their east. For several millennia, the Starks were not the uncontested Kings in the North. Their primary antagonists, the Red Kings from House Bolton of the Dreadfort, swore fealty some thousand years ago, ending their flaying ways. Meanwhile, King Jon Stark drove raiders from the White Knife, and the Wolf's Den was built at its mouth. This stronghold was often granted to sons and grandsons of the King in the North; one such branch, the Greystarks, was extinguished after allying with the Boltons against the Starks. King Jon's son, Rickard, defeated the Marsh King and married his daughter, bringing the Neck into Winterfell's realm under the lordship of House Reed.

When Andals attempted to conquer the north, King Theon Stark made common cause with House Bolton and defeated Argos Sevenstar in the Battle of the Weeping Water, after which he raised a fleet and sailed to Andalos. There he took revenge by sacking and putting hundreds to death. He later conquered the Three Sisters, attacked the Fingers, and battled against the ironborn, driving them away from Cape Kraken and Bear Island and slaying Ravos Hoare. Both places were later taken back by King Loron Greyjoy, and King Rodrik Stark took Bear Island back after Loron's death. It is said that he did so by winning a wrestling match, though some scholars doubt the truth of this tale. Rodrik's sons and grandsons took back Cape Kraken. King Theon also smashed a rebellion in the Rills, and gave aid to the Night's Watch against wildlings.

Thousands of years before Aegon's Conquest King Brandon the Shipwright attempted to sail across the Sunset Sea, but never returned back home. His son, also named Brandon, burned the northern shipyards in his grief. The north has since lacked strength at sea.

House Stark attempted to conquer the Three Sisters, which began a conflict between the Starks and House Arryn from the Vale. In response to the Rape of the Three Sisters, the Sistermen asked for help from Mathos II Arryn, King of Mountain and Vale. This conflict, the War Across the Water, lasted for a thousand years, during which time the Starks thrice landed on the Fingers During King Edrick Stark's hundred-year long reign, the Wolf's Den, already torched by House Arryn, was captured by slavers from the Stepstones. Edrick's great-grandson, King Brandon "Ice Eyes", took back the Wolf's Den. After a thousand years of war, the Arryns were victorious over the Starks, and the Valenmen have ruled over the Three Sisters ever since. Several centuries before Aegon's Conquest, House Manderly was driven into exile from the Mander by Lord Lorimar Peake during the reign of Perceon III Gardener, King of the Reach. The Starks welcomed them to the north, and accepted oaths of fealty from the Manderlys, giving them the Wolf's Den and the surrounding lands, leading to the creation of White Harbor around the Wolf's Den.

### **6.1.2. Targaryen Conquest and Aftermath**

During Aegon's Conquest, King Torrhen Stark raised thirty thousand northmen and marched south. With the burning of Harrenhal and the Field of Fire in mind, however, Torrhen submitted without battle to Aegon I Targaryen. Since the time of the King Who Knelt, the Starks have held the north for the Lords of the Seven Kingdoms as Wardens of the North. Queen Rhaenyra Targaryen arranged the marriage of Torrhen's daughter to Ronnel Arryn, the Lord of the Eyrie, in an attempt to knit the new realm together. There are letters at the Citadel which suggest that Torrhen only agreed to this match after much protest, and that his sons had refused to attend the wedding. Torrhen's sons did not agree with the rule of House Targaryen. Some spoke of rebelling and raising the Stark banner.

Despite earlier rumblings of dissent by Torrhen's sons, the Starks did not rise like the rebels Jonos Arryn, Lodos the Twice-Drowned, and Harren the Red against Aegon the Conqueror's son, King Aenys I Targaryen. As the north follows the old gods, they did not heed the High Septon's calls for rebellion, and the Starks took no part in the Faith Militant uprising against Aenys and then his brother, King Maegor I Targaryen. Captured members of the Faith Militant had been exiled to the Night's Watch by Maegor the Cruel, and Aenys's son, King Jaehaerys I Targaryen, exiled many of Maegor's supporters to the Wall as well, including surviving members of his old Kingsguard. Neither group had love for Jaehaerys, so in 50 AC the two groups made common cause to rebel against the leadership of the Watch. Lord Walton Stark called his bannermen to intervene and crushed the deserters, but survivors fled beyond the Wall; Walton pursued them but was ambushed by wildlings and killed by giants. Walton was succeeded by his brother Alaric.

