



## Henry VII (Routledge Historical Biographies)

*By Sean Cunningham*

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This biography illuminates the life of Henry VII himself, how he ran his government, how his authority was maintained, and the nature of the country over which he ruled since he first claimed the throne in 1485.

Sean Cunningham explores how Henry's reign was vitally important in stabilizing the English monarchy and providing the sound financial and institutional basis for later developments in government, and tackles key questions in the debate:

- Was Henry VII a conventional late medieval nobleman?
- How did his upbringing affect his later kingship?
- What was the nature of Henry's marriage to Elizabeth of York?
- How and why did he become the main rival to Richard III following the disappearance of Edward V and his brother in July 1483?

Up until now the details of Henry as a person and as a king, his court and household, his subjects, and his country have remained little known. This book fills that gap, bringing to the forefront the life and times of the very first Tudor king.

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Review

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**'Sean Cunningham, who has been studying the reign for a decade and a half, is ideally placed to draw things together in a work shaped by his own extensive researches. His eagerly-awaited book unquestionably moves things forward... this book has many strengths - it is learned, moderate, and respectful of the work of other historians... Cunningham has given us a superb narrative of Henry VII's reign; he has brought lots of fresh evidence to light; his book is full of thought-provoking insights and ideas; and he has particularly striking things to say about the localities, bonds and recognisances, and the politics of London. His *Henry VII* is a hefty achievement, and a goldmine for anyone interested in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.'** – *Reviews in History: Institute of Historical Research*

**'The publication of a new scholarly biography of Henry VII (the first for nearly twenty-five years) is something of a landmark for students of the period ... Cunningham has provided a new and most welcome synthesis, one from which to conduct further research. As such, it deserves to be read by everyone interested in the period.'** – *David Grummit, History of Parliament Trust, H-Net book review*

About the Author

Sean Cunningham is an Assistant Keeper of Public Records at the National Archives. He is the author of *Richard III: A Royal Enigma* (2003).

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