

AQA GCSE HISTORY

Elizabethan England

(c.1568-1603)

Knowledge Organiser Pack

A separate Historic Environment Knowledge Organiser will be issued for your year's site study.

Student Name		Form	
History Teacher		History Group	



WHO HAD POWER IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND?

From the start of her reign, Elizabeth needed close and trusted advisors around her. These trusted men formed the **Privy Council**. This had the responsibility of day-to-day running of the country and was difficult for Elizabeth to defy if they were all in agreement.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL

A small group of **19** was chosen to limit conflict between them. Elizabeth had to ensure no single noble became too powerful or disloyal to her! Divide and rule helped Elizabeth control the Privy Council.
Led by the Secretary of State.

- Advised on;
- Domestic issues** – internal threats, and challenges, enforcement of laws.
- Foreign issues** – challenges and threats, when to wage war and how to deal with foreign ambassadors.



The Privy Council were a group of powerful nobles appointed by the Queen. Their job was to **advise but not control**.

In the early days of her reign, the Privy Council met 3 times a week. The council's influence grew to the extent that **they met every day**.

PARLIAMENT

- Parliament was made up of the House of Commons **and** the House of Lords.
- Had powers over granting taxes and passing laws.**
- The **queen decided when to call it** and did not have to accept their advice.



JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

- Members of the **gentry**.
- Several in every county.
- Responsible for **maintaining law and order**.
- Had the **power to convict and sentence prisoners**.

LORDS LIEUTENANTS

- Appointed by the queen to **help govern a particular area of the country**.
- Settled disputes and **collected taxes**.
- Responsible for raising a militia to fight for the Queen if needed.
- They usually held other influential roles at court or on the Privy Council.



Revision Reminder!
The Royal Court and the Government are not the same thing. The court was a group of people and not a specific place. Elizabeth and the Privy Council can be considered to be the government.

HOW DID ELIZABETH SECURE SUPPORT?

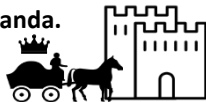
PATRONAGE

- Method of **securing support** from courtiers.
- Award** of titles, land, monopolies and other **powerful positions in return for support and obedience**.
- Highly corrupt**, but very effective as it caused rivalry between people seeking the queen's approval and favour.



PROGRESSES

- Tour** of Royal Court to the homes of nobility.
- Allowed the queen to be **seen by the British people** and **build a relationship** with them.
- Good way of making money as hosting nobility would feed the court.
- Form of **propaganda**.



PERFORMANCES

- Magnificent displays** to foreign visitors, giving the impression of Elizabeth's power.
- Lavish banquets** and glorifying Elizabeth's image.
- Well rehearsed rituals designed to impress people.
- Form of **propaganda**.



HOW DID ELIZABETH CONTROL PARLIAMENT?

POWER OVER PARLIAMENT

- Elizabeth had the power to dissolve parliament.
- Topics were banned**. In 1566 Elizabeth banned parliament from discussing who she should marry.
- Many MPs owed their seats through **patronage**.



COMPROMISE

- Elizabeth acknowledged the need to **compromise**.
- In 1597-8 Parliament argued **monopolies** were **unfair**. Some were **withdrawn** in 1601.



IMPRISONMENT

- In 1576 a Puritan MP, Peter Wentworth, complained that MPs were not free to discuss whatever they liked.
- Elizabeth sent him to the Tower of London as a result.



WHO WERE ELIZABETH'S CLOSEST ADVISORS?

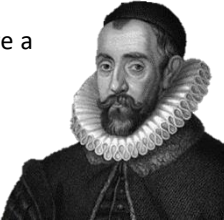
WILLIAM CECIL

- Appointed Secretary of State in 1558.
- The most **important minister** and worked for Elizabeth **for 40 years**.
- Moderate protestant concerned about the threat of Catholics both in England and abroad**.
 - Cautious and advised against war with the Spanish.
 - At times the queen would only listen to Cecil.
 - Played key role in developing the Poor Laws and religious policies.



FRANCIS WALSHINGHAM

- In charge of Elizabeth's secret service**.
- Known as the '**spymaster**' and said to have 'eyes and ears everywhere'.
- Served as Secretary of State for a time.
- Responsible for the queen's security**.
- Led the approach in dealing with threats from England's rivals.
- Puritan who believed Catholics were a threat to England.



WHY WAS SUCCESSION IMPORTANT?

The key problems faced by Elizabeth and **her Parliament** were that of her marriage and the succession (who would rule England after Elizabeth). Below are reasons for and against marriage for Elizabeth.

- 

A foreign marriage would make a powerful alliance.
- 

Most suitable candidates were Catholic and England was mainly Protestant.
- 

Elizabeth needs an heir to continue the Tudor dynasty.
- 

Elizabeth would have to share her power with her husband.
- 

Mary's marriage to Philip II of Spain caused a rebellion in England.
- 

Marrying an English noble could make other men jealous which could lead to rebellion.

THE VIRGIN QUEEN

Elizabeth emphasised her “Virgin Queen” image by portraying herself as a monarch who put the stability and security of England before her personal happiness.

She would not marry anyone who might jeopardise England’s position.



WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ELIZABETH DIED?

Elizabeth died in 1603 with no heir. This marked the end of the Tudor dynasty.



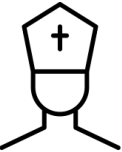
The obvious heir was the Scottish King, James VI. Both his mother and father were grandchildren of Elizabeth’s aunt, Margaret Tudor.

James became King James I of England in 1603.

WHO WERE ELIZABETH’S SUITORS?

Throughout her reign, many men became potential husbands to Elizabeth. Some would be entirely political matches but others would be more personal. There were three suitors who were particularly notable...

King Philip II of Spain



Devoutly Catholic



Incredibly wealthy - Spain had taken over S. America (gold!)



His marriage to Mary I had led to rebellion in England.



Wanted any children (and future heirs) to be brought up as Catholic.



