

Early Elizabethan England: Topic 2- Challenges to Elizabeth at Home and Abroad 1569-88

Challenges to Elizabeth at Home and Abroad 1569-88

Elizabeth faced many serious threats both within England and from abroad. Many still wanted the Catholic, Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Philip II of Spain also wanted to remove Elizabeth from the throne. Spain and England were religious and political rivals. There was particular tension when Drake tried to challenge Spanish dominance in the New World and when Protestants in the Spanish Netherlands rebelled. These tensions culminated in Philip II sending the Spanish Armada to invade England in 1588.

Key events

1492 Discovery of the New World

1559 Elizabeth's Religious Settlement

1567 Spanish travel led to Netherlands to crush Protestant revolt

1568 Mary Queen of Scots arrived in England from France

1586 Philip begins preparing for the Armada

1569 Revolt of the Northern Earls against Elizabeth fails. 450 rebels were executed Elizabeth chose not to execute the Duke of Norfolk or Mary

1570 Elizabeth was excommunicated by the Pope who called for all loyal Catholics to depose her in the hope it would cause a Catholic rebellion

1571 The Ridolfi Plot fails. Highlighted the threat of Spain

1572 Elizabeth hired Drake as a privateer to raid Spanish Ships

1576 Spanish Fury and Pacification of Ghent: After unpaid Spanish troops looted Antwerp all 17 Dutch provinces (Catholic and Protestant) formed an alliance that called for Spanish troops to be expelled from the Netherlands

1577-80 Drake is the second person to circumnavigate the globe

1583 Throckmorton Plot fails. Highlighted the threat of Catholic France and Spain uniting.

1584 Treaty of Joinville created an alliance between Catholic France and Spain.

1585 Act of Preservation of the Queen's Safety/Treaty of Nonsuch – Elizabeth agreed to take direct action against Spain in the Netherlands. This effectively put England at war with Spain.

1586 Babington Plot. Elizabeth's government became determined to crush the Catholic threat

1587 Mary Queen of Scots was executed after years of Elizabeth being reluctant to execute an anointed monarch

1587 Attack on Cadiz- Drake sailed into Cadiz harbour, Spain's most important Atlantic port, and over 3 days destroyed 30 ships. Also known as the 'singeing of the King's beard'

1588 Elizabeth defeats Phillip in the Spanish Armada

Key Concepts

Breakdown in Anglo-Spanish relations By 1850s relations between England and Spain had reached the point of war. Philip of Spain became involved in Catholic plots against Elizabeth and events in the Netherlands as well as Drake's pirating increased tensions. England and Spain also had commercial rivalry over trade in the New World.

Religion The Revolt of the Northern Earls; Plots against Elizabeth; and tensions in the Netherlands all had religious motives.

The New World Spain conquered Mexico and Peru which had provided vast amounts of gold and silver. Elizabeth wanted to compete with Spanish dominance in the New World.

Trade England and Spain competed over access to the markets and resources of the New World. However, Spain's control over the New World denied English traders profit-making opportunities as all trade had to be licensed by the Spanish government. This led to Elizabeth supporting English merchants pirating Spanish ships.

Events in the Netherlands Protestant Rebels in the Netherlands had been revolting against Spanish rule. Initially, Elizabeth acted indirectly. In 1585, Elizabeth took direct action by sending troops to the Netherlands under Robert Dudley. The Treaty of Nonsuch effectively put England and Spain at war.

Mary Queen of Scots There were several plots against Elizabeth which planned to execute Elizabeth and replace her with Mary Queen of Scots and establish a Catholic monarchy. Despite these plots, Elizabeth was cautious and reluctant to execute Mary. Following the Revolt of the Northern Earls, Ridolfi and Throckmorton plots she refused to execute her as she did not want to increase Catholic tension or execute an anointed monarch as it would jeopardise her position

Walsingham's spy network Elizabeth's Secretary of State who developed a network of spies and informants that played a critical role in uncovering plots against Elizabeth.

