

GCSE HISTORY REVISION CARDS

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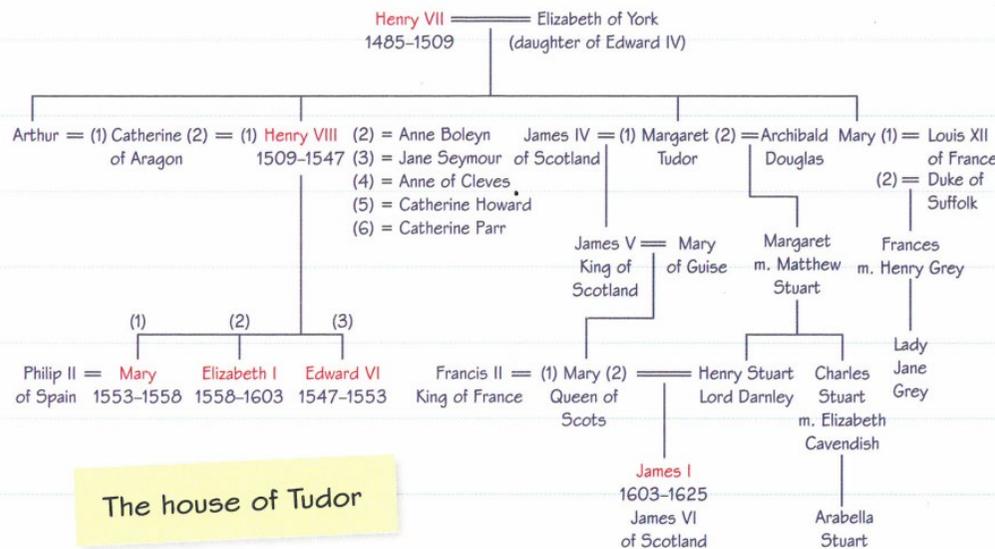
Elizabethan England c1568 -
1603

Background and Character

Elizabeth I and her court

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Elizabeth's family background



The house of Tudor

Elizabeth took the throne after her sister, Mary, had died in 1558. However, her position was not secure. Her mother, Anne Boleyn, had been executed for treason and Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate. Also, Elizabeth was a protestant and many of the English were Catholics. They believed that she was not a true heir as she had been born of a second marriage. This meant she had to be politically clever to survive.

Character and Strengths



Elizabeth was confident and charismatic which enabled her to win over her subjects and command support in Parliament.

Elizabeth was well educated. She spoke Latin, Greek, French and Italian.

Elizabeth was resilient. She had spent time in the tower accused of treason. She could cope with the pressure of the crown.

Elizabeth had an excellent grasp of politics. She was able to use her powers of patronage effectively by understanding her subjects.

There was a growing number of protestants in England which made her position as queen more secure.

Elizabeth would use her powers of negotiation well in order to settle the disputes between Catholics and Protestants.

The Court – made up of noblemen who acted as the monarch's advisers and friends. They advised the queen and helped display her wealth and power. Members of the court could also be members of the Privy Council.

Justices of the Peace – large landowners, appointed by the government, who kept law and order locally and heard court cases.

Lord Lieutenants – noblemen, appointed by government, who ruled over English counties and raised the local militia.



Who was involved in Elizabeth's court?

The Privy Council – members of the nobility who helped govern the country. They monitored parliament and Justices of the Peace. They also oversaw law and order and the security of the nation. Many were Elizabeth's closest advisors e.g. Robert Dudley and William Cecil.

Parliament – advised Elizabeth's government, made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Lords was made up of noblemen and bishops. The House of Commons was elected, though very few people were allowed to vote. Parliament passed laws and approved taxes for unexpected expenditure such as wars.

How the court worked:

- Courtiers would try to use their presence to influence the Queen.
- The court involved up to 2000 people. Many were servants employed to provide for the court.
- There was a strict dress code which meant that attending court could be expensive.
- The court took care of Elizabeth's personal needs and helped her to govern.

Where the court met:

- The court would meet at one of Elizabeth's palaces, usually at Hampton Court or Greenwich.
- The court would also move around the country on progresses with Elizabeth, staying at the houses of noble men and women, who had to provide for the queen and her courtiers.
- Elizabeth was able to use the court to control her public image. She would use portraits to put across the image of herself as a woman in control of her court and her country.

Elizabeth's Ministers

William Cecil



- Elizabeth's longest serving minister/advisor
- Became Secretary of State in 1571.
- Acted as Lord Treasure so was responsible for government money.
- Had considerable influence over Elizabeth's decisions including the execution of Mary QoS and the war with Spain
- Passionately defended the religious settlement and any attempts to undermine it.

Robert Dudley



- A very close friend of the queen as she was growing up.
- It was rumored he and the queen were lovers, reinforced by the unexplained death of his wife Amy.
- His behavior caused scandals. He had affairs with Baroness Sheffield and Lettice Knollys, wife of the Earl of Essex, which led to children and him being banished from court.
- He was a strong supporter of Protestantism in England and the Netherlands where he led military expeditions.

Francis Walsingham



- A Member of Parliament for Lyme Regis before becoming the queen's private secretary in 1573.
- Closely involved with ensuring the queen's safety and security.
- Ran a network of spies and informers who uncovered plots against Elizabeth including the Babington and Throckmorton plots.
- He used codes in all correspondence and developed ways of translating codes of those who plotted against the queen.

Why were they important?

- Elizabeth trusted her ministers to help her shape government policy.
- Cecil and Walsingham were both MPs and so could monitor the opinions of those in Parliament and also persuade MPs to pass laws.
- The desire to influence the queen led to rivalries at court which kept them in check and Elizabeth as the most powerful. Robert Dudley and William Cecil clashed and then later Robert Cecil and Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, also clashed.

Patronage & Progresses

Patronage and Progresses were essential elements of Elizabeth's reign. She used both to keep her courtiers in check pitting them against one another and also to ensure the crown could manage its debt built up by Henry and Mary.

Patronage

- Elizabeth would use a system of patronage in order to keep her advisors and court in order.
- This involved her showing favouritism by giving particular men important jobs.
- She would give male courtiers specific roles and made sure to give politicians places at court
- The jobs were highly sought after because they not only brought wealth but also prestige.
- The system was certainly corrupt but it was very effective in creating intense competition between people.
- This competition ensured that everybody had to remain loyal to Elizabeth and that she remained at the centre of the political system.

Progresses

- Progresses were tours, mostly of the South East, Midlands and East Anglia, that Elizabeth would go on with her court to visit the homes of the nobility of England.
- This was an opportunity for her to be seen by her subjects and flatter the nobles she stayed with.
- Elizabeth would usually travel with her full court procession of around 400 wagons.
- Progresses also allowed Elizabeth to live a life of luxury at the expense of her noble subjects.
- The nobility would try to impress her with extravagant and generous offerings, very useful as Henry and Mary had left her in such debt.
- This also allowed her to get out of the capital during times of plague.

Why was Parliament important:

- The monarch was not able to raise new taxes without the consent of Parliament
- Taxes and legislation put forward by the monarch had more authority if passed by Parliament.
- MPs could use Parliament to criticise the government and even the queen.
- Parliament could act as a pressure group e.g. in the succession issue.



The need to manage Parliament:

- It was the job of Privy Councillors to persuade MPs to pass the queen's laws.
- Privy Councillors would sit on Parliamentary committees to speed up the introduction of laws. Sometimes even Elizabeth would attend these committees.
- The crown could bribe and scare voters to influence who was elected to Parliament. This made MPs easier to control.



Limits on Parliaments power:

- Elizabeth rarely called Parliament. She summoned them 13 times during her reign for a total of 140 weeks.
- Most MPs were businessmen who wished to return to their estates, this made them less likely to confront government.
- Many MPs saw challenging the government as time consuming and risky, and they could be punished for doing so. E.g. Peter Wentworth was twice imprisoned in the tower for attempting to uphold Parliamentary freedom of speech.

