

# ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND UNIT 3: TROUBLES

THIS IS THE KEY KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND THIS UNIT

SHE'S TRYING TO KEEP US BOTH HAPPY

## The Catholic threat

Elizabeth became less tolerant of Catholics as time progressed. 1570 – she was excommunicated from the Catholic Church – Catholics encouraged to overthrow her. In 1568 a missionary college was founded at Douai to train Catholic priests – then sent to England to secretly minister for Catholics and spread Catholicism – 1st arrived in 1574 E.g Edmund Campion – executed in 1581

Because of this laws against Catholics became harsher: 1571 – Treasons Act – said that anyone who challenged the Queen on religious grounds could face the death penalty, 1581 – Fines increased for recusancy (not going to church). Prison sentences for those going to Catholic mass and those involved in rebellions

Many of the Catholic plots focussed on Mary, Queen of Scots

## Other plots

- Fled to England in 1568 after the death (murder) of her husband, Lord Darnley

- Forced to abdicate and hoped by coming to England her cousin Elizabeth would help her regain power in Scotland

- Eliz couldn't do this and had her imprisoned while an enquiry was set up

- Eliz didn't want the enquiry to find Mary guilty as it would mean sending her back to Scotland and give legitimacy to what the Scottish nobles had done

- Eliz didn't want a not-guilty verdict either as she would have to free Mary

- In the end there was no verdict – Mary to be kept in captivity and this would cause problems for the next 19 years...

## Northern Rebellion

Many Northern nobles were committed Catholics – saw the fact that Mary, Queen of Scots was in the country as an opportunity. Earl of Northumberland – had land taken off him and given to a Protestant

1569 – Duke of Norfolk (very wealthy landowner) hatched a plan to put Mary on the throne with support from Earl of Northumberland and the Earl of Westmorland. When the plot was uncovered the Earls attempted to overthrow Elizabeth – they captured Durham, celebrated Catholic mass, marched South for Tutbury (where Mary being kept)

Before they got there a royal army forced them to retreat – the Earls fled (Westmorland abroad and Northumberland to Scotland) Northumberland caught and executed as were 400 rebels

CONSEQUENCES – increased government control in the North, showed Mary was a rallying point for Catholics, showed support for the Queen as most Catholics didn't support the Rebellion, most serious and last attempt by ENGLISH Catholics to remove Elizabeth

## Protestant threat

Extreme Protestants are called Puritans. By the 1570s they were unhappy about the lack of uneducated priests so they introduced 'PROPHESYINGS' – training to show priests how to preach

Eliz ordered the Archbishop of Canterbury to stop this but he approved – Eliz suspended him and put him under house arrest. She made John Whitgift Archbishop who attacked the Puritans. 200-300 Priests suspended. Led to some to form SEPERATIST churches – banned from doing so in 1590 and leaders arrested

## Conflict with Spain

### WY DID THE ARMADA (1588) FAIL?

Strength of the English – small, quick ships, better cannons, tactics more effective. Spanish weaknesses – lack of experience, plan to meet the Duke of Parma was flawed Luck – the death of Spain's best naval commander, Santa Cruz, meant that Medina Sidonia was put in charge and the weather played its part

CONSEQUENCES – 2 more attempts by Phil! Made England a strong navy – led to establishment of trade routes and played an important part in colonisation . Boosted popularity of Eliz (God favoured Protestantism!)

### THE RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENT

Designed for religious stability

ACT OF SUPREMACY - Eliz made herself Supreme Governor of the Church (not Supreme Head). Gave her control of the church, without calling herself Head!

ACT OF UNIFORMITY – imposed some moderate Protestant reforms on the English church such as going to church compulsory, new book of Common Prayer, bible in English in each Parish. Churches allowed to keep some decorations and wording of communion services was vague so accepted by both sides. England was Protestant but allowed some elements of Catholic faith to continue.

Many reasons why they fell out – Mary's execution, refusal to marry, privateers attacking Spanish ships, differences of religion. War over the Netherlands – 1581 Protestant rebels declared independence from Spain. Eliz supported the Netherlands and promised military assistance. Why? Could be a base to attack England and a lot of British trade went through the Netherlands on the way to Europe. Phillip saw this as an act of war and planned for invasion... "Singeing the King of Spain's beard" – Drake went to spy and disrupt the Spanish – attacked at the port of Cadiz (1587) and delayed the Armada by a year