

Elizabethan England

c.1568-1603



Revision Guide

Elizabeth I

1568-1603

Red



Amber



Green



<u>Elizabeth I</u> <u>1568-1603</u>	<u>Red</u> 	<u>Amber</u> 	<u>Green</u>
Problems Elizabeth faced when she came to the throne			
Religious policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Religious Settlement○ Harsh policies towards Catholics e.g. Recusancy fines, Act against Jesuits○ Problems from Puritans			
Foreign Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aims – make peace with France and regain Calais○ Scotland<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mary Queen of Scots plots e.g. Babington○ Spain<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Armada 1588, 1596, 1599○ Explorers			
Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Population rose significantly by 1603 it was 4 million○ Distinction between the impotent, idle and the deserving○ Poor Relief Acts○ Great Chain of Being			
Government <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Privy Council – responsible for policy advice○ Favourites○ Factionalism○ Number of JPs increased – average of 50 per county○ Growing conflict in courts<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elizabeth disliked MPs discussing the succession this was her royal prerogative○ Peter Wentworth was imprisoned for demanding freedom of speech			
Rebellions <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Northern Earls○ Essex's Rebellion			
Golden Age			
Hardwick Hall			

Life before being queen

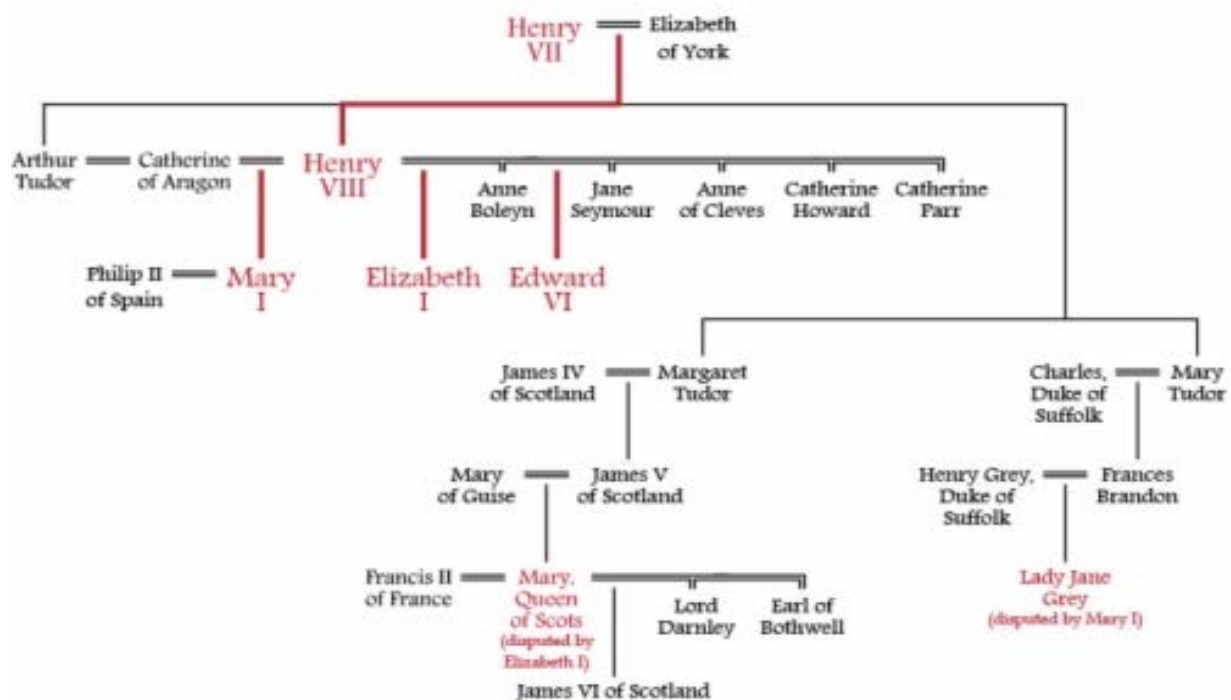
In the last years of her dad's reign Elizabeth enjoyed a stable environment around the court of his last wife, Catherine Parr. It was at this time that Elizabeth developed her religious beliefs – moderate Protestantism within the Church of England that her father had created. Elizabeth was legitimised in the Succession Act of 1544.



Elizabeth played no part in the plan to change the succession in 1553 to Lady Jane Grey. However, the accession of Mary I in July 1553 immediately caused Elizabeth a problem – namely, her sister's Catholic faith and the determination to impose this on her subjects. Very soon in the reign a group of gentry plotted to overthrow Mary and place Elizabeth on the throne. However, Wyatt's rebellion in 1554 was quickly ended and the ringleaders executed, she almost certainly played no part in encouraging the plot, but she was arrested and taken to the Tower of London, entering through the Traitor's Gate. She stayed there for two months and was then taken to a country house in Oxfordshire where she was under house arrest for the remainder of Mary's reign. It was during this time that she kept her level headedness under interrogation and marking a letter in diagonal lines to her half-sister Queen Mary so it couldn't be doctored.