Issues discussed by Elizabeth's Parliaments:

Parliamentary rights: especially the rights of MPs to criticise the government without fear of arrest.

Taxes or subsidies: how much Parliament should raise as taxes at the monarch's request.

The poor: especially vagrants, who were seen as an increasing threat to Elizabethan society.

Religion and the Church of England: the religious settlement of 1559 was key in making England a Protestant nation.

The Succession: many MPs wanted Elizabeth to find a husband, give birth to an heir and so resolve the issue of who would inherit the throne. A legitimate heir would reduce the possibility of civil war or foreign invasion.

Why was succession important?

- The monarchy needed to be strengthened by ensuring a male heir.
- It was not usual for a woman to govern alone. Unmarried women without an heir were seen as weak and vulnerable. A husband, to help the queen govern, and a male heir, were seen as essential.
- If Elizabeth did not marry there would be a disputed succession as there were a number of potential successors for example Mary QoS, James VI of Scotland or the descendants of Henry's sister Mary Tudor.

Parliament and the succession:

- By the 1590s Parliament began to demand Elizabeth name a successor. She refused to name one – to do so would reduce her authority.
- By the late 1590s many assumed James VI of Scotland, the son of Mary QoS, would take the throne as he was a Protestant.
- Elizabeth never formally named him as there were a number of options and she did not want to increase rivalries or tensions.
- The Queen and Privy Council decided James would be king, not Parliament, and he became king in 1603.

Why did Elizabeth never marry?

- Elizabeth famously claimed she would 'happily live and die a virgin'.
- Her marriage suitors included: Robert Dudley, Philip II of Spain, Henry Duke of Anjou, Eric of Sweden and Francis Duke of Alencon.
- Philip proposed early in her reign but she refused as he had been married to Mary and was a Catholic.
- Dudley was disliked by the court and had been involved in many scandals.
- Any marriage could deepen divisions at court and lead to civil war. Because of this Elizabeth marketed herself as the virgin queen and chose not to marry.

Parliament and the Marriage:

- Many in Parliament wanted the queen to marry but not to a Catholic such as Philip II of Spain.
- By the 1570s the only remaining option was Francis, Duke of Alencon, the brother of the King of France.
- Many were not pleased as he was a Catholic and they did not want a Catholic close to the throne due to French treatment of Protestants.
- Others saw the marriage as a way to strengthen the monarchy.
- By the 1590s Elizabeth had defeated the Armada and strengthened her authority. Parliament accepted she would not marry.

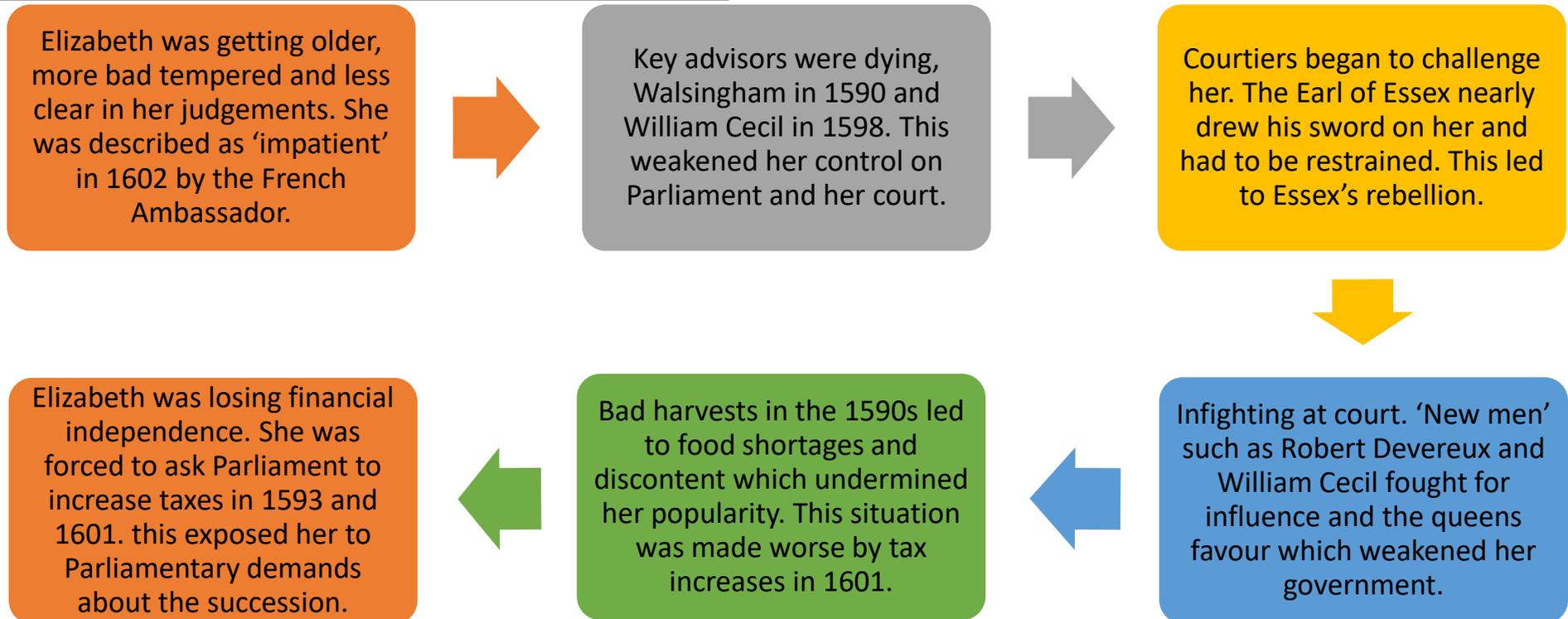
Authority in Later Years

By the 1590s Elizabeth was an ageing queen. She faced growing opposition at court and in the countryside, where bad harvests could lead to a rebellion. Elizabeth remained powerful but there were signs she was losing her authority.

Strengths at the end of her reign 1590-1603



Reasons for declining authority towards the end:



Essex's Rebellion, 1601

Who was the Earl of Essex

- Robert Devereux was a politically ambitious courtier, professional soldier and favourite of Queen Elizabeth.
- However, by 1598 he had fallen out of favour with the queen after he distributed captured gold to his men rather than to the government. He had also failed to capture gold on the Spanish treasure fleet crossing from South America to Spain.
- Essex was banished from court but was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and told to crush the Irish Rebellion led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. However, he failed at this as well.



Elizabeth's power and authority were weakening leading to more rivalries.

Essex's ambition. Essex overestimated his support in court and in the country.

Rivalry with Robert Cecil. By the late 1590s the court was filled with Cecil's supporters. Essex needed to strengthen his position.

Causes of the Rebellion.

Finance. Essex was not wealthy. His position depended on patronage from the crown and so banishment weakened his monopoly on sweet wines.

Humiliation. Elizabeth had slapped Essex across the face in 1598, he had to be prevented from drawing his sword and was banished from court.

Essex failed to put down a rebellion in Ireland. As a result he was put under house arrest in 1600.

1. Essex gathered 300 of his supporters at Essex house, which he had fortified.

2. The Lord Chancellor and other royal officers visited Essex but he imprisoned them.

3. Essex rode to London to gather support. This failed as the Mayor of London told people to remain in their houses.

4. He returned to Essex House, where he was arrested and sent to trial at the Tower of London.

Why did the rebellion fail?

- Essex overestimated his support. Many of the nobility, even those who sympathised with him would not risk their position.
- Government spies in Essex's camp undermined the rebellion. For example, Ferdinando Gorges released Essex's prisoners so he had no hostages.
- As a result of this Essex's support collapsed, he was executed for treason and Robert Cecil's supporters dominated the court.

Social Hierarchy: Countryside

Nobility – Major landowners, often Dukes, Lords or Earls.

The Gentry – Owned smaller estates.