Foreign influence over the running of the country.

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester



Protestant



Member of the Privy Council



Childhood friend of Elizabeth

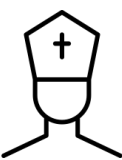


His wife, Amy Dudley, was found dead. Rumours circulated.



Ambitious and good looking.

Francis, Duke of Anjou and Alencon



Catholic



Heir to the French throne.



Owned large amounts of land in France.



England was worried about the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre – where Protestants were killed

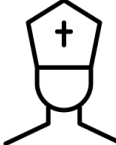


Unpopular in England – pamphlets were printed condemning him.

During Elizabeth’s reign there were plots to overthrow her and remove her from power. The Catholic Earls of northern England led the Northern Rebellion, whereas Elizabeth’s favourite, the Earl of Essex rebelled against her in 1601. It’s worth noting that these rebellions had more than one cause – the Northern Rebellion was motivated by religion as well as politics.

THE NORTHERN REBELLION, 1569

CAUSES OF THE REBELLION

 Many in the north stayed Catholic. They wanted the country to return to Catholicism.	 Elizabeth had weakened the influence of Catholic families in the north. They were angry about their loss of power.
 Elizabeth’s refusal to name an heir made them worried about the future of England.	 Mary, Queen of Scots had arrived in England in 1568. As a Catholic cousin of Elizabeth, she provided a credible alternative as Queen.

THE ESSEX REBELLION, 1601

CAUSES OF THE REBELLION

 Elizabeth failed to renew Essex’s sweet wine monopoly. This left him in huge debt.	 In 1598, he argued with the Queen at a Privy Council meeting. He was banished from court and placed under house arrest.
 In 1599 he was sent to Ireland to crush a rebellion there. Against orders, he made a truce and knighted the rebel leaders!	 Elizabeth made Robert Cecil Secretary of State – this angered Essex as he wanted to be Elizabeth’s main advisor.

EVENTS OF THE REBELLION



1. The Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland gathered a force of 4600 men and marched on Durham. They took over the Cathedral and carried out mass.

2. The rebels captured the port of Hartlepool, expecting help from Spain. This never arrived.

3. English Catholics in the north failed to join in.

4. The Earl of Sussex raised an army of 16,000 and the rebels disbanded.

EVENTS OF THE REBELLION



1. Essex gathered supporters. He hoped to force Elizabeth to appoint him and his friends to all important government positions.

2. Feb 1601: he took 4 Privy Councillors hostage and marched them to his London house with 300 supporters

3. Robert Cecil called him a traitor. Many of Essex’s supporters left. His house was blocked by Elizabeth’s soldiers. His rebellion had lasted just twelve hours.

4. Essex was put on trial for treason and sentenced to death.

Elizabeth ordered the execution of 800 rebels.



The Puritan Earl of Huntingdon became the new President of the Council of the North, ending Catholic influence in northern England. .

RESULTS OF THE REBELLION



The failed revolt led to the Pope issuing a papal bull (order written by the pope) calling for all loyal Catholics to depose her.

Many northern landowners remained loyal to Elizabeth.

Essex’s rebellion showed that the most powerful people in England were **willing to disrespect her and fight against her.**



It shows **how easy it was for someone to lose favour and how dangerous the politics of the Elizabethan court were for people who made mistakes.**

RESULTS OF THE REBELLION



It shows how much **control** Elizabeth had of her court because when she stopped Essex’s monopoly on sweet wines, **his debts forced him to take drastic action.** This shows the power that **patronage** had over individuals.

It shows the **power of the Cecil family** in the Elizabethan Court.

During Elizabeth’s reign there were plots to overthrow her and remove her from power. Following the Northern Rebellion in 1569 and the Papal Bull of 1570, another plot emerged: the Ridolfi Plot.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?



Robert Ridolfi – an Italian banker, one of the Pope’s spies.



The Pope – adding international clout to the plot.



Duke of Norfolk – again. Just out of prison for his involvement in the Northern Rebellion.



Phillip II of Spain, bringing his wealth and power.



Duke of Alba – a Spanish Duke based in the Netherlands



Mary, Queen of Scots, who was still under house arrest.

WHAT WAS THEIR AIM?



To assassinate Elizabeth. This is a rapid and violent escalation from the aims of the Northern Rebellion just two years previously.



To replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots



To restore the Catholic religion



Mary was then to be married to the Duke of Norfolk

WHAT WAS THE PLAN?

- 1) By 1571, Elizabeth had been excommunicated by the Pope. The Papal Bull of 1570 encouraged English Catholics to rebel against their Queen.
- 2) 10,000 Spanish troops from the Netherlands would land in Essex
- 3) This would prompt a rebellion from the English Catholics. Ridolfi estimated 40,000 men would get involved.
- 4) Elizabeth would be assassinated.
- 5) Mary, Queen of Scots would marry the Duke of Norfolk.



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

- 1) Elizabeth’s spy network (Walsingham) discovered the plot and it did not unfold.
- 2) Ridolfi was abroad when the plot was discovered so escaped prosecution.
- 3) The Duke of Norfolk was arrested and found guilty of treason. He was executed in June 1572.
- 4) Despite pressure from the Privy Council and Parliament, Elizabeth refused to take action against Mary.