Elizabeth clearly believed that she was entitled to rule the kingdom directly and from the start of her reign it was clear in charge. In December 1558 the Spanish ambassador, the Count of Feria, noted that Elizabeth was more feared than her sister had been and gave orders 'as absolutely as her father did'. Moreover, she readily invoked her father's memory, telling Parliament in 1559 that we 'hope to rule, govern and keep this our realm in good justice, peace and rest, in like wise as the king my father held in you'.

The Tudor Family Tree



Lizzię's suitors

Elizabeth was 25 when she succeeded the throne, by Tudor standards this was old to still be unmarried. She had not married due to her awkward position in her sibling's reigns. Everyone expected that marriage would be high on her list of priorities as she was the last of the Tudor's and the dynasty would die if she did not have an heir. However Elizabeth hesitated for years and this angered her parliament and Privy Council. She famously lost her temper with them in 1566 for daring to raise the issue. Despite having lots of potential suitors Liz never married.



Potential Suitor Number 1: Phillip II of Spain

- Proposed early in her reign
- Widower of her sister Mary who was keen to keep his title as King of England
- He was Catholic but his family was England's traditional enemy against France.
- He treated Mary badly during their marriage and Liz was aware of this.
- He was very unpopular with the English people – resulted in a rebellion
- Provided Mary with no children
- Led England into a costly war against France which resulted in the loss of Calais
- She never seriously considered him and he was insulted by her rejection



Potential Suitor Number 2: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

- The two had been close friends since childhood
- He desperately wanted to marry her but was already married.
- When his wife, Amy died in mysterious circumstances (her lifeless body was found at the foot of the staircase) all hopes for marriage between the two was shattered.
- An inquest was held into Amy's death and it was ruled accidental but it all seemed to convenient for the ambitious courtier.
- Rumours spread that Amy had been murdered
- Dudley eventually married again in 1578 to his cousin, the Countess of Essex



Potential Suitor Number 3: Duke of Alençon

- By the 1570s marriage negotiations continued with the younger brother of the King of France
- Although over twenty years younger than Elizabeth, a catholic and physically deformed he seemed a serious prospect.
- She affectionately called him her 'frog'
- Cecil was in favour but Dudley and Walsingham were opposed.
- After St Bartholomew's day when thousands of protestants were murdered the French became unpopular
- Propaganda leaflets were made against the marriage and she called off the proposal.

Who were the possible heirs to the throne?

In October 1562 Liz contracted smallpox and doctors told Cecil that she would not survive. She did but was left permanently scarred. Had she died, there would have been a serious succession crisis. The problem was not a shortage of heirs but a surplus:

- Lady Catherine and Lady Mary Grey – Lady Jane Grey's sisters who were descendants from Henry VIII's younger sister Mary. Both were protestants and seen as potential heirs. It was believed that Catherine was Liz's first choice but when she married the Earl of Hertford without her permission and fell pregnant Liz was furious. Elizabeth had Catherine imprisoned in the tower for the rest of her life. Catherine had two sons both born in prison but they were declared illegitimate and barred from the succession. Catherine's sister Mary also married without Liz's permission and so she was placed under house arrest.
- Mary Queen of Scots – had a stronger claim than the Grey's. She was descended from Henry VIII's elder sister Margaret, who had married into the Scottish Royal Family. However this was a controversial claimant as she was brought up in France and was a catholic.

In the end the problem solved itself as all of the possible eight contenders died leaving one obvious heir: Mary Queen of Scots' son James VI of Scotland. James had a strong claim as both his mother and father were great grandchildren of Henry VII. Although Liz refused to recognise him Cecil began sending letters to him from 1601 onwards, so when Liz died in 1603 it was an easy transition to the new king of England.



Lizzie's Government

What problems did Liz have when she came to the throne?

- People questioned her ability because she was a woman
- She was unmarried and had no children to carry on the Tudor dynasty
 - She was young and inexperienced
 - She inherited massive debts - £300,000!!
 - There was a lot of poverty in England.
 - She inherited Mary's advisors.

Elizabeth I's government was made up of **the Privy Council, Court** and **Parliament**. Although Lizzie relied heavily on leading figures, deemed her favorites, she was very much in control and ensured that she was directly responsible for all state departments. Furthermore Elizabeth had the authority to appoint and dismiss ministers and strongly defended her royal prerogative.

