Dynastic Marriage in England, Castile and Aragon, 11th – 16th Centuries

Lisa Joseph

A Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of
Masters of Philosophy
The University of Adelaide
Department of History

February 2015
Contents

Abstract 3

Statement of Originality 4

Acknowledgements 5

Abbreviations 6

Introduction 7
   I. Literature Review: Dynastic Marriage 8
   II. Literature Review: Anglo-Spanish Relations 12
   III. English and Iberian Politics and Diplomacy, 14 – 15th Centuries 17
   IV. Sources, Methodology and Outline 21

Chapter I:
Dynastic Marriage in Aragon, Castile and England: 11th – 16th Centuries
   I. Dynastic Marriage as a Tool of Diplomacy 24
   II. Arranging Dynastic Marriages 45
   III. The Failure of Dynastic Marriage 50

Chapter II:
The Marriages of Catherine of Aragon
   I. The Marriages of the Tudor and Trastámara Siblings 58
   II. The Marriages of Catherine of Aragon and Arthur and Henry Tudor 69

Conclusion 81

Appendices:
   I. England 84
   II. Castile 90
   III. Aragon 96

Bibliography 102
Abstract

Dynastic marriages were an important tool of diplomacy utilised by monarchs throughout medieval and early modern Europe. Despite this, no consensus has been reached among historians as to the reason for their continued use, with the notable exception of ensuring the production of a legitimate heir. This thesis will argue that the creation and maintenance of alliances was the most important motivating factor for English, Castilian and Aragonese monarchs. Territorial concerns, such as the protection and acquisition of lands, as well as attempts to secure peace between warring kingdoms, were also influential elements considered when arranging dynastic marriages. Other less common motives which were specific to individual marriages depended upon the political, economic, social and dynastic priorities of the time in which they were contracted.

An analysis of the marriages of the monarchs of England, Castile and Aragon, as well as their heirs who lived long enough to marry, but died before they could inherit their kingdoms, will show that most dynastic marriages were arranged with neighbouring dynasties. As well as political and geographic considerations, dynastic marriages had to fulfil a variety of social expectations, and this thesis will determine how potential spouses were identified from among the sons and daughters of Europe’s ruling families, and the process through which the marriage was arranged.

Finally, by using the marriages of Catherine of Aragon with the Tudor princes, Arthur and Henry, as well as the dynastic marriages of their siblings: Isabel, Juan, Juana and María Trastámara and Margaret Tudor, it is possible to explore, in practice, how dynastic marriages were arranged and how they were influenced by wider trends in Western European politics and diplomacy. This thesis will therefore demonstrate that dynastic marriages were arranged for a variety of reasons, although the production of a legitimate heir and alliance building were the most important considerations. Further, as the discussion of Catherine of Aragon’s marriages highlights, those arranging dynastic marriages had to take into consideration the shifting diplomatic situation in medieval Europe.
Statement of Originality

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution in my name and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for loan and photocopying, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

I also give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available on the web, via the University's digital research repository, the Library catalogue and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

____________________

Lisa Joseph
Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped to make this thesis a reality. In particular thanks must go to my supervisors Claire Walker and Katie Barclay for their invaluable guidance and advice throughout this journey. Without their patience and motivation this thesis would not have been possible. Further thanks must go to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for their funding of this thesis, without their generous contribution this research could not have been undertaken.

I would also like to thank my parents, John and Cathy, for their unconditional support and proofreading skills.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviations</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| C. S. P. Venetian (+ Vol.)                        | Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts, Relating to English Affairs, Existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice, and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy, Volume II, 1509-1519, ed. Rawdon Brown (London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer, 1867).  