In 58 AC Queen Alysanne Targaryen visited Winterfell and was received by Lord Alaric, who was initially cold to her and Jaehaerys

because of Walton's fate. Alaric was gradually charmed by Alysanne's visit, however, and his daughter Alarra grew particularly close to the queen during her visit. Two of Alaric's sons attended the tourney in King's Landing which celebrated the tenth anniversary of Jaehaerys's coronation. Alaric ordered his bannermen to put aside half of their harvests in anticipation of the winter of 59–60 AC, but not all of the northmen obeyed, resulting in famine. The Shivers followed later that winter, though no specific casualties are mentioned in the north and Alaric survived. Lord Alaric died in 72 AC and was succeeded by his grandson, Edric Stark, as Alaric's two sons had preceded him in death. Alaric's relationship with the Targaryens remained complicated throughout his reign. According to Archmaester Gyldayn, Alysanne charmed a reluctant Alaric] into granting the New Gift to the Night's Watch because, even though Alaric was a strong friend to the Watch, he knew the northern lords who already held the lands in question would not be happy to give them away. According to Maester Yandel, however, the Starks were opposed to the royal demand for a different reason: the Starks feared that, under the control of Castle Black, the New Gift would inevitably decline, for the Night's Watch would always look northward and never give much thought to their new tenants to the south. Time proved this criticism correct, for as the decades passed the Night's Watch neglected the New Gift and it fell into disuse. Yandel cites that there are archived letters in the Citadel sent by Lord Stark's sons, asking the maesters about precedents against forced donation of property. Whatever the case, on the whole Jaehaerys and Alysanne became popular in the north due to their other generous donations to the Night's Watch, and their construction of the new kingsroad extending from the Neck to Winterfell and the Wall.

### **6.1.3. The Dance of the Dragons**

Edric was succeeded by Lord Ellard Stark, who attended the Great Council of 101 AC to determine the new heir of the elderly King Jaehaerys. The final vote came to a choice between Viserys Targaryen (son of Jaehaerys's second son, Prince Baelon) and Laenor Velaryon (grandson of Jaehaerys through Rhaenys, daughter of his first son, Prince Aemon). Viserys was the candidate Jaehaerys himself preferred, and he won the final vote by a landslide, though the Starks were among the minority of lords who had supported Laenor (and one of only two Great Houses, the other being the Baratheons). Yandel that Ellard voted against Jaehaerys's preferred successor because the Starks were still bitter about the king forcing them to donate the New Gift to the Night's Watch, leading to its mismanagement. The pushed the Starks closer to the Velaryon faction at King Viserys I Targaryen's court, and through them to ultimately side with Rhaenyra Targaryen during the Dance of the Dragons.

At some point after 101 AC, Ellard was succeeded by Benjen Stark, and later Benjen was succeeded by his son Rickon. Rickon died in 121 AC, and was succeeded as the nominal Lord of Winterfell by his only surviving son, the thirteen-year-old Cregan Stark. Rickon's brother,

Bennard, served as regent during Cregan's minority. When Cregan came of age in 126 AC, however, Bennard was slow to surrender his power. Relations grew strained between Bennard and Cregan as the young Lord of Winterfell chafed under the limits imposed on him by his uncle. Ultimately, Cregan rose up against his uncle, imprisoned Bennard and his sons, and took rule of the north into his own hands. In 129 AC, as the Dance of the Dragons began, Prince Jacaerys Velaryon recruited Lord Cregan's aid for his mother, Queen Rhaenyra Targaryen, known as the Pact of Ice and Fire, even though the north was considered to be too remote to be of much influence in the war. Cregan initially sent the Winter Wolves under Roderick Dustin, Lord of Barrowton, and knights from White Harbor led by Ser Medrick and Ser Torrhen Manderly.

#### **6.1.4. Robert's Rebellion**

Lord Rickard Stark, urged on by his maester, Walys, allegedly sought to further southron alliances. He sent his second son, Eddard, to be fostered with Lord Jon Arryn at the Eyrie at the age of eight. There, Eddard befriended fellow ward Robert Baratheon. Rickard betrothed his heir, Brandon, to Catelyn Tully, the daughter of Hoster Tully, Lord of Riverrun, and his only daughter, Lyanna, to Robert, Lord of Storm's End. Rickard's four children attended the tourney at Harrenhal in 281 AC, where they met Howland Reed. After winning the jousting competition at the tourney, Prince Rhaegar Targaryen crowned Lyanna as his queen of love and beauty, passing over his own wife, Princess Elia Martell.

In 282 AC, Brandon Stark was at Riverrun when the date of his wedding to Catelyn Tully was announced. Petyr Baelish, Lord Hoster's ward, had been in love with Catelyn for years, and challenged Brandon to a duel for Catelyn's hand. Brandon won. After the duel, Brandon left Riverrun, promising his bride-to-be that he would return soon. On his way back to Riverrun, however, Brandon heard about Lyanna's abduction by Prince Rhaegar, and rode for King's Landing, where he was arrested by Aerys II (Mad King) for threatening the life of the crown prince. Rickard, who had been on his way to Riverrun with the wedding party, was summoned to court to answer for Brandon's crime. Brandon and Rickard were executed by Aerys II; Rickard was burned alive, while Brandon strangled himself in his attempt to rescue his father. After the executions, King Aerys demanded the heads of Eddard Stark and Robert Baratheon from their former foster father, Jon Arryn. The Lord of the Eyrie refused, however, and raised his banners in revolt. This act is seen as the start of Robert's Rebellion.