Tenant farmers – rented land from the gentry

Landless laboring poor – Did not own land, had to work on land to provide for their family.

Homeless and vagrants – Moved from place to place looking for work.

Obedience, care and conformity:

- In Elizabethan society you owed obedience and respect to those above you and had a duty of care to those below.
- Landowners ran their estates on these ideas, taking care of tenants especially during times of hardship.
- In households, husband and father was head of the household. His wife, children and servants were expected to obey him.

Social Hierarchy: Towns

Merchants – Traders who were very wealthy.

Professionals – lawyers, doctors and clergymen

Business owners – Silversmiths, carpenters or tailors. Highly skilled.

Craftsmen – Skilled employees including apprentices

Unskilled workers and unemployed – people with no regular work who could not provide for themselves.

Fashions:

The **Sumptuary Laws (1574)** stated that:

- Only royalty could wear ermine
- Only nobility could wear silk, sable fur, gold and silver fabric.
- Only royalty, gentry and nobility could wear purple.
- Ordinary people (merchants, professionals, business owners etc.) had to wear wool, linen or sheepskin, and were restricted to certain colours.
- Breaking these laws could lead to fines, prison or even execution.

The 'rise of the gentry':

- This phrase refers to how the gentry grew in size, wealth and influence.
- Some gentry members (Raleigh, Walsingham and Drake) became more influential at court. This meant the influence of noble families declined.
- Other members of the gentry joined the nobility through marriage, wealth or the queens grace (William Cecil was named Lord Burghley in 1571)
- As members of the gentry grew more wealthy they were able to build and extend houses in towns and the countryside.

Growing Prosperity:

- Growth in industries such as wool, Iron, tin and copper increased the wealth of both merchants and gentry.
- London grew as a centre of finance and trade.
- Privateering bought in gold stolen from Spanish ships.
- This prosperity boosted the wealth of nobility, merchants and gentry who would buy houses in London.
- Professionals, including lawyers, also saw their income increase.
- By 1603 a relatively small number of people had become very wealthy.

Growing prosperity and the rise of the gentry were key features of Elizabeth's reign. The Gentry were a class of people who gained status through wealth, though they were not the nobility. However, not everyone was wealthy in Elizabethan England.

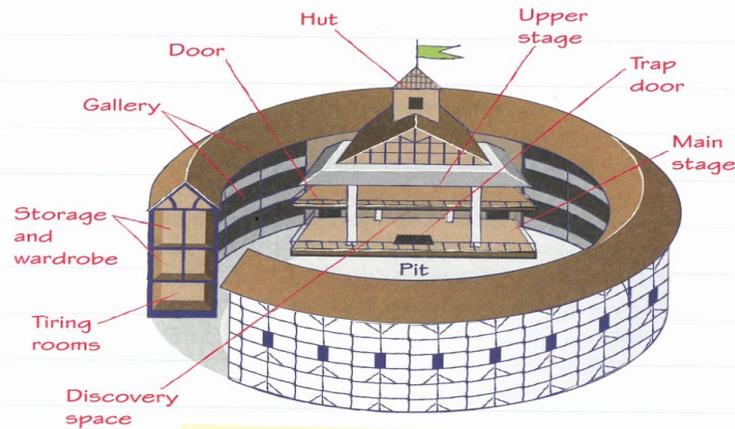
Who were the gentry?

- Made up of Knights, Esquires and gentlemen who lived in the countryside.
- 'Knight' was traditionally a military rank but in Elizabethan times it became a mark of honour given by the queen.
- Esquires had knights as their ancestors.
- Gentlemen had become wealthy landowners by acquiring large amounts of property.
- The gentry did not work with their hands, they were not manual workers.

A divided society:

- Not everyone was wealthy. Most people, especially the laboring classes, remained relatively poor and struggled to provide for themselves.
- During the 1590s bad harvests and rising prices, as well as falling wages, meant that ordinary people struggled to provide for their families.
- Others became vagrants, moving from place to place in search of work and often reduced to begging.
- The wealthy often saw the poor as a threat to their prosperity due to their involvements in riots and rebellions during hard times.

Theatre design



The structure of an Elizabethan theatre reflected the structure of English society.

Ordinary people known as 'groundlings' watched the plays standing in a pit.

Wealthier people sat in a stadium style seating arrangement around the stage.

Members of the gentry and merchants sat in the galleries or on the stage on occasion with plays performed around them.

The Theatre

- Plays were performed in purpose built theatres such as the Globe or the Rose.
- Wealthy noblemen would sponsor acting companies. Robert Dudley sponsored a company known as 'Leicester's Men'.
- All social classes attended the theatre so theatres had to be built to accommodate growing audiences.
- Some playwrights included: William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson.
- Actors were also important such as Richard Burbage.

Importance of the theatre

- Elizabethan plays reflected the society in which they were performed.
- For examples Marlowe's 'Doctor Faustus' reflected a growing fascination with witchcraft. For others the play showed a dispute between predestination (God decides our lives for us) and free will.
- Plays reflected the vulgar nature of Elizabethans with songs and dances referring to adulterous wives, milkmaids, prostitutes, thieves and muggers.

Why was theatre so popular?

Theatre was popular in part because it was **cheap**. People could watch plays despite what they earned. It appealed to all social classes, even those who could not read or write were able to follow the plays. Plays also came in a wide variety of styles such as history (Shakespeare's 'Richard III'), comedies (Middleton's 'a chaste maid in cheapside') and tragedies (Marlowe's 'Doctor Faustus'). The main reason though for the increase in theatre popularity was that Elizabeth enjoyed acting and encouraged the development of it at court and elsewhere. This led to many courtiers sponsoring groups of actors e.g. Leicester's Men.

Negative attitudes towards theatre:

Many **Puritans** disliked the theatre. They claimed it encouraged drunken behavior and sinful habits such as prostitution. Many of the plays contained references to sex, drunkenness and witchcraft. This Puritan distaste for theatre was very prevalent among the merchants of London. Others disliked theatre as it caused large gatherings of the poor which some saw as a threat to public order.

Government attitudes to theatre:

The government worried the content of plays may encourage rebellion. Political and religious subjects were forbidden on stage. From 1572 all plays required a license preventing political themes. In 1574 the Common Council of the City of London claimed theatre brought 'great disorder' to the city. By 1596 all theatre had been banned in London and had to move south of the River Thames.

Why did each social group enjoy the theatre?

The Queen

Elizabeth never attended the theatre herself but enjoyed watching plays at court and sponsored her own group of actors.

The Nobility

They could get seats on the stage allowing them to show off clothes and wealth. They often funded teams of actors adding to the nobility's sense of importance.

The Gentry and Merchants

They could buy boxes in the theatre where they could entertain friends and business partners.

The Poor

They could gain cheap admission, allowing them to stand close to the stage. This is why they were known as 'groundlings'

What did poverty look like during Elizabeth's reign?

- Spending more than 80% of your income on bread.
- Being unemployed or ill, so you could no longer provide for your family or yourself.
- Being unable to afford the rising cost of food
- Needing financial help or charity.
- Being seen as a vagrant or a vagabond. A vagrant was someone without a settled home or regular work.
- A vagabond was someone idle and dishonest, wandering from place to place committing crimes.

What types of people were poor?

- Widows or women abandoned by their husbands and their families, as women were paid very little.
- The sick and the elderly who were unable to work.
- Orphaned children – 40 percent of the poor were under the age of 16.
- People on low wages.
- Itinerants, vagrants and vagabonds – homeless people who moved from their parishes looking for work. They were often involved in crimes and worried those in authority.

Sheep farming. The growth of the wool trade after 1500 meant many farmers preferred to raise sheep rather than grow food. Enclosure encouraged this.

Growth of towns between 1500 and 1600, such as London and Norwich, drove up the cost of rents, while food prices rose as food had to be brought in from rural areas to be sold.

Bad Harvests (1562, 1565, 1573, 1586 and the 1590s) hit farmers hard reducing the supply of food and making food more expensive for the common people.