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Key Words	
New World	The regions of North , South and Central America
Revolt of the Northern Earls	When Northern Earls encouraged Catholics to rebel. They planned for Mary to marry the Duke of Norfolk. The plot failed when the Spanish troops did not arrive to support the rebellion
James Pilkington	Appointed Archbishop of Durham - he was a Protestant and this s angered many Catholics in the north.
Civil War	A war between people in the same country.
Conspiracy	A secret plan with the aim of ding something illegal.
Papal Bull	A written order by the Pope. That excommunicated Elizabeth from the Catholic Church which increased fears of Catholic's disloyalty to Elizabeth .
Ridolfi Plot	A Catholic plot against Elizabeth. Plan to murder Elizabeth, launch a Spanish attack and put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne..
Roberto Ridolfi	Italian banker who lived in England and spy for the Pope
Throckmorton Plot	Planned for the French Duke of Guise to invade England, free Mary , overthrow Elizabeth and restore Catholicism in England
Babington Plot	The Duke of Guise would invade England and put Mary on the throne. Lead to the execution of Mary
Priest holes	Secret hiding places for Catholic priests.
Hanged, drawn and quartered	A type of punishment used for high treason. The accused would be hanged until near dead, cut open, have their intestines removed and were finally chopped into four pieces.
Sir Francis Walsingham	Elizabeth's Secretary of State. Developed a network of spies and informers to uncover plots against her
Act of Preservation of the Queen's Safety	In the event of Elizabeth's assassination, Mary would be banned from the succession.

Key Words	
Agent provocateurs	Agents who become part of groups suspected of wrongdoing and encourage other members to break the law so that potential threats can be identified and arrested.
Circumnavigate	To travel all the way around the world.
Act of Preservation of the Queen's Safety	In the event of Elizabeth's assassination, Mary would be banned from the succession.
Foreign Policy	The aims of objectives that guide a nation's relations with other states.
Privateer	Individuals with their own armed ships that capture other ships for their cargo, often with the support and authorisation of the government.
Francis Drake	A wealthy merchant and second man to circumnavigate the globe Elizabeth hired him as a privateer.
Circumnavigate	To travel all the way around the world.
Autonomy	The right to self government, so people of one country can manage its own affairs.
Spanish Fury	The Spanish rampaged through Dutch provinces
Pacification of Ghent	Spanish troops expelled from Netherlands, political autonomy to be returned and end of religious persecution.
Mercenary	A soldier who fights for money rather than a nation or a cause.
Treaty of Joinville	The King of France and the King of Spain became allies against Protestantism.
Treaty of Nonsuch	Effectively put England and Spain at war.
Singeing of the King of Spain's beard	Drake sailed into Cadiz harbour, Spain's most important Atlantic port, and over 3 days destroyed 30 ships.
Tilbury Speech	Elizabeth's famous speech to her troops before the Armada.
The Battle of Gravelines	8 August 1588, the English sent fire ships in amongst the Spanish fleet. Most of destruction was caused by strong winds which damaged the Spanish ships and contributed to the English victory.
Propaganda	Biased information used to promote a particular point of view. Elizabeth launched a propaganda campaign after the English defeated the Spanish Armada

Early Elizabethan England

Topic 3 - Elizabethan Society in the Age of Exploration 1558-88

Elizabethan Society in the Age of Exploration 1558-88

Elizabeth's reign was a time of expansion with growth in many different areas of society and life. There were developments in education and exploration, including a failed attempt to colonise Virginia. People from all social classes participated in a range of leisure activities and pastimes. However, despite the increase in wealth that came with developments in trade and commerce, the Elizabethan Age also saw a significant increase in poverty and vagrancy.

Key events

1563 *Statute of Artificers* aimed to ensure the poor relief was collected. Anyone who refused to pay the fine could now be imprisoned and officials were fined £20 for failing to collect.

1572 *Vagabonds Act* aimed to deter vagrancy. Towns and cities were made responsible for finding work for the able-bodied. Vagrants were to be whipped or drilled through the ear for begging; imprisoned the second time; and set the death penalty if caught a third time.

1576 *Poor Relief Act* aimed to distinguish between able-bodied and impotent poor and to help the able-bodied to find work. JPs provided wool and raw materials for able-bodied poor to make things to sell. Those who refused to work were sent to prison.

1577-1580 Drake's circumnavigation of the globe. Following this achievement he is knighted.

1580 Drake returns from circumnavigating the globe with spices, treasure and tales of Nova Albion.

1584 Mathematician *Thomas Harriot* improved navigation when he discovered a simpler way of using the sun to calculate the true sailing direction of a ship.

1584 Raleigh begins planning new colonisation attempt by sending a fact-finding mission to Virginia.

1584 Native Americans, *Manteo and Wanchese* are brought to America.

1585 Colonists set sail for North America and begin the English colonisation of Virginia.

1585 *Wingina* asked other Native American chiefs to attack the English.