The Privy Council

- The most significant element of Elizabethan government was the Privy Council
- Elizabeth made it clear from the outset that she did not intend to repeat Mary's error in having such a large Council, since it proved to be difficult to handle and often led to faction fights.
- The Council and Elizabeth's ministers were based at court and were made up of 11 members.
- The court lay at the center of Tudor government because it was where the monarch lived, entertained and conducted the business of government.
- The key functions of the Privy Council included:
 - To oversee the operations of the regional councils such as the Council of the North
 - Offered advice to the monarch
 - To enforce the religious settlement.
 - To manage crown finances.



Lizzie's Favourites



<u>William Cecil, Lord Burghley</u>	Appointed Principle Secretary of State and later Lord Treasurer. Their political partnership would last almost 40 years. He came to dominate the council and was described by the Spanish ambassador as 'The man who does everything'. He was influential in Elizabeth's foreign policy in Scotland and the introduction of national poor laws.
<u>Dudley, Earl of Leicester</u>	In 1558 he was appointed Master of the House, he was said to be Elizabeth's lover but his wife's death was the object of suspicion. He was a prominent patron of overseas exploration and trade and took an active part in government.
<u>Walsingham</u>	Extremely loyal, Walsingham specialised in diplomacy and espionage for the increasing number of Catholic recusants. Together with Burghley he wrote the 1585 Act of Surety of the Queen's Person, which was a kind of counter terrorism law that empowered ordinary citizens to take any conspirators against the queen into their own hands.
<u>Earl of Essex</u>	He came to prominence at the end of Elizabeth's reign and had a keen interest in military expeditions although he was considered ineffectual. He was young, handsome and ambitious. After Burghley died he hoped to gain some of his political power but after failing to end rebellions in Ireland he lost favour and started a rebellion himself.
<u>Robert Cecil</u>	The only son of Lord Burghley he was groomed for high office by his father and became a member of the Privy Council in 1593 and was appointed Secretary of State in 1596.
<u>Christopher Hatton</u>	Elizabeth was impressed with his dancing at court and promoted him. He was a moderate protestant who hated puritans. He helped Liz control the MPs.

Having favourites led to factionalism ...



Robert Cecil V Earl of Essex

This was by far the most serious factional rivalry of Elizabeth's reign. Just as Robert Cecil looked to fill his father's position as the most important politician and administrator in the realm, so Essex looked to replace his stepfather, Leicester, as the Queen's favourite. Matters came to a head in 1601 when Essex returned without permission from his command of the Queen's forces in Ireland, and burst into the Queen's bedchamber. He was convinced, correctly, that Cecil was engineering his downfall. Elizabeth banned him from Court (thus weakening his faction). She also took away his monopoly on sweet wines and put him under house arrest. Essex then launched his doomed revolt and ended up being executed. The point here however is that by this stage faction was out of control, and actually caused a revolt against the Queen.

Parliament

- Parliament was less important under Elizabeth, she regarded it as a necessary but occasional evil; something she had to put up with for **its tasks of law making, granting taxation and giving advice.**
- Throughout her long reign parliament was only called **13 times**, members of the House of Commons sometimes clashed with the wishes of the Queen.
- It was expected that any questioning of the queens intentions was to be moderate and highly respectful. Elizabeth drew a clear distinction between those topics which touched **on her royal prerogative** and those which had something to do with parliament. Parliament were generally aware that matters such as religion, foreign policy, marriage and succession were reserved for the queen and her closest advisors.
- This did not deter radical MPs from approaching topics deemed to be a royal prerogative. E.g. Peter Wentworth believed the parliament should be able to speak freely on any matter. He was imprisoned in the tower for this.

“You can’t tell me who to marry!!
That’s my prerogative!!!!”



Royal Court

- Consisted of 500 nobles and advisors who all lived with her and competed for power and influence – called **courtiers**
- Court was the centre of political power
- It moved – mainly at Whitehall Place but also St James Palace or Hampton Court – wherever she went, it went!
- Most summer Liz went travelling and they went with her – these tours are called **Progresses** – think of them like politicians before an election
- Liz used **patronage** – giving favour to particular men including titles and position of power. This was very corrupt and it caused tension and rivalry between the men.

Summary

1. Lizzie was a woman and inexperienced so she needed to become an expert politician
2. Royal court was the political centre but led to corrupt patronage and factionalism
3. The Privy Council was small but she was reliant on her favourites
4. Lizzie didn't like parliament
5. Favouritism led to rebellion

Lizzie's Foreign Policy

Elizabeth I's foreign policy has attracted both admiration and criticism. Some historians see her as a warrior queen, whose defeat of the Spanish Armada is unmatched by any of the previous Tudor monarchs, whereas others see her decision to plunge England into a war lasting 19 years as an economic disaster.



Can I really kill my cousin... if she carries on like this I will!!!!