Eddard made an arduous journey through the Mountains of the Moon and the Bite to call his banners in the north. The new lord then marched south and won an important victory during the Battle of the Bells, rescuing his friend Robert with the aid of Hoster Tully. Next, he

went to Riverrun, where he honored his late brother Brandon's betrothal by marrying Catelyn as part of the alliance to bring House Tully into the rebel fold.

One of the principal commanders in the war, Eddard (Ned) took command of the rebel army after the Battle of the Trident, following the remnants of Rhaegar's army to King's Landing. Ned arrived at the capital after the Sack of King's Landing by Lord Tywin Lannister, however, and Lord Stark found Aerys II dead and Ser Jaime Lannister sitting on the Iron Throne. He had a falling out with Robert when Robert accepted the aid of House Lannister and condoned the murders of Rhaegar's wife, young daughter, and infant son. Eddard rode south the next day to relieve the siege of Storm's End.

After Storm's End, Eddard and six companions went to retrieve Lyanna at the building Rhaegar had named the tower of joy, finding it defended by three knights of the Kingsguard. Eddard and Howland Reed were the only survivors of the ensuing combat at the tower of joy. Eddard found Lyanna dying in a bed of blood, clutching rose petals, dead and black, in her palm. She forced him to make a promise to her, the contents of which are unknown, but which have haunted Eddard since. Eddard and Robert were reconciled in their shared grief over Lyanna's death.

Eddard returned from the war with his bastard son, Jon Snow, said to have been birthed by Wylla, and Ned was presented with his trueborn son, Robb, by Catelyn when she arrived from Riverrun. Ned buried Lyanna's body in the crypt of Winterfell beside her father and brother. Eddard's younger brother, Benjen, joined the Night's Watch within a few months of Eddard's return from the war. A skilled ranger, Benjen eventually became First Ranger.

Lord Stark fought in Greyjoy's Rebellion in 289 AC, and he took Balon Greyjoy's son Theon with him to Winterfell, a hostage to ensure the loyalty of the Lord of the Iron Islands.[9] Eddard has ruled the north in Robert's name, keeping a distance from the intrigue-ridden politics of King's Landing.

#### **6.1.5. A Game of Thrones**

Following the death of his Hand of the King, Lord Jon Arryn, King Robert I Baratheon journeys to Winterfell to offer Lord Eddard Stark the office. A letter arrives from Lysa Arryn, Jon's widow and Eddard's wife Catelyn's sister, who claims the Lannisters were behind Lord Arryn's sudden death. At Catelyn's urging, Ned grudgingly accepts the Handship and a betrothal of their daughter Sansa to Prince Joffrey Baratheon. During the royal party's stay, Eddard's second son, Bran, accidentally witnesses Queen Cersei Lannister having sex with her twin brother, Ser Jaime. Jaime throws Bran out of the tower window, hoping to kill him to keep their relationship a secret. Bran survives, but is crippled and comatose.

Eddard rides to King's Landing along with his daughters, Sansa and Arya, while Catelyn remains at Winterfell with their sons. Meanwhile, Ned's bastard son, Jon Snow, rides north with his uncle, Benjen, to join the Night's Watch. Catelyn is inconsolable in her worry for Bran, ignoring her duties as Lady of Winterfell, but she is jolted back to reality by an attempt on Bran's life thwarted only by his direwolf.[33] As Bran lies comatose, he begins to have visions of a three-eyed crow. Near the ruby ford and the crossroads, Arya defends her friend Mycah from the aggressions of Prince Joffrey Baratheon, upsetting Sansa. This is exacerbated when Sansa's direwolf, Lady, is ordered killed in place of Arya's, Nymeria, which has escaped. In King's Landing, Eddard is outraged to find that the crown is heavily in debt (largely to Robert's godfather, Tywin Lannister, Lord of Casterly Rock) and that the king intends to throw a lavish tourney in his honor. After taking up his duties as Hand, Eddard assigns twenty of his household guard to assist the gold cloaks in keeping order in King's Landing.

