

English Martyrs GCSE History
Early Elizabethan England
1558-1588
Knowledge Organiser

1. The situation on Elizabeth's succession

Young, female and illegitimate?

- Elizabeth became queen at the age of 25. It was very **rare for a woman to be a monarch**.
- **Most people expected her to marry very quickly**. For many years, her courtiers and ministers urged her to marry. It was hoped a strong husband could rule the country on her behalf and provide an heir.
- Choosing a husband would be problematic- Catholic or Protestant, English or foreign?
- Elizabeth had a very young difficult life. Her mother, Anne Boleyn, had been executed in 1536 and she had been declared **illegitimate**.
- **Many still thought of her as illegitimate- especially Catholics who wanted her cousin Mary Queen of Scots as Queen**

The Coronation

- Elizabeth was crowned on 15 January 1559. She made every effort to be popular. Instead of ordering expensive new clothing, she wore the same dress as Mary and had it altered to fit her.
- During her coronation procession, she charmed the crowd, smiling warmly at people, joking and replying to their good wishes.
- As Elizabeth walked along the carpet laid out for her journey to Westminster Abbey, the crowds rushed forward to cut out pieces as souvenirs.
- Elizabeth made sure that everyone, down to the lowliest beggar, played a part, pausing to listen to congratulations from ordinary people on the street.

The Tudor dynasty: a religious see saw

- Elizabeth was brought up as a **Protestant** and was looked after by Henry VIII's last wife, Catherine Parr, who died in 1549.
- Her half brother, Edward VI, a strict Protestant, was king from 1547 to 1553, but he was succeeded by Mary, Elizabeth's elder half-sister.
- Mary was a Catholic and wanted to restore Catholicism in England. She married Philip II of Spain and executed about 300 Protestants who refused to go back to the Catholic Church.
- **Religion remained the main divide in England with the population approx. 50/50 Catholic to Protestant**
- **Elizabeth had to be careful that religious tensions didn't erupt in England and lead to her overthrow**



Elizabeth's coronation portrait

Character

- Elizabeth had been very **well educated** on her father's orders. She spoke four or five languages.
- She was quick-witted, clever, confident and charismatic- she was able to use feminine wiles to get her own way.
- She had an excellent grasp of politics and was able to use her powers of **patronage** effectively (granting lands, jobs, titles)
- Elizabeth could be as ruthless and calculating as any king before her, but, at the same time, she was vain, sentimental and easily swayed by flattery.
- She liked to surround herself with attractive people and her portraits were carefully vetted to make sure that no physical flaws were ever revealed.

2. Problems facing the young Queen, 1558

Finance

- When she became Queen, the crown was **£300,000 in debt** due to war in France, £100k was owed to the Antwerp exchange at 14% interest!
- Crown income was probably c. £200,000 during peace time
- Elizabeth was always short of cash. There were no taxes as such and the Queen was expected to pay for herself from her personal wealth.
- Her only regular income came from her crown lands- Mary had sold off many of these to fund war with France
- Since the 1540s the crown had **debased** the coinage (reduced silver and gold content). This led to inflation and a devalued currency

Making money: Forms of government income

- Crown lands:** revenue from these was down as Crown lands were being sold off. Elizabeth continued to sell lands raising £120,000.
- Parliament:** usually only approved taxes in the event of war; this was in the form of a 'fifteenth' or 'tenth', i.e. a fifteenth of everybody's wealth.
- Taxes on trade** (imports and exports) were the most unpredictable form of income.
- Money from Church:** Elizabeth used the Church as source of patronage and kept bishoprics empty in order to collect income from sees.
- Fines** from law courts: these increased because of recusancy fines from 1570s.
- Monopolies/patents** increasingly granted by Crown to courtiers and merchants. These became unpopular.
- Plunder from Spanish Empire.** Drake, Hawkins and Raleigh made fortunes and Queen got her cut however this was risky as it angered Spain

- Success?** By 1574 the Crown was out of debt for the first time since 1558 due to Elizabeth's fund raising (above) and her careful spending/ reducing household expenses by around half.

Foreign relations in 1558

France: England had been at war with France on a number of occasions during the previous fifty years. Peace was made with France in 1559 (with the English loss of Calais in the Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis), which meant there was no immediate threat from across the Channel. For the next forty years, there was a succession of weak French kings and a series of wars of religion in France. France remained wealthier and more powerful than England.

Scotland: France and Scotland had an **Auld Alliance**. **Mary Queen of Scots** was married to the French King (1559) and her Mum Mary of Guise kept troops on the border, meaning an invasion was always possible.

Spain: Philip II of Spain, who had been Elizabeth's brother-in-law, was initially keen to be on good terms with Elizabeth because he wished to retain an English alliance against France. He was a leading suitor for Elizabeth's hand in marriage! However his rejection combined with her Protestant faith and resulting meaning religious tensions combined with commercial rivalries meant the risk of war with Spain or Spanish invasion was never far from the surface.

The threat from Catholic powers was weak in the period up to 1570. So the Church of England had a decade or more to become established The Papacy was slow to condemn Protestant Elizabeth. Elizabeth was not excommunicated until 1570 and when she was, Philip II disapproved.

Elizabeth's early foreign policy

- **Avoid war!** signed the Peace of Troyes in 1564 recognising the French claim to Calais
- Kept Mary Queen of Scots in custody when she arrived in England (1568)
- Was careful not to exacerbate relations with Spain e.g. indirect involvement in Spanish Netherlands

3. Elizabeth's Government

The Royal Court

- The Court was made up of **noblemen who acted as the monarchs advisers** and helped display her wealth and spread her power.
- The Court was wherever the Queen happened to be. Elizabeth liked to keep on the move and moved from palace to palace.
- She went on **progresses** each year, visiting the great houses of her courtiers and favourites.
- These progresses lasted for three months and covered many parts of southern England and the Midlands.
- She stayed at the homes of courtiers to save money and moved on when resources and food were exhausted. It was said that it took seven years to recover from a visit by the Queen.
- Progresses were also intended to let people see her and maintain her authority.
- The most important people at Court were her favourites and her **Privy Councillors**.

Elizabeth's Privy Council

- **This was formed of noblemen who helped govern the country.**
- They monitored parliament, Justice of the Peace and oversaw law and order and the security of the country.
- **William Cecil**, Lord Burghley was the key minister until his death in 1598. He served as Secretary then Lord Treasurer.
- **Sir Francis Walsingham** was the spymaster, increasingly important as threats to Elizabeth from Catholics mounted. He uncovered plots centring on the overthrow of Elizabeth in favour of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- **Robert Dudley**, Earl of Leicester possibly had ambitions of marrying Elizabeth but his hopes were destroyed by mysterious death of his wife Amy Robsart. She was found dead at the foot of stairs in his house in 1560.
- Many of these ministers, such as Burghley, Walsingham and Leicester, served for long periods. There was an air of stability at court.

Local government

- There were no local authorities in Elizabethan England. Law and order was in the hands of large landowners who were appointed as **Justices of the Peace (JPs)**, who held court cases
- JPs also became responsible for supervising the growing number of laws dealing with wages, prices, and road and bridge repairs.
- They also had to supervise and enforce the vagrancy and poor laws.
- Lords Lieutenants** were noblemen appointed by government to govern counties and raise local militia (army) when needed).
- The only local body was the Parish, which was responsible for looking after roads and helping the poor.

