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The History of House Targaryen: A Study Guide By Martin, George R.R. The history of House Targaryen begins with Archmaester Gyldayn's account of how time is measured by Aegon's conquest. Before this system, the Targaryens were one of 40 powerful families in Valyria that rode and raised dragons. As Daeny the Dreamer had a prophetic dream about the Doom, Aenar moved his family from Valyria to Dragonstone. A hundred years later, Aegon Targaryen conquered six kingdoms and became king of Westeros, but the Dornish were impossible to bend. After losing his sister, he agreed to leave Dornish power in place and signed a peace treaty. His son Aenys succeeded him as king, but proved weak and was overthrown by Maegor, who killed Prince Aegon. Maegor's cruel reign ended with his discovery on the Iron Throne, and Jaehaerys, his younger brother, took power. He ruled for many years with his sister and wife, having ten children together. However, he faced succession issues when his son Aemon died, and after naming Viserys as heir, a council was formed to determine the male line of succession. Viserys proved soft and hesitant, but his daughter Rhaenyra became his successor despite his wishes. When he married Alicent, she produced sons with him, but refused to change her plan for succession. After his death, Alicent and her son Aegon II staged a coup, leading to the Dance of the Dragons civil war that devastated the realm. The war ended after Rhaenyra and Aegon II's deaths, their son and daughter marrying to bridge the houses together. However, King Aegon III and his queen Jaehaera were unable to rule due to their youth. A council of seven was formed to serve as regents alongside the small council, but Tyland Lannister's death led to Unwin Peake taking power, causing the king and queen to become hostages in the castle. The situation at King's Landing became increasingly volatile after Unwin's ouster, with his men seizing control in an attempt to remove Viserys' foreign wife. However, the plot was soon foiled and the court was cleansed of any traitors. Torrhen Stark from the North arrived to govern until Aegon III's 16th birthday, when he dismissed him and his council, marking the beginning of the young king's reign. The author of Fire and Blood Volume I presents a comprehensive look at Aegon's Conquest, largely adhering to the original text by A Song of Ice and Fire. However, new details are added in subsequent sections, providing deeper insights into events such as The Wars of Aegon I. Aegon's reign can be divided into two periods: "the Dragon's Wars" (1-16) and "the Dragon's Peace" (17-37). The Sunderland Rebellion is discussed in greater depth, revealing that Ser Warrick Manderly led the Braavosi fleet, while Visenya and Vhagar played a significant role in quelling the uprising. The circumstances surrounding Queen Marla's fate are also explored, with questions remaining about her exile and imprisonment. The living son of the Drowned God possesses remarkable abilities, which could have bolstered his claim to the Iron Islands, as evidenced by the driftwood crown worn by the priests. Unfortunately, this gift failed him when Aegon visited. The extent of the devastation during the civil war is staggering, with numerous krakens said to have appeared by the hundreds in the aftermath. Aegon's war fleet was composed of ships from Arbor, Highgarden, and Lannisport, although details about the latter remain scarce. The presence of Torrhen Stark's longships from BEar Island suggests that the North had a significant western fleet within the last three hundred years. Notably, Aegon allows Qhorin Volmark's son to inherit the throne, an ironic twist given his later attempt to claim the Iron Islands' crown. Winterfell was proposed as a potential overlord of the Iron Islands, which would have drastically altered the course of the War of Five Kings. Vickon Greyjoy renounced all claims to the Riverlands, while Quenton Qoherys had multiple children with various partners, including those from the Tully family. This reinforces the notion that the Harrenhal curse was at work. The chapter delves into the grim details of the First Dornish War, including Aegon's attempts to negotiate before its outbreak. Harlan Tyrell is portrayed as a ruthless colonial officer with a dark mix of racism and classism, leading his men into slaughter. Aegon splits his forces between Hellholt and Skyreach, while the seasons played a crucial role in their campaign, with autumn delaying their desert assault. Harlan Tyrell suffers significant losses on the march to Hellholt, reminiscent of the First Crusade. The Boneway's unique architecture is highlighted, featuring