Mary Queen of Scots

- Mary Queen of Scots was a significant threat to the English throne. Firstly she had a **legitimate claim** being Henry VII's great granddaughter. Secondly Mary had grown up in France and her mother, Mary of Guise, had brought her up as a **Catholic**. Therefore she had the support of the French and the catholic population of England who disliked Elizabeth's Religious Settlement.
- After Mary was implicated in her husband's murder she fled to England. This created a dilemma for Elizabeth:
 - If she helped her cousin she would be upsetting her Protestant allies in Scotland.
 - If she did not help then she would be showing tacit acceptance that a Queen can be deposed

Elizabeth effectively did nothing, instead she **kept Mary locked-up for nineteen years**. Mary could be used as a pawn if France or Spain wanted to undermine Elizabeth. Although Mary became the **centre of Catholic plots** against Elizabeth, Elizabeth was unwilling to take action against her. (Rebellion of the Northern Earls 1569; Ridolfi Plot, Throckmorton Plot 1583) If she did it could give Spain another reason for going to war against England.

However, Mary was implicated in the **Babington Plot in 1586**. The plot failed but a special commission **found Mary guilty of plotting against Elizabeth**. Elizabeth was reluctant to execute Mary as Catholics were also busy plotting to remove Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne. When Elizabeth did sign the death warrant she would not allow it to be put into action. When the warrant was realised by William Davison (1587) Elizabeth was furious. She imprisoned Davison for a short time and wrote to James VI (of Scotland) protesting her innocence in the execution of his mum. James was not too concerned – he was now in line to succeed Elizabeth on the English throne.



Lizzie's war with Spain

"I have but the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king... and think foul scorn that any Prince in Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm"

Tensions with Spain increased

The relationship between Spain and England deteriorated over a period of fifteen years. This was because of:

- The situation with Mary Queen of Scots.
- The excommunication of Elizabeth in 1570 - Philip was a strict Catholic
- The Netherlands (ruled by Philip II)– England depended on the cloth trade and when rebellion broke out Elizabeth supported the protestants y sending 7000 troops (Treaty of Nonsuch)

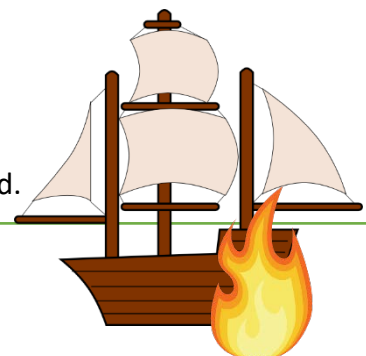


The Armada 1588

By the 1580s England was plunged into a war with Spain which would last **nineteen years**. The largest, single operation of the entire war was the defeat of the Spanish Armada **in July 1588**.

How did the English Navy manage to defeat the Armada?

- The Spanish attempted to bring troops from the Netherlands to invade England but the plan was not well executed
- The **English knew about the Armada** and were well prepared for it.
- Clever naval tactics by the English fleet led to the destruction of the Armada when it was forced to return home round the coast of Ireland and Scotland utilising the south westerly winds. They also **used fire ships** (setting ships alight in order to disperse the Spanish fleet) and **long-range guns with ships that were smaller and faster**.
- Storms destroyed a large number of Spanish ships.
- The Armada was **delayed by Drakes attack on Cadiz in 1587**
- The **Battle of Gravelines** was a disaster for the Spanish
- Only **67 ships returned to Spain out of 130**. An estimated 20,000 died.



Why trade and explore?

The Renaissance

This encouraged learning and a spirit of adventure. People began to believe that the world was round and they wanted to explore.

New Inventions

- The printing press was now available and meant that maps and geographical literature were more readily available.
- The astrolabe also meant that the ships position could be plotted accurately and the magnetic compass was developed
- The use of smaller ships such as caravels and carracks meant that ships could now sail whichever way they wished, whatever the wind direction.

Competition

- The Ottoman Empire was hostile to Christian Europe. They had conquered much of Eastern Europe and now held power in the Mediterranean, placing high taxes on all goods passing through their territory. The Europeans therefore wanted to find alternative routes which meant they didn't need to travel through Ottoman lands.
- The Spanish monopoly in the New World also angered the English

Prestige and patriotism

- The English economy depended heavily on trade links especially with Antwerp. However there had been a crisis in Antwerp and Elizabeth needed to find new links and partners.
- New links were formed e.g.:
 - The Muscovy Company which reached Russia and traded timber and fur
 - The Eastland Company which traded timber, tar, canvas and rope in Scandinavia
 - The Levant Company traded goods in the Mediterranean
 - The East India Company traded in the Far East in silks, spices, cotton and tea.