Ned investigates the death of Jon Arryn, determining that he was looking into the king's bastard brood. When Robert holds a small council meeting to arrange the death of the exiled Daenerys Targaryen, who has wed Drogo, a mighty *khal* of the Dothraki, Ned refuses to condone the assassination and resigns as Hand. In the streets of the capital, he is waylaid by Jaime Lannister and red cloaks in retaliation for Catelyn's abduction of Tyrion Lannister, whom her foster-brother, Petyr Baelish, had told her was responsible for the attempt on Bran's life. Ned's leg is broken and his best men slain, but Ned survives and Robert re-confirms his appointment as Hand before going on a hunt and leaving Ned to sit the Iron Throne. In this capacity he sends men, including twenty Stark guards, under Beric Dondarrion, Lord of Blackhaven, to stop Ser Gregor Clegane from raiding the riverlands. Gregor's attacks were ordered by Lord Lannister; since Lord Stark was wounded he was not lured into the field and thus could not be captured and traded for Tyrion. The men sent after Gregor are ambushed and many are slain. Catelyn brings Tyrion to her sister Lysa at the Eyrie, but Tyrion is released after Bronn is victorious in a trial by battle. At the Wall, Jon Snow deals with the cruel tutelage of Ser Alliser Thorne while making friends such as Samwell Tarly and learning lessons from his elders. Jon becomes the personal steward of Jeor Mormont, Lord Commander of the Night's Watch. The youth encounters a hint of the evil that supposedly lies beyond the Wall when the corpses of two of his uncle's men rise from the dead and go on the rampage at Castle Black; Jon saves the Lord Commander from being killed by one of the wights.

Eventually, Ned arrives at the same conclusion at which Jon Arryn did: that Queen Cersei's children are not Robert's, but bastards born of incest between the Lannister twins, and determines that it is this secret

for which Jon was murdered. He approaches Cersei with this truth, warning her to flee the city. Enlisting Lord Baelish to recruit the gold cloaks, Ned confronts Cersei after Robert's death from a hunting accident, insisting that Stannis Baratheon is now king by rights. Littlefinger betrays Ned, however, and the Hand's men are slaughtered by Janos Slynt's gold cloaks and Ned is thrown into a black cell. Sansa is held hostage in the Red Keep, but Arya manages to escape thanks to Syrio Forel, the fencing master Ned had hired to train her in swordplay. Robb Stark calls the banners to Winterfell and marches south to aid his mother's family, House Tully of Riverrun, against the Lannisters, and to rescue his father and sisters from the capital. At the Twins, Catelyn arranges an alliance with Walder Frey, Lord of the Crossing, to negotiate passage over the Green Fork, promising that Robb and Arya will wed Freys. Robb captures Jaime in the Whispering Wood and then relieves the Lannisters' siege of Riverrun with the Battle of the Camps. The rest of the Stark army, led by Roose Bolton, Lord of the Dreadfort, is defeated by Tywin in the battle on the Green Fork, however. Ned initially refuses to name Joffrey as the true king, but in the end agrees in order to ensure the safety of Sansa. When he publicly announces this support at the Great Sept of Baelor, however, the capricious boy king orders Ned's execution rather than allow him to join the Night's Watch as planned. In response, the northern and river lords at Robb's war council in Riverrun proclaim him King in the North, seceding from the realm of the Iron Throne. Benjen has gone missing beyond the Wall, and Jon Snow, after briefly deserting the Watch to join his half-brother's army, rides as part of the great ranging meant to determine his fate and the threats of the Others and wildlings.

#### **6.1.6. A Clash of Kings**

Robb, King in the North and King of the Trident, invades the westerlands, winning a string of victories against Lannister bannermen. In an effort to gain allies, he sends his father's ward, Theon Greyjoy, and his mother, Catelyn, as envoys to Balon Greyjoy and Renly Baratheon, respectively. However, Theon joins his family, House Greyjoy, in attacking the north, while Catelyn's diplomatic progress is shattered when Renly is killed by Melisandre's shadow assassin. Renly's sworn shield, Brienne of Tarth, takes up service with Catelyn. While Riverrun celebrates the Battle of the Fords, Robb is reported to have taken the Crag. Arya journeys north with Yoren and his new recruits for the Night's Watch, including King Robert's bastard Gendry, but their band is attacked by westermen at a Gods Eye town and she is eventually taken

into captivity by the Mountain's men. At Harrenhal, she is witness to myriad atrocities, but remains strong, orchestrating several deaths of her tormentors via the assassin Jaqen H'ghar. During the fall of Harrenhal to Roose Bolton, Arya helps free a band of northern prisoners. The incognito Arya is named Roose's cupbearer, but she does not trust her father's bannerman and flees the castle when Roose intends to give it to Vargo Hoat. Meanwhile, Sansa remains in custody at the Red Keep, betrothed to King Joffrey. She suffers abuse at his hands, but makes tenuous relationships with Sandor Clegane, Dontos Hollard, and Tyrion Lannister, the acting Hand of the King.

At Winterfell, Bran enjoys titular reign and hosts two Frey wards, Big Walder and Little Walder. Maester Luwin and Ser Rodrik Cassel deal with such issues as the harvest feast, the Hornwood inheritance, and the atrocities of Ramsay Snow, the Bastard of Bolton. With the guidance of the Reed children, Jojen and Meera, Bran hones his gift for greensight and skinchanging. When Rodrik leads six hundred Winterfell men, among others, to battle the ironborn under Dagmer Cleftjaw, Theon Greyjoy seizes Winterfell. On his return to Winterfell, Rodrik and his men mean to liberate the castle from Theon, but are betrayed and routed by Ramsay. Luwin is mortally wounded by Ramsay's men, and Theon is captured during the sack of Winterfell. Bran and Rickon, thought to have been killed by Theon, leave the crypts of Winterfell after the Boltons depart. The Stark boys split up and flee towards remote northern havens.

