

Henry VII and international relations	
International picture in 1485	King of France notional king of all French duchies- some, e.g. Brittany, still tried to assert their own independence. King was Charles VIII Holy Roman Emperor was elected monarch over German states (often called Electorates). Maximilian became Holy Roman Emperor in 1493 Ferdinand of Aragon married Isabelle of Castile in 1479 , meaning two great kingdoms were united, creating powerful Spanish state The son of Maximilian, Philip, was Duke of Burgundy (a wealthy area north of France), and in 1496 married the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabelle, Juana of Castile (sister of Catherine of Aragon)
Henry's foreign policy	Traditional view was that he was unwilling to spend money on foreign policy and foreign policy was an extension of his domestic policy - i.e. he sought to secure his dynasty by quelling plots and ensuring he had successors. More recent view suggests this was not wholly the case, and in fact, was certainly willing to spend money if it secured his position , either as bribes or on military force. Key point is that his was not a policy which put seeking glory as its main aim (though if he could achieve it, he would), but certainly he wished to be seen as a legitimate monarch and remove the threat of invasion
Early steps	Early moves clearly aimed at securing dynasty: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 1485 signed peace truce with France for one year, extended later to Jan 1489 2. 1486 three year peace truce with Scotland and failed attempt to arrange a Scottish marriage for infant Arthur 3. 1486 commercial treaty agreed with Duke of Brittany 4. Dec 1487 unsuccessful attempt to agree commercial and friendly treaties with Burgundy <p>Point of these was to achieve dynastic security by encouraging these rulers not to provide a haven for pretenders</p>
Early problems with France and Burgundy	Dowager Duchess of Burgundy (meaning she had been married to the now dead Charles the Bold), Margaret, was sister of Richard III and hated Henry and wanted to see him removed. As such, at any opportunity in 1480s and 1490s she gave support to those seeking to unseat Henry (Earl of Lincoln in 1487, Viscount Lovell in 1486) Also issue with France trying to bring Duchy of Brittany under control of French King Charles VIII. Henry wanted to resist this, at least partly because he owed loyalty to the territory that had sheltered him, but also because he feared if they were joined he would lose a potential ally if needed against France. Moreover, if the French were to control the coast could be used to disrupt English trade or to invade from there. In 1488 Henry sent unofficial support to Brittany after French military campaign, and in Feb 1489 signed Treaty of Redon in which Brittany paid for 6000 troops from England to defend her from France. Point is- policy was not wholly defensive, and at risk of offending France. To pay for policy asked Parliament for £75,000 subsidy (sparked Yorkshire uprising of same year)
Resolution of French problems	Fearing reprisals from Treaty of Redon, March 1489 Henry concluded Treaty of Medina del Campo with Spain . Countries agreed to provide mutual protection if either was attacked, not to harbour rebels or pretenders and in principle for Prince Arthur to marry Catherine of
Developments with Scotland	After failure of invasion attempt in 1495 and expulsion by Maximilian and Philip, Warbeck went to Scotland. Border raids led by James IV (King of Scotland) in September horrified Warbeck, but demonstrated to Henry that James was willing to lend his prestige to Warbeck. Henry's response was to declare war on Scotland, and spend the winter making preparation for the invasion. Received Parliamentary taxation of £120,000 and loans of £51,000, perhaps spending as much as £90,000 by June 1497. Cornish rebellion made claiming that taxation and possibility of war impossible, but Henry had planned to attack with 20,000 men and 70 ships. Began negotiations with James who was desperate for peace, and Treaty of Ayton is signed which brings peace for seven years and agrees that Margaret (Henry's daughter) will marry James . Rest of reign depended on peace with Scotland- 1502 a treaty of perpetual peace was signed and in 1503 Margaret married James . Point is- though was not war, Henry was willing to fight war (although all in context of securing his dynasty) Backers of Warbeck only ever did it (exception of Margaret) when trying to bully Henry- Charles over Brittany, James over control of Berwick which England had held since 1482)
Later developments affecting Henry's foreign policies	Warbeck executed in 1497. 1498 Charles VIII died and replaced by Louis XII. Felt that French attempts to expand in Italy did not concern him, so resisted attempts to get him to attack France when Maximilian and Ferdinand tried in 1498 and 1502 respectively. Was concerned that France might expand into Flanders however. 1499 marriage treaty for Arthur and Catherine of Aragon was concluded and October 1501 they were married. Key point- between 1494 and 1504 conflict flared across Europe between Spain and France and HRE and France, but Henry was able to stay friendly with all of them. Also all feared him because he went to great lengths to enhance his reputation, spending on expensive warships showing royal banners, spent a fortune on foreign ambassadors, expensively decorated palaces and put on splendid heraldic displays
Impact of deaths	Prince Edmund died 1500 - problem but was youngest son. April 1502- worse followed when Arthur died. Henry eager to maintain the marriage alliance, but France and Spain at peace and that point and Ferdinand prevaricated. Feb 1503 Elizabeth of York died . Henry now very concerned about security of dynasty. Proposed that he might marry Catherine, but Isabelle of Castile horrified. Instead, June 1503 was agreed that Prince Henry and Catherine should marry when Henry reached 15. But this was only start of marriage proposals by Henry. Over next years of reign he sought marriages with Queen Joanna of Naples (Ferdinand's niece), Margaret of Savoy (Maximilian's daughter) and Juana of Castile (widow of Philip of Burgundy). None produced anything, but shows how desperate he was to produce more heirs and secure the dynasty. Also harsh treatment of nobles really increased- 1504 Parliament issued 51 attainders against potential traitors, and Edmund and William de la Pole were both arrested in subsequent years (brothers of John de la Pole) Other significant death was Isabelle of Castile in 1504. Was a disaster because meant Spain could break up- Ferdinand had no claim to Castilian crown, and was unpopular with Castilian nobles.

