

Reformation in England

I. Henry VIII and the Revolt from Rome

A. Henry VIII's Motives

- the need for a male heir to continue the relatively new dynasty : the country was just beginning to recover from the War of the Roses (14-14) which ended when Henry VIII's father, Henry VII, became king → foundation of the Tudor dynasty.
The only precedent of a woman ruler was when Matilda became queen in the 12th century, which caused a civil war.
- Henry may have felt his marriage was improper because his wife, Katherine of Aragon, had been previously married to his older brother.
- Henry was in love with Ann Boleyn.
- There was a lot of money to be made from the dissolution of the monasteries.

B. The Beginnings of the Anglican Church

- 1529: Act of Supremacy. The King is head of the Anglican Church. The services at the churches remain the same (mass in Latin, no systematic Bible reading...)
- 1534: Act of Succession. Everyone has to swear allegiance to Henry VIII as head of the church.
- 1535: Thomas More beheaded. Henry had even intended to execute his daughter Mary who refused to swear but was dissuaded by Cranmer.
- 1536: execution of William Tyndale, author of the first translation of the Bible in English. Abolition of the monasteries → distribution of Church lands to king's supporters who become strong supporters of the king's religious policy!

II. Difficult Times: the Reigns of Edward VI and Mary

A. Cranmer's Reforms under Edward VI: the Church becomes Protestant

- 1547: Edward becomes king
- 1548: first prayer in English introduced into the Latin mass. Images ordered removed from all the churches. Holy water and crucifixes forbidden, which causes much resentment among the population.
- 1549: First Book of Common Prayer. Cranmer's work. Written in English. No more saint's days.

B. Mary tries to restore Catholicism

- 1553: Edward VI dies. An attempted coup to place a Protestant queen (Lady Jane Grey) on the throne fails. Mary Tudor, a militant Roman Catholic, becomes queen. People in England are tired of the Protestant looting of churches. The new queen is popular.
- Persecution of Protestants → "Bloody Mary". 300 Protestants burned.

III. The Church under Elizabeth I: a Middle Ground sought

A. The Elizabethan Settlement

- 1558: Mary dies, Elizabeth I becomes queen.
- Return of Protestant exiles, saints day reintroduced.
- 1559: A new Act of Supremacy declared the Queen to be Supreme Governor of spiritual matters in England. Anyone holding public or Church office, anyone taking a degree must take the Oath.

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B. The Era of Puritanism

- 1564: the word "puritan" appears for the 1st time. They are Calvinists who oppose everything that is fun for themselves and others.
- 1593: puritans outlawed.

C. Mary Stuart and the Catholic "Problem"

- 1568: Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, cousin of Elizabeth, flees from Scotland and seeks asylum in England.
 - 1569: a rebellion by northern earls who intended to replace Elizabeth with Mary Stuart. The following year, the pope declares Elizabeth to be a heretic and commands her subjects not to obey her or her laws.
- ➔ persecution of Catholics in England and execution of Mary Stuart in 1587.