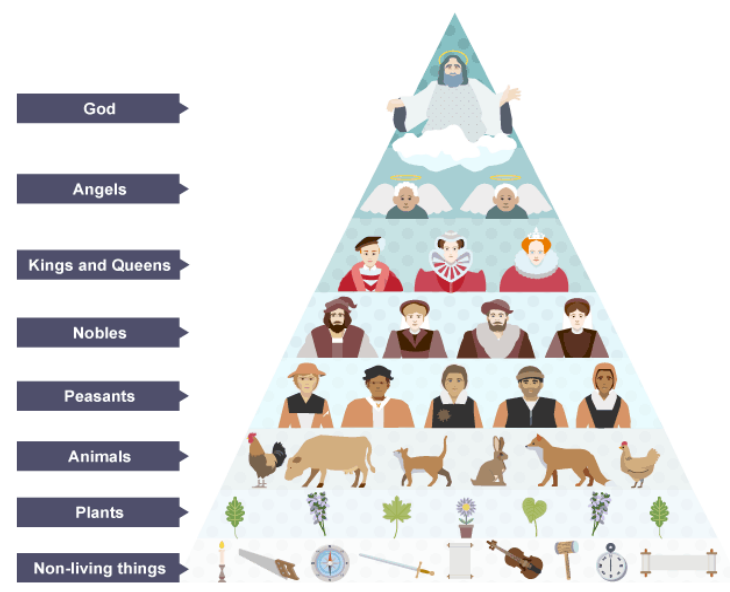
WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RIDOLFI PLOT?

- 1. The Ridolfi plot reinforced the threat posed by Catholics and Mary, home and abroad.
- 2. The government began to monitor Catholics more closely. Punishments towards Catholics became more harsh.
- 3. It also reinforced the threat to England from Spain.
- 4. Due to the threat from Spain, Elizabeth focused on improving relations with France as England could not fight both countries at once.
- 5. Norfolk’s involvement in the plot shows us that there were individuals in England that were willing to betray their queen.
- 6. To keep Catholicism alive in England, Catholic priests were smuggled into England from 1574.
- 7. The Spanish Ambassador was banished from England.
- 8. Elizabeth started to see Spanish control of the Netherlands as an issue due to its proximity to England.
- 9. It showed the strength of Elizabeth’s spy network.
- 10. It also shows the strength of Elizabeth’s control across the country.



The gentry grew both in size and influence during Elizabeth’s reign. It became increasingly important for the rich to demonstrate their wealth in a variety of ways. By doing this, they were able to show their status, and at times, their loyalty to Elizabeth.

THE GREAT CHAIN OF BEING



The Elizabethans believed that God had set out an order for everything, known as the **Great Chain of Being**.

- It showed the **order of status** and **wealth** in society.
- The queen was at the top and controlled wealth and life chances.
- **Inequalities** further down the chain were accepted.
- **Social mobility** was difficult and rarely happened.

NOBILITY	GENTRY
- Owned large areas of land	- Owned land
- Large income (Approx. £6000 a year)	- Wealthy (Approx. £10-£200 per year)
- Special privileges, e.g. protection from torture	- Held positions of influence like JPs and MPs.

WHY DID THE GENTRY GROW MORE POWERFUL IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND?



They had important jobs in government, increasing their influence, e.g. Walsingham



They dominated the House of Commons as MPs.



Through patronage, they were given positions such as JPs so helped run local governments.



When Henry VIII closed the monasteries land became available to buy. This made the gentry wealthy.

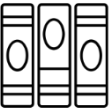


Rising food prices meant the gentry made more money.



They had made England famous and rich through exploration.

HOW DID THE RICH SHOW OFF THEIR WEALTH?

 Literacy: Literacy rates increased from 10% to 25% for men in Elizabethan England, and from 1% to 10% for women.	 Education: Education was seen as more desirable. New grammar schools opened for those who could afford it.	 Feasting: Banquets full of meat showed wealth as it was expensive. A sheep cost £900 in today’s money.	 Food: Food became more of a status symbol when there were failed harvests in 1594-7.	 Clothing: The Statutes of Apparel 1574 said what people could wear based on social rank. Only royalty could wear purple.
 Make up: Whitened faces were fashionable and acted as a sign of wealth as it showed they didn’t have to work outside.	 Comfort: Homes were built without the need for defence so included decoration, fireplaces and tapestries.	 Loyalty: Homes were built with an E shape floor plan with portrait galleries to show their loyalty to Elizabeth.	 Fashion: Both in clothing and home design – keeping up with fashion and trends displayed wealth.	 Glass: Homes were built with lots of glass which was expensive. ‘Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall.’

The Elizabethan era saw the first purpose-built theatre being built in England. These soon grew in popularity, with thousands of people across all social classes enjoying the spectacle. It was a time when playwrights like William Shakespeare rose in prominence.

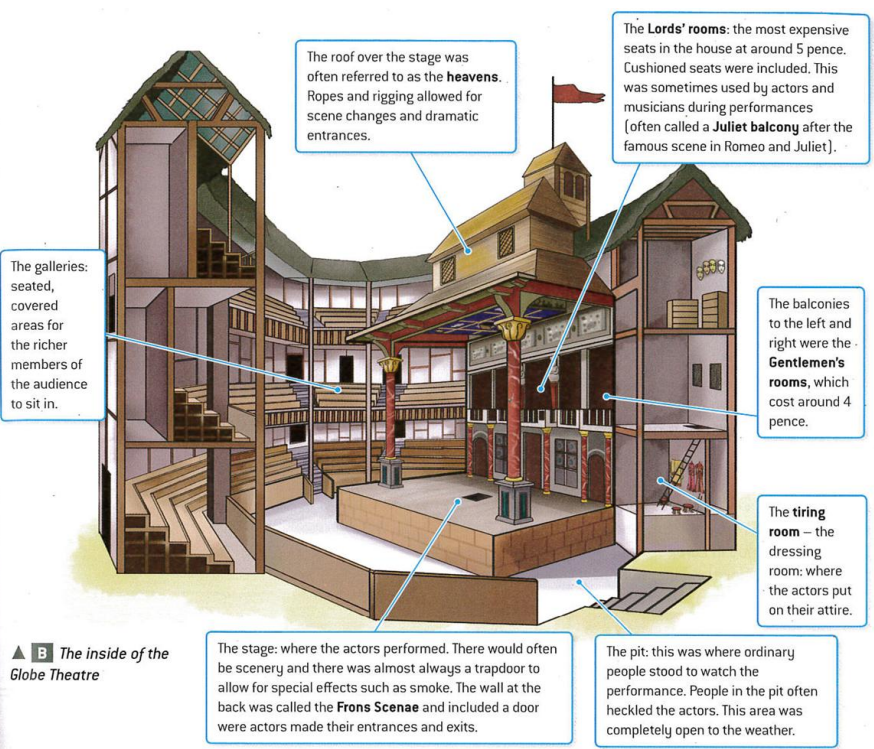
WHAT WAS THE THEATRE LIKE BEFORE ELIZABETH?