Benjen remains lost beyond the Wall. Jon Snow joins Qhorin Halfhand on a scouting mission in the Skirling Pass, during which he refuses an order to execute a spearwife named Ygritte. On their return to Lord Commander Jeor Mormont, the pair encounter a wildling band led by Rattleshirt. Jon, on orders from Qhorin, joins the wildlings as a double agent, and is forced to kill the Halfhand to prove his earnestness. Ygritte, now with Rattleshirt, vouches for Jon.

#### **6.1.7. A Storm of Swords**

With Stannis Baratheon's power broken by the Battle of the Blackwater and the Tyrells and Martells allied with the Lannisters, the Stark-Tully forces stand alone against their foes in the south, and the Greyjoys threaten the north. Ramsay blames the slaughter at Winterfell on Theon and his ironborn.

Having been informed of Bran's and Rickon's alleged deaths, Catelyn frees Jaime Lannister in a desperate attempt to trade him for her daughters, sending Brienne to accompany him to King's Landing. Catelyn is put under house arrest at Riverrun. Meanwhile, Robb returns from his westerlands campaign having wed Jeyne Westerling, the daughter of a minor Lannister bannerman. Jeyne had treated Robb's wounds after the storming of the Crag, and the youths slept together after Robb was informed of the deaths of his brothers. This marriage

breaks the Starks' alliance with the furious Freys, however. With Jaime gone from Riverrun, the vengeful Rickard Karstark, Lord of Karhold, murders two prisoners, Willem Lannister and Tion Frey. Rickard is in turn executed for treason by Robb, alienating House Karstark.

Lord Walder Frey accepts Robb's offer to forgive his breach of marriage contract by having Robb's uncle, Edmure Tully, now Lord of Riverrun, stand in the king's place. Robb and Catelyn ride with thirty-five hundred veterans to attend the wedding at the Twins. At Hag's Mire Robb designates his heir (believed to be Jon Snow, in spite of the Night's Watch vows) and resolves to march north to reclaim his homeland from the Greyjoys. Meanwhile, Arya traverses the riverlands, unknowingly entering the mind of her lost direwolf, Nymeria, and killing several sellswords of the Brave Companions chasing her from Harrenhal. She joins with the brotherhood without banners, whose founding members included the Winterfell guards Alyn and Harwin. However, Arya is abducted by the Hound, Sandor Clegane, who hopes to ransom her at Edmure's wedding.

In preparation for the siege of Moat Cailin, Robb's host reconvenes with Lord Roose Bolton's thirty-five hundred men at the Twins. Lord Tywin Lannister, the Hand of the King to Joffrey I Baratheon, has been conspiring with Roose and Walder, however. Despite guest right, Robb, Catelyn, and many of their bannermen are murdered or taken captive in the Red Wedding.

Bran journeys north with Hodor, Jojen and Meera Reed, and his direwolf Summer. They pass through the Wall at the Nightfort with the aid of Samwell Tarly and Coldhands.

Further north, Jon Snow ingratiates himself with the free folk, beginning a romance with Ygritte and befriendng Mance Rayder, the King-beyond-the-Wall, and other wildling leaders. He scales the Wall with Styr, the Magnar of Thenn, and escapes from Queenscrown to Castle Black in time to help prepare for the assault of the wildlings. Ygritte and Styr are killed during the fighting. and command over the black brothers falls to Jon after the death of Donal Noye. Jon successfully defends the Wall during the early stages of the battle beneath the Wall, until Ser Alliser Thorne and Lord Janos Slynt arrive and imprison him for allegedly betraying his vows. They send him to assassinate Mance under a flag of parley, but Stannis Baratheon's arrival breaks the wildling host before the deed is carried out. After the battle, Stannis offers to legitimize the youth as Jon Stark, Lord of Winterfell. Jon decides to decline the offer, however, and is then elected Lord Commander of the Night's Watch thanks to the maneuverings of his friend, Samwell Tarly.

The Hound brings Arya toward the Eyrie in an attempt to ransom her to her aunt, Lady Lysa Arryn, but they are halted by snow in the Mountains of the Moon. They are attacked by the Mountain's men at the crossroads inn and Sandor is stabbed. Arya leaves the Hound to die

along the

Trident. At Saltpans she uses the iron coin given to her by Jaen H'ghar to book passage across the narrow sea on the galleas *Titan's Daughter*.