Lizzie's explorers



Sir Francis Drake

- His first voyage in 1566 was as a slave trader.
- He was attacked in 1568 by the Spanish at San Juan de Ulua in Mexico, losing four ships and over 300 men. He sought to take revenge on the Spanish
- Drake was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe between 1577 and 1580.
- He launched successful attacks on the Spanish empire, bringing back gold, silver and jewels, making a huge profit. The Spanish feared Drake and nicknamed him 'El Draque' (The Dragon)

John Hawkins

- He was a navigator and slave trader who was Sir Francis Drake's cousin
- He made three voyages during the 1560s, capturing Africans and selling them in Central America to Spanish settlers
- After this he returned to England and designed ships for the navy which were faster, lighter and better able to withstand harsh weather conditions than the Spanish ships
- He was Vice Admiral fighting against the Armada



Walter Raleigh



- The queen invested in his privateering expeditions against the Spanish
- He wanted to establish colonies for Liz in North America. The area was thought to have an inexhaustible supply of wine, oil, sugar and flax and would reduce England's trading dependence upon Europe.
- In 1584 he obtained a royal charter to establish a colony on Roanoke island off the coast on North Carolina. He organised two expeditions to take settlers to the colony. The first group came home after a year and the second disappeared.

Society and rebellions in Lizzie's reign

What changes took place in society?

The major factors causing social upheaval throughout Lizzie's reign, were **population increases** and **price rises**. By the time of Elizabeth's death in 1603 the population had risen to **over 4 million**. Along with the growth of the population came mobility, this led to a number of people seeking employment in towns such as London. This accompanied by price rises and crop failures meant expanding number of vagrants and poor people – **60% of the population lived at or below the poverty line**. Due to Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries the burden of helping the poor now lay with the government.



Why were the government fearful of the changes to society?

- The maintenance of public order had always been the responsibility of the government. Tudor administrations feared disorder and protest might lead to rebellion.
- The fear of vagrants was by far the worst as the government had no control over the wanderers. Their independence undermined the 'Great Chain of Being'. They also feared that they were more likely to commit crime.

How did the government combat the problems?

- This attitude changed in Elizabeth's reign when it became apparent that punishment alone would not solve the issue of vagrancy. The Elizabethan government focused on charity.
- The government sought to help the deserving poor and punish beggars and vagabonds. **Poor Law Acts** were introduced in 1572, 1597 and 1601. Each introduced a **rate that local rate payers paid to contributed to the poor in their parish**. Overseers of the poor were also introduced and apprenticeships were made compulsory.
- **Vagrants were punished** and houses of correction were set up to deal with the idle poor.
- The Act of Artificers (apprentices) aimed to enforce potential workers to take on a seven year apprenticeships as well as fix prices and wages. This failed to surpass the local provision set up by boroughs such as Norwich and Ipswich.

"Help me, I deserve it!"



Impotent	People unable to work due to age, disability or other infirmity. Limited relief was provided by the community in which they lived.
Idle	People who were physically able to work and were forced to, to prevent them from becoming vagrants, beggars or vagabonds.

The Northern Earls Rebellion 1569

Causes:

This rebellion grew out of noble resentment of Cecil and also out of support for Mary Stuart. The Duke of Norfolk disliked the influence Cecil had and saw him as an upstart. This led him to plan a revolt to put Mary on the throne.

What happened?

When the plan to marry Mary and Norfolk failed, the northern Earls thought about using force. Elizabeth was aware of this threat and called the Earls to London. Instead they raised support (5,200 men) and attempted to free Mary but failed. When they heard that Elizabeth had raised troops to deal with the rebellion, they turned back. After some minor skirmishes the Earls were defeated and forced to flee.

Why did it fail?

- They weren't very good leaders and gained little support.
- Catholic nobles in did not come out in support.
- There was no realistic strategy especially after the attempt to free Mary failed.

Essex's Rebellion 1601

Causes:

- This rebellion grew out of factions at court.
- Essex fell from royal favour after he messed-up command of the army in Ireland. He was banished from the court and lost valuable monopolies.

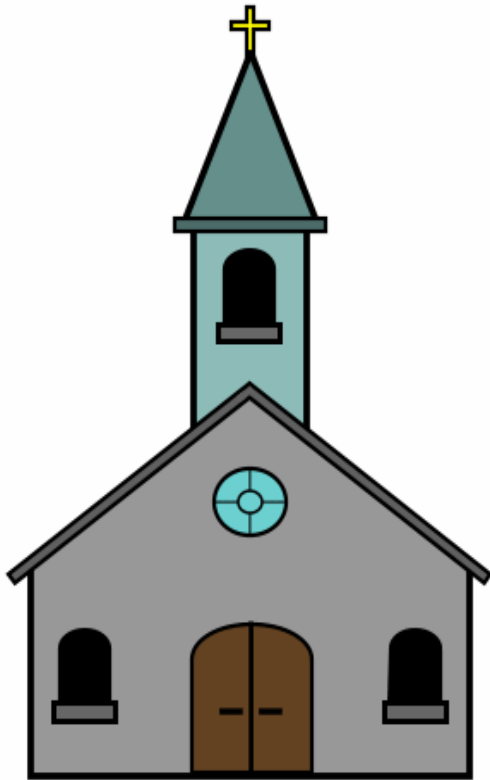
What happened?