Reasons for the increase in poverty

Economic recessions in the 1580s caused by trade restrictions created unemployment and poverty.

Increasing demand for lands. As the population increased more people needed land. This drove up rents and resulted in entry fees (money paid up front for land rental). Many people could not afford to pay these.

Enclosure. From 1500 onwards land was divided up into fields by fencing for animal husbandry, arable farming or both. This denied people use of common land (land that could be used by everyone) which meant they were unable to provide for their families.

Population Growth. The population of England grew from 3 million in 1551 to 4.2 million by 1601. This increased demand for food (driving up prices) while increasing labour supply (driving down wages). This meant many ordinary people could no longer provide for their family.

Traditional attitudes to poverty

- ❑ Elizabethans distinguished between the **deserving/impotent poor** (those who could not help themselves e.g. old or sick) and the **undeserving/idle poor** (those who could work but chose not to).
- ❑ It was felt that the poor should be given a chance to better themselves but if they chose not to they should be punished.
- ❑ Many remained suspicious of the poor and demonised them as criminals. Vagrants and vagabonds who deceived or threatened the public were dealt with severely. They could be whipped, imprisoned, enslaved or even hanged if caught begging.

Reasons why attitudes were changing

- Attitudes towards the poor changed during these times, there were various reasons for this:
- ❑ The fear that poverty led to disorder and was a potential cause of rebellion.
 - ❑ The cost of dealing with the poor.
 - ❑ Population changes and enclosure meant the poor were an increasingly visible presence in Elizabethan England.
 - ❑ Changing economic circumstances, including problems with the wool trade, bad harvests and enclosure, forced the authorities to develop a more constructive attitude towards poverty.

Action	Type of change	Detail
Poor Rate	Continuity – These measures existed before Elizabeth and continued throughout.	A local tax organised by justices of the peace. Proceeds spent on improving the lives of the poor.
Charity		Often funded by local wealthy people who gave their name to the charitable organisation.
Statute of Artificers, 1563	Progressive – Government response to unemployment caused by the wool trade.	Those refusing to pay poor rates would be imprisoned. Failure to organise poor relief was fineable.
1576 Poor Relief Act		JPs were required to provide the poor with wool + raw materials to make and sell things. The poor who refused were sent to special prisons called the house of correction.
1572 Vagabonds Act	Repressive – Parliament felt vagrants posed a threat to the public and had to be dealt with using harsh punishments. The act did however recognise the need to help the poor.	Vagrants were whipped and had a hole drilled through each ear as a mark of shame. If they continued begging they would be imprisoned. On their third offence they were sentenced to death. The act introduced a national poor rate, to provide support, including money and work, for the impotent poor. JPs had to keep a register of the poor and those in authority (JPs, parish councils, etc.) were tasked with finding work for the able bodied poor.
1601 Elizabethan Poor Law	Administrative change that standardised the treatment of the poor across England.	Impotent poor were cared for in almshouses/poorhouses. The able bodied poor were to work in a house of industry (workhouse). The idle poor were sent to a house of correction. Poor children were given the opportunity to become apprentices.

It became increasingly expensive to look after the poor. Especially in the 1590s after poor harvests. This put a burden on tax payers who, because of the 1572 Poor Law, had to pay taxes to provide relief to the poor. The government needed to act to reduce this tax burden.

Many Elizabethans felt threatened by the poor, whom they saw as a potential threat to their property, safety and were a risk of rebellion. This was particularly the case in the 1590s when poor harvests and falling wages led to unrest in the countryside. Government action was needed to control the poor and prevent rebellions.

Poverty became a big problem as it became a financial burden on communities and carried the risk of rebellion so:

Why did the government take action in response to poverty?

The poor became very visible in towns, provoking hostility from wealthy people. This was reinforced by stereotypes of the poor and vagrants being threatening and deceitful. Many beggars were attacked and chased out of town further forcing the governments hand to act.

Attitudes toward the poor had changed. Before the reformation in the 1530s people had an obligation to provide charity to the poor to reduce their time in Purgatory. Since the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII these Christian values had declines to people were less sympathetic towards the poor.

The population of England increased from 3 million in 1551 to 4.2 million by 1601 making poverty a huge problem.

This situation was made worse by rising prices and a debased coinage (The falling value of money)

Many people, even those in work, could no longer provide for themselves or their families.

This was a huge problem in London which had become the largest city in Europe. This made it a magnet for the poor and vagrants.

Effectiveness of government action

- ✓ Poor relief became the responsibility of governments, especially parishes, rather than individual charities. This meant that the poor did not starve even in times of hardship.
- ✓ The 1601 Poor Law remained in place for a long time suggesting it was successful.
- X However, government measures failed to tackle the causes of poverty; poor harvests, low wages, enclosure and a rising population. This meant poverty continued into the 17th and 18th Century.

Hawkins and Drake



John Hawkins

John Hawkins was England's first slave trader. In 1562 he sailed from Plymouth with three ships and kidnapped about 400 West Africans, later selling them on as slaves in the West Indies. Between 1562 and 1567 Hawkins and his cousin Francis Drake made three voyages to West Africa and enslaved between 1200 and 1400 Africans. They kidnapped villagers, sometimes with the help of other African natives. Hawkins would then cross the Atlantic and sell these people to the Spanish. Many would die on the voyage due to the conditions they were kept in.



Francis Drake

Drake was an English sea captain, privateer, navigator, slave trader and politician. He is most famous for being the second person to circumnavigate the world between 1577 and 1580. He began an era of privateering and piracy on the western coast of the Americas – an area that had previously been free of piracy. He gained the nickname 'El Draco' from the Spanish as he had stolen so much gold from their ships.

The development of standardised maps such as the Mercator Map of 1569 meant sailors and traders could be confident in where they were going again leading to longer voyages.

Private investment. Private investors, including Elizabeth I and her courtiers funded many of the voyages of discovery. This was risky but rewards could be significant.

Expanding Territory. Voyages of exploration enabled explorers to claim territory for Elizabeth's government, especially in the New World (America), leading to settlement and colonisation.

Why were exploration voyages made?

Trade. English merchants needed new trading opportunities, as war with Spain and the Netherlands had severely damaged the wool and cloth trades.

Improvements in ship design. Ships had bigger sails, were faster and easier to move and had greater firepower. They also were more stable and could take more supplies encouraging longer journeys.

Adventure. Some young Elizabethan men such as Francis Drake set off on voyages of discovery and exploration. Their published accounts of these voyages, though often inaccurate, persuaded others to venture into the unknown to find their fortune.

New Technology. The development of devices such as quadrants and astrolabes made navigation more precise, so voyages were safer and faster, leading to more exploration and trade.

Circumnavigation, 1577 - 1580

English Sailors

17

Between December 1577 and September 1580 Francis Drake became the second man to ever circumnavigate the globe (Ferdinand Magellan was the first). After his voyage he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

Why Circumnavigate the globe?

- ✓ **He was attacking Spain.** Drake did not aim to sail around the world. His main purpose was to raid Spanish colonies in the Pacific.
- ✓ **Revenge.** The Spanish had attacked Drake's fleet at St Juan de Ulua and most of his men had been killed.
- ✓ **Profit.** Loot, booty and trade meant there were huge profits to be made from Drake's proposed journey to the Americas and beyond, so people were willing to invest in the expedition, including the Queen.



Benefits of Drake's Circumnavigation

England's reputation as a seafaring power increased. In spite of the fact that only one of Drake's 5 ships survived the journey, England's reputation was significantly improved.

England's naval power increased as a way of defending the country from invasion and protecting trading interests.

Drake's achievement boosted the income of Elizabeth and her government. This made England more powerful and made her an ally for other European states who saw Spain as a threat.

English ships began to trade elsewhere – in China, West Africa and India. This established England as a major trading power.