- There were no theatres in the country.
- Plays were performed by travelling groups.
- Unpopular with the government.
- Acting was seen as begging.



In 1572, in attempt to get rid of travelling actors, **Parliament passed a law that said that all actors had to be licensed.** It encouraged the actor companies to organise themselves.

WHAT WAS THE STRUCTURE OF THE THEATRE?



PATRONAGE IN THE THEATRE

By the 1570s, the government attitude towards the theatre had changed.



Opportunity for propaganda



A distraction from failed harvests



To reinforce the social hierarchy



Some nobles invested in theatre companies and made money



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester was the patron of Leicester's Men

WHAT DOES THE THEATRE REFLECT ABOUT ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY?

ENTERTAINMENT



Shakespeare and Marlowe wrote dramatic stories.



All social classes mixed. Tickets could be bought for 1p.

PATRONAGE



Being a patron showed how wealthy and cultured the nobility were.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL



1581, the Master of the Revels censored plays.



Plays like Richard III presented Tudors as fair and just.

WEALTH AND PROFIT



Traders invested in the theatre as profit could be made.

WHY WAS THERE OPPOSITION TO THE THEATRE?

Many groups in society, especially Puritans, did not approve of the theatre. Below are the reasons why:



They thought it encouraged fighting.



They thought it was a waste of money.



They thought it led to drunkenness.



They thought it led to theft.



They thought it was a distraction from church.



They thought it could lead to rebellion.

WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH POVERTY IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND?

 Debasement meant that more coins could be made which meant more money. This led to inflation and rising prices.	 Henry VIII closed all the monasteries in England and many people who had worked for the Church lost their jobs.	 The poor had been looked after by the monks and nuns – they had lost a source of food, shelter and health care.	 England was hit by bad harvests between 1594 and 1598 which led to food shortages and some people died of starvation.
 Enclosure led to a loss of common land for growing crops and grazing animals.	 Sheep farming meant less land was used for arable crops which also meant fewer workers were needed.	 Landlords unfairly increased rents. This was known as ‘rack-renting’.	 Henry VII had limited the right of nobles to have an army. Many soldiers were out of work.

WHAT WERE ELIZABETHAN ATTITUDES TO THE POOR?

At the beginning of Elizabeth’s reign, the poor were divided into two broad groups:

Deserving poor	Undeserving/ idle poor
- Many saw it as their duty to help. - Charities and almshouses (charitable houses) were set up. - This group were not seen as responsible for their poverty.	- Seen as lazy. - Seen as a group of tricksters out to con people. - People believed they were poor as they had no interest in work. - People thought this group should be punished.

Many people believed the poor were criminals. This view was publicised in a book by Thomas Harman, *Warnings Against Vagabonds*.



- The Baretop Trickster** was a woman who would trick men into following them by removing items of clothing. The man would then be beaten and robbed.
- Tom O’Bedlam** – would pretend to be mad to get money e.g. he might bark like a dog, follow people or stick a chicken head in his ear.
- The Counterfeit Crank** – would bite on soap so he frothed at the mouth and would pretend to have a fit so people felt sorry for him.
- The Clapper Dudgeon** – would cut himself so people felt sorry for him.

HOW DID ELIZABETHANS RESPOND TO THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY?

Different towns dealt with problem of poverty in different ways. Below are some examples:

YORK

 Beggar licences were issued in 1515 for easy identification.

 Houses of Correction for those that refused to work.

IPSWICH

 Hospital set up for the old and sick.

 Youth training scheme introduced.

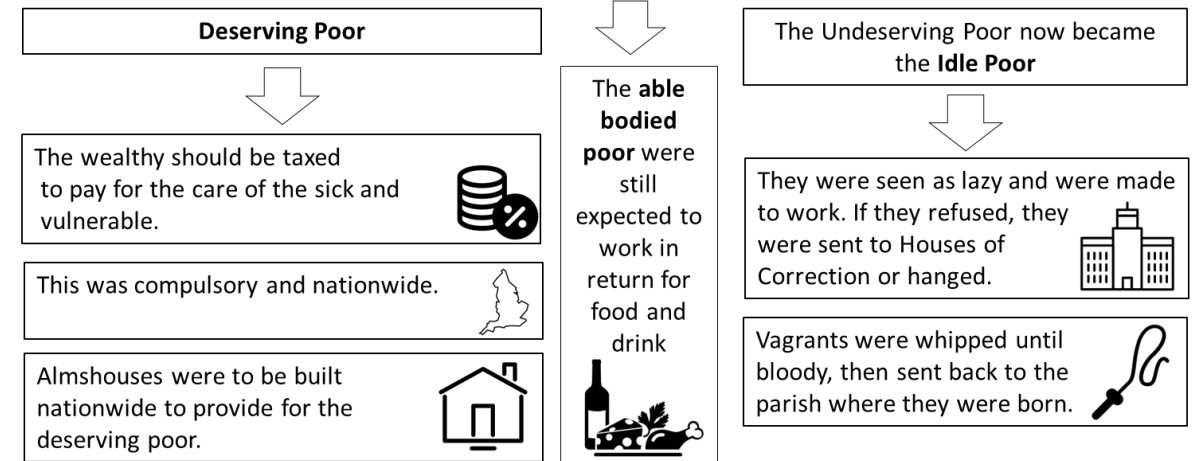
NORWICH

 Idle poor were given work.

 Rich were taxed to pay for the care of the vulnerable..

In 1601, Elizabeth and her government passed the **Poor Law**. This was a nationwide approach that aimed to help the helpless, encourage work and punish the idle.

