

PAPER 2 - EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558-1588

KEY TOPIC 1 – QUEEN, GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION 1558-1569	KEY TOPIC 2 – CHALLENGES TO ELIZABETH 1569-1588
<p><u>Elizabeth's problems in 1558</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth was considered illegitimate by some because Anne Boleyn was her mother and many (especially Catholics) did not think her marriage to Henry VIII was valid. Elizabeth was a woman and considered unsuitable to rule, and the experience of Mary Tudor hadn't helped. Elizabeth also had to decide whether to get married or to who. Elizabeth inherited financial problems because Mary had fought expensive wars with France and lots of crown lands had been sold off. The Crown was £300,000 in debt in 1558. England had been fighting a war with France that wasn't going well under Mary. They had lost Calais which had been held by England since 1347. France was also allied with Scotland. England was divided by religion. The South and East were more Protestant, and the North and West were more Catholic. Mary had been a Catholic and had executed a number of leading Protestants. Elizabeth was herself a Protestant and had to deal with a clergy that was mainly Catholic. 	<p><u>Catholic threats</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revolt of the Northern Earls (1568-9). Caused by desire of Northern Earls (Northumberland/Westmoreland) to restore Catholicism, their loss of influence at court and their hope to place Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne. There was a plot to marry Mary to the powerful Catholic Duke of Norfolk, who was arrested. The Northern Earls then launched a rebellion, seizing Durham Cathedral and taking mass there. The Revolt was crushed by Elizabeth's army and the Earl of Northumberland was executed. Treatment of Catholics got harsher. Ridolfi Plot (1571). This plot planned to depose Elizabeth and replace her with Mary as Queen. The Duke of Norfolk was implicated and there were rumours of help from Spanish troops led by the Duke of Alba. Norfolk was executed. Throckmorton Plot (1583). Similar to the Ridolfi plot, the Throckmorton plot planned the murder of Elizabeth and her replacement with Mary. This plot contributed to the Act of Association of 1585 after which, Mary would be held responsible for any plot carried out in her name – whether she knew of it or not. Babington Plot (1587). An English Catholic nobleman plotted to restore the Roman Catholic religion by placing Mary on the English throne. Anthony Babington had made Mary aware of his plans to kill Elizabeth and help Mary escape. Mary replied to Babington in letters, she explained how she wanted France and Spain to help her become Queen by invading England. However, these letters were intercepted by Elizabeth's spy, Sir Francis Walsingham.
<p><u>Challenges to the Settlement</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Puritans were angry about crucifixes being permitted by Elizabeth. Puritan bishops believed that these represented idols and wanted them taken down. The Puritans bishops threatened to resign and so Elizabeth backed down, but insisted on keeping a crucifix in the Royal Chapel. The Vestment controversy was another major Puritan challenge. Puritan priests wouldn't wear vestments because they suggested priests were different from ordinary people. The Archbishop of Canterbury put on an exhibition showing priests what they must wear. 37 refused to attend and lost their jobs, but most Puritan priests conformed. One Catholic challenge came from the Pope. In 1566 the Pope issued instructions saying English Catholics should not attend and in 1570 the pope excommunicated her. Another major Catholic challenge came from the English nobility. In 1569, the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland launched the Revolt of the Northern Earls. 	<p><u>Why did Elizabeth not marry?</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One option was to marry an English nobleman. However this would upset the other nobles and lead to rivalry. Also she would likely be sidelined and lose all of her power. Robert Dudley was her favourite English nobleman and she was romantically linked with him. However he was tainted by his father's treason in the plot to bring Lady Jane Grey onto the throne instead of Mary Tudor. He was especially disliked by William Cecil. Elizabeth could also potentially marry a foreign prince or King. However this might make England subject to that country. Also many of the foreign princes like Philip II were Catholic. Eric of Sweden was Protestant but Sweden was too small a power at this time. Francis of Alencon (French) was a possibility but 22 years younger than her. The marriage of Mary Tudor and Philip II had been a disaster as he was very unpopular. This also influenced Elizabeth to not marry.
<p><u>The features of the Religious Settlement</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth was made Supreme Governor of the Church by the Act of Supremacy. All clergy and royal officials had to swear an oath of allegiance to her as head of the Church. The Act of Uniformity laid out how churches should be decorated. They were to be plainer than Catholic churches and the altar was replaced by a wooden table. Ornate decorations were to be taken down. The power of priests was reduced (they could no longer forgive sins). Priests were to dress mainly plain but with a special robe called a vestment. Church services would be in English and follow the Book of Common Prayer which had to be used in all services. The Mass was replaced by the Holy Communion, although the wording of this aspect of the service was left unclear to appeal to both Catholics and Protestants. The Bible was translated into English. <p>OVERALL – The Settlement mainly favoured Protestant ideas but did retain some Catholic elements, especially in the appearance of the Churches.</p>	<p><u>Why did relations between England and Spain decline?</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political and Religious Rivalry – Elizabeth's Protestantism was at odds with Philip's Catholicism. Philip opposed the religious settlement. England was also hoping to rise to the level of Spain and France who were the two biggest powers in Europe. Initially England and Spain got on well but this changed in the 1570s. Trade and Commercial Rivalry – Spain dominated trade with the New World, but Francis Drake hoped to help England become more powerful there. He was involved in various acts of piracy against Spanish treasure ships and stole huge fortunes from them. The conflict in the Netherlands – Spain pursued increasingly harsh policies against Dutch Protestant rebels. They stationed more troops there which was a concern for England. This led to England getting involved on the side of the Dutch after the Treaty of Nonsuch (1585). This led to an English army being sent to assist the Dutch led by Robert Dudley, who angered Philip (and Elizabeth) by claiming the title of Governor-General of the Netherlands.
<p><u>Reasons for Mary, Queen of Scots' execution</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mary was next in line and a Catholic. She had fled Scotland after the failure of her marriages to Darnley and Bothwell and was under house arrest by Elizabeth. While Elizabeth didn't have a child, there was always a danger. Numerous plots against Elizabeth (Ridolfi, Throckmorton, Babington) had posted a danger to her life. The role of Francis Walsingham was also crucial. He organised a spy network that helped expose the Throckmorton Plot and uncovered Mary's links to the Babington Plot. He was a Puritan and encouraged harsh laws against Catholics. He also ensured the death warrant made it to Fotheringhay Castle against Elizabeth's wishes. The role of Parliament was also important as they had also put pressure on Elizabeth by passing harsh anti-Catholic laws. They had passed the Act of Association that meant any plot against Elizabeth would be blamed on Mary. 	<p><u>Why was the Armada defeated in 1588?</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation – Drake disrupted Spanish preparations by launching the Raid on Cadiz in 1587 and destroying 30 ships and many of their provisions. This bought England an extra year to prepare which they did by building watchtowers and beacons on the coast to provide early warning of an attack. Tactics and Leadership – The Spanish plan was flawed, relying on the Duke of Parma's army to arrive in Calais from the Netherlands at the same time as the Armada. The Duke of Medina Sidonia was an inexperienced commander, and Philip had ignored the advice of his advisors on the best plan of attack. Meanwhile, the English used fireships to great effect at the Battle of Gravelines and Elizabeth did not interfere with her commanders such as Drake and Lord Seymour. English had better ships: The English had faster and more manoeuvrable ships, and they could fire more cannon rounds than the Spanish. Weather – Helped blow the fireships into the Spanish fleet at Gravelines, and caused the wreckage of some of their ships as they fled round Scotland and Ireland.