- In 1601 Essex attempted to seize control of important places in London (Whitehall Palace and the Tower of London). However, he lacked popular support (only 300 joined him) and the government knew of his plans and had prepared defences.
- The revolt lasted 12 hours and Essex was captured. (He was executed for treason)

Why did it fail?

- Essex had no clear plan other than to give himself power and wealth.
- Few Londoners were motivated to join him

Lizzie and religion



The constant back and forth between Protestantism and Catholicism in the Tudor period had created religious confusion. Elizabeth inherited a Catholic country but as a protestant she wanted to work quickly to avoid confusion. In one momentous year the shape of the Elizabethan Church was determined as Elizabeth worked with parliament to create a 'middle way' to create a more unified church.

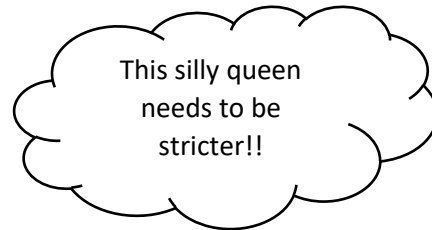
Religious Settlement 1559

Legislation	Terms
Act of Supremacy	Elizabeth titled herself 'Supreme Governor', this enabled her to satisfy those people who still regarded the Pope as the rightful head of the Church or who felt it was wrong for a woman to hold the top position.
Act of Uniformity	This set out rules about the appearance of the church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar replaced by the communion table. Attendance at church was made compulsory Anyone saying Mass could face the death penalty.
Royal Injunctions	Set of instructions about the conduct of church services and government of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preachers had to had to be licenced by a bishop before they could start preaching. Every church had to display a Bible written in English Pilgrimages were outlawed No more altars were to be destroyed.
Prayer Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was a fusion of the two prayer books issued in Edwards reign. It worked well as a compromise between the Catholics and the Protestants.
39 Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Convocation of the Church set about the task of producing a definitive statement of what 'Anglicanism' meant. This was made law in 1571 and has remained the essential statement of belief in the Church of England today.

Protestant Threat

The threat from puritans showed discontent for Lizzie's religious changes. They believed in purifying the English Church from the pope and that Elizabeth's policies did not achieve this.

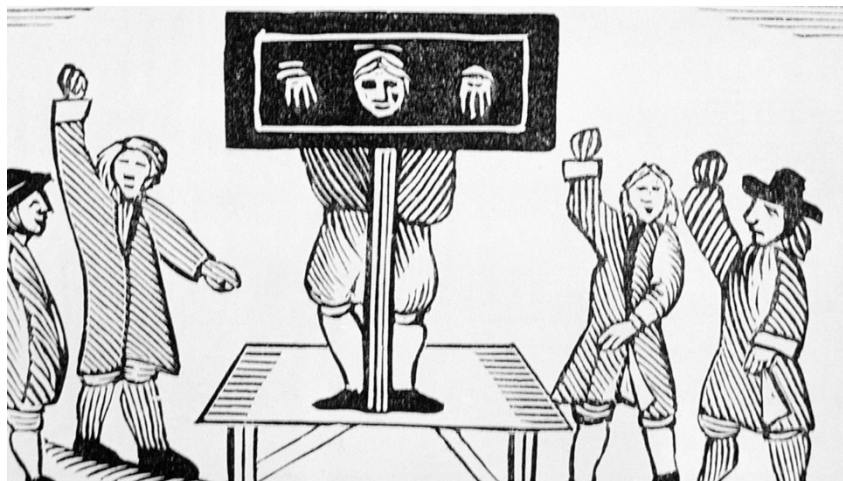
- E.g. in 1566 Archbishop Parker issued a Book of Advertisements, which set out what was expected in terms of dress code. In London 37 clergymen refused to follow this instruction and were suspended.
- e.g. Two Admonitions - The first attacked the Book of Common Prayer and called for the abolition of bishops, second provided a detailed description of a Presbyterian system of Church Government.
- E.g. 300 ministers had been suspended in the south of England after refusing to agree to the Three Articles issued by Archbishop Whitgift
- E.g. Radicalism emerged such as Robert Browne who became the leader of a significant congregation