The new **Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601** cited the following



- Established that the government should look after the poor.
 - Was in place until 1834.
 - Punishments given to those who failed to contribute to Poor Relief.
- Didn’t deal with cause of poverty.
 - Some paupers were sent from place to place.
 - More money was raised through private charity than the Poor Rate.

WAS THERE A GOLDEN AGE IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND?

Elizabethan England is often remembered as a ‘Golden Age’ of English history. A period of economic prosperity, flourishing culture, political stability and scientific/ technological developments.



Culture

- Portraits became popular and contained symbolism.
- Theatre became popular with all levels of society.
- Many great plays by Marlowe and Shakespeare were written that are performed today.



Buildings

- Many stately homes built during this period.
- For the first time., houses were not built for defence.



Science and technology

- There were significant breakthroughs in navigation, astronomy and magnetism.
- Improved printing presses allowed ideas to spread quickly.



Education

- Increasingly important.
- Available to the wealthy.
- Literacy rates increased from 10-25% for males and from 1 to 10% for females.



Poverty

- The Poor Law of ensured that the poor, at least to some extent, were provided for.



Peace, power and pride

- England’s growing wealth, military success and exploration made many people very proud.
- The running of the country was centralized and became very efficient.
- For most, Elizabeth brought stability.



Exploration

- English sailors discovered new lands and trading partners.
- England became a major power.

Elizabethan accomplishments

ARGUMENTS AGAINST A GOLDEN AGE		
Poverty was widespread. 	Life expectancy was low. 	A grain riot took place in Oxfordshire in 1596 about the lack of food. 
Theft increased. 	Brutal methods still used to control the poor. 	Education remained out of reach for most. 

WHAT WAS THE RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENT?

The Religious Settlement was Elizabeth’s attempt to please both the Catholics and the Protestants. She was willing to **compromise**. This was known as the **Middle Way**.

AIMS OF THE RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENT		
To unite the country. 	To avoid rebellion 	To stamp out Catholicism. 



The Act of Supremacy

Act of Supremacy 1559

- Elizabeth as **Supreme Governor** of the Church. **C**
- Bishops and Archbishop would remain. **C**



The Act of Uniformity

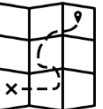
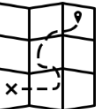
Act of Uniformity 1559

- All worship should be the same. **P**
- All services were held in English and had to follow the Book of Common Prayer in English. **P**
- All priests had to swear an oath of loyalty to Elizabeth. **P**
- Traditional Catholic Mass was abandoned. **P**
- Priests had to wear decorative religious robes. **C**
- Church decoration and hymns remained. **C**

The Elizabethan era is also known as an ‘age of discovery’. Although Spain and Portugal were the first European countries to gain territory in the ‘New World’, England’s wealth, status and power grew significantly.

WHY DID PEOPLE GO ON VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY?

Technology and ship design

-  An **astrolabe** meant a ship’s position could be plotted accurately.
-  Magnetic compasses made navigation easier.
-  Galleons were bigger and could hold more.
-  **Lateens** were triangular sails that made ship movement easier.
-  The **printing press** made maps more readily available.

Trade and the economy

-  English merchants wanted to cut out the middle man to make more profit.
-  Private investors wanted to make a return on their investment.
-  There was a demand for goods like spices and silk. Transporting these goods by land could take 2-3 years.
-  Demand had fallen for English wool. They wanted new trade links.

Threats from other countries

-  Spain and Portugal had dominated exploration of the New World and had become very wealthy and powerful.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE’S CIRCUMNAVIGATION, Dec 1577- Sep 1580

Aims and motives

To steal gold and treasure from Spain. 	To challenge Spain and Portugal. 	To find new trade routes. 	To claim new land for England. 	Revenge against the Spanish for an attack. 
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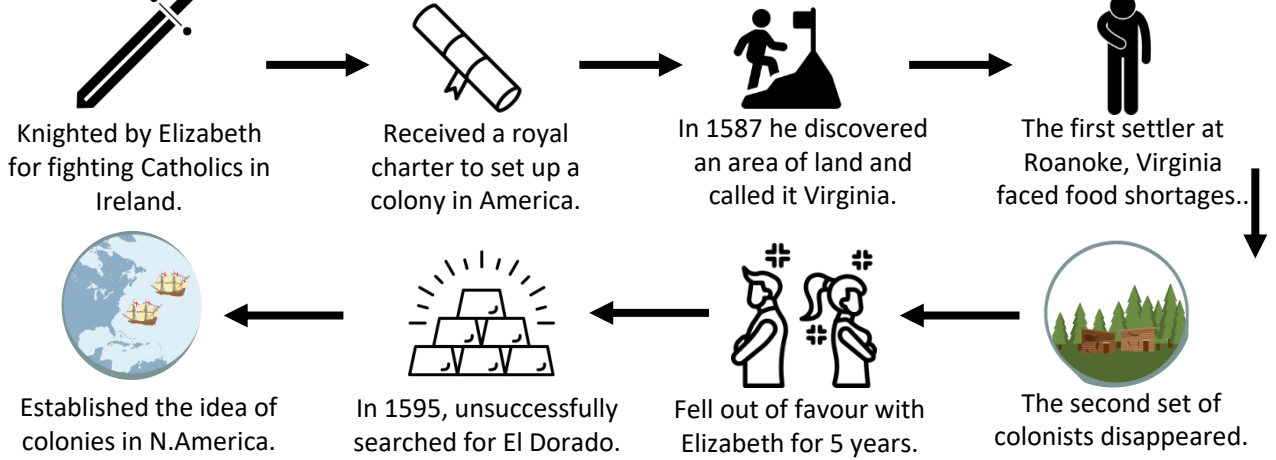
Key events

Dealt with a potential mutiny quickly after having a trial and executing the leader. 	Successfully navigated two difficult stretches of water – the Straits of Magellan and Cape of Good Hope. 	Raided Spanish ships and ports. 	Moved all his loot to one ship, deliberately sank another and sent one home empty. 
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Key results

Brought back £400,000 worth of gold and treasure. 	Knighted by Elizabeth on board his ship. 	Formed trade links with the Spice Islands. 	Claimed Nova Albion (California) for England. 	Humiliated Spain. 
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SIR WALTER RALEIGH



RESULTS OF EXPLORATION FOR ENGLAND

-  Privateering and exploration made money for the crown.
-  Trade links also contributed to the country’s wealth.
-  Involvement in the slave trade made England rich.
-  Laid the foundations for the trading empire England would become.
-  Helped to develop the English navy.
-  Anglo-Spanish hostility grew due to privateering.
-  Foundations for future colonisation were made.

