

Henry VII of England: 1485 - 1509	Guilty/Not guilty
<p>1. Henry VII of England (Henry Tudor) following his accession, decided to find a legal excuse to execute some of the rival claimants to the throne. He married the princes' eldest sister, Elizabeth of York, to reinforce his hold on the throne, but her right to inherit depended on both her brothers being already dead.</p>	
<p>2. Realistically, Henry's only opportunity to murder the princes would have been after his accession in 1485. This theory leaves open the question of why the princes were not seen after 1483 and why Richard did not produce them when he was suspected of their murder.</p>	
<p>3. Historians have speculated, on the basis of contemporary records, that the rumour that the princes had been murdered was deliberately created to be spread in England as an excuse for the October 1483 attempt of Henry Tudor and Buckingham to seize the throne.</p>	
<p>4. Several histories written around this time point to Richard III's guilt in the murder of the princes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir James Tyrrell, the servant of Richard III is said to have confessed to the murder of the princes in 1502. • Thomas More, a Tudor loyalist, wrote his <i>History of King Richard III</i> around the year 1513. (When Henry VIII, Henry VII's son was on the throne.) He identified Tyrrell as the murderer, acting on Richard's orders, and told the story of Tyrrell's confession, which took place after he had been arrested for treason against Henry VII. • <i>The Great Chronicle of London</i>, written around the year 1512, also identified Tyrrell. • Polydore Vergil, in his <i>Anglica Historia</i> (circa 1513), specifies that Tyrrell was the murderer, stating that he "rode sorrowfully to London" and committed the deed with reluctance, upon Richard III's orders, and that Richard himself spread the rumors of the princes' death in the belief that it would discourage rebellion 	
<p>5. Character of Henry VII:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In government he was shrewd and prudent, so that no one dared to get the better of him through deceit or guile. • Those of his subjects who were indebted to him and who did not pay him due honour or who were generous only with promises, he treated with harsh severity. • He cherished justice above all things; as a result he vigorously punished violence, manslaughter and every other kind of wickedness whatsoever. <p><i>From Polydore Vergil, The Anglia Historia, 1485-1537</i></p>	