



Henry VII's relations with the Marcher lords

Assuming control over most of the northern Marcher lordships and issuing charters of privilege

- Henry used his Welsh heritage to cultivate loyalty from the Welsh nobility and Marcher lords.
- Welsh nobles who had supported him during the Wars of the Roses were rewarded with offices, lands and titles.
- Henry VII reduced the power of the Marcher lords, who had governed the border regions with near-independent authority.
- Henry VII used family alliances to strengthen his control over Wales.
- Henry VII dealt with any Marcher lords who were disloyal or posed a threat to his authority through military action and legal penalties.
- Charters of privilege were issued by King Henry VII.

The re-establishment of the Council in the Marches of Wales in 1493 at Ludlow

Henry VII re-established the Council of the Marches in 1493 at Ludlow. He did this to:

- **Control Wales and the Marches:** This allowed him to bring Wales and the Marches under royal governance.
- **Restore law and order:** The Council enabled Henry to enforce law and order more effectively in the region.
- **Centralise power:** The Council had authority over legal and administrative matters, which weakened the power of the Marcher lords and reinforced the Crown's dominance.

Henry VII's relations with the Welsh gentry

After Henry VII secured the throne, he rewarded the Welsh gentry who had supported him.

The position of the Welsh gentry at the royal court

Welsh lords were often appointed as royal councillors or given important military and diplomatic responsibilities. This ensured their loyalty and allowed Henry to maintain a strong Welsh presence at his court. They were also often involved in promoting Welsh culture and traditions at court.

Welsh gentry were promoted to important positions, such as within the Council of Wales and the Marches, as well as roles within the judicial system. This gave them influence over local governance and extended the reach of the Crown into Wales and the Marches.

His use of Welsh gentry including Sir Rhys ap Thomas and William ap Gruffudd to control large areas of Wales

In return for his loyalty and support at the Battle of Bosworth, Henry VII gave Sir Rhys ap Thomas significant rewards, including:

- the position of Justiciar of south Wales, which gave him control over extensive lands in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire
- a knighthood and the title Constable of Brecon, which placed him in charge of local governance, military defence and the enforcement of royal authority
- several castles, including Carew Castle, ensuring that Rhys could maintain law and order on behalf of the Crown.

William ap Gruffudd was also a Welsh noble who helped maintain control in north Wales. He assisted Henry in gathering forces in north Wales before the Battle of Bosworth. The reward for his support included:

- lands and the title of Constable of Caernarfon Castle, a key position in north Wales
- the title Sheriff of Caernarfonshire, which gave him administrative and judicial authority in the area.

The significance of the English heir as Prince of Wales

The title of Prince of Wales was granted by Edward I in 1301 to his son, Edward of Caernarfon, after Edward I had conquered Wales in 1282 and annexed it to the English Crown. The title symbolised English control over Wales.

The investiture of Prince Arthur in 1489 aged three

The investiture of Arthur as Prince of Wales in 1489 was a symbol of unity between Wales and England, reinforcing Henry VII's connection to Wales. It formally recognised Arthur as the future king, emphasising the continuity of the Tudor dynasty and the stability of Henry's reign.

Traditionally, the Prince of Wales was expected to govern Wales and the Marches. While Arthur was only three at the time of his investiture, his title indicated that he would eventually play a role in Welsh governance.

In 1493, at the age of seven, Arthur was sent to Ludlow Castle to learn how to govern Wales and the Marches. His presence there was intended to further integrate Wales with England and to prepare him for kingship.

The investiture of Prince Henry in 1504 following his brother's death

Arthur's unexpected death in 1502, at the age of 15, created uncertainty regarding the Tudor succession. Henry VII's second son, Henry, became the heir apparent.

Henry's investiture as Prince of Wales in 1504 reaffirmed the continuity of the Tudor line and reassured the kingdom that there was a clear successor, helping to prevent potential political instability.



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