Puritans were extreme Protestants, and they too were unhappy with several elements of Elizabeth’s religious settlement. They opposed Elizabeth’s actions, but unlike some of the Catholic opposition, did not have any intention of removing her from the throne or assassinating her. Because of this, Elizabeth’s response to the Puritan threat is much less drastic.

WHY DID PURITANS OPPOSE ELIZABETH?

 They wanted all Catholic elements removed from the English church.

 They believed that priests should wear ordinary clothing. Bishops of the Church of England were required to wear a white gown during services.

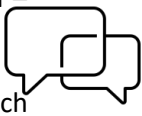
 They wanted the idea of bishops to be removed from the church as they did not believe that churches should have hierarchical structures – i.e. they believed that everyone was equal in the eyes of God.

HOW DID PURITANS OPPOSE ELIZABETH?

Some continued to argue that the Church was too Catholic and Popish.



Prophesyings became popular – discussions and criticism of Elizabeth’s church



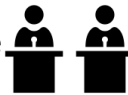
Archbishop Grindal encouraged prophesyings.



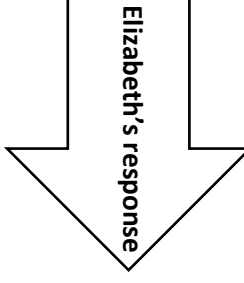
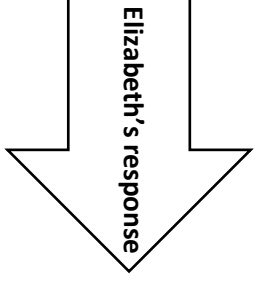
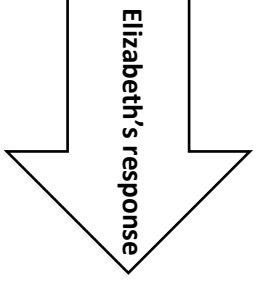
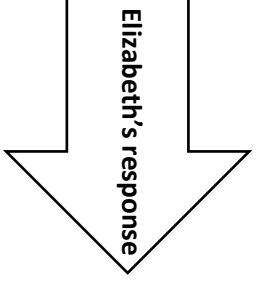
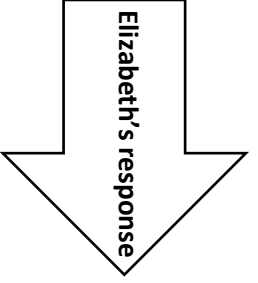
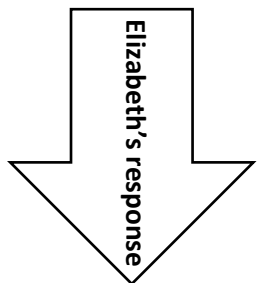
A separatist church was set up in 1580.



Puritan ideas were debated in Parliament.



Pamphlets were made criticizing Elizabeth, e.g. John Stubbs.



Hundreds were fined, dismissed or imprisoned.



Prophesyings were banned and recusancy fines were introduced..



He was replaced by Whitgift who was a supporter of Elizabeth.

1593 – anyone accused of being a separatist was executed.



In 1576 Liz banned religion as a topic of discussion in Parliament.



Printing presses were destroyed and Stubbs’ hand was cut off.



HOW DID PURITANS INFLUENCE ELIZABETH?

Peter Wentworth MP



- Tried to introduce new laws to change the Church;
- Could encourage MPs to take an anti-Catholic stance.