Drake's expedition led to Nova Albion, an area near San Francisco, becoming English territory. This encouraged trade and exploration, especially to the New World, where England established colonies in the 16th and 17th century.

One of the key purposes of Elizabethan exploration was to open up profitable trading routes, including the Northwest Passage and routes to West Africa, the Americas and Far East.

The search for the Northwest Passage:

Martin Frobisher made three voyages in search of the northwestern route to China and the Far East: the first in 1576 reached Greenland. The second in 1577 reached Canada but found nothing. The third in 1578 was completely unsuccessful. John Davis led three expeditions 1585-87 but these were equally as unsuccessful.

Attempts to colonise the Americas:

Expeditions to colonise the east coast of America were unsuccessful. An expedition in 1578 by Humphrey Gilbert was abandoned. His second, in 1583, reached Newfoundland, but many of the colonists fell ill and Gilbert died on the journey home.

Attempts to settle colonists in Virginia, on Roanoke Island also came to nothing. The colony was mysteriously abandoned.

West Africa and the triangular trade:

The slave trader John Hawkins helped establish the triangular trade. This involved:

Selling goods in West Africa, taking slaves from West Africa and selling them in the West Indies, then buying sugar, cotton and tobacco in the West Indies to take back to England. This trade was strengthened when the Barbary company was established in 1585.

Trade in the Far East:

In 1582 Elizabeth sent Ralph Fitch to be ambassador to China. He was captured by the Portuguese but escaped, traveling through many eastern nations on his way home and seeing the benefits of trade there. The Levant Company was then set up in 1592 to trade in the east. It supplied England with Turkish rugs, Mediterranean fruits and Persian Silks as well as spices and other luxuries. Finally in 1600 the East India Company was set up to trade with China and India trading in cotton, silk, salt, tea and opium. This encouraged investment in trading. By the 17th Century they dominated trade in the east and had their own private army and trading ships.

Benefits of exploration and trade:

- ✓ English merchants and traders made big profits from trading with other countries
- ✓ The Crown benefitted by charging duties (taxes) on imported goods. It also made money by granting trading licences to organisations like the Barbary Company and the East India Company.
- ✓ Trade allowed new goods, including potatoes, tobacco, coffee, spices and dried grapes, to enter the English markets.

Sir Walter Raleigh

- Walter Raleigh took part in a military expedition to Ireland in 1580. this gained him favour with Elizabeth and he was given land there following the defeat of a rebellion.
- In 1584, Elizabeth granted Raleigh a royal charter for seven years, which allowed him to explore, take over and rule lands that were not Christian or ruled by Christians in return for one fifth of the gold and silver mined there. In 1587, he was named Captain of the Queens Guard, the highest office at court.
- The royal charter enabled Raleigh to organise and make money from expeditions to the New World.

Expeditions to the New World

1585: after a fact finding mission in 1584, 107 settlers set out for Roanoke, Virginia in North America.

1586: Colonists return to England, abandoning Virginia.

1587: a new group of settlers set sail for Roanoke.

1590: English sailors mysteriously find Roanoke abandoned. What happened remains a mystery.

No further colonization took place until the early 17th Century under the rule of James I

Raleigh and Elizabeth:

- ❑ Military success in Ireland in 1580 made him a favourite, Elizabeth granted him lands and made him Captain of the Guard.
- ❑ He fell out of favour in 1592 for secretly marrying Elizabeth Throckmorton, he was expelled from court and sent to the Tower.
- ❑ After taking part in the capture of Cadiz he was made governor of Jersey in 1600.

Other Expeditions

1595: Leads an expedition to South America in search of the 'city of Gold', El Dorado.

1595: Attacks the Spanish coast capturing the merchant ship 'Mother of God'.

1596-7: Takes part in the capture of Cadiz.

1616: Leads a second expedition trying to find El Dorado

Raleigh is **executed in 1618** for attacking Spanish ships against the King's wishes.

Why was Raleigh Important?

- ✓ He encouraged exploration and colonisation of the New World by getting investors to fund expeditions. This set an example and led to more expeditions.
- ✓ Raleigh's failures changed the way that the government approached colonisation. Raleigh raised money among friends but future ventures used Joint Stock Companies. These companies paid a share of profits to investors increasing level of investment.

	Catholics	Protestants	Puritans (strict Protestants)
Beliefs	Pope is head of the Church helped by cardinals, bishops and priests	No Pope, it may be necessary to have bishops or Archbishops.	No Popes, cardinals or bishops
	Church is the intermediary between God and people, they can forgive sins	Personal relationship with God via prayer and the bible. Only God can forgive sins.	Personal relationship with God via prayer and the bible. Only God can forgive sins.
	During Mass, bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ.	Bread and wine only represent the body and blood of Christ. There is no miracle.	Bread and wine only represent the body and blood of Christ. No miracle.
	7 Sacraments (ceremonies)	2 Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.	
	Priests are Celibate	Priests can marry	Priests can marry
Practices	Services in Latin	Services in English	Services in English
	Priests wear vestments	Priests wear simple vestments	Priests wear simple vestments
	Church highly decorated	Churches plain and simple	Whitewashed, no decoration
Support	Catholics the majority in the North and West of England.	Mostly south-east England (London, Kent, East-Anglia)	Mostly in London and East-Anglia

Religious divisions in England before the Elizabethan settlement

The Reformation divided the Christian Church between Catholics and Protestants from 1532 onwards. Catholics remained true to the Church in Rome, led by the Pope, while protestants no longer recognized the Pope's authority.

Henry VII declared that he was Head of the Church in England and dissolved the monasteries. However, Henry was still mostly a Catholic. His son Edward moved further towards Protestantism before Mary made England Catholic again.

From the 1530s, many Protestants came to England to escape persecution in Europe. They settled in London, East Anglia and Kent.

The north of England remained largely Catholic. There was a risk that Catholics in the north could rebel in order to overthrow Elizabeth and restore Catholicism.

Some Elizabethan Protestants became Puritans –strict protestants with extreme views who wanted to purify the Christian religion by getting rid of everything not in the bible. They first appeared in the 1560s and grew in number during Elizabeth's reign.

The Act of Supremacy made Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. All clergy and royal officials had to swear an oath of allegiance to her.

An **Ecclesiastical** (Church) High Commission was made to keep discipline in the church and enforce Elizabeth's settlement. Disloyal clergy would be punished.

Key features of Elizabeth's Religious Settlement

The **Act of Uniformity** establish the appearance of churches and how services should be held. It required everyone to attend church.

The Royal Injunctions: This was a set of instructions to the clergy which included rules about how to worship God and how to conduct services.

The **Book of Common Prayer** (1559) introduced a set church service to be used in all churches. The clergy had to follow the prayer book wording during services or be punished.

Why did the Northern Earls rebel?

- ❑ They wanted to make England Catholic again. They especially resented the appointment of James Pilkington, a Protestant, as Bishop of Durham in 1561.
- ❑ They had lost much of their influence at court. They did not like the 'new men' such as William Cecil and Robert Dudley.
- ❑ Elizabeth's refusal to name an heir or have a child created uncertainty. The earls feared civil war and loss of power and wealth under a future Protestant monarch.

Who were the key players?

- ❑ **Thomas Percy**, Earl of Northumberland – a major Catholic northern landowner.
- ❑ **Charles Neville**, Earl of Westmorland – a major Catholic northern landowner.
- ❑ **Jane Neville**, wife of Charles Neville and the Duke of Norfolk's sister.
- ❑ **Thomas Howard**, Duke of Norfolk. A senior noble man who was raised as a Protestant, with family links to old Catholic families. He planned to marry **Mary Queen of Scots** – Elizabeth's Catholic cousin with a claim to the throne who posed a threat to Elizabeth.

The Marriage Plan:

Mary would marry the Duke of Norfolk, remove Elizabeth and become queen herself. She told the Spanish Ambassador in 1569 that she would be queen within a few months and that Catholic Mass would be said across the country. Robert Dudley told Elizabeth of this plan leading to Norfolk's arrest and imprisonment in the Tower of London.

