




1558- Elizabeth becomes Queen	1559	1560 – Requiem Mass reintroduced	1561	1562 – French civil war begins	1563	1564	1565	1566	1567	1568	1569 – Revolt of the Northern Earls
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William Cecil – Secretary of State
1559 – Elizabeth’s Religious Settlement

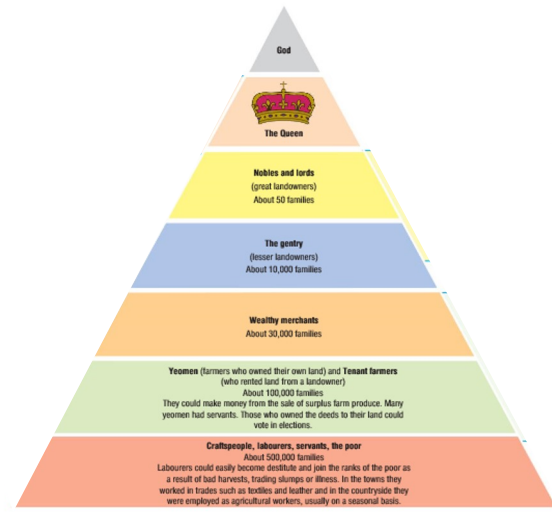
1562 – Dudley becomes Privy Councillor

1567 - Mary, Queen of Scots’ husband dies
1568 - Mary, Queen of Scots arrives in England

Context

 Henry VIII 1509-1547	Henry made himself Head of the English Church so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon. He had wars with France and poverty increased. There was widespread rebellion.
 Edward VI 1547-1553	Decoration was removed from churches and the English Prayer Book was introduced. Catholics were killed. Harvests were bad and there were many rebellions.
 Mary I 1553-1558	Married Philip II and made England Catholic. There was rebellion and many Protestants were burned alive. People died of starvation. She began an expensive war with Spain.

Society



Challenges from Abroad

Scotland: Had been ruled by Mary, Queen of Scots (although she moved to France as she had married the heir to the French throne. There were French soldiers in Scotland so the danger of attack was always present.

France: In 1558 France was at war with England and Spain. They also wanted Mary, Queen of Scots to be Queen of England.

Spain: Was the most powerful country in Europe with a huge empire. They were devoutly Catholic. However, they had been friendly with England for most of the Tudor reign due to Mary I’s marriage to Phillip II.

Religious Settlement

Elizabeth tried to create a **Middle Way** which united Catholics and Protestants. Her **Act of Uniformity** said that everyone needed to attend a Protestant church on a Sunday, or pay a **recusancy** fine of 1 shilling a week (most rich Catholics did this). The **Act of Supremacy** named Elizabeth as **Supreme Governor** instead of Head of the Church, so that she didn’t challenge the authority of the Pope.

Elizabeth’s Legitimacy



Religious Division

Protestants	The monarch was Head of the Church. Most decoration was removed from the Church. Clergy wore simple robes and taught from an English Bible.
Catholics	Pope was Head of the Church. Churches were highly decorated and clergy’s robes were too. Services were held in Latin. Mass was important.
Puritans	Committees were elected by the congregation, Churches & robes were plain. English Bible with Communion representing Jesus spiritually.

Government

Elizabeth ruled and took advice from her Privy Council and Court. She had Archbishops and Bishops to assist in the running of the Church and Lords Lieutenant and Justices of the Peace to assist in enforcing laws.

Elizabeth’s Problems

1. What to do about religion?
2. What to do about marriage or an heir?
3. How to tackle issues of poverty?
4. How to tackle foreign relations with France and Spain?
5. How to tackle people’s doubts about her gender?
6. How to tackle people’s doubts about her legitimacy?

Poverty & Harvest

The quality of the harvest was what determined the success of a Tudor reign. In the 1550s, people had become desperately poor and starvation was common. In Mary’s reign, over 200,000 died from starvation. The harvest in Elizabeth’s accession year was strong and this made people think she was in for a good reign.

Mary, Queen of Scots

Mary Stuart arrived in England in 1568. In doing so, she gave Catholics hope that there could be a Catholic monarch on the throne. Elizabeth imprisoned her, over suspicions around her husband’s murder but Mary had strong links in France and Scotland. Elizabeth had to tread carefully.

Opposition

Puritans felt that the Religious Settlement was too Catholic. They wanted her to get rid of Bishops and decoration in churches. Many poor **Catholics** accepted it straight away in order to avoid paying the fine however the rich were angry that she hadn’t included **Mass**. English Catholics had lots of support from Spain, particularly once Mary, Queen of Scots had arrived in England.