Sansa's engagement to King Joffrey is ended by his betrothal to Margaery Tyrell. She begins to mingle with the Tyrell women in King's Landing and is nearly betrothed to Willas Tyrell. She is abruptly wed to Tyrion Lannister instead, but they never consummate their match. The pair are blamed for Joffrey's murder at his wedding feast; in truth it was orchestrated by Petyr Baelish and Olenna Tyrell. Petyr smuggles Sansa out of the capital, murdering his pawn and her friend, Dontos Hollard.

He brings Sansa to the Fingers, where he marries her aunt, Lysa, and then to the Eyrie. Littlefinger keeps Sansa hidden by presenting her as his natural daughter, Alayne Stone. Lysa observes Petyr kiss Sansa after the girl builds a snow castle of Winterfell. When Lysa drunkenly accuses Sansa of trying to steal her new husband and reveals that she and Petyr had killed her first husband, Lord Jon Arryn, Littlefinger throws Lysa from the Moon Door.

With Bran and Rickon thought dead and Sansa and Arya missing, House Stark is all but extinguished in the eyes of the world. The Iron Throne names Roose Bolton as Warden of the North and legitimizes his son Ramsay, and most rivermen return to the king's peace. Ice, the ancestral Valyrian steel blade of the Starks, has been reforged into two new Lannister blades, Widow's Wail and Oathkeeper. A revived Catelyn Stark takes leadership of the brotherhood and hangs Freys.

#### **6.1.8. A Feast For Crows**

The small council of Queen Cersei Lannister, the regent for King Tommen I Baratheon, believes that northmen will accept Bolton control and rule by the Iron Throne once the ironborn are expelled from the north. Ser Brynden Tully continues to fly the Stark banner at Riverrun, but Ser Jaime Lannister peacefully resolves the siege of Riverrun.

Sansa remains in the Vale of Arryn, where she takes on a maternal role for her young cousin, Robert Arryn, Lord of the Eyrie, and she presents herself as Alayne to Nestor Royce and the Lords Declarant. Littlefinger plots to reveal her identity, wed her to Robert's heir, Ser Harrold Hardyng, and use the knights of the Vale to retake the north in her name.

Arya arrives in Braavos, where she takes up training at the House of Black and White to become a Faceless Man.

Soldiers bearing the colors of House Stark have washed up on the shores of the Quiet Isle. According to the Elder Brother, they are buried alongside their enemies. Brienne of Tarth, tasked by Jaime with finding Sansa, uses Oathkeeper in her journeys through the crownlands

and riverlands. She is captured by the brotherhood, however, and brought to Lady Stoneheart, Catelyn.

### **6.1.9. A Dance With Dragons**

Lord Commander Jon Snow begins an uneasy alliance with the free folk, executes the recalcitrant Janos Slynt, and tactfully deals with the imperious Stannis Baratheon. While again refusing the king's offer to be legitimized and wed the "wildling princess", Val, Jon offers Stannis advice that helps him in his campaign against the Boltons and Greyjoys.

At Winterfell, Sansa's friend Jeyne Poole is wed to Ramsay Bolton in the guise of "Arya Stark" in an effort to legitimize Bolton overlordship, with Ramsay claiming to be Lord of Winterfell. A disguised Mance Rayder, sent by Jon Snow, recruits a broken-willed Theon Greyjoy to rescue the girl and deliver her to Stannis. When Jon gives orders to retake Winterfell from Ramsay after receiving an inflammatory letter, the senior officers of the Watch turn on Jon in the mutiny at Castle Black for allying with wildlings and meddling in the affairs of the realm.

Bran arrives at the cave of the three-eyed crow, where he meets the last greenseer and children of the forest. The boy begins perfecting the advanced arts of greensight.

Rickon, Osha, and Shaggydog are said to be on Skagos, where Wyman Manderly, Lord of White Harbor, has requested that Davos Seaworth search for Rickon, so that Stannis can rally the northmen to fight in his name.

## **6.2. House Bolton**

### **6.2.1. History of Boltons**

The Boltons are an ancient and powerful house of the north who once ruled as Red Kings from the Dreadfort, with their land reaching from the Last River and the White Knife to the Sheepshead Hills. It has been suggested that the legendary Night's King was a Bolton. Some Red Kings allied with Marsh Kings to defend against southron invaders.

The Boltons have a sinister reputation because of their tradition of flaying their enemies, with the skins then hung in a room of the Dreadfort. After the Long Night, the Red Kings were bitter rivals of the Kings of Winter, the Starks of Winterfell. The Boltons achieved some successes against the Starks, with Kings Royce II and Royce IV burning Winterfell. According to rumor, some Boltons wore the flayed skins of Stark princes and lords, such as the son of Bael the Bard, as cloaks during the Age of Heroes.

The last Red King, Rogar the Huntsman, submitted to Winterfell when the coming of the Andals to Westeros was beginning. King Theon Stark, the Hungry Wolf, and the Boltons defeated Argos Sevenstar and his Andals in the Battle of the Weeping Water.