Parliament

- The House of Commons was important for two reasons: to **pass laws and to approve taxes** (extraordinary taxation).
- Parliament usually only approved taxes in the event of war; this was in the form of a 'fifteenths', i.e. a fifteenth of everybody's wealth.
- MPs as a rule were allowed to speak their minds and Elizabeth continued to allow freedom of speech.
- She qualified it as 'liberty of speech for the well debating of matters propounded'.
- Some matters such as her marriage and succession remained subjects only the Queen could decide upon- **royal prerogative**.
- Elizabeth kept a check on the Commons through councillors and courtiers who were also MPs.
- Elizabeth had to carefully deal with Parliament to retain their support*

4. Elizabethan Society

Rich and poor

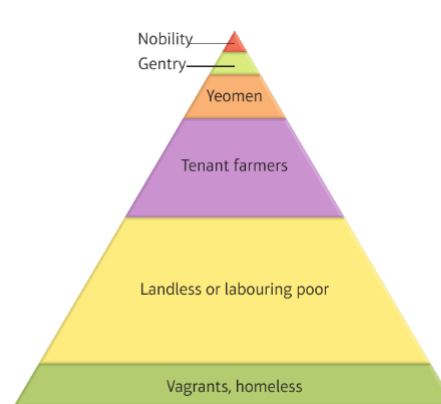
- **At the top of society was the nobility.** In 1500, there were 28 peers of the realm, but, by 1558, the number had increased to 55.
- Most of these were very wealthy and owned large landed estates. In the second half of the century, estates were brought together.
- The nobility 'governed' England and all major posts in government, the army and the navy were held by nobles.
- **Below the nobility were the gentry.** Knights, baronets and esquires; they were classed as 'gentlemen'. They did not work, but were financially independent.
- The big divide in society came between gentlemen and the rest. *In towns Merchants ranked here.....*
- **Below them were yeomen;** farmers who owned their own land. They were comfortably off but they often worked alongside their men. Some could become landless if times were hard.
- **Below them came the mass of the population; craftsmen, tenant farmers and labourers.**
- According to one writer at the end of the century, about 50% of the people were wealthy or at least reasonably well off.
- Below them were **the poor.** About 30% of the population who could afford to eat meat between 2 and 6 times a week.
- The bottom 20% could only eat meat once a week. They were *very poor*; at least part of the time they had to rely on poor relief.

Merchants (in towns)

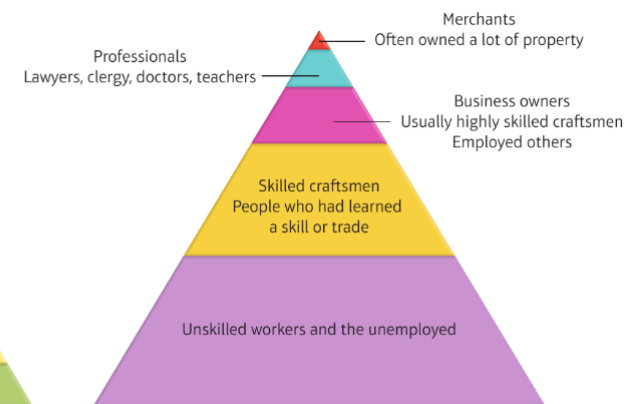
- During the sixteenth century the status of merchants improved as people saw that trade was an increasingly important part of the country's wealth
- Trade and the development of towns and cities produced a growing middle class. This was recognised in the increased numbers of MPs during the century. The House of Commons increased in size by 50%
- Trade required bankers, lawyers and other professions; the nobility and gentry did not work and therefore this became an emerging middle class
- London merchants could be worth £50,000 - £100,000. Sir John Spencer was probably the richest man in the country with £300,000- this was greater than the income of Elizabeth.

Social mobility

- The structure of society was very rigid-most people remained in the same position as their family.
- Society became increasingly split between the 'respectable classes' and the rest.



The social hierarchy of Elizabethan England



The social hierarchy of towns in Elizabethan England

5. The Religious Divide

The importance of religion

- Religion was central to life in Elizabethan England- it guided people's morals, behaviour and their understanding of the world
- Religious ceremonies marked the key moments in people's lives
- People believe that going to church, attending pilgrimages and confessing sins reduced time in purgatory before going to heaven

The Reformation: Catholics vs Protestants

- Since the reformation in 1517 the Christian Church had been divided between Catholics (Pope in Rome) and Protestants
- Protestantism has spread across northern Europe- they 'protested' against the perceived greed and corruption of the Catholic Church
- In England the north of England remained largely Catholic
- Since the 1530s European Protestants fleeing persecution had landed in England, settling in London, East Anglia and Kent
- Elizabeth inherited a country with a 50/50 split
- Handling religious difference was the defining issue of her early years

Differing ideas

	Catholics	Protestants
Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pope leads the Church helped by cardinals, bishops and priest • The Church is the intermediary between God and people and can forgive sins • Transubstantiation- during Mass the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ • 7 sacraments (ceremonies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pope was not needed- however archbishops and bishops were necessary • People can have their own relationship with God via prayer and the Bible (in their own language)- no intermediary needed! • Bread and wine are symbolic- there is no miracle during mass • 2 sacraments (baptism and holy communion)
Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin services • Special robes for Priests (vestments) • Highly decorated Churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English services • Simple vestments • Most plain Churches



Figure 1.5 Traditional Catholic church in the reign of Mary I.

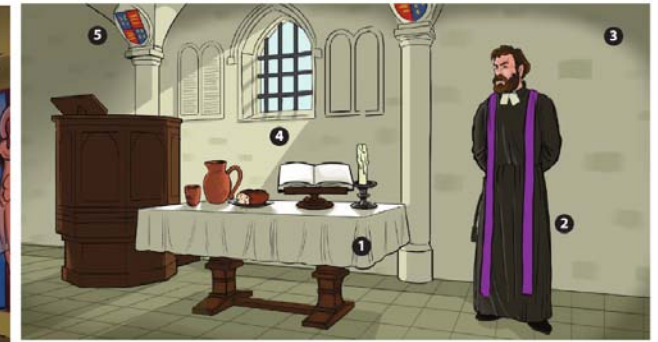


Figure 1.6 Protestant church in Elizabethan England.

6. The Settlement of Religion

Religious divisions in England in 1558

• There had been many changes in religion in the previous thirty years, when Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558. England had been on a religious see-saw during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.

• Her most important task was to find away of reconciling differences and satisfying as many people as possible. She called this the '**Middle Way**'.

• Her settlement was inclusive for example the wording of the new Prayer Book could be interpreted differently by Catholics and Protestants

• The Communion Sacrament in the Book of Common Prayer could be interpreted by Catholics as transubstantiation or by Protestants as an act of remembrance

• Catholics could be satisfied by the use of candles, crosses and vestments within church services

1559 Act of Supremacy

- This repealed the authority of the Pope and replaced it with Royal Supremacy.
- Elizabeth was made Supreme Governor NOT Supreme Head as her father (Henry VIII) had been.
- This was because, as a woman, she could not be a priest. So her power over the English Church was not as great as Henry VIII's had been.
- As 'Supreme Governor' of the English Church she saw attacks on the Church as attacks on herself.
- Support for the Church was support for Elizabeth and England; opposition was treason
- All clergy and royal officials had to swear an oath of allegiance to Elizabeth

1559 Act of Uniformity

- Authorised the use of a new Book of Common Prayer provided a set service to be used in all Churches
- However the changes made to the 1552 book show that Elizabeth and her advisers were aiming at a moderate statement of doctrine, which would appeal to moderate Catholics as well as Protestants.

1559 Royal Injunctions

- Preaching was controlled by a system of licences issued by the local bishop. At least four sermons a year had to be preached in **support of the Royal Supremacy**.
- Every Church was to have an **English Bible**.
- Most sermons to come from the official Book of Homilies originally written by Thomas Cranmer (executed under Queen Mary).
- Parish clergy were to instruct young people in 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer and Catechism.
- Shrines, images and all other items in church, which might foster idolatry and superstition to be removed.
- All books and pamphlets on religion to be licensed by Commissioners, Royal Councillors or bishops.
- Clergy were to wear vestments worn during Edward's reign.
- No more altars were to be destroyed but are to be called communion tables.

7. Enforcing the Settlement

Enforcement

- All the bishops appointed by Mary except one resigned rather than conform to the new settlement.
- This allowed Elizabeth to bring in a new bench of Protestant Bishops led by Matthew Parker who was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury
- Many priests from Mary's reign conformed to the Settlement (only some 200 were officially dismissed)
- The majority of people accepted the settlement and attended services
- Those who didn't were fined 1shilling (5p).
- Visitations**- every 3-4 years bishops inspected churches/ clergy to ensure settlement obeyed
- The Ecclesiastical High Commission** kept discipline within the Church and enforced the Settlement
- The new Settlement, like the previous ones, was established by the authority of the monarch. Loyalty to the Crown was largely unquestioned.
- Elizabeth regime did not attempt to enforce the Settlement too rigidly. Elizabeth would not 'make windows into men's souls'.