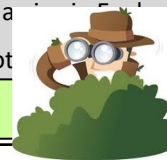


1569 – Revolt of the Northern Earls	1570	1571 – Pope excommunicates Elizabeth	1571 – Ridolfi Plot	1572 – Dutch revolt against Spain	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577-80 – Drake’s circumnavigation of the world	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	1584 – Bond of Association	1584	1585	1586 – Babington Plot	1586	1587	1588 – Spanish Armada	1588
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1570 – Pope excommunicates Elizabeth
1571 – Ridolfi Plot

1580s – Jesuit priests a
1583 – Throckmorton Plot

1587 – MQS execution



Revolt of the Northern Earls - 1569

CAUSE: The Earls of **Northumberland & Westmoreland** strongly opposed the Religious Settlement. They feared that Elizabeth wanted them executed.
EVENT: They ordered their tenants to join their army and marched south, ransacking **Durham Cathedral** and holding a service of **Mass** there. However, they didn't gather much support. A royal army of 10,000 men was on its way to meet them to stop the rebellion.
CONSEQUENCES: The Earls escaped to Scotland but Northumberland was captured. Westmorland escaped abroad. Elizabeth had over 450 Catholics executed.

Ridolfi Plot - 1571

Aims

Ridolfi was an Italian banker. He carried messages between MQS and the Duke of Alba in the Netherlands, the Pope and Philip II to organise an invasion of England.

Events

Alva wasn't supportive of the invasion but Ridolfi was unaware of this. Meanwhile, Walsingham's spies had intercepted the letters and had arrested the Duke of Norfolk (who was planned to marry MQS).

Consequence

Norfolk was executed in 1572. Elizabeth expelled the Spanish Ambassador but luckily, this did not cause problems between England and Spain. Parliament persuaded Elizabeth to become more harsh to Catholics.

Throckmorton Plot - 1583

Aims



Throckmorton had links with Catholic nobility and carried letters between MQS and the French & Spanish ambassadors. The aim was freeing MQS and killing Elizabeth, with support from Philip II and the French Duke of Guise.

Events

Spies searched Throckmorton's house & found papers incriminating many Catholic nobles. Philip II never released promised funds. It was never proven whether MQS knew about it.

Consequence



Elizabeth expelled the Spanish Ambassador. Throckmorton was tortured & killed. Fears for Elizabeth's safety rose. The **Bond of Association** was passed. It said that if MQS was involved in further plots, she'd be tried for treason.

Babington Plot - 1586

Aims



Babington had previously carried letters for MQS. The Babington Plot stemmed from a priest who was being watched by Elizabeth's government. They planned to kill Elizabeth, put MQS on the throne and restore Catholicism.

Events

Babington wrote, explaining that a foreign invasion was necessary to deal with Elizabeth but these coded letters were found in beer barrels. Walsingham intercepted them all.

Consequence



Babington was executed, and MQS arrested and put on trial. She was found guilty of direct involvement in the Plot and sentenced to execution. Elizabeth claimed she never wanted to reach this conclusion.

Walsingham's Spy Network

Walsingham had spies all over Europe, watching priests, informing the government of attempted plots and foiling Catholic plans. He had a team of **code breakers**, a team of **priest hunters** who were searching out Jesuit priests, he influenced major changes in laws to ensure treatment of Catholics became more harsh and used **informers** and double agents to infiltrate Catholic plots.

Conflict with Spain

Trade



England began competing with the Spanish in the New World and explorers like Drake frequently stole from Spanish ships (like the *Cacafuego*). Piracy was illegal.



Religion

Catholic priests in England made Elizabeth fearful of a Catholic holy war. However, Philip had not gone to war previously so there is no reason that he would now.



Politics

Philip didn't want any other country to challenge his power (he controlled the Netherlands and Portugal as well as Spain).



Netherlands

Elizabeth sent money to help Dutch rebels and later in 1585 in the **Treaty of Nonsuch**, sent more money and an army.

The Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard

In 1587, **Drake** set out to Cadiz to attack the Spanish preparations for the Armada. He inflicted heavy damage and then destroyed food supplies for the Armada, further along at Lisbon. Finally, he captured the *San Felipe* and stole £114,000 from it. Philip was furious.

The Armada Plan

Philip planned to send the Duke of Parma with 20,000 men to meet the Armada at Calais. After a successful sea battle, the Spanish forces would land in Kent and march on London, encouraging a Catholic rebellion.

Armada Results

The English navy had longer ranging guns but didn't do much damage in the first 8 days. Lord Howard ordered **fire ships** to be sent into the Spanish fleet who had dropped anchor. This caused panic amongst the Spanish and, coupled with a storm which they weren't used to and a rocky English channel, they broke formation. The Spanish fleet retreated, having lost around 50 ships and thousands of men. England's boats were more manoeuvrable and alongside great leadership from Howard & Drake (in comparison to Medina Sidonia who lacked experience) England prevented the Spanish invasion.