### **6.2.2. A Game of Thrones**

After the arrest of Lord Eddard Stark, Warden of the North, in King's

Landing, Lord Roose Bolton responds to Robb Stark's calling of the banners to Winterfell. A Bolton man knifes a Cerwyn man at the Smoking Log in the winter town outside the castle. Roose and Robett Glover demand a command.

When the northern host splits at the Twins, Roose receives his wish, commanding an army of mostly infantry to engage Lord Tywin Lannister. Lord Bolton hopes to catch Tywin unawares by forcing a night march, but the northmen are forced to retreat at the battle on the Green Fork. Roose reforms his army at the mouth of the causeway. Robb is able to relieve Riverrun, where he is proclaimed King in the North after the Battle of the Camps.

### **6.2.3. A Clash of Kings**

Encamped at the Twins] Roose marries Walda Frey, a granddaughter of Lord Walder Frey. Lord Bolton takes the ruby ford and the crossroads in the riverlands.

Following orders from Ser Edmure Tully, Roose and Ser Helman Tallhart march on Harrenhal. Bolton is able to seize the fortress by making a deal with the Brave Companions within, and he is indirectly aided by Arya Stark and Jaqen H'ghar. At Harrenhal, Roose unwittingly takes the incognito Arya as his cupbearer. He and the Freys under Ser Aenys learn of House Greyjoy's ironborn taking much of the north and of the Lannister-Tyrell victory over Stannis Baratheon in the Battle of the Blackwater. Roose orders Helman to first burn Darry and then join Robett Glover in attacking Duskendale in Robb's name. Meanwhile, Roose's bastard son, Ramsay Snow, marries and kills Lady Donella Hornwood, taking the Hornwood lands for himself. House Manderly responds with fighting in the Hornwood. Ramsay then leads the Dreadfort men in betraying the northmen under Ser Rodrik Cassel in a battle at Winterfell. After dispersing Rodrik's host, Ramsay has his men burn Winterfell, capturing or slaughtering all within.

### **6.2.4. A Storm of Swords**

In the aftermath of the sack of Winterfell, Bolton men search the kingsroad in the north for the missing Bran and Rickon Stark.

The northern army sent by Roose into the crownlands is crushed in the battle at Duskendale.

When Ser Jaime Lannister is captured by the Brave Companions and brought to Harrenhal, Roose allows him to go on his way if he agrees to place all blame for the loss of his hand on the Brave Companions. Roose sends his captain, Steelshanks Walton, with two hundred men to secure Jaime's passage back to King's Landing.

The same day that Jaime leaves Harrenhal, Roose rides north to attend the wedding of Edmure Tully, Lord of Riverrun, to Roslin Frey at the Twins. He watches as his rearguard under Ser Wylis Manderly is chewed up by Ser Gregor Clegane in the fighting at the fords of the Trident. Lord Bolton leaves six hundred men under the command of Ser Kyle Condon and Ronnel Stout to guard the Trident.

Roose arrives at the Twins with three thousand foot and five hundred horse, most of whom are Bolton or Karstark men. Robb Stark, King in the North, intends for Roose to command the rearguard during his upcoming campaign against the ironborn-held Moat Cailin.

Roose's actions culminate with his personal killing of Robb at the Twins in the Red Wedding, which he planned with Lame Lothar Frey with the approval of Lords Walder Frey and Tywin Lannister. House Bolton usurps House Stark, with Roose being named the new Warden of the North by the Iron Throne. Meanwhile, Ramsay Snow is granted a royal writ of legitimacy by King Tommen I Baratheon, becoming Ramsay Bolton. Ramsay has been amusing himself with the torture of the captive Theon Greyjoy.

#### **6.2.5. A Feast For Crows**

Cersei Lannister, the regent for the young Tommen, relies on House Bolton to hold the north for the Iron Throne. Her small council considers aiding the Boltons against House Greyjoy, the self-styled Kings of the Isles and the North, if Roose is able to defeat Stannis Baratheon.