chiseled steps into the mountains. The ambush of Orys' column showcases Aegon's forces at their most successful, with the Stormlanders caught off guard by a clever rockfall trap. Rhaenys seizes control of several Dornish strongholds before the war escalates further. The return of the Targs from their flight plays a crucial role in understanding the Dornish revolt/counter-attack's success. Harlan Tyrell's defeat is also illuminated, with the river Brimstone proving unpotable and his foraging efforts hindered by Qorgyles and Vaiths. After Aegon discovers Orys' fate and the mistreatment of prisoners, tensions escalate. The Dornish employ guerrilla tactics to evade punishment from Aegon, including burning their castles via tunnels and caves in the mountains. In contrast to Westerosian Accounts of Fire, this version portrays a more nuanced narrative where Aegon's actions are not solely directed at the Wyls. The Dornish alliance with a pirate king of the Stepstones highlights Rhoynish ties' geostrategic significance for the Martells. Notably, Vhagar's destruction is attributed to Sunspear, Lemonwood, Ghost Hill, and the Tor, differing from previous accounts that left Sunspear untouched due to mysterious reasons. The fates of various lords are revealed, including Garmon's death outside Oldtown, Manfred Hightower's demise soon after, and Addam Hightower's succession. During the Dragon's Wroth (10 AC-12 AC), the Hellholt is severely burned, its sands turning to glass. The identities of those killed on both sides are identified: Lord Fowler, Lord Vaith, Lady Toland, and four Ullers; while others meet with poisoning or asphyxiation. A significant new detail emerges, detailing Wyl's atrocities at Fawnton and Old Oak, including the murder of Lord Oakheart, gang-raping his daughter, and selling her to a Myrish slaver. This episode showcases graphic brutality reminiscent of colonial-era propaganda used to justify imperialist violence. The circumstances surrounding Orys' desire to return Deria minus one hand and Lord Oakheart's motivations are also explored. but through intensely personal trauma and escalating cycles of violence, we see echoes from historical events like the Hatfields and McCoys, the Northern Ireland Troubles, and the partition of India and Pakistan. In George R.R. Martin's fictional world, GRRM elaborates on Prince Nymor's mysterious letter that ended the war, suggesting it might have been a heartfelt plea between fathers or a list detailing the lords who lost their lives, sparking debates about war costs and enchantments related to the Yellow Toad and Faceless Men theories. The next chapter dives into Aegon's Governance, an exciting development. I'll catch up with you tomorrow! Originally published in 2018, Fire & Blood: 300 Years Before A Game of Thrones (The Targaryen Dynasty: The House of the Dragon) is the first part of a fictional history set in Westeros, the epic fantasy series' world created by George R. R. Martin. In his novels, Martin reimagines medieval and Renaissance Europe's war, pageantry, and politics within a fantasy realm where dragon-riding empowers the Targaryen family to dominance. Martin has received multiple Locus Awards for his fantasy writing, and HBO adaptations of A Song of Ice and Fire have made him a household name. The second half of Fire & Blood serves as source material for the HBO series House of the Dragon. Content Warning: This guide is based on the 2022 Bantam print edition and contains depictions of sexual assault, abuse, and other forms of violence, including alcoholism, incest, domestic abuse, suicide, and ableist language related to appearance and limb differences. Gyldayn, an archmaester at the Citadel of Westeros, chronicles the 16 generations of Targaryen rule in Westeros. He relies on primary sources that often conflict, showing Gyldayn's deference to authority and penchant for entertaining but inaccurate information, making him an unreliable narrator. In his history, he notes that Aegon the Conqueror (Aegon I) and his sisters Visenya and Rhaenys were descendants of Targaryen dragonriders from the Valyrian Freehold. A Targaryen with foresight warned the family to leave due to an impending cataclysm, which led to the Doom of Valyria destroying their homeland. Afterward, other survivors settled in the Free Cities, while the Targaryens had already crossed over the sea to settle in Westeros. Although traditionally influential families were not as powerful, the Targaryens dominated as the sole dragon lords left after the Doom. Aegon's ability to ride and control dragons allowed him to conquer Westeros through brutal war, leading him to create the Iron Throne from melted swords of his enemies as a reminder of their