<p>and Spanish alliance</p>	<p>Aragon. Meant Spain also supposed to provide troops to Brittany- 2000 sent, but recalled in 1490. At same time also concluded agreement with Maximilian of Austria (future Holy Roman Emperor) to provide support But did not solve French problem. In fact, had angered Charles so much that December 1491 sent envoys to collect Perkin Warbeck from Ireland and decided to sponsor him and his conspiracy. Also married Anne of Brittany, meaning Henry's intervention had been disastrous</p> <p>As such, Henry began to plan to invade France and reassert his authority, minimising what was now a clear threat. Would secure his position and bring glory (though probably not main aim). Became clear would not work- Maximilian would not honour his side of the bargain, and French defences were too well organised. Too late in the year to realistically succeed, Henry landed with an army of 26,000 men at Calais in October 1492. Was really act of bravado- all the time was negotiating with Charles, so really should be seen as just an act of showing strength. Charles wanted to end conflict as wanted to try to increase territory in Italy (start of Italian Wars), so in November concluded the Treaty of Etaples- agreed Charles would pay Henry about £159,000 in half yearly instalments of £2000 and would not foster any pretenders</p>		<p>Heir was Juana of Castile who was married to Philip of Burgundy. War seemed possible, and his son being married to the Princess of Aragon was much less useful than him being married to Princess of Spain. Calculated Philip would win any conflict, so abandoned Spanish alliance and sought to ally with Philip and Maximilian, also hoping they would return him Edmund de la Pole. This comprised of giving a loan of around £135,000 to Philip in 1505/ 1506 to fund his upcoming war with Ferdinand. In Jan 1506 Philip and Juana were shipwrecked in England. Henry met with them, and signed a commercial treaty (the Intercursus Malus which was highly favourable to England), agreed that he would marry Philip's sister, Margaret of Savoy, and that Philip would hand over Edmund de la Pole (he did in February).</p> <p>Shortly after Philip died. Ferdinand was able to assert control of Castile, and Juana went mad (supposedly with grief). Ferdinand allied with France and refused to allow Henry to marry Catherine of Aragon.</p>
<p>Developments with Burgundy</p>	<p>In 1493 Maximilian became Holy Roman Emperor. Late 1492 Perkin Warbeck had been ejected from court of Charles VIII- had been taken in by Margaret of Burgundy. Burgundy ruled by Philip of Burgundy at this point, who was son of Maximilian (who had been in alliance with Henry)</p> <p>Henry protested to Maximilian, but Maximilian was angry that Henry had concluded a separate peace with France, and refused to eject Warbeck. As such, Henry abandoned all trade through the Netherlands and Burgundy in September 1493, aiming to put commercial pressure on them. Also cost him a great deal. Maximilian and Margaret responded by cutting off trade from their territories and formally backed Warbeck, though Henry infiltrated Warbeck's circle with spies so knew of the plans (and enabled him to find out about the involvement of William Stanley)</p> <p>In 1495 Maximilian indicated that he would abandon Warbeck if Henry joined the Holy league against France. Henry refused, so Maximilian encouraged Warbeck to invade England in July 1495- was a total disaster, forcing Warbeck to turn to Scotland</p> <p>Maximilian was now scared by Charles' successes in Italy as part of Italian Wars, concerned about the loss of trade and realising he had more to gain from Henry than Warbeck, signed a commercial treaty with Henry in Feb 1496 called the Intercursus Magnus, which stated that neither side would harbour pretenders and that if Margaret would not follow this she would lose her dowager lands</p> <p>In 1496 also joined the 'Holy League' which was aimed at restricting French gains in Italy (though Henry made clear he would not attack France), and also a commercial treaty with France in 1497</p>	<p>Henry's policy 1506-1509</p>	<p>Was now isolated. Tried in vain to ally with Maximilian in September 1506. 1508 Margaret of Savoy refused to marry him, and he tried to marry Juana of Castile, but Ferdinand refused, and continued to refuse to allow Henry to marry Catherine of Aragon- would not forgive Henry abandoning him in 1505.</p> <p>Henry's policy was now to try to isolate Ferdinand, but this did not work either. Henry's daughter, Mary, was betrothed to Charles of Burgundy (son of Philip and Juana, and grandson of Maximilian) in 1508, and as part of this he suspended commercial benefits won in the Intercursus Malus. Also sought to marry Prince Henry to a French princess, Margaret of Angouleme. Nothing came of this.</p> <p>In December 1508, France, the Holy Roman Empire, Spain and the Papal States all joined the League of Cambrai against Venice. Henry was not part of this, and in their alliance, he was totally isolated. However, members all sought Henry's friendship and were not interested in English territories, being primarily concerned with Venice's lands in Italy</p>
		<p>Verdicts on Henry's foreign policy</p>	<p>Possible to see it as a failure- was isolated by 1508 and had 'backed the wrong horse' after Isabelle's death. Attempt to relieve Brittany had failed, as had attempt to isolate Ferdinand. Certainly expensive.</p> <p>But- were no threats to position and little chance of invasion.</p> <p>Also possible to question extent to which he was miserly in it- spent a fortune, but all in context of securing his position</p>