The Settlement was broadly successful because:

- The involvement of Parliament in the Settlement increased the sense of legality.
- It allowed quite a lot of scope for variety in religious belief and practice. Moderate Catholics and moderate Protestants found it acceptable.
- It was not enforced too rigidly. In the early years of the reign there was very little persecution.

The Church of England: its role in society

- The Church became an important supporter of Elizabeth and the government. It was an important way of maintaining law and order.
- Attendance at church was compulsory. Parish priests had to preach sermons supporting the Queen. Prayers would be said for the Queen.
- Sermons were intended to be propaganda for Elizabeth and the government. Prayer books and services contained the ideas that the government wanted people to have.
- There was no police force and virtually no local government; the Church was a unifying and controlling force in England.
- In villages **Parish Priests** conducted services including baptisms, weddings and funerals. They offered spiritual and practical guidance and were funded by a **tithe**- a tax worth 10% of people's earnings
- In towns parish clergy had a wider range of issues to deal with included tackling poverty, vagrancy and disease.

Reactions to the settlement

- Protestantism had become quite well established in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, particularly amongst landowners in the South and South-East of England.
- Catholicism remained strongest in the North of England. Elizabeth made it clear that noble families could continue to worship as Catholics in private.
- When England faced invasion by Catholic Spain from 1587, the great Catholic families all loyally supported Elizabeth. They might be Catholic, but they were English.
- The strongest opposition to the Settlement came from younger and more extreme Catholics.
- They started a **series of plots** aimed at killing Elizabeth and replacing her with Mary, Queen of Scots.
- Puritans also opposed the Settlement; they wanted a stricter form of Protestantism, with no vestments and simpler services...

8. The Puritan Challenge

The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge

- The Puritans were Protestants who were unhappy with the Elizabethan Religious Settlement and wished to see it altered.
- They wanted to see the Church take a tougher line on Catholics with stiffer penalties imposed on those who failed to attend church and/or conducted Catholic services in their private chapels.
- Puritans wished to see the Church of England completely cleansed of its 'popish remnants'.
- The issue of the wearing of coloured vestments, for example, was very important to Puritans. They believed that people should wear black and white clothing and nothing else
- Many wished to see a new Prayer Book, which would have a less ambiguous interpretation of the doctrine of the mass.
- Many Puritans wished to see the bishops wielding less power, while pastors and congregations should have more power.
- Some believed that bishops (government of the Church by bishops) as a whole should be abolished because this was the system of Church government used by the Catholic Church.

Why was the government concerned about Puritans?

- They wanted to change the 'Settlement'; Elizabeth and her ministers had intended it to be permanent.
- They wanted to reduce influence of the government on the English Church. The government used the Church as a way of controlling people.
- The Settlement had been set up by Parliament and was therefore the law of the land. Changes were seen as dangerous and revolutionary.
- Many Puritans were MPs therefore they could criticise the Settlement in Parliament and try to change it.
- In 1573, a Puritan fanatic attempted to kill a leading councillor, Sir Christopher Hatton, thinking he was a secret Catholic.

Two Puritan controversies:

- **Vestments:** Puritan ministers refused to conform to dress code of the Settlement.
- In 1566 Archbishop Parker issued the **Book of Advertisements** requiring priests to attend an exhibition showing the vestments they must wear or face dismissal.
- Several were dismissed, 37 resigned but the vast majority conformed= **Elizabeth victory!**
- **Crucifixes:** To appease her Catholic subjects Elizabeth insisted that a crucifix be placed in each church.
- Puritans opposed use of 'idols' and when some Puritan bishops threatened to resign Elizabeth backed down- she had no one to replace them with= **Elizabeth defeat!**

Government response to Puritans

- Archbishop Parker made the clergy conform. He was loyal to Elizabeth and was Archbishop for a long period 1559-75.
- All attempts to reform the Prayer Book were dismissed by Elizabeth.
- In 1572, she announced that no new religious bills to be introduced without approval of the bishops.
- Nevertheless, in 1572, Puritans managed to give two readings to a bill to make the Act of Uniformity enforceable only on Catholics.
- In 1576 and 1581, Parliaments made requests for moderate reforms. Many of them were backed by leading members of the Council such as Burghley, Leicester and Walsingham.
- Walsingham in particular was sympathetic to Puritanism as a way of breaking Catholic influence in England.

9. The Catholic Challenge: The Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569

Catholic reaction to the settlement

- Many of the gentry and perhaps half the nobility at first continued as Catholics after the passing of the Elizabethan Settlement. Even by the late 1580s one third of the peerage was Catholic.
- All of Mary's Catholic bishops except one resigned rather than accept the new Settlement.
- Many of the lower clergy were still Catholic or at least conservative and unenthusiastic about the Settlement.
- While South and East of England were more Protestant, the North and West were more Catholic.
- Some Catholics believed that Mary Queen of Scots was the real Queen of England, since Elizabeth was illegitimate, whose mother (Anne Boleyn) had been executed by Henry VIII.

The Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569

- An attempt to replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots, and marry her to the Catholic Duke of Norfolk.
- Mary had arrived in England in 1568 after escaping from Scotland suspected of involvement in her husband's murder.
- The North was the most staunchly Catholic area of Britain. Northern Catholic nobility were often families of longstanding status such as the Nevilles and Percys. They had recently prospered under Mary I and now resented Elizabeth's promotion of 'new families' and favourites such as Cecil and Dudley and their loss of influence.
- Elizabeth's appointment of Pilkington, a Protestant as Archbishop of Durham (1561) didn't go down well.
- In 1569, the Catholic Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland began to recruit an army.
- The plan was for the Duke of Norfolk to raise forces in East Anglia and join the other rebels who were marching south having captured the North. Spanish troops were supposed to also arrive in support.
- The Rising was a complete flop. There was little support for the earls in the North.
- They advanced into Yorkshire and surrounded York, Catholic mass was even heard in Durham Cathedral, but when royal forces approached the rebels fled.
- Norfolk's nerve failed him and rising collapsed as it failed to liberate Mary. Spanish troops never arrived.
- In 1570, Parliament called for Mary, Queen of Scots, to be executed and for Elizabeth to marry and produce an heir.

Why did the Rising fail?

- Cecil and Elizabeth knew the details of the Rising almost from the first days as Dudley (who had originally been involved) informed them. Elizabeth did not panic and took firm action. The Rebels proceeded despite being rumbled.
- Many northern landowners remained loyal to Elizabeth. The Earls only raised about 2,500 men.
- Norfolk received very little support in East Anglia. He was summoned to Windsor and arrested on his way.
- Mary was moved south to Coventry, where she could not be reached by the rebels.
- The rebels realised that they had no chance of success and found themselves faced by a royal army of 28,000 men.
- About 700 rebels were hanged and 200 gentry had their lands seized and given to loyal supporters of the Queen.

Legacy of 1569: the Papacy and foreign powers

- In 1566 the Pope had instructed English Catholics to not attend Church of England services.
- **In 1570, the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth.** That meant that she was banished from the Catholic Church.
- This did not affect Elizabeth because she was head of her own Church, but it encouraged Catholics to oppose her.
- Philip II of Spain opposed excommunication at first, but gradually became more and more determined to deal with Elizabeth as relations between England and Spain grew worse

10. Other Catholic Plots

Ridolfi Plot, 1571

- The plan was to assassinate Elizabeth, Mary QoS would marry the Duke of Norfolk and become Queen.
- The plot was hatched and planned by Roberto di Ridolfi, an international banker and spy.
- He believed about 50% of the English nobility were Catholic and could raise 40,000 men. A Spanish invasion force of around 10,000 was supposed to arrive in support.
- The plot was encouraged by the Spanish Ambassador and the Spanish commander in the Netherlands, the Duke of Alba. .
- Walsingham's spies were able to uncover everything about the plot
- Norfolk executed June 1572. Ridolfi was abroad and never returned to England
- **Significance-** Reinforced threat from Mary and Catholics (home and abroad, threat from Spain esp. Duke of Alba's forces. Elizabeth tries to improve relations with France)

Priest holes/ Missionaries

- In 1568, William Allen, a leading English Catholic and Cardinal, founded the **English College at Douai** in the Low Countries.
- This was a centre for English Catholic refugees and a seminary for training new Catholic Clergy.
- It sent some 450 Catholic priests to England from 1574 onwards to prop up the Catholic Faith.
- These were not missionaries and did not try to convert Protestants; they offered support to Catholic families mostly in the North of England. Priest holes, where they hid in houses, can still be seen.
- After 1580, Jesuit missionaries were sent to England, led by Edmund Campion and Robert Parsons.
- The purpose again was to fortify the faithful rather than to convert Protestant heretics. Some managed to print and circulate Catholic literature.