defeat. Before the Conquest, Westeros consisted of seven major kingdoms: Dorne, the Reach, Storm’s End, Casterly Rock, Riverrun, Winterfell, and what later became King's Landing. The Wall marked the northern border of Westeros, guarded by the Night's Watch sworn brotherhood against raiders and nameless creatures. Aegon's conquest of Westeros was nearly complete, except for Dorne where his sister Rhaenys tragically lost her life years later. Aegon, along with his sisters whom he also married, established the foundations that united the fragmented lands and petty kingdoms under a single rule. However, internal conflicts plagued their dynasty from its inception. With two wives, Aegon inadvertently created rival lines of succession through his sons Aenys and Maegor, born to Rhaenys and Visenya respectively. Moreover, Aegon's adherence to the Valyrian tradition of marrying first-degree relatives led to significant tension with the dominant Faith of the Seven in Westeros, which strongly prohibited such practices. The Targaryens' unique appearance and possession of dragons set them apart from the native Westerosi population. Following Aegon's death, his son Aenys I ascended to the throne but proved ineffective, prompting a rebellion among the Westerosi lords. Aenys' arrangement of marriages between his children further antagonized the Faith's soldiers. It wasn't until Aenys' demise and Maegor's ascension that the Targaryens regained control over Westeros. However, Maegor's violent nature and lack of political acumen led to his downfall when he was killed by the Iron Throne. It wasn't until Jaehaerys the Conciliator and his sister-wife Alysanne took power that they were able to restore the Targaryen dynasty's reputation, pacify the rebellious lords, and disband the Faith's military force. Unfortunately, their numerous children created multiple lines of succession once again, a problem that was compounded when Jaehaerys passed away and a council of lords had to choose an heir. The decision by the council to exclude women from rule proved pivotal, particularly since Viserys I, Jaehaerys's grandson, had only one male heir at the time. Rhaenyra Targaryen, his daughter, was overlooked in favor of her uncles and cousins who were part of the male line. This decision led to a bitter struggle for power during the Dance of the Dragons civil war. The Greens, supporters of Aegon the Elder, clashed with the Blacks, adherents of Rhaenyra, resulting in devastating violence and the loss of dragons on both sides. Despite ruling for only half a year, Rhaenyra's legitimacy as heir was questioned by many due to her marriage to a Velaryon and the rumors about her sons' true parentage. This tumultuous period ultimately led to the downfall of the Targaryen dynasty in Westeros. The city of King's Landing rose up against its rulers due to high taxes and their disdain for dragons and incestuous unions. By war's end, Aegon the Elder had become King Aegon II, but his reign was marked by disability from dragonfire wounds and addiction. His council members ultimately assassinated him, installing his son, Aegon III, under a regency led by ambitious lord Unwin Peake. However, Aegon III struggled to assert himself as king due to the trauma he experienced during the war and his own personal demons, including a deep-seated dislike of dragons. The arrival of Aegon's brother Viserys II, who had been presumed dead but turned out to be alive, brought new challenges. Viserys II's wife, Larra of Lys, was from a powerful family in the city-state of Lys, and her presence helped to solidify their influence in Westeros. Meanwhile, Aegon III's mental state became increasingly uncertain, fueling Unwin Peake's failed attempt at a palace coup. Aegon III's reign was marred by controversy, including his decision to force out members of his regency council and his failure to understand the importance of symbols of power in legitimizing his rule. His inability to assert himself as a strong leader ultimately led to an unsuccessful reign, according to historian Gyldayn. The author George R.R. Martin drew inspiration for Fire and Blood from medieval chronicles that often distorted history to promote the interests of powerful families. By having Gyldayn raise questions about the nature of truth in historical narratives, Martin challenges readers to think critically about how our understanding of the past is shaped by those who write its histories.

Fire and blood chapters.  Fire and blood book summary.  Fire and blood ch 1.  Blood on the river chapter 1 summary.  Born in blood and fire chapter 1 summary.  Fire and blood chapter 12.  Fire and blood chapter list.  Fire and blood chapter summary.  Fire and blood summary.