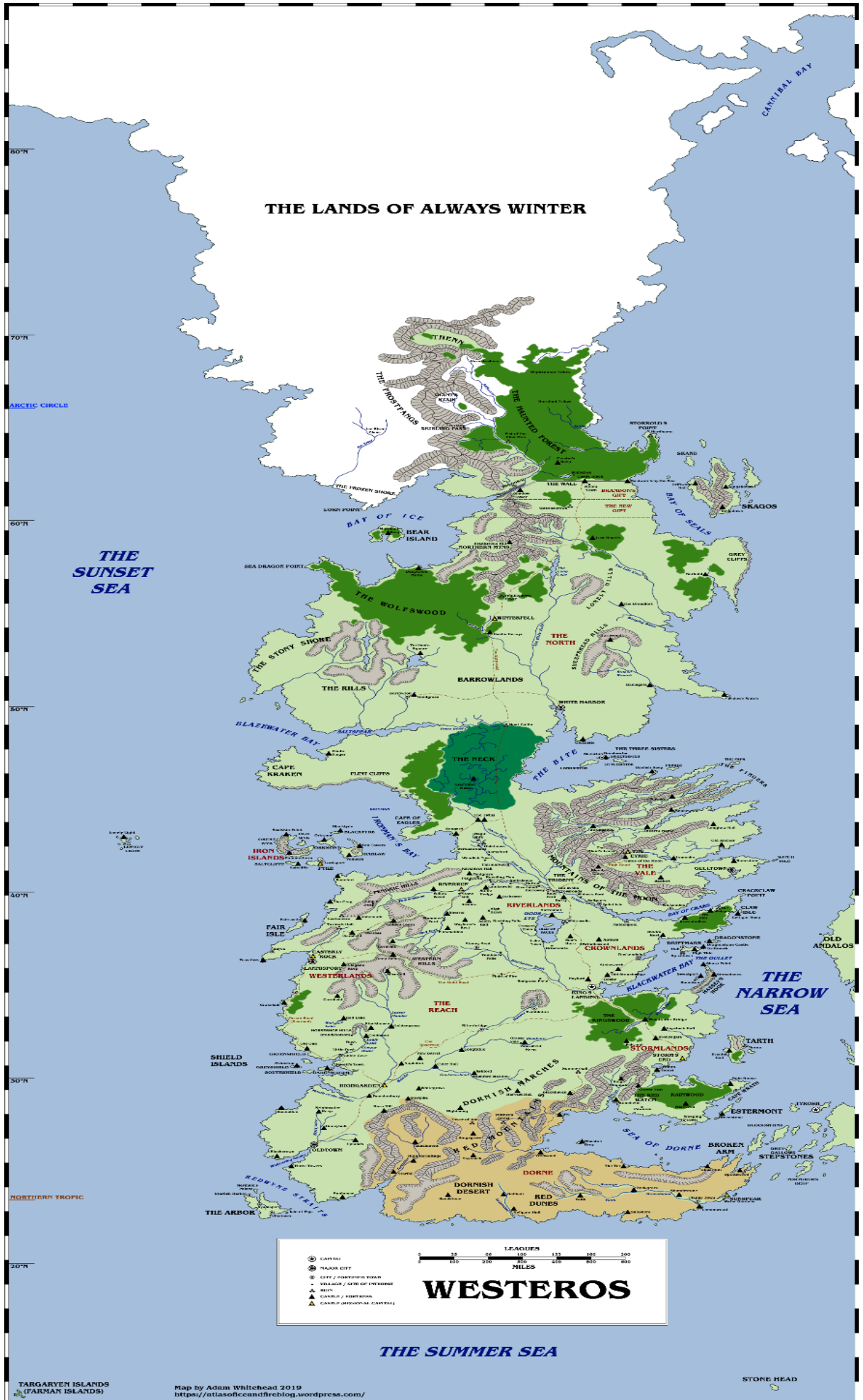
#### **6.2.6. A Dance With Dragons**

The Boltons' authority is contested by Stannis and several northern lords, and is begrudged by nearly all others. Lord Roose's strongest supporters are his relatives of House Dustin and House Ryswell. Roose's horse marches north along with two thousand men from the Twins. His passage is secured thanks to the forced efforts of Theon Greyjoy, whose will has been broken by Ramsay. At the siege of Moat Cailin, Theon is able to convince its ironborn garrison to surrender, and Ramsay has them flayed alive. At Barrowton in the north, Roose instructs Ramsay to behave more discreetly, and arranges the marriage of Ramsay to "Arya Stark", who is actually Jeyne Poole, in order to secure dynastic legitimacy.

Ramsay Bolton, the Lord of the Hornwood, weds "Arya" at Winterfell in the presence of several northern lords, and he claims to be the Lord of Winterfell. The Boltons and Freys quarter in Winterfell as the autumn snows fall, awaiting the march on Winterfell by King Stannis. While there, Roose deals with high tensions between the different factions, particularly between the Freys and Lord Wyman Manderly. Theon manages to escape with Jeyne, much to Ramsay's chagrin. According to a letter purportedly sent from Ramsay to Jon Snow, the Lord Commander of the Night's Watch at Castle Black, the Boltons have smashed Stannis's army.

# 7. Map of the Westeros





**THE LANDS OF ALWAYS WINTER**

*THE  
SUNSET  
SEA*

*THE  
NARROW  
SEA*

*THE SUMMER SEA*

● CAPITAL  
 ● MAJOR CITY  
 ● CITY / IMPERIAL TOWN  
 ● WILDLAND / SITE OF INTEREST  
 ▲ MOUNTAIN  
 ▲ CANAL / WATERWAY  
 ▲ CANAL / ORIGINAL CAPITAL

LEAGUES: 0 50 100 150 200  
 MILES: 0 100 200

**WESTEROS**