Throckmorton Plot, 1583

- Francis Throckmorton was an English Catholic in league with the Spanish ambassador.
- Mary's cousin the Duke of Guise was to invade England, free Mary, overthrow Elizabeth and establish Catholicism. Financial aid would come from Spain. The Pope approved.
- Walsingham discovered plot- Throckmorton confessed under torture and executed May 1584
- **Significance-** discovered papers showed long list of Catholic sympathisers in England (real threat), harsher treatments of Catholics (11,000 imprisoned, surveillance, house arrest (1585 law- aiding Catholic priests= death penalty)
- In 1584, Throckmorton executed and Mendoza, the Spanish ambassador, was expelled.

Babington Plot, 1586

- By 1585 relations with Spain broken down with English aiding Dutch protestant rebels against Spanish.
- Duke of Guise was to invade with 60,000 men, English Catholics rebel, kill Elizabeth, put Mary on throne. Supported by Phillip II and Pope
- In 1586, Mary corresponded with Anthony Babington who was plotting to depose Elizabeth.
- The letters were intercepted by Elizabeth's spymaster Francis Walsingham.
- He had the evidence to convince Elizabeth that, while she lived, Mary would always be a danger. Mary was tried for treason and condemned to death in October 1586.
- Six Catholics involved arrested- hung, drawn, quartered. Oct. 1586- Mary tried by Privy Council. Found guilty and sentenced to death.
- Mass arrest of recusants, 31 priests executed.

11. Government response to the plots

How did the government respond to the Catholic threat?

- Catholic plots to free Mary and assassinate Elizabeth were unsuccessful thanks to Walsingham's intelligence network and vigilance.
- Jesuits and Catholic missionaries were arrested and often executed. Some 100 missionaries were executed during the reign.
- Between 1581 and 1590, 78 priests and 25 laymen were executed for supporting Catholic missions.
- Edmund Campion, the leading Jesuit missionary, was executed by hanging, drawing and quartering.

How were penalties against Catholics stiffened up?

- In 1571, an Act made it high treason to declare that Elizabeth was a heretic.
- It was also high treason to bring papal bulls into England.
- Catholics who had fled abroad could be deprived of goods and income from lands.
- In 1581, heavy fines could be imposed for hearing the Catholic Mass, £20 fine per month for recusancy (Catholics refusing to attend Church of England).
- A new Treason Act that made it a capital offence to convert or be converted to Catholicism.
- In 1584 Act, the death penalty was imposed for anyone receiving Jesuits.
- In 1584, the Bond of Association was drawn up by Protestants in Parliament and spread nationwide. Members of the association swore to pursue to the death anyone attempting to harm the Queen.
- **HOWEVER** some Catholics were still able to evade serious penalties by using their local influence especially in areas like the North where Catholics were still fairly numerous.
- Catholic gentry and nobles were allowed unofficially to hold Catholic services in their private chapels.
- Catholic landowners were often unreceptive to Jesuit missionaries who were sent to England after 1580. They saw them as un-English.
- Most Catholic landowners were loyal to the Elizabethan regime and did not want to attract attention by entertaining Catholic missionaries.
- Thus there was a split between the Catholic noble families and the zeal and fervour of the missionary priests and Jesuits.
- Most Catholic plots to overthrow Elizabeth involved foreign powers usually Spain or at least, Spanish agents. Most influential Catholics saw support for these plots as unpatriotic.
- In 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, English Catholics were keen to denounce the Spaniards as invaders.
- Catholicism therefore survived mainly amongst larger landowners who were widely scattered geographically.
- Catholic threat was in some ways more serious than puritan threat. Although most English Catholics were moderates who hoped for a Catholic Restoration in time,
- More extreme Catholics plotted to replace Elizabeth with Mary Queen of Scots.
- After 1585 England faced the prospect of a Spanish invasion to restore Catholicism.

12. Mary Queen of Scots: Catholic rival to the throne

Background

- Mary was the only child of James V of Scotland and his French wife, Mary of Guise.
- She was betrothed at a young age to Francis, the heir to the French crown, and sent to be raised at the court of Henry II.
- Francis became king in 1559, but died the following year. A widow, Mary returned to Scotland.
- In 1565, Mary married her cousin the Earl of Darnley. Their relationship quickly broke down. She became attracted to the Earl of Bothwell.
- In February 1567, there was an explosion at the house where Darnley was staying just outside of Edinburgh. His body was found outside.
- Mary married the Earl of Bothwell, a chief suspect in Darnley's murder, three months afterwards.
- This turned the Scottish nobility against her. Bothwell was exiled and Mary forced to abdicate in July 1567.
- She was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle, Kinross-shire and her infant son James was made king.
- Her army was defeated at the Battle of Langside near Glasgow, Mary fled to England to seek refuge from her cousin, Elizabeth I.
- Mary had hoped Queen Elizabeth would support her cause but her arrival in England put her cousin in a difficult position.
- The Catholic Mary had a strong claim to the English throne; she was a great grand-daughter of Henry VIII. Elizabeth had her imprisoned and kept under surveillance

Mary's arrival in England: Elizabeth's dilemma

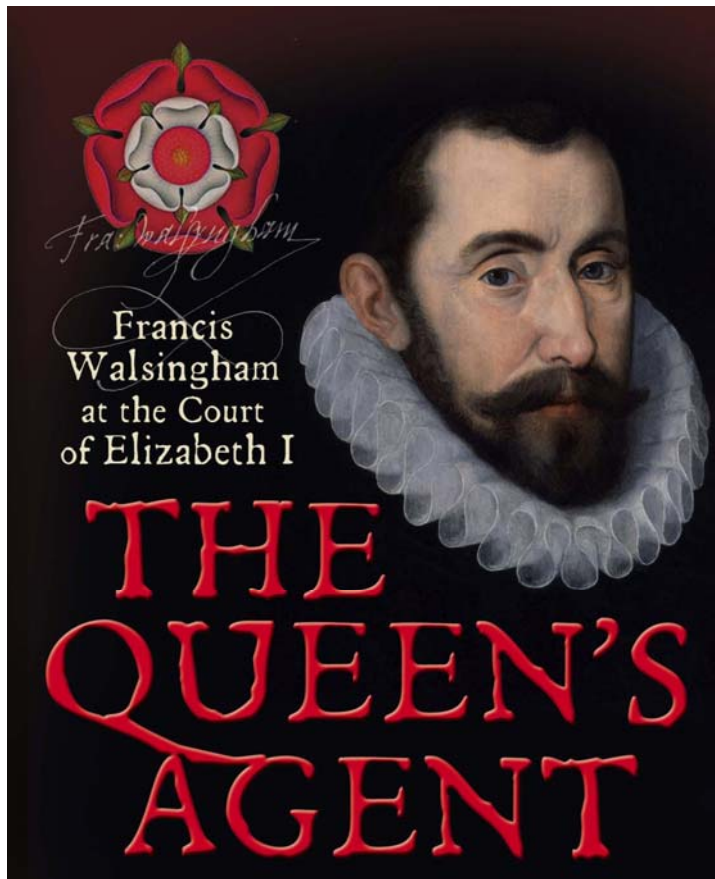
- Mary was clearly a strong rival for the English throne and widely supported by Catholics
- Young men of gentry status organised plots centring on Mary Queen of Scots.
- Mary became the focus of numerous Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth and put her on the English throne (see Northern Earls, Ridolfi, Throckmorton, Babington)
- Mary was not directly involved in these plots, so Elizabeth was reluctant to act against her.
- Only the hard evidence presented by Walsingham of Mary's direct involvement in the Babington Plot convinced Elizabeth to sign Mary's death warrant
- **Elizabeth's big dilemma was that Mary was not only her cousin but an anointed monarch (blessed and crowned in God's name)**
- **Breaking this holy bond would set a dangerous precedent- people may turn on Elizabeth with this protection already violated**