Catholic Threat

The Catholic threat showed widespread discontent against Elizabeth's religious policies:

- 400 clergy resigned or lost their living however compared to the 800 Protestants who fled in Mary's reign this was low.
- E.g. threats increased due to the excommunication in 1570 and the Pope's hostility was shown when he instructed Catholics not to attend the church.
- e.g. Douai Priests (founded by William Allen)- Although not a major threat the government was forced into action and executed several priests as by the 1590s there were over 100 in England.
- e.g. The Jesuits were more dangerous and were seen as enemies of anti-Catholic beliefs. Elizabeth executed their leader Camion in 1581 and had to issued the 'Act against the Jesuit Seminary Priests' which issued 40 days to leave the country. 150 priests were executed. Fines for saying mass also increased to 200 marks.



Lizzie's Golden Age

The Theatre

- At the start of Elizabeth's reign, England didn't have any permanent theaters. Instead, companies of actors travelled around performing in village squares or in the courtyards of inns. The first theatres were built in London in the 1570s. They included the Theatre and The Curtain. The Globe was built in 1599.
- The theatre appealed to both the rich and the poor. Ticket prices started at just 1 penny so were affordable to all. However social groups sat in different parts of the theatre as they usually didn't mix.

Playwrights and Poets

- A huge number of plays were written during Elizabeth's reign. Their popularity helps the Elizabethan era to be seen as 'Merry England'.
- Plays were performed by companies such as The Admiral's Men and The Lord Chamberlain's Men. This was under the patronage of Lord Hunsdon and the Earl of Nottingham.
- Women weren't allowed to perform on stage so all actors were male – young boys played the female roles.



Education and Literature

- Over 30 schools were set up in Elizabeth's reign and ever greater numbers were attending Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- The cultural and intellectual experiences of universities were considered more important than traditional apprenticeships in the household of great noblemen

Fashion

Male fashions	Female fashions
- Doublet (long sleeve silk or satin shirt with ruffles at the end)	- Farthingale (a petticoat with wooden hoops sewn into it)
- Woollen/ silk stockings	- Ruff (a lace collar on a wire frame, worn around the neck)
- Jerkin (colourful velvet jacket)	- Undergown (made of silk or satin and heavily patterned.)

The Rise of the Gentry

The status and power of the gentry was purely based on wealth. The gentry class grew massively due to:

- The Tudors were suspicious of the old nobility and didn't want to promote them. This meant that the gentry could become more powerful and take these positions.
- Many of the gentry bought the land from the dissolution of the monasteries.
- Growth in trade and exploration

How typical is Hardwick Hall?



Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire was built between 1590 and 1597 by Elizabeth Shrewsbury (more commonly known as Bess of Hardwick) it was one of the grandest houses in Elizabethan England and used by Bess to show her great wealth and position in society.



I bet you're jealous of my big house!!!!
It takes lots of husbands you know.

Who was Bess of Hardwick?

Bess was born in a small manor house on the site of Hardwick Hall in 1527. When her gentlemen father died he left Bess and her sisters £26 each. She married Robert Barlow who was from another gentry family however he died shortly after, leaving her £66 a year.

Bess married again, this time to the wealthy Sir William Cavendish who had gained a lot of money from the dissolution of the monasteries. To please his new wife he sold all of his properties and bought new to show his wealth. After having 8 children together he died and she remarried 2 years later to Sir William St Loes. His family name was older and better established and this bought her access to Elizabeth's court. This was another step up the social ladder for her. Finally her fifth marriage was spectacular. The 6th Earl of Shrewsbury was 40 years older than her and she became the Countess of Shrewsbury

Bess moved into the new Hardwick Hall on Monday 4 October 1597, two years before it was completed. It may have been her 70th birthday. Life at Hardwick was pleasurable, with musicians, games, plays and dancing. The beautiful gardens had pavilions for quiet and there were woodland walks. Bess' initials 'ES' could be seen for miles. Meanwhile, Bess was still purchasing more land. She always kept close account of all her extensive riches.

In what ways does Hardwick showcase Elizabethan building and architecture?

Hardwick demonstrates the Elizabethan concern for symmetry and order. The house is symmetrical on all 4 sides and displays symmetry in many different ways. The height of each story progressively increases. Servants went about on the ground floor, Bess on the first floor and potential Royal visitors on the second floor. In this way the design of the house is a model of what the Elizabethans thought should be the divine order of the universe. The familiar rhyme that, 'Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall' was truer of Hardwick than other Elizabethan houses. The chimneys had internal flues so as not to interfere with the external impression of glass. Glass was a status symbol and the greatly increased height of the windows at Hardwick made them all the more impressive. Hardwick was made from local materials from Bess's own properties which were in turn used by local craftsmen. Wood came from trees that grew on Bess' land and the glass and the iron from her glassworks and ironworks at Wingfield.