Progress of the Revolt:

Northumberland and Westmorland continued with the revolt. They took control of Durham Cathedral and held a Catholic mass, they then continued south. Elizabeth moved Mary to Coventry to stop her escaping and joining the rebels. Though the rebels were able to capture Hartlepool, support from Spain never arrived.

Why did the Revolt Fail?

Support from Spain never arrived. Many northern landowners, particularly in Lancashire and Cheshire, were still loyal to Elizabeth. On top of this many landowners did not wish to lose their wealth gained from dissolving the monasteries by backing a revolt that looked destined to fail.

The Revolt's Significance:

Though Mary was not directly involved the revolt showed that she could not be trusted. The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth and called other Catholics to try and remove her. Because of this the government took steps to punish Catholics as it was seen that they could not be trusted. However, due to the failure Elizabeth strengthened her grip on the north of England.

Why were Catholics a Threat?

Catholics owed their allegiance to the Pope rather than the queen and so were seen as disloyal. The people had not forgotten Mary I's treatment of Protestants and seeing Protestants be massacred in France and Spain led them to fear a return to Catholicism. Catholics were also active in plots and rebellions against the crown e.g. The Northern Rebellion.

Why things got worse for Catholics:

After 1570 Elizabeth began to pass laws reducing the rights of Catholics. The Catholic service of Mass was banned, devotional items such as rosary beads were considered suspicious, Recusants (Catholics refusing to attend Church of England services) were fined heavily and Catholic priests were arrested, tortured and sometimes executed. Catholics overall were treated with suspicion. Walsingham was in charge of uncovering Catholic plots

The Papal bull of excommunication, 1570:

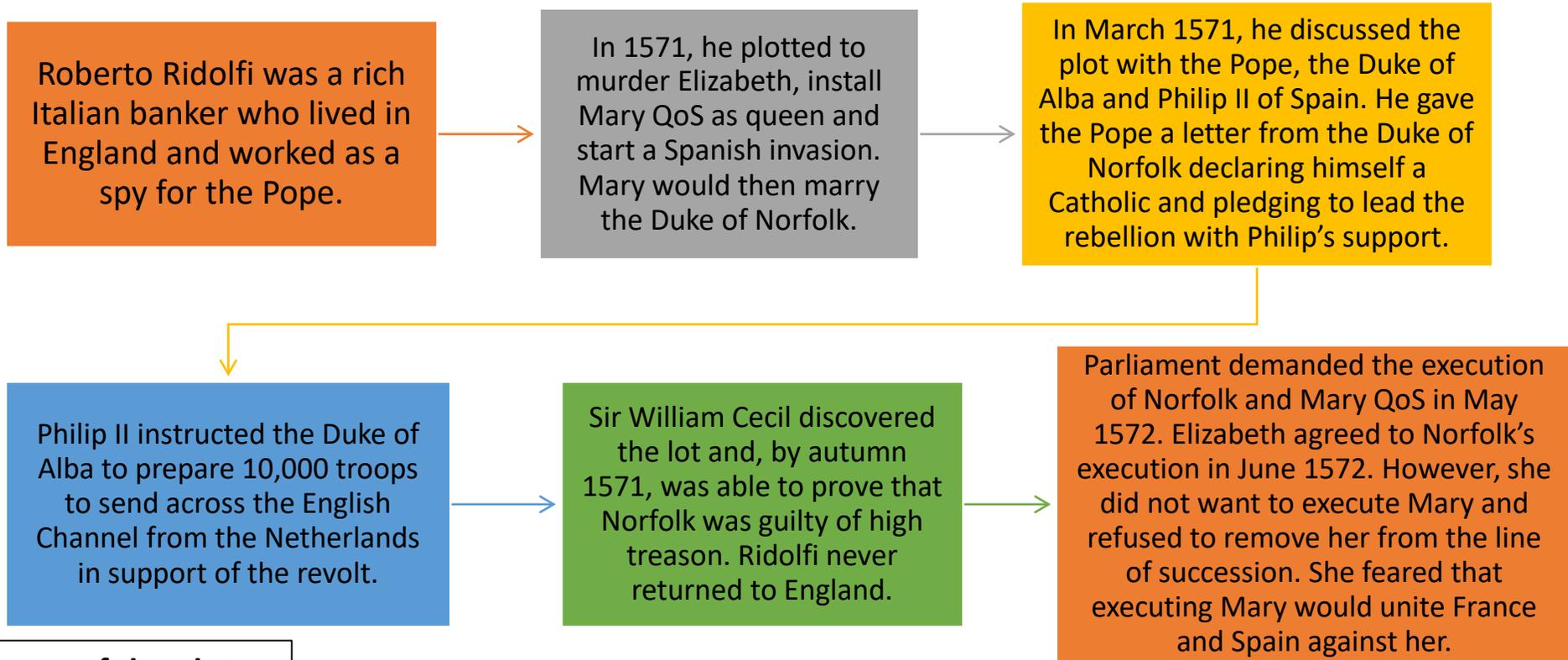
A Papal Bull was issued by Pope Pius V on 25th Feb 1570. It declared Elizabeth as a heretic (someone who openly disagreed with church teachings) calling her 'the pretended Queen of England and the servant of Crime'. It released all of her Catholic subjects from loyalty to her, they no longer had to obey the queen. This was removed in 1580 by Pope Gregory VIII but renewed in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V

Consequences of the Papal Bull:

The bull encouraged further plots against Elizabeth which largely centered around making Mary queen. Catholic countries such as France and Spain believed that they could support these plots and make war on England with God's support. As a result of this the treatment of Catholics in England became more severe.

Catholic Plots 1

After 1570 Catholic threats to Elizabeth began to become more common. This began in 1571 with the **Ridolfi plot**. The progress of the plot is detailed below.



Significance of the plot:



The Throckmorton Plot, 1583

- ❑ The French Duke of Guise, cousin of Mary QoS, plotted to invade England and overthrow Elizabeth to make England Catholic.
- ❑ Philip II offered to help pay for the revolt and the Pope approved of it.
- ❑ Francis Throckmorton, a young Englishman, passed letters between Mary and the plotters.
- ❑ Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth's Secretary of State, discovered the plot in May 1583.
- ❑ In November, Walsingham's spies found papers at Throckmorton's house. He confessed after torture and was executed in May 1584.

Significance of the plot

- ❑ The plot revealed the extent of the Catholic threat from foreign Catholic powers such as France and Spain, English Catholics and Mary Queen of Scots.
- ❑ Throckmorton's papers included a list of Catholic sympathisers in England. The government now treated English Catholics with greater suspicion. Many left England, others were imprisoned, watched or kept under house arrest. An act of Parliament in 1581 made helping Catholic priests punishable by death.

The Babington Plot, 1586

- ❑ The Duke of Guise once again planned to invade England, murder Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne. Again, Philip II and the Pope supported this.
- ❑ Anthony Babington, a Catholic, wrote to Mary in July 1586 about this.
- ❑ Walsingham intercepted and read the letters clearly showing Mary's involvement in the plot.
- ❑ Babington and the plotters were arrested and sentenced to death. They were hung, drawn and quartered.
- ❑ In October 1586, Mary was sentenced to death for treason. Elizabeth delayed as she did not wish to kill her cousin but signed her death warrant in February 1587.

Significance of the plot

- ❑ The plot was more dangerous than others. England and Spain were already close to war. Because of the Treaty of Joinville, England could no longer rely on France as an ally and this plot involved both French and Spanish Catholics.
- ❑ Elizabeth's government became determined to crush the Catholic threat and persecution intensified. In 1585, 11,000 Catholics were placed under house arrest. In 1586, 31 Catholic priests were executed.
- ❑ The execution of Mary QoS ended all hopes of replacing Elizabeth with a Catholic queen.

Consequences of the plots

Government suspicion of Catholics deepened. No Catholic could be loyal if their religion told them not to.