KEY TOPIC 3 – ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF EXPLORATION 1558-1588

<p><u>Education and Leisure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Boys tended to get much more education than girls. Boys could go to petty schools initially and then to grammar schools which were built in most towns. Girls could go to dame schools but their education mainly focused on domestic tasks. Literacy rates for boys increased much more than for girls. The rich had more access to education than the poor. They could afford to pay for it. Ultimately education was mainly about preparing children for the lives they were expected to lead. For the rich, this meant a focus on public speaking, debating and the Bible. For the poor (which was the majority of the country), this meant any education was usually about training them for agricultural work and did not involve going to school. The rich and poor also had different experiences of leisure activities. The rich enjoyed hunting, fencing and real tennis, while the poor preferred bear baiting and football. One activity that both rich and poor enjoyed was theatre. 	<p><u>Poverty – why did it increase?</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation – Bad harvests at different times during Elizabeth's reign led to rising food prices. Wages also did not increase that much because, as population had increased, there were more people wanting work hence labour was cheaper. Rise of sheep farming – Wool production could be highly lucrative but the growth of sheep farming led to the reduction of land for crops, and didn't require as much labour so led to higher unemployment. Impact of enclosure – This led to individuals taking over land previously held by village communities as a whole. This meant tenant farmers and labourers could be evicted from the land, and unemployment therefore increased, as did vagabondage as unemployed rural workers looked for opportunities in towns. Impact of decline in wool trade and conflict with Spain - The loss of Antwerp as a trade centre due to the Dutch conflict led to economic problems which created more unemployment issues. 	<p><u>Overseas exploration</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of new technology – Navigation was improved by the use of astrolabes which could help to more effectively calculate a ship's position by using the stars. The printing press meant more books detailing voyages were becoming available. Impact of better maps – The Mercator map in particular helped navigation. Mercator use parallel and evenly spaced lines of longitude and latitude to place lands more accurately on a map. Printing also helped the maps to become more widespread and consistent. The older hand-drawn maps could be more unreliable. Impact of better ship design – Large galleons were designed which enabled more supplies to be taken on the long journeys across the ocean, and better and bigger sails enabled greater speed and manoeuvrability. Drake's circumnavigation of the globe – Took three years between 1577 and 1580. Happened by accident – he was sent by Elizabeth to raid Spanish colonies and gain extra wealth for England. It raised English prestige and damaged relations with Spain. 	<p><u>Walter Raleigh and Virginia</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for creating a colony - England wanted a presence in the New World so they could benefit from trade and have bases from which to attack Spanish shipping. Drake's adventures led to reports that North America provided ideal land for colonising. Walter Raleigh played a key role in promoting and raising money for the attempt to create a colony in Virginia. Reason for failure – the voyage - Ultimately both attempts to establish a colony in Roanoke, Virginia during Elizabeth's reign failed. One reason was because of problems on the voyage for the first attempt where an accident at sea had damaged much of the food, and it arrived to late to plant crops. Reason for failure – Native Americans - Another reason for their failure was resistance from Native Americans. They were suspicious of the English due to the new diseases they brought which killed large numbers of Natives. Violent clashes broke out between the two sides. Reason for failure – Inexperience of colonists - The first group of colonists did not have the right skills to survive and were overly reliant on Native Americans. The second group were better equipped to succeed but this colony mysteriously disappeared.
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