*Not an actual picture of Wentworth

Robert Dudley



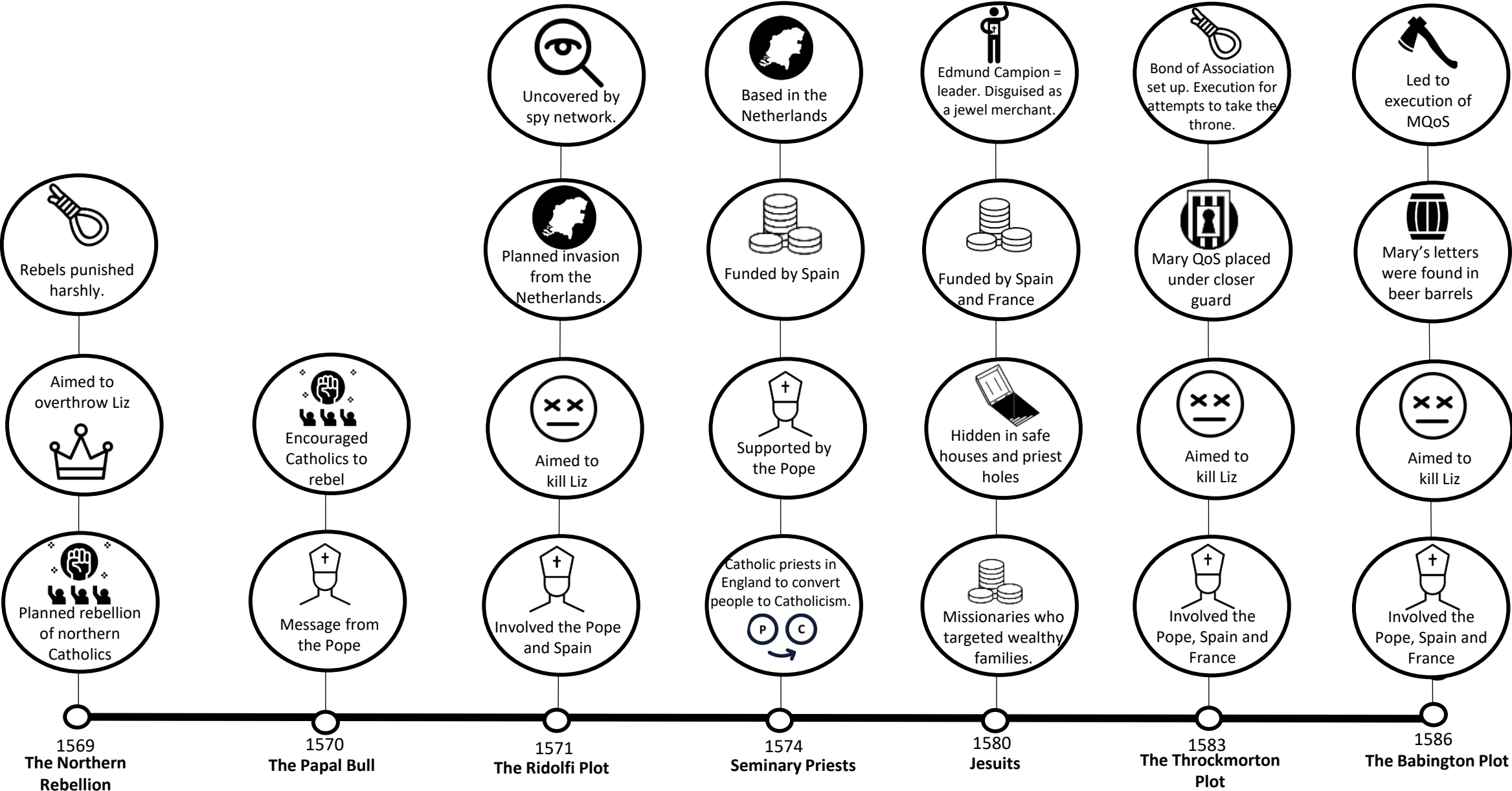
Francis Walsingham

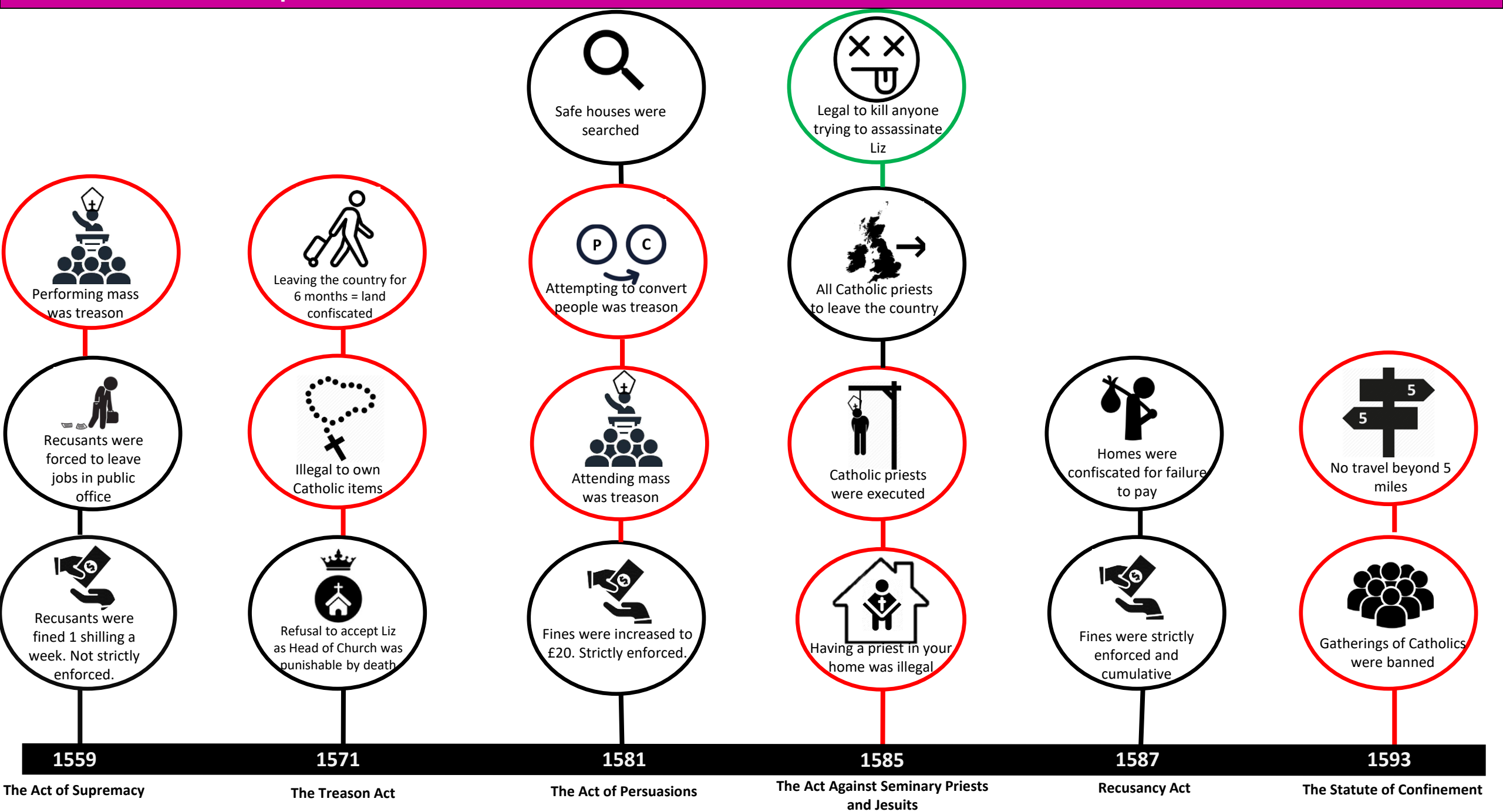


- Both Privy Councillors
- Powerful in government
- Wielded influence
- Used spy network to deal with the Catholic threat.