<h2 align="center"><u>Features of a typical Elizabethan manor</u></h2>	<h2 align="center"><u>Hardwick Hall</u></h2>
<p><u>Influence of Classical Civilisations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was fashionable to be influenced by ancient or classical civilisations during the renaissance - Believed it demonstrated culture and refined taste - Chimneys in classical columns, often in stacks of two or three 	<p><u>Influence of Classical Civilisations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straight chimney columns reflected classical design - Loggia at the front inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture
<p><u>Symmetry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usually in an E or H shape - This would allow open courtyards 	<p><u>Symmetry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chimney columns within internal walls to ensure house would be symmetrical
<p><u>Decoration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rich oak panelling was typical - Geometric plasterwork - Colourful tapestries 	<p><u>Decoration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oak panelling was carved to tell classical stories - Geometric plasterwork reflected Renaissance patterns.
<p><u>Glass</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expensive so only the wealthy could afford it - Full walls of windows allowed the owner to show off their wealth 	<p><u>Glass</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large glass windows with lattice frame (large pieces of glass were not possible to make) - Robert Cecil claims that Hardwick had 'more glass than walls'
<p><u>Rooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medieval hall replaced by a great chamber as the main room - Number of rooms showed families importance 	<p><u>Rooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long gallery for entertaining guests and winter exercise (it was the longest in England at 50m long) - Rooms on three floors reflecting social status.

Glossary

Armada	Fleet of warships
Babington Plot	Plot hatched by Sir Anthony Babington to assassinate Elizabeth I and replace her with Mary Queen of Scots
Circumnavigate	To travel all the way around the circumference of the world
Colony	An area ruled over by another country
Court	The residence of the monarch and their household
Excommunicated	A very severe punishment imposed by the Pope, expelling people from the Catholic Church
Factionalism	The royal court was the centre of political power and influence. Groups of ambitious courtiers led to rivalry developing between groups known as factions.
Gentry	Part of the social elite below the level of the nobility. They owned land and lived off the income it provided.
Great Chain of Being	Social pyramid showing everyone's place in society
House Arrest	The state of being kept a prisoner in a house rather than a prison
Jesuit	Members of the Society of Jesus, set up in 1540 by the Catholic Church to reconvert Protestants and eliminate Protestantism in Europe.
Patronage	The monarch giving special favours, such as land and positions at court, to groups of people in order to retain their support. The term can also be used for actions of local nobles who showed favour to local people.
Progresses	Royal tour visits to homes of the nobility
Puritan	Radical protestants who reject all Catholic practices in church worship.
Recusant	Catholics who were unwilling to attend church services laid down by the Elizabethan Religious Settlement
Royal Supremacy	This meant that the monarch was head of the church
Suitor	A man who pursues a relationship with a woman with a view to marriage
Vagabond	A person who wanders from place to place without a home or a job.
Vagrant	A homeless, unemployed person who wanders from place to place and begs
Vestments	The garments worn by the clergy

Timeline

1558	Elizabeth became queen after the death of her half-sister Catholic Mary I. Elizabeth was unmarried and many foreign princes and Kings wanted to marry her including her half-sister's widow Philip of Spain. Her first year of harvest was very good but there was rising unemployment especially in the cloth trade
1559	Elizabeth's religious settlement enabled her to establish a Protestant Church that was acceptable to most Catholic and Protestants – it was seen as a middle way 'via media'
1562	Liz was seriously ill with smallpox. Parliament asked her to marry and name her successor. Liz promised she would but then forbade further discussion on the matter.
1568	John Hawkins's ships were attacked by the Spanish. In retaliation English ships seized Spanish bullion ships in the English Channel Mary Queen of Scots fled Scotland to the North of England and Liz had to decide what to do with her.
1569	Northern Earls rebelled against Liz – the rebellion failed.
1570	Liz was excommunicated by the Pope for establishing herself as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England Severe poverty led to a survey of the poor being carried out.
1571	The Ridolfi Plot – an Italian banker plotted to replace Liz with Mary Queen of Scots and restore Catholicism in England
1573	Disastrous harvest
1577	Explorer Francis Drake successfully attacked Spanish settlements and ships in Central America The opening of the first theatre in London – The Swan
1580	Jesuit missionary priests, trained in Europe, travel to England to spread Catholicism.
1583	Throckmorton Plot failed – it planned for French Catholic forces to invade England using papal money
1585	Parliament passed tougher laws against the Jesuits Walter Raleigh set up Virginia
1586	Babington Plot failed
1587	Execution of Mary Queen of Scots
1588	Philip II launched the Armada
1601	Essex's Rebellion
1603	Lizzie dies