

The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603

<p>Elizabethan Government</p> <p>Life before she became queen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry VIII had turned England Protestant to marry Anne O Elizabeth's mum. Edward VI – took over aged 9, country became more Protestant. Mary I – Elizabeth's half-sister, made England Catholic as Queen. Elizabeth was under house arrest. <p>Coronation and popularity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronation lasted many days – won support. Portraits were important in showing Elizabeth as strong. Royal Progresses – Elizabeth toured the country. Patronage – Elizabeth bribes her councillors with land and titles. <p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Court – wherever Elizabeth was. Privy Councillors – advisors including Robert Dudley and William Cecil. Local Government – Lord Lieutenant and Justices of the Peace. Parliament – mainly called for raising taxes, banned from discussing foreign policy and religion. 	<p>Lifestyles of the rich and poor</p> <p>Different lifestyles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nobles – educated, 'H' shaped buildings, landscaped garden, fashionable. Gentry – similar to nobles, but less well-off and luxurious. Poor – long hours, poorly educated, poor living conditions – lived with straw floors with animals. <p>Poverty causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rising inflation. Bad harvesters. Rural depopulation. Costly wars. Rising population. <p>Types of Vagrants/Vagabonds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hooker. Clapper dudgeon. Doxy. Abraham man. Ruffler. Dummerer. Counterfeit Crank. <p>Laws to help poor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1572 – Vagabonds Act – severe punishments against vagabonds – whipping/hot iron/death penalty. 1601 – Act for Relief of the Poor – government took responsibility for looking after the poor. <p>Types of poor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impotent – can't work. Able-bodied – won't work. 	<p>Popular Entertainment</p> <p>Cruel Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bull-baiting Bear-baiting Cock fighting. <p>Entertainment enjoyed by rich:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting Archery Dancing Music and singing Ball games – bowls and tennis. <p>Features of theatre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular design. Thatched roof. Trap door to 'hell' / No scenery – just painted walls. Rich people in boxes/galleries. Cheap tickets for groundlings. Performances in daytime. Often turned into a brothel in the evening. Lots of crime – pick-pockets. Actors were only male. Playwrights included William Shakespeare. <p>Attitudes towards theatre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support – many supported it due to Elizabeth's love of theatre. Opposition – local authorities who feared crime. Opposition – Puritans who believed it was sinful.
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<p>The Problem of Religion</p> <p>Religious Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England was divided. • Mary Queen of Scots was claiming to be Queen. • Powerful countries are Catholic. • England was Catholic. • Elizabeth was Protestant. <p>Religious Settlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious compromise – some Catholic, mainly Protestant. • Protestant – English bible, Elizabeth Head of Church. • Catholic – some decoration and vestments. • Act of Supremacy – made Elizabeth Head of Church. • Act of Uniformity – set out rules for all churches. <p>Reactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At home – most clergy accepted it. • At home – reaction was muted. • Abroad – France wasn't interested – civil war. • Abroad – Spain wanted friendship so didn't react. • Abroad – Pope criticised but hoped Elizabeth's changes would be over turned. 	<p>The Catholic threat</p> <p>Recusancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic priests trained abroad, returned to England to convert people to Catholicism – Edmund Campion. <p>Mary Queen of Scots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced to abdicate Scotland, and turned to Elizabeth for help in 1568. <p>Rebellion of Northern Earls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebellion in the North in 1569. Planned to replace Elizabeth with MQS. Failed, 800 rebels were killed. • Resulted in excommunication of Elizabeth by the Pope. <p>Ridolfi Plot 1571:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot involving Italian banker, Spain, the Pope, and MQS. • Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed. <p>Throckmorton Plot 1583-84:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot involving France, Throckmorton (English Catholic), Spain, the Pope, and MQS. • Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed. <p>Babington Plot 1586:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another plot involving Mary. • This time there was evidence of Mary's involvement – "set the six men to work". <p>Execution of MQS 1587:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary found guilty of treason. • Elizabeth still reluctant to kill her. • Privy Council took signed death warrant and executed Mary against Elizabeth's wish. 	<p>Spanish Armada</p> <p>Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope excommunicating Elizabeth. • Execution of MQS. • Elizabeth rejecting Philip's marriage proposal. • Francis Drake raiding Spanish ships. • Elizabeth supporting Protestants in Spanish Netherlands. <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armada sails through channel, followed by English ships. • Spanish in crescent formation – difficult to attack. • Spanish reach Calais, but troops they are meeting are delayed. • English send fire ships to break up crescent formation. • Wind changes and blows Spanish ships north. • Many Spanish ships are destroyed by English and bad weather around Scotland. <p>Reasons for failure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireships tactic. • Spanish Navy commander Duke of Medina was seasick. • Spanish cannons didn't work. • Luck – wind change. 	<p>Puritan Threat</p> <p>Who were they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme Protestants. • Believed in plain churches and vestments. • Hated theatre and decoration. <p>Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1566 – Vestments – Puritans refused to wear them, 37 were sacked. • 1571 – Walter Strickland – MP tried to introduce law stopping vestments – parliament shut down. • 1579 – John Stubbs – wrote a criticism of Elizabeth for discussing marriage to French prince – hand chopped off. • 1586 – Anthony Cope – MP tried to introduce Puritan reforms – Elizabeth shut down parliament. • 1588-89 – Marprelate Tracts were anonymous pamphlets criticising Elizabeth – were too violent to gain support of the public. <p>Elizabeth's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1570s – she suspended the Archbishop for failing to ban Puritan meetings. • 1580s – she appointed a new Archbishop to crack down on the Puritans. • 1590s – Separatist movement – Puritans started meeting in secret. Elizabeth executed three of leaders.
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