Their influence meant that some protection was given to Puritans by limiting the extent Elizabeth cracked down on them. After their deaths (1588 and 1590), Liz took a harsher approach (e.g. executing separatists).

Elizabeth faced many Catholic threats during her reign, including plots to overthrow her, to assassinate her and to increase the number of Catholics in the country. She dealt with them with increasing severity





Mary Queen of Scots was Elizabeth’s cousin and heir to the throne. She abdicated her throne in Scotland and arrived in England in 1568. From that point on, she was at the centre of several Catholic plots to remove Elizabeth from the throne. She was kept under house arrest for almost 20 years and executed in 1587.

WHY WAS MARY SEEN AS SUCH A THREAT?



1558 – Mary marries heir to the French throne.



1565 – Mary marries Lord Darnley who is also descended from Henry VII. This strengthened her claim to the throne.



1568 – Mary was unpopular in Scotland and abdicated. She fled to England and was put under house arrest.



1569 – Mary was named in the Northern Rebellion where Mary was to become Queen. This led to Mary being moved to the Midlands.



1571 – Mary agreed to the Ridolfi Plot: to kill Elizabeth and place herself as Queen, although doesn’t officially support it.



1583 – Mary spoke to Throckmorton about his plot several times. This led to her being put under closer guard.



1586 – Desperate for her freedom, Mary’s involvement in the Babington was discovered through deciphering coded letters sent in a beer barrel.



1587 – At her trial, Mary argued that the evidence was forged, that witnesses had given testimony under torture and that a queen couldn’t be put on trial. This made no impact and she was executed in Feb 1587.

WHAT WERE ELIZABETH’S OPTIONS?



Kicking her out of the country.
Elizabeth risked Mary gaining support from Scotland, France or Spain.



Execute Mary.
This risked international outcry and set a precedent of killing queen BUT removed her as a figurehead for Catholics.



Keep Mary as prisoner.
This reduced Mary’s ability to gain international support but as long as she was in the country she was still an alternative queen.

SHOULD MARY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED?



Mary was the focus of four attempts to remove Elizabeth from the throne.



Her execution ended the hope of replacing Elizabeth with a Catholic heir.



It was believed that monarchs had been chosen by God and therefore it was a sin to execute one.



In killing Mary, Elizabeth had executed a queen. A dangerous idea to give.



Evidence was found of her involvement in the Babington Plot.



Scotland and France did not react to the execution.



Elizabeth was worried that her execution could make her a martyr and Catholic would retaliate.



Mary argued that the evidence was forged or taken under torture and therefore invalid.

Tension between England and Spain grew throughout Elizabeth's reign, and reached it's peak in 1588 when Spain sent the Spanish Armada to invade England.

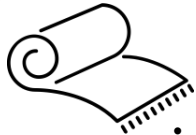
WHY DID ENGLAND AND SPAIN GO TO WAR?

Religion



- Philip wanted to remove Protestantism from England.
- He supported plot against Elizabeth and funded the seminary priests and Jesuits.

Economic



- Philip banned English traders from Antwerp. The Netherlands were an important trading partner for England (the cloth trade).
- Drake had led 3 attacks on the Spanish:
 - During his circumnavigation where he raided ships and captured £400,000 of treasure.
 - In 1585 he was instructed (by Liz) to disrupt Philip's flow of resources from the New World to the Netherlands.
 - In 1587 he destroyed dozens of Spanish ships, causing £750,000 of damage (the Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard)

Power



- Elizabeth was increasingly worried about Spanish control of the Netherlands due to its position (close to England) and trade. She supported the Dutch Protestant rebels:
 - In 1566 she sent the money.
 - In 1572 she allowed them to use English ports.
 - In 1584, the leader of the Dutch rebels, William of Orange was assassinated. Elizabeth feared that the rebellion would fail.
 - In 1585 she signed the Treaty of Nonsuch where she sent 5000 troops to support the Dutch Protestants fight Spain.

WHY DID THE SPANISH ARMADA FAIL?

LUCK

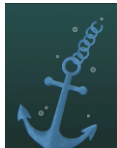


Strong winds blew the Spanish ships onto rocks on the Irish coast. Many ships were wrecked leaving the sailors to drown or to be captured.



Bad weather caused delays for the Spanish. This meant that their food was rotting by the time they arrived in England.

TACTICS



The English sent 8 fireships into the Spanish fleet causing them to cut their anchors and break formation..



The English fired canons from a distance using the line of battle tactic.



The English blocked the Channel forcing the Armada up the Scottish coast.



Spain thought they were going to have a land battle so did not bring gunners with them. They also failed to meet with the Duke of Parma.

LEADERSHIP

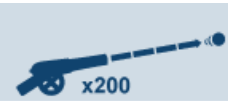


Howard, Hawkins and Drake led the English fleet – all experienced leaders and sailors.



Medina-Sidonia led the Spanish – an inexperienced leader.

WEAPONS AND SHIP DESIGN



English canons could fire from a distance.



English canons could be reloaded quickly and angled accurately.



English ships were faster and manoeuvrable. Spanish galleons were slow and difficult to move.



The Spanish had anticipated fighting at a close distance and had brought grappling hooks with them.

RESULTS OF THE ARMADA



Philip was humiliated.



It strengthened Elizabeth's position.



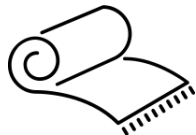
The 'Protestant wind' was used as proof that God was on Elizabeth's side.



Unity to England. English Catholics supported Liz.



England showed that it was a naval power.



England continued to trade with the Netherlands.



The northern part of the Netherlands remained independent.