The significance of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots

- Mary's execution removed the Catholic's main contender to the English throne
- This combined with increasing punishments reduced the severity of the domestic Catholic challenge
- Mary's execution was however a significant cause of the **Spanish Armada**



13: The role Walsingham: spy master



The role of Sir Francis Walsingham:

- **Spy network:** Walsingham had a network of spies and informants in every town in England. Some of his agents were paid and trained by the government. Others were paid informants- often people who knew or were likely to know potential plotters against the Queen.
- A good example of an informant was John Hart- a Catholic priest who became an informant in return for a Royal Pardon.
- Walsingham also had a network of spies abroad- crossing France, Germany, Spain, Italy, even North Africa.
- **Ciphers:** Walsingham used 'ciphers' (codes) for all correspondences across his network of informants.
- **Crucially** he could also decode/ decipher the codes of those who plotted against Elizabeth. He had a team of specialists to help do this. **This was crucial in the discovery of the Babington Plot- intercepted and decoded correspondence provided firm evidence against Mary Queen of Scot.**
- **Torture and execution:** Walsingham made use of torture to obtain information (and deter others). However this was only in the most serious cases- he didn't want ordinary people to sympathise with plotters.
- 130 priests and 60 of their supporters were executed on Walsingham's orders
- The threat of torture and execution was effective in deterring plotters and gathering informants
- **Agents provocateurs:** Walsingham employed these to encourage potential plotters to act so as to justify their arrest/ execution.

14: The Spanish Netherlands: Part 1 1566-1570

Background

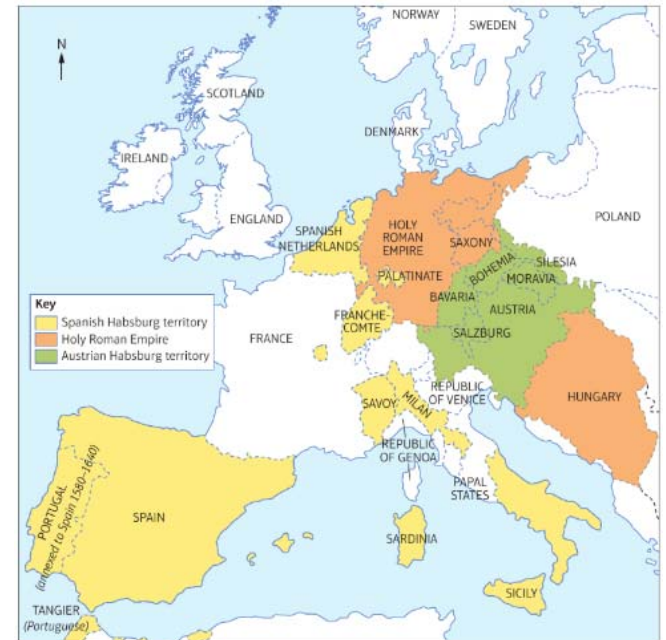
- Since the 1550s there had been increasing unhappiness in the Spanish controlled Netherlands against Spanish rule.
- Phillip's reorganisation of government and church and introduction of the **Spanish Inquisition** united Catholics and Protestants against Spanish rule
- In 1566 the Dutch Revolt broke out against Spanish occupation.
- In 1567 the Duke of Alba's forces (10,000) were sent to deal with the revolt which was defeated by 1568
- Alba established a **Council of Troubles** to enforce Catholicism and obedience to the Spanish Crown
- It operated outside of the law and saw thousands of Protestants executed
- Alba's actions in the Netherlands posed a serious threat to Elizabeth- his forces and their mission against Protestantism could easily be directed against her crown and England.
- By 1570 Spain was firmly back in control of it's Dutch territories, many criticised Elizabeth for not getting sufficiently involved...

A dilemma for Elizabeth

- Elizabeth was under increasing pressure to deal with the threat of Alba's presence in the Netherlands
- Many of her advisors including William Cecil believed there was a international struggle between Protestantism and Catholicism
- Elizabeth however was desperate to avoid war- she was aware that England didn't have the resources to fight Spain (especially if Spain allied with France)
- She also didn't want to ignite religious tensions at home

Indirect assistance

- Elizabeth outwardly condemned the rebels and was keen to avoid escalating tensions with Spain. However...
- **Sea Beggars**- Some Dutch rebels fled via the sea and attacked Spanish ships carrying men and resources for Alba's army in the English Channel . In 1567 Elizabeth allowed them to shelter in English harbours
- **The Genoese Loan**- In 1568 Spanish ships carrying gold loaned by Italian bankers for Alba's troops in the Netherlands took refuge from the Sea Beggars in English ports. Elizabeth decided to keep the gold for herself, greatly angering Spain!
- **Mercenaries**- Elizabeth provided financial support to others supporting fighting the Spanish including **John Casimir**, a foreign mercenary (*see Spanish Netherlands Part 2*).



What about France?

- Religious war had broken out in France and in 1562 Elizabeth had backed French Protestants, hoping to take back Calais as reward.
- Her plan failed as the Protestants and Catholic made peace later in the year
- *The risk of Spain and France uniting against England remained Elizabeth's most serious threat.*

15: The Spanish Netherlands: Part 2 1576- 1583

Reignited tensions:

- **The Spanish Fury, November 1576-** Spanish forces in the Netherlands mutinied after months without *pay* (*the Spanish government in the Netherlands was nearly bankrupt- the war was too expensive*). They attacked Antwerp.
- **The Pacification of Ghent-** after the sacking of Antwerp all 17 Dutch provinces (Protestants and Catholics) united against Spain and drew up this list of demands (*removal of Spanish troops, restoration of political autonomy, end of religious persecution*).
- Elizabeth sent £100,000 to fund the rebels and agreed to send an expeditionary force at some point in the future to help ensure the Pacification of Ghent was carried out.
- **February 1577- Don Juan** (Phillip II's brother) arrives in the Netherlands and agrees to all terms of the 17 provinces! *It seemed Elizabeth had achieved her aims...*

A missed opportunity?

- Less than six months after Don Juan agreeing to the Pacification of Ghent, Phillip sent a new army to attack the Dutch
- Elizabeth hired a mercenary, **John Casimir**, a financed him to raise an army of 6000 volunteers to help the Dutch.
- Casimir goes too far by attacking Catholic churches. This encourages Dutch Catholics to seek peace with Spain

Frustration with Elizabeth: the rebels turn to Alençon

- By 1578 the Dutch forces were in a strong enough position to potentially beat the Spanish- however Elizabeth fails to act decisively/ intervene directly, much to the frustration of Dutch rebel leaders (and many of her own Privy Councillors).
- As a result the Dutch rebels turn to France for support. The Duke of Alençon is asked by the Dutch to help them and agrees.
- Alençon came to England in October 1581 and Elizabeth gives him £70,000 to fight the Spanish. Alençon repeatedly fails to achieve significant victories in the Netherlands and finally returned to France in 1583. He died in June 1584.



THE ATTACK ON ANTWERP, 1576, CALLED "THE SPANISH FURY."

Strengthening Spanish position:

- In 1579 the Duke of Parma arrives in the Netherlands. Parma was a good military leader and gives Spain upper hand. By 1580 Spain was firmly back in control of the Netherlands.
- In 1580 Spain gains Portugal, providing new strength and wealth. This alarms Elizabeth as it meant Spain obtained Portugal's empire and navy. This made her increasingly cautious of directly intervening.