1555	1560	1565	1569 – Latitude & longitude introduced 1570	1572 – The Vagabonds Act	1575	1576 – The Theatre opens	1576 – The Relief of the Poor	1577-80 – Drake's circumnavigation of the world	1578 – Raleigh sails to N. America	1580	1584 – Raleigh begins his voyage to America	1585	1587 – Raleigh begins his second voyage to America	1590
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Society

Gentlemen (The Gentry)	Nobles, lords, lots of inherited wealth.
Citizens & Burgesses	Merchants, craftsmen, lawyers.
Yeomen	Farmers who owned their own land.
The Fourth Sort	Labourers, servants, shopkeepers etc.

Pastimes

Common hobbies in the Elizabethan times were: using inns & taverns, smoking (once tobacco was brought to England), gambling on blood sports like bear bating; feasts eg. May Day etc.; archery, fishing and hunting; music.

The biggest pastime was visiting the **theatre**. This is the time of Shakespeare and it was a hobby for all parts of society. **The Theatre** opened in London in 1576. Puritans and the government campaigned to have theatres closed because of the lawlessness and immoral behaviour seen.

Education

Most people were still too poor to send their children to school (30% of men and less than 10% of women could read & write). Discipline was strict and it was mainly wealthy boys who attended.

Boys from lower classes could attend, sometimes with scholarships, if they were bright enough. **Parish Schools** were for younger children and **grammar schools** for 7-15 year olds. Latin, Arithmetic & Rhetoric were all studied.



Poverty

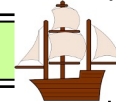
A poor harvest affected the cost of wheat which led to the starvation of the poor. Farmers tried **enclosure** farming by putting sheep into fenced in fields which didn't rely on the weather & meant they didn't need as much labour. When the cloth trade collapsed thousands of people lost jobs.

A rise in population and in prices meant that work was scarce and the poor found it difficult to afford to live. After Henry VIII had closed the monasteries in the 1530s, there were little places where the poor could go for help.

Elizabethans were worried about **vagabonds** & concerned that poor people were choosing not to work (the **idle poor**) as opposed to people who wanted to work but couldn't find it (the **deserving poor**). The **Vagabonds Act** in 1572 said that if you were caught begging you'd be whipped and burned through the ear. Justices of the Peace should raise a poor rate to help pay for the elderly and sick. The **Act for Relief of the Poor** in 1576 said that towns had to find work for able-bodied poor. Anyone not working was sent to a house of correction.

Exploration

...ploration increased rapidly in Elizabeth's reign because: Of a desire to compete with Spain's empire; new knowledge & technology like the **astrolabe** helped navigation to become easier; New boats had been developed, along with better maps to help exploration; The English needed new trade routes to sell their goods – including slaves; The wealthy Elizabethans were keen to fund missions as it made them wealthy; the spread of Christianity to other nations; The desire to set up new colonies; Knowledge and experience of expert sailors like **Drake & Hawkins**.



Drake

Drake hated Spain and wanted to weaken it as much as possible. He took his ship *The Pelican* (later the **Golden Hind**) along with three others and set sail around the world. They first travelled to Brazil but arguments broke out. With a reduced crew, Drake then sailed down the coast of South America and made some **geographical discoveries**. Whilst sailing around South America, the fleet hit storms and Drake ended up with just his own boat remaining. He carried on to Peru and captured gold and silver. They chased the Spanish ship, the **Cacafuego** & seized its' crew & haul. Finally, he began his return to England & took a **new route** around North America, which no English explorer had done before. He landed in California where the natives thought he was a God & gave him **tobacco**. Returning, he sailed around the Indian island of **Java**, where we later set up trade links.

Raleigh

In 1578, Raleigh travelled to **North America** to establish an English settlement. Although it was unsuccessful, he learned lots from it and shared knowledge with other explorers.

In 1584, Elizabeth agrees that Raleigh could organise a voyage to set up a colony in America. In 1585, the voyage set sail without Raleigh. At **Roanoke**, they met the natives the **Algonquian** tribe and began to set up. The natives were angry that the settlers had taken valuable resources and became hostile; forcing Drake to rescue them on his way home from the West Indies. The knowledge that this group returned with, however, was invaluable.

In 1587, Raleigh sends John White, on a second voyage. They land at Roanoke Island and try to set up a colony again. White returns to England for supplies but when he returns there is no trace of the colony.



Impact

Raleigh's expeditions paved the way for the **first successful colony to be established, in Virginia**.

He returned **in profit**, due to captured Spanish ships. He brought back **new goods** like the potato.

Knowledge of America, its' inhabitants and new routes to travel became invaluable.



Historiography

"Elizabeth's popularity...with her subjects can no longer be taken for granted... Nonetheless, her achievements as a ruler should not be underestimated. Despite enormous difficulties and several major crises, she survived as a monarch with her Protestant religious settlement intact, while her realm was preserved from successful invasion and the civil war which afflicted her neighbours, Scotland, France & the Netherlands."

Susan Doran – Elizabeth I in The Historian (1997)

WATERMARK

History Knowledge

Organiser