Laws passed against Catholics became stricter. Heavier fines and increased levels of punishments.

Catholics became very secretive. By the 1580s Catholics had to hide priests and conduct worship in secret.

Catholic conspiracies were dealt with severely. The threat posed by Catholics to Elizabeth and her religious settlement of 1559 was serious. Catholics were plotting with foreign powers to overthrow the queen. This was high treason.

Who were the Puritans?

- ❑ Puritans were radical Protestants who wanted to purify the Christian religion by getting rid of anything that wasn't in the bible.
- ❑ They wanted to develop their own church that wasn't controlled by the queen, there would be no bishops and priests would not wear special clothing.
- ❑ They wanted to make the world more godly by banning sinful activities such as the theatre, gambling and cock fighting.
- ❑ They saw hard work and making money as a sign of God's favour. They expected the poor to work hard to get themselves out of poverty rather than relying on charity.
- ❑ They wanted a simpler style of worship in churches with no images or decoration. This included crucifixes and statues, these were seen as too Catholic.
- ❑ A minority of Puritans believed the monarch could be overthrown in some circumstances. This was especially the case if the monarch was a Catholic.
- ❑ Many were anti-Catholic and believed the Pope was the anti-Christ. Other Puritans (Millenarians) believed the world was ending and that Christians should prepare for Jesus' return.

1. Puritan tracts (Pamphlets given to the public) could be critical of the queen and the Church of England, calling them anti-Christian. These kinds of comments could lead to rebellion. Archbishop Parker stated that Puritan ideas may undo the queen and all others that depend on her.

2. Some bishops and archbishops were sympathetic to Puritans. This included Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1575-83.

Why were Puritans a threat to Elizabeth's government?



3. Some Puritans challenged Elizabeth's religious settlement of 1559. They tried to change church practices without her permission. For example, the Lambeth Articles of 1595 set out church thinking. They were passed by senior clergy without Elizabeth's knowledge. She furiously demanded their removal.

4. There were a Growing number of Puritans in England and a lot of MPs were Puritans. This Puritan group could challenge the government's authority and the monarch's control over the church.

Response to Religious Matters

By the late 1580s Elizabeth was becoming less accepting of Puritan ideas and practices. She disliked the idea of predestination. She did not like the practices of bishops not wearing vestments as this went against her religious settlement. She also did not like Puritan preaching as she thought it encouraged disobedience within the church.



Matthew Parker was Archbishop of Canterbury between 1559-75. He tried to ensure that the Church of England conformed to the Religious Settlement of 1559. He wrote a Book of Advertisements (1566) requiring clergy, including Puritans, to wear vestments, as stated in the 1559 settlement.



Edmund Grindal was Archbishop of Canterbury between 1575 and 1583. He was reluctant to persecute Puritans. In 1577, Elizabeth wanted to discourage Puritan clergy preaching and holding meetings but Grindal did not support this action. His authority as Archbishop was suspended in 1577 and only reinstated in 1582.



John Whitgift was Archbishop of Canterbury between 1583-1604. He opposed Puritans, particularly those who spoke out against Elizabeth. He increased the powers of the Church Court to take action against Puritan clergy, this resulted in Puritan printing presses being closed down in 1589. He convinced Parliament to pass the Act against Seditious Sectaries (1593) making Puritanism an offence. He took action to silence Puritans e.g. Thomas Cartwright and Peter Wentworth who were both imprisoned for their ideas challenging the Religious Settlement and the Act of Uniformity. As a Privy Councillor Whitgift also helped ensure Puritans who supported separation from the Church of England were dealt with harshly. For example, John Greenwood and Harry Barrowe were executed for promoting this idea in 1593.

Mary's claim to the throne:

Mary was Henry VII's great-granddaughter and Elizabeth's second cousin. She was a descendant of Margaret Tudor, Henry VIII's sister, she was a Catholic and had a legitimate claim to the throne. She was married to Francis II, the king of France, and became queen of Scotland when she was just 6 days old.

Imprisonment in England, 1568:

Mary was held in England in comfort but well guarded while Elizabeth decided what to do with her. The Scottish rebels demanded she be handed over to be tried for the murder of Darnley. Elizabeth was not sure what to do, on the one hand Mary's presence in England may inspire rebellion, on the other hand to take action against an anointed monarch would reduce Elizabeth's status and power.

Why was Mary important?

Mary was a Catholic meaning many members of nobility who shared the same religious views would be willing to support her claim. There were no questions over her legitimacy as their were with Elizabeth due to her mother being Henry VIII's second wife. Mary's main importance was that she was always at the centre of Catholic plots against Elizabeth involving multiple foreign powers.

Mary leaves Scotland:

When Francis II died Mary returned to Scotland and married Henry Stuart (Lord Darnley) and produced an heir to the Scottish throne, James. Darnley was later murdered and Mary married the Earl of Bothwell. Many Scottish nobles believed Mary had murdered Darnley and, in 1568, they rebelled against her, imprisoned her and forced her abdication. Mary rallied an army but was defeated at Langside. After this defeat she fled to England to seek the help of her cousin Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's options	Possible problems
Help Mary regain her throne	Helping Mary regain her throne would anger the Scottish nobility and leave Elizabeth facing a Catholic monarch on her northern border.
Hand Mary over to the Scottish rebels	Mary was the former wife of Francis II. Her trial, imprisonment and execution by Scottish nobles with Elizabeth's permission could provoke the French into allying with Spain against England.
Allow Mary to go abroad	Allowing Mary to go abroad could see her return to France. This could then provoke a French plot to remove Elizabeth from the throne and replace her with Mary.
Keep Mary in England.	Keeping Mary in England was probably the best option to Elizabeth. However, it carried the risk that Catholic plotters might try to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her with Mary.

The Casket Letters Affair:

- ❑ It was claimed that Mary had plotted with the Earl of Bothwell to murder Lord Darnley.
- ❑ A meeting was set up at York to hear the case against Mary in 1568.
- ❑ The Scottish lords bought love letters written by Mary to Lord Darnley showing that she was involved in his murder and should be tried.
- ❑ Mary claimed she could not be tried as she was an anointed monarch. She also claimed she would not enter a plea unless Elizabeth guaranteed a verdict of innocence.

- ❑ Elizabeth refused Mary's request but did not hand her over for trial.
- ❑ By not handing her over Elizabeth ensured that the Scots could not execute Mary, the French would be satisfied and that her subjects did not punish an anointed monarch.
- ❑ The conference did not reach any conclusions and as such Mary remained in captivity in England. She remained a threat though due to her potential for involvement in Catholic plots to remove Elizabeth.

Why did Elizabeth not name Mary her heir?

This was an option for Elizabeth, however, to do so would upset English Protestants, including those on her Privy Council. Without the support of these Privy Councillors, Elizabeth – already distrusted by Catholics – would have few supporters left. Moreover, the prospect of a Catholic heir would, in the event of Elizabeth's death, result in a civil war.

Mary posed a complex and difficult challenge to Elizabeth's position as queen. However, there were limits to what Elizabeth could do.

If Mary remained in prison, she could continue to encourage rebellion. Mary was an alternative monarch in waiting, with a legitimate claim to the throne. She also had the support of many Catholics particularly in the north.

If Elizabeth executed Mary, she would upset Spain and France, risking war and invasion. She would also be executing an anointed monarch, which would set a dangerous precedent. This would make Elizabeth and her heirs more vulnerable in the future.

The attitude of Parliament by the 1580s

Many in Parliament were increasingly suspicious of Mary due to her Catholicism and involvement in plots against the queen.

These fears increased after the Wars of Religion (1562-98) and the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre (1572) in France, where Catholics had slaughtered many Protestants. Protestants in England feared a similar event if Mary became queen.

Elizabeth's government adopted a wait and see approach towards Mary, they:

- Continued to hold her prisoner
- Sent out spies and agents to discover her role in Catholic plots
- Would take decisive action when there was enough evidence to charge her.