16: The Spanish Netherlands:

Part 3 1584-88: Direct Intervention and causes of the Armada

1584: A turning point

- **The deaths of Alencon and William of Orange:** on the 10th June Alencon died, followed one month later with the assassination of William of Orange, the leader of the Dutch rebels, on 10th July. These deaths deprived Elizabeth of two valuable allies.
- England's involvement in the Netherlands was fiercely debated by the Privy Council between autumn 1584- summer 1585. Until the decision was made for them...
- **1584- the Treaty of Joinville** united the French Catholic League (with support of the French King) and Phillip II's Spain in the aim of ridding France of 'heresy'- **this meant Catholic France and Spain were now allies against Protestantism**
- *This meant Elizabeth could no longer avoid direct intervention in the Netherlands*

Direct intervention, 1585:

- **Elizabeth offered the crown:** In June 1585 Dutch Protestant representatives came to England and offered Elizabeth sovereignty of the Netherlands. She refused as she was unwilling to depose Phillip II- an anointed monarch.
- Instead she signed the **Treaty of Nonsuch (10th August 1585)**- agreeing to intervene directly in the Netherlands. She would finance an army of 7400 English troops under her long time favourite Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. **This effectively put England and Spain at war.**
- In October 1585 she sent Sir Francis Drake to raid Spanish New World settlements- to disrupts Spain's resources and finances.
- Phillip was predictably livid and informed the Pope that he intended to invade England at the end of 1585.

The role of Robert Dudley:

- Dudley (the Earl of Leicester) went to the Netherlands as commander of an English army in December 1585. He paid for the expedition himself by mortgaging his estate for £25,000.
- The Dutch wanted him to take command of the Netherlands, but Elizabeth ordered him not to.
- Elizabeth also gave him instructions that he was not to attack the Spanish forces of the Duke of Parma.
- Dudley ignored the Queen's instructions and attacked the most powerful army in Europe.
- Elizabeth started peace talks with Spain behind his back almost as soon as he had left. She wanted to avoid war at all costs.
- Dudley was ordered back to England in 1586; in his absence, two officers (both Catholics) deserted to the Spanish and handed over two key fortresses.
- He returned to the Netherlands in 1587, but lost the port of Sluys. His relationship with the Dutch broke down and he was recalled by Elizabeth in 1587.
- **The expedition had achieved nothing but had made a Spanish attack on England inevitable.**

17: Causes of the Armada: escalating tensions

Political and religious rivalry

- Philip II of Spain saw himself as the defender of Catholicism and was backed by the Pope.
- After the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570, Philip became determined to attack England and was involved in several plots against Elizabeth (*see Catholic plots*).
- Elizabeth was sympathetic to Protestants in northern Europe, especially to the Dutch in the Spanish Netherlands. The Dutch began a long revolt against Spain in the 1560s (*see Spanish Netherlands sections*).

Privateering: the role and impact of Francis Drake

- From the 1560s, English merchants/ privateers began to attack Spanish ships travelling to and from the New World. They also launched raids on Spanish colonies.
- They were authorised to operate by the government, i.e. Elizabeth. The most famous were Sir John Hawkins and Sir Francis Drake.
- In one raid in 1572 Drake captured £40,000 in Spanish silver.
- During 1577-80 whilst **circumnavigating** the globe a further £400k of silver and gold was captured
- Elizabeth had been encouraging Dutch rebels (Sea beggars) to attack Spanish ships sailing between Spain and the Netherlands
- By 1580 loss of silver meant the Spanish government in the Netherlands couldn't afford to pay its soldiers. This led to the **Spanish Fury** (*see Spanish Netherlands Part 2*).
- Elizabeth rewarded Drake's actions against Spain with a Knighthood- showing her support of English privateering. Phillip regarded Drake as a Pirate who needed to be removed- by war if necessary!

Commercial rivalry

- By the 1570s the two countries were commercial (trade) rivals- both competing for access to markets and resources in the New World but also Turkey, Europe, Russia, China and North Africa.
- Spanish control of the Netherlands and the Scheldt and Rhine estuaries closed off one of the principal trade routes to Europe- reducing the profits of English merchants
- In the first half of the sixteenth century, Spain had occupied a vast empire in Central and South America (Mexico and Peru). This provided the Spanish government with vast quantities of gold and silver and also allowed Spain control over trade in sugar and tobacco.
- Spanish control of the New World also denied English traders profit making opportunities because all trade there had to be licensed by the Spanish government
- Elizabeth sought to challenge Spain's dominance in these areas...

Why were the English authorities very worried by the threat of a Spanish attack?

- English Catholics might rise to help a Spanish invasion.
- Prolonged warfare would be too expensive for England.
- English navy powerful but might not be a match for new Spanish Armada.
- In 1586, Drake had raided Spanish outposts in the Caribbean. San Domingo was captured and sacked.
- Philip II decided to deal with England; he would send an Armada to ferry the Spanish army in the Netherlands across the Channel and destroy Protestantism.

18: The Spanish Armada: Events

Events of the Spanish Armada

- From 1586-87, the Armada was prepared in Spain. It should have sailed in 1587, but Drake raided Spanish port of Cadiz and destroyed many Spanish ships: *'the Singeing of the King of Spain's beard'*
- In 1588, the Armada sailed against England. The plan was to link up with the Duke of Parma in the Low Countries and help to transport thousands of Spanish troops to England.
- The English were well aware of the plans and tried to intercept the armada before it reached the Channel, but the weather was too bad.
- The Armada of 122 ships reached the Channel at the end of July and sailed past the English fleet which was at Plymouth. It was unable to sail because the wind was in the wrong direction
- Lord Howard, the High Admiral, ordered the English ships to follow the Armada and attack from behind.
- The English ships were smaller and more manoeuvrable but could do little to damage the Spanish ships. Only two Spanish ships were lost as the armada sailed up the Channel.
- When the Armada reached Calais, where it was to meet Parma, there were problems. There was no harbour at Calais; the Duke of Medina Sidonia, the Spanish commander, ordered the Spanish ships to moor at sea in 'Calais Roads'.
- Parma was nowhere to be seen. He was delayed dealing with trouble caused by the Dutch.
- Drake decided to attack the Armada on 7 August using fire-ships; eight vessels were filled with gunpowder and sailed into the Spanish fleet.
- They did little damage, but caused panic; many Spanish ships cut their anchor cables and fled.
- On 8 August, the English attacked the Spanish at Gravelines, but again did little damage.
- By now, the English ships had little or no ammunition. Elizabeth had been her usual mean self in refusing to pay for more.
- The south-west wind now forced the Spanish to sail up the North Sea and the English soon gave up the chase.
- The Armada sailed north around Scotland and the west coast of Ireland before returning to Spain. About 40 ships made it back.



19: Why did the Spanish Armada fail?

The reasons for the English victory:

- **English tactics:** The invasion failed, partly because of the skill of the English navy.
- Drake's use of **fire ships** at Gravelines caused the Spanish to panic.
- The English followed the Armada up the English channel and got close enough to Spanish ships to fire on them but far enough away to prevent the Spanish boarding English ships.
- **Ship design and weapons:** Sir John Hawkins and Sir Francis Drake changed the way naval battles were fought and introduced new technology. English ships were quicker and more manoeuvrable than Spanish galleons.
- In Elizabethan ships, guns were placed on a gun-deck in the hull, when they were fired, they fell back and could be reloaded quickly.
- Drake trained sailors in the use of the broadside; the guns along the hull were fired in a ripple at the enemy.
- *This meant that the English could fire much faster than the Spanish.*

'**God blew and they were scattered**'- perhaps the biggest factor in failure of the Armada was the weather- the biggest Spanish losses were incurred due to stormy conditions around the coast of Scotland and Ireland!

Spanish failures:

- **Communication:** there was no communication between the Duke of Parma and Medina-Sidonia. The Armada and waiting forces in the Netherlands never combined.
- **Supply issues:** the Armada was at sea for 10 weeks, by early August food had rotted and gunpowder deteriorated due to poor quality barrels.
- **Panic at Gravelines:** the Spanish fleet panicked when faced with English 'fire ships'- many captains cut their anchors and allowed their ships to drift into the North Sea.
- **Inexperience:** The Spanish commander, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, was not a sailor; he got the job because he was a duke. He rashly decided to moor in Calais Roads, which gave the English an opportunity to attack.
- Many of the crews on the Spanish ships were soldiers and were not used to fighting at sea.
- **Phillip as commander:** Philip's plan to link his land and sea forces was fatally flawed. He had planned the Armada in his study in his palace outside Madrid. He had no idea of conditions in the Channel.
- **Lack of support:** Philip was over optimistic that thousands of English Catholics would rise against Elizabeth's regime.
- **Outdated ships/ weapons:** Spanish ships still used large and unwieldy guns. They were slower and less manoeuvrable than the English fleet and its weapons.