1586 Surviving colonists abandon Virginia and return to England.

1587 New group of colonists arrive in Virginia and establish colony at Roanoke.

1590 English sailors arrive at Roanoke only to find it abandoned.

Key Concepts

Education: The purpose of education was to help people prepare for their expected roles in life, depending on their social class. Therefore, the view was only the wealthy needed schooling. People saw no need for the majority of the population to attend school. It is estimated that 30% of men and 10% of women were literate by the end of the Elizabethan Era, compared with 20% of men and 10% of women. Education expanded during Elizabeth's reign but it was expensive and mostly for boys from the nobility, gentry, or the children of yeomen or professionals. The large majority of the population were illiterate and did not attend schools.

Pastimes and leisure: People from all social classes participated in leisure activities. However, as with education, social class and gender determined what sports and leisure activities people participated in. There were significant developments in theatre and literature during the period.

Population growth: During the reign of Elizabeth the population increased by 35%, in towns in particular. Food prices rose, wages fell and sheep farming and enclosure heightened these problems. Rural depopulation meant that the urban poor grew and poverty was a real problem.

Attitudes to poverty: Poor were people who spent more than 80% of their income on food. The Elizabethan government responded to the problem of poverty in different ways. Consequently, the attitudes towards the poor began to change and it was thought that the poor should be given opportunities to better themselves.

Exploration: During the Elizabethan era, English sailors and traders began to explore and develop trading links across the globe. Drake was the second person to circumnavigate the globe. His pirating of Spanish ships contributed to increasing tensions between Spain and England. Exploration meant England increasingly saw the navy as the best line of defence and invested in building superior ships.

Colonisation: Elizabeth and other European rulers did not recognise an agreement made by the pope centuries earlier that gave the Americas to the Spanish and Portuguese. Elizabeth gave her explorers the right to take any land that no other Christian leader had claimed. The existing rights of Indigenous peoples to the land were not considered.

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Topic 3: Elizabethan Society in the Age of Exploration 1558-88

Key Words	
Social mobility	Being able to change your position in society.
Humanists	Believed that learning was important in its own right and not for just practical reasons.
Private tutors	The nobility were educated by private tutors in their homes
Grammar schools	Private schools set up for boys age 10-14 considered bright who largely came from well off families in towns. They offered some free tuition to poorer boys .
Parish Schools	Schools set up locally by the Church and run by the clergy-taught basic literacy to the children of Yeomen and craftsmen
Apprentice	Someone learning a trade or a skill.
Petty schools	Educated up to age 10. Set up in a teacher's home. For boys. For the children of the gentry, merchants, yeoman, craftsmen
Dame schools	Set up in a teacher's home. For girls.
University	There were 2 universities in Elizabethan England; Oxford and Cambridge. For ages 14+. Studied geometry, music, astronomy, philosophy, medicine, law and divinity.
Literacy	The ability to read and write
Pastimes	Activities for leisure
Mystery plays	Plays base on the Bible and saints' stories.
Secular plays	Plays that were not based on religious stories
Hunting	A sport on horse back popular with the wealthier classes.
Globe	Shakespeare's theatre.
Deserving poor	Also know as impotent poor. People unable to work because of illness or old age.
Idle poor	Able bodied poor. People who were fit to work but didn't.
Poor rate	A tax collected for the poor
Alms	Charity
Poor relief	Financial help.
Itinerants	People who had moved from their home parishes looking for work.

Key Words	
Vagabonds	Or Vagrants, were homeless people without jobs, who roamed the countryside begging for money, stealing or committing crimes to survive
Urban poor	The poor living in towns or cities. This increased as a result of rural depopulation
Rural depopulation	The process of migration from rural areas (countryside) to towns and cities.
Sheep farming	A profitable business during the Elizabethan Era which contributed to an increase in poverty as it did not require much labour and lead to an increase in food prices because less land was used for growing crops.
Land enclosure	The process of replacing large, open fields that were farmed by villages with individual fields belonging to one person.
Common land	Land that had been free for subsistence farming before enclosure – people could grow enough food to eat but not to sell.
Quadrant/ Astrolabe	Used by sailors to help with navigation at sea
Cartographer	Map maker.
Mercator map	Used lined of longitude and latitude and provided sailors with a more realistic picture of the world when navigating voyages.
Galleons	Ships that were much larger than traditional trading ships. They contained gun decks and allowed for cannons to be fired from the deck.
Colonies	Land under the control or influence of another country.
Monopoly	When one person or company controls the supply of something.
Nova Albion	Region named by Drake, in modern day San Francisco.
Walter Raleigh	Explorer who encouraged colonists to Virginia. He was given a grant by Elizabeth to explore and settle lands in North America
Barter	To exchange goods for other goods.
Manteo and Wanchese	Two native American Indians who came back to England.
Native Americans	People who lived in the New World before the colonists.