Mary had been involved in a series of plots against Elizabeth. The Northern Rebellion, Throckmorton plot, Babington and Ridolfi plots.

The Pope supported any foreign invasion that would replace Elizabeth with Mary. Executing her removed this threat.

Why was Mary Queen of Scots executed in 1587?

In 1586, Walsingham's spies had proven that Mary was involved in the Babington plot. She was under the Act for Preservation of the Queen's safety.

The Spanish threat of invasion was very real by 1587. Philip II had been connected with Mary in previous plots. Keeping her alive was too risky.

Mary remained a rallying point for Catholics and had a legitimate claim to the throne. Her death made Catholic plots more difficult.

Religious Rivalry

Under Mary Tudor, Spain and England were allies. As a Protestant country under Elizabeth, England's relationship with Spain suffered:

- ❑ Philip II, backed by the Pope, saw Protestantism as a threat to the authority of the Catholic Church.
- ❑ Many English Protestants saw Spain and Catholicism as a threat.
- ❑ Philip II of Spain became involved in Catholic plots against the crown.

Political Rivalry

- ❑ Rivalry between Spain and England got worse due to Spanish policy in the Netherlands.
- ❑ The Netherlands had belonged to Spain since the 15th century, but a Protestant revolt was brutally put down by the Duke of Alba in 1567.
- ❑ By 1585, following the Treaty of Nonsuch, England was providing assistance to the Dutch rebels. Dutch ships attacked Spanish ships and then were allowed to shelter in English ports.

By the 1560s England and Spain were trade rivals, competing for access to the markets and resources of the New World as well as Turkey, Europe, Russia, China and North Africa.

Spanish control of the New World denied English merchants profit making opportunities as all trade had to be licensed by Spain.

Spain conquered Mexico and Peru in the early 1500s. This provided them with large amounts of gold and silver. It also gave them control over the trade of tobacco and sugar cane.

Commercial rivalry led to conflict when Spanish control of the Netherlands prevented English goods accessing Antwerp and the Scheldt estuary. This reduced English trade in Europe and therefore the profits of English merchants.

Commercial Rivalry

By Elizabeth's reign, sailors including Sir Francis Drake were journeying great distances on trading voyages around the world. This boosted the commercial rivalry as English sailors were exploring and trading in areas such as the New World and Far East which the Spanish claimed as their territory.

English Privateering:

By the 1570s, English privateers such as Hawkins and Drake were attacking Spanish ships carrying gold and silver from South America and Mexico. By the 1580s these attacks were costing Spain massively. Drake returned from his Circumnavigation of the globe with £400,000 worth of Spanish treasure. Typically private investors, such as the queen, funded these voyages. When Elizabeth knighted Drake in 1581 it appeared as though she was supporting these privateers. Philip II saw them as pirates who had to be removed by war if necessary.

Attacks on Spanish bases:

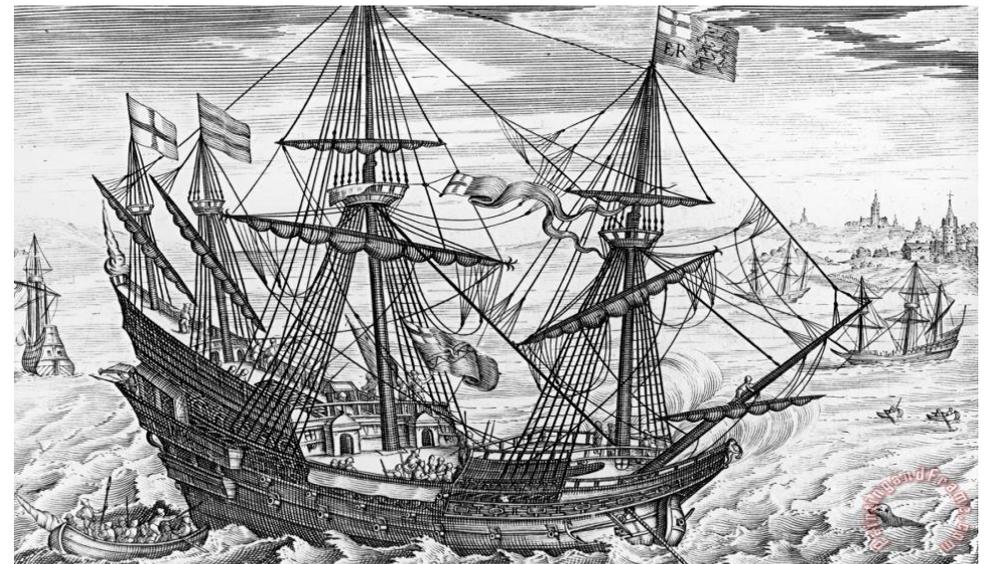
- ❑ Privateers attacked Spanish colonies and bases in both Europe and the Pacific Ocean from the 1560s-1580s.
- ❑ In 1568 John Hawkins was overwhelmingly defeated in the Caribbean. All but two of his ships were destroyed.
- ❑ Francis Drake raided the colony of Panama in 1572-3 seizing gold and silver.
- ❑ Drake raided many Spanish bases in the Pacific and Canaries during his circumnavigation of the globe 1577-80.
- ❑ In 1587 Drake attacked Spanish ships at Cadiz. This was his most devastating attack on the Spanish with 30 ships destroyed and many captured. This delayed and weakened the Armada that sailed in 1588.

Spanish Naval Tactics:

- ❑ The Spanish practiced a convoy system, treasure ships would travel in a large group of other ships for their protection. For privateers to take these ships they would have to board them. The Spanish would try to prevent this by sinking privateer ships.
- ❑ To board and capture English ships Spanish ships had to get as close as possible.
- ❑ To sink ships, the Spanish ships carried canons, but these were relatively large and could not easily be reloaded. The Spanish were also unable to sustain their fire against English ships.

English naval tactics and technology:

- ❑ The English had mounted a number of small cannons on their ships which could be reloaded quickly.
- ❑ The plan was to get as close as possible to Spanish ships and fire devastating rounds of shot (small lead balls) which would cause the wood to splinter and kill those on board.
- ❑ The English had to get close enough to cause damage but not close enough to allow the Spanish to board their ships.
- ❑ Since 1573 English shipyards produced ships that had full sails, allowing them to manoeuvre more easily among enemy ships before sinking or disabling them using cannons.



English galleons were superior to Spanish ships. They were faster and easier to manoeuvre.

The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

Conflict with Spain

34

29 July:
The Armada is spotted in the English Channel

3-4 August:
Battle of the Isle of Wight. Spanish ships are outgunned by the English and forced to move further up the Channel towards Calais.

Timeline of the Armada of 1588

31 July:
Battle of Plymouth. Two Spanish ships captured.

8 August:
Battle of Gravelines. Fire ships cause the Spanish to panic. The Spanish fleet never links up with the Duke of Parma and is scattered.

Communication problems: There was no communication between the Duke of Parma or Duke of Medina-Sidonia. There were also no deep water ports for the Armada to stop at so they had to meet up at sea causing communication issues.

Reasons for the English victory

The weather: Gale force winds caused most of the destruction to the Spanish ships as they retreated home. Many ships were destroyed off the west coast of Ireland.

Spanish ships lacked supplies: The fleet was at sea for 10 weeks and by August all their food had rotted. This damaged morale and their ability to fight the English.



English ships: English cannons were easier to reload and could be fired more quickly. This firepower damaged many Spanish ships and stopped them linking up with the Duke of Parma.

Superior English tactics: The English got close enough to fire but not so close as to allow the Spanish to board. This destroyed and damaged many Spanish ships whilst keeping English losses low. Drake using fire ships at Gravelines was also significant.



The Spanish panicked: When the English used fire ships at Gravelines many Spanish captains panicked and cut their anchors causing their ships to drift into the North sea. This forced them to take a dangerous journey around the British Isles.