Impact on Elizabeth and England :

- **Increased authority:** Elizabeth came out of the events very well; she refused to panic and stayed in London. She had delegated command to experts unlike Phillip who insisted on his own command.
- She went to Tilbury to lead the English army and made the famous 'Tilbury Speech'; *I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king.*
- **English Navy:** Armada defeat showed its strength, boosting confidence and encouraging trade and exploration.
- **Stronger alliances in Europe:** Anglo-Dutch alliance strengthened. Protestantism in the Netherlands survived.
- **Victory of Protestantism:** was God on the Protestants side. Victory was a boost to Protestants across England and Europe.

Elizabeth became even more popular and had the Armada Portrait – painted to glorify her. She became known as 'Gloriana'. She took center stage at a victory parade in London



20: Education

Education in the home, school and universities

- Nobles and the wealthy educated their children at home with private tutors. Elizabeth had been educated in this way by her father.
- Boys learnt Latin, French and some mathematics; girls learnt embroidery and how to manage a household.
- Schools came in different forms: grammar schools taught Latin and Greek and little else.
- It became fashionable for the wealthy to found schools in the late sixteenth century; it was encouraged by Protestant belief. These schools usually educated poor boys.
- Henry VIII founded many schools after the dissolution of the monasteries; there are 'King's' schools all over England.
- Petty (nursery) school began at the age of four and after three years children moved on to grammar school.
- They attended schools six days a week, with Sunday being the only day off. School holidays were only taken at Easter and Christmas and they lasted for a week.
- The school day usually began at around six or seven in the morning and finished around five in the evening. Lunch break was two hours long beginning at 11 o' clock.
- At school, children were expected to speak Latin and there were harsh punishments for children who did not behave. They were either beaten with a wooden rod or sent to prison!
- Children of the poor usually received no education, unless the parish priest ran a school.

New influences on education:

- **Philosophy (humanists)**- stressed the importance of education in fulfilling potential and ending superstitious beliefs
- **Religion (Protestants)**- believed that people should be able to read Bible to have own relationship with God
- **Economics**- education was seen as increasingly important for developing business and trades in towns
- **Social order**- education opportunities largely remained limited to an individuals place in the social hierarchy especially rural areas

Universities

- Students could go to university from about the age of fourteen. They stayed for three or four years.
- Universities were an extension of grammar schools; the lecturers were usually clergy and they concentrated on the classics, logic and oratory.
- There were no written examinations; students were tested orally by being given statements to debate with other students.

Who went where?

- **Home tutor/ noble household**- nobility (boys and girls- different subjects)
- **Traditional grammar school**- boys of the 'middling sort' (well off families in towns)
- **Grammar school (alternative curriculum)**- merchants and craftsmen
- **Petty schools/ Dame schools**- middle class boys/ girls whose families could afford them
- **Learned what they needed from family**- labourers and poor children

21: Leisure and Pastimes

Sport and pastimes

- Games were usually rough and could be very violent. Elizabethans liked to watch physical suffering, either in human beings or in animals.
- There were extremely brutal sports of bull- and bear-baiting and cock-fighting. In bull or bear-baiting, dogs were set on a tethered animal.
- In cock-fighting, cockerels were trained to fight using metal spurs. They fought in a 'cock-pit'.
- All these sports were very popular and attracted betting of vast sums. Even Queen Elizabeth watched them
- Football was played by large numbers with teams from different villages. Contemporary descriptions are very violent.
- Cudgel-play, wrestling, and broadsword encounters were equally likely to send their players home with bloody heads and broken limbs.

The Globe

- The most famous playhouse was the Globe (1599) built by the company in which Shakespeare had a stake.
- The Globe was the principal playhouse of the Lord Chamberlain's Men (who would become the King's Men in 1603).
- Most of Shakespeare's post-1599 plays were staged at the Globe, including Macbeth and Hamlet.
- The Globe was owned by many actors, who (except for one) were also shareholders in the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

The Theatre

- The first proper theatre was 'The Theatre', built at Shoreditch in 1576.
- These theatres could hold several thousand people; most stood in the open pit before the stage, though rich nobles could watch the play from a chair set on the side of the stage itself.
- Theatre performances were held in the afternoon due to no artificial lighting.
- Women attended plays, though often the prosperous woman would wear a mask to disguise her identity.
- No women performed in the plays. Female roles were generally performed by young boys.
- Plays were performed by companies of actors. The earl of Leicester had a company, which may have built The Theatre.
- Companies had to be careful about the plays that were written and performed. Anything that was controversial or political was likely to get them in trouble with the crown.
- William Shakespeare wrote a series of plays about Queen Elizabeth's ancestors which were intended as propaganda such as Richard III.
- Puritans did not like the theatre; they believed that it was immoral.

Festivals

- In Elizabeth's time there were still a considerable number of popular festivals, some of them regularly kept up all over the country.
- Strove Tuesday was an occasion to all and sundry for a final feast before Lent: pancake tossing, football, cock-fighting and feasting were popular.
- Easter was celebrated by sports of all kinds, and in some parts of the country, especially at Reading and Coventry.
- Hock Monday and Hock Tuesday were still observed—on the former day the men of the town would capture all the women and hold them to ransom.
- On the latter the women did the same to the men. The money thus collected went into the churchwardens' funds for charitable use.
- The rich could go hunting and enjoy plays, masques and music which became increasingly popular during the reign of Elizabeth.

22: Poverty

Reasons for the increase in poverty

- **Population increase:** from about 2.5m to about 4m during the sixteenth century. This resulted in more mouths to feed, more jobs needed, lower wages due to surplus labour force...
- This coincided with two periods of very **bad harvests**, in the 1550s and 1590s.
- **Demand for land/ rising rents:** due to population increase
- **Rural depopulation:** The population was far more mobile than at any time in the past. Young men and women left their villages for agricultural work or domestic service.
- **Growth of towns and cities:** London grew from about 50,000 in 1500 to 200,000 in 1600. York, Exeter and Norwich all grew to about 20,000. The percentage of people living in towns rose by about 50% during the sixteenth century.
- **Dissolution of the Monasteries** in the 1530s removed an important source of local relief and increased the numbers of vagrants.
- Another factor was the extension of **enclosure**, particularly in the North of England. Many areas had been enclosed before 1500, but there was an increase during the century.
- **Enclosure meant fewer workers were needed;** the unemployed wandered looking for work.
- The worst affected areas were the Midlands, but the South and East were also enclosed.
- Enclosure improved productivity, but despite that, **agricultural prices began to rise**, at times quite steeply.
- **Sheep farming** was more profitable than arable and involved less work. It supplied the cloth trade= unemployment and rural depopulation.
- **Landowners switched from arable to pasture to produce wool for export.** This became England's main trade.

Why did the government take action?

- Increases in the number of vagrants were very worrying for the government.
- The government preferred people to stay in one place; that had been the way of life before 1500.
- These were attempts to prevent people moving around the country by making relief available in parishes.
- Society was a pyramid and each level took responsibility for the people below.
- There was no police for, apart from JPs, who were responsible for law and order, so beggars were seen as a threat.

Punishments for the 'idle poor'

- From 1531 and 1598, various laws were passed which set down the punishments for vagrancy.
- **1572 Vagabonds Act-** to deter vagrancy
- 1st time- Vagrants whipped/ hole drilled through ear
- 2nd time- imprisoned
- 3rd time- death!
- **1576 Poor Relief Act-** Houses of Correction for those who refused to work even after aid offered
- Eventually, the authorities realised there were genuine cases of poverty. They tried to distinguish between 'idle poor' and 'impotent poor'.

Help for the 'deserving/ impotent' poor

- **1563 Statute of Artificers-** prison for people who refuse to pay poor rates, fines for officials failing to organise poor relief
- **1572 Vagabonds Act-** established a national poor rate for first time (sheltered impotent poor)
- Towns/cities responsible for finding work for able bodied poor
- JPs were given powers to collect a weekly poor-rate (tax) from each parish to help provide for poor people who were genuinely ill, disabled or too old to work.
- **1576 Poor Relief Act-** JPs provide able bodied with wool/ raw materials to make things to sell.

23: Reasons for the growth in exploration

Expanding trade and rivalry with Spain

- Trade was expanding quickly in the New World
- Stories of fabulous wealth came back from the Americas; Spain received vast quantities of silver.
- 'New Spain' was a major incentive to exploration because it offered the possibility of increased trade.
- English merchants needed new trading opportunities as war with Spain and in the Netherlands severely damaged the wool and cloth trades..

Triangular Trade:

- Trader and explorer John Hawkins exchanged iron goods and guns in West Africa for slaves who could then be transported across the Atlantic (the Middle Passage) and sold as labour to plantation owners.
- His example started the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade which was to last over 200 years and see up to 15 million Africans enslaved

New technology

Ship design:

- Ships or galleons had bigger sails, were faster and more manoeuvrable
- They had greater firepower for protection against pirates
- They were more stable and could hold more supplies- encouraging longer voyages/ exploration

Navigation:

- Navigation was becoming more precise and easier through the development of better astrolabes and improved quadrants.
- These made voyages safer, direct and faster.

Maps:

- Standardised maps such as the 1569 Mercator map (pictured) gave sailors and traders greater confidence that they were travelling in the right direction, reducing risk and encouraging further voyages.



Adventure

- Young Elizabethan men sought the adventure and potentially huge rewards of exploration. Explorers such as Sir Francis Drake became national heroes and encouraged others to follow their example.
- Published accounts of voyages were often inaccurate but persuaded others to venture into the unknown in search of treasure and riches.

Investment

- Private investors including Elizabeth and her courtiers funded many voyages of discovery.
- Trading companies developed and were given monopolies over the trade in their area.
- Successful voyages increased the incomes of both the Crown and the nobility.

24: The voyages of Francis Drake

Sir Francis Drake's voyages

- In 1567, Drake made one of the first English slaving voyages as part of a fleet led by his cousin John Hawkins, bringing African slaves to work in the 'New World'.
- The Spanish became a lifelong enemy for Drake and they in turn considered him a pirate.
- In 1570 and 1571, Drake made two profitable trading voyages to the West Indies.
- In 1572, he commanded two vessels in a marauding expedition against Spanish ports in the Caribbean.
- **Circumnavigation of the globe, December 1577 and September 1580:** In 1577, Drake was secretly commissioned by Elizabeth I to set off on an expedition against the Spanish colonies on the American Pacific coast.
- He sailed with five ships, but by the time he reached the Pacific Ocean in October 1578 only one was left, Drake's flagship the Pelican, renamed the Golden Hind.
- He travelled up the west coast of South America, plundering Spanish ports. He continued north, hoping to find a route across to the Atlantic.
- In July 1579, he turned west across the Pacific. He visited the Moluccas, Celebes, Java and then sailed round the Cape of Good Hope.
- He arrived back in England in September 1580 with a rich cargo of spices and Spanish treasure and the distinction of being the first Englishman to **circumnavigate the globe**.
- In 1585, Drake sailed to the West Indies and the coast of Florida where he sacked and plundered Spanish cities.
- On his return voyage, he picked up the unsuccessful colonists of Virginia, which was the first English colony in the New World.
- In 1587, war with Spain was imminent and Drake entered the port of Cadiz and destroyed 30 of the ships the Spanish were assembling against the British.
- In 1588, he was a vice admiral in the fleet that defeated the Armada.

The significance of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe

- **England's reputation as a sea faring nation increased-** Drake was knighted and became a national hero
- **Nova Albion-** Drake claimed the area of modern San Francisco as English territory
- **Encouraged further trade and exploration-** in China, West Africa and India
- **Damaged Anglo-Spanish relations-** as a result of Drake's voyage England claimed the right to rule much of North America. This bought England into conflict with Spain and the Pope. Drake's knighthood aboard the Golden Hind seven months later, infuriated Phillip II.



25: Raleigh and Virginia

Walter Raleigh: Background

- From rich gentry family- Explorer, courtier, writer, historian
- In 1578, Raleigh sailed to America with explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert, his half brother.
- Raleigh has been credited with bringing potatoes and tobacco back to Britain, although both of these were already known via the Spanish. Raleigh did help to make smoking popular at court.
- 1579- Drake declares Nova Albion property of Elizabeth
- Raleigh first came to the attention of Elizabeth I in 1580, when he went to Ireland to help suppress an uprising in Munster. He became one of Elizabeth's main favourites.

Royal Charter:

- 1584- Raleigh given royal charter by Elizabeth to explore and colonise lands in North America.
- This charter gave Raleigh seven years in which to establish a settlement, or else lose his right to do so.
- Not an easy task- had been two failed attempts to do this (1578, 1583) by his half brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert
- His mission to establish an American colony was known as 'the Virginia Project'.

Raleigh's objectives in Virginia:

- To colonize lands in North America
- To provide riches from the New World
- To establish a base from which to send privateers on raids against the treasure fleets of Spain
- To establish a military base to counteract the activities of the Spaniards
- To send Spain a message- we're ready for war!

Raleigh's problems:

- **Funding:** Elizabeth does not fund the new colony- has to raise the money himself.
- **Leadership:** Doesn't allow Raleigh himself to go! He therefore has to find suitable leaders to lead the expedition on his behalf
- **Two previous failed attempts:** discouraged further efforts
- **Convincing people:** to leave homes and settle in unknown land (only gets 107 not 300 he wanted- and all men!)

The 1584 and 1585 voyages:

- A preparatory visit took place in 1584 to survey the area- the team return with tales of riches aplenty, this encourages investment.
- Two friendly natives Manteo and Wanchese returned to London and help plan the expedition and teach their language
- In 1585 a party of 107 colonists led by Richard Grenville set out for Roanoke, Virginia. They were mostly soldiers and sailors.
- A colony was founded and named 'Virginia' in 1585. The settlers survived until 1586, when they were brought back to England by Sir Francis Drake.

Why did the first colony fail?

- **Supplies:** The settlers depended on supplies from England; they could wait six months or even a year to arrive. On the journey many supplies were damaged by seawater.
- As a result many starved.
- **Late arrival:** In 1585 they arrived too late to plant crops and seed was ruined by salt water.
- **Disease:** spread throughout the colony.
- **Skill shortages/ inexperience:** The settlers were not equipped for life in America. Many were unwilling to conduct manual work.
- **Leadership:** Grenville fell out with Ralph Lane, governor of the colony.
- **Native relations:** In 1586 Chief Wingina led an attack on the colonists due to anger at spread of disease. Other tribes attacked annoyed by English demands for food.

26: Roanoke- the second failed attempt

Roanoke: The 1587 voyage

- In 1587, Raleigh attempted a second settlement on Roanoke Island.
- This time colonists from poorer backgrounds- willing to work! Some entire families went under the **leadership of John White**.
- Manteo made Lord of Roanoke- hoping to gain Native support.
- White returned to England to obtain more supplies for the colony, planning to return in a year. Unfortunately for the colonists at Roanoke, one year became three.
- It may have all gone wrong when a key adviser disappeared- Manteo attacks local Roanoke Indians.
- When the supply ship arrived in Roanoke, three years later than planned, the colonists had disappeared.
- The only clue to their fate was the word 'CROATOAN' and letters 'CRO' carved into tree trunks.
- White had arranged with the settlers that if they should move, the name of their destination be carved into a tree or corner post.
- This suggested the possibilities that they had moved to Croataoan Island, but a hurricane prevented John White from investigating.



Raleigh's fall from grace:

- In 1592, the queen discovered Raleigh's secret marriage to one of her maids of honour, Elizabeth (Bessie) Throckmorton.
- This discovery threw Elizabeth into a jealous rage and Raleigh and his wife were imprisoned in the Tower.
- On his release, in an attempt to find favour with the queen, he set off on an unsuccessful expedition to find El Dorado, the fabled 'Golden Land'.
- It was supposed to be situated somewhere beyond the mouth of the Orinoco river in Guiana (now Venezuela).