Thursday 4th November 2021

Religious Settlement

Similarities and Differences:

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| Catholics | Protestants | Puritans |
| Leader: The Pope (Rome)  Structure: Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops.  Decoration: Richly decorated to glorify God; stained glass windows, statues, murals.  Clergy: Richly decorated robes (vestments), priests could not marry.  Services: Latin bible, read by priests. Latin mass, where communion becomes the blood and body of Christ. | Leader: Monarch (King/Queen)  Structure: Archbishops, Bishops.  Decoration: Moderately decorated, with an altar and simple decorations.  Clergy: Not as decorated as Catholic, not as plain as Puritan. Vicars could marry and have families  Services: English bible which can be read by anyone. Church services in English, communion represents the body and blood | Leader: None  Structure: Committees elected by churchgoers.  Decoration: Plainly decorated, as fancy decorations are not based on the bible.  Clergy: Simple black gowns. Ministers could marry and have families.  Services: English bible and church services. In communion, bread and wine remains the same, but God is spiritually present. |

The role of the Church in Society

Most people went to church every Sunday and took religion very seriously. Most important rituals such as baptisms, weddings and harvest days were linked closely to the church. The church was the centre of the community, it helped people through hardships, and gave them hope in this life and the next.

Elizabeth’s Religious Settlement

* Elizabeth was the head of the church, but she was referred to as “Supreme governor” of the Church, suggesting the head of the church was someone else (Eg the Pope in Catholicism)
* Ornamented and Decorated Churches were allowed, and the singing of hymns would continue.
* The Bible and church services would both be in English, so that anyone could understand them.
* The protestant prayer book would be used in every church, and communion would be offered, but the meaning behind it would be up to everyone’s own interpretation
* All members of the clergy must take an oath, recognising Elizabeth’s title and agreeing to use the new prayer book. Also, each priest must have a licence, and must preach at least once per month.
* The clergy would wear the clothes of catholic priests but would be allowed to marry.

How Elizabeth won support for the new Church

* Used biblical sayings and portraits to show her as the restorer of the new religion, after the chaos of Mary’s reign.
* Made attendance at Church a test of loyalty to the crown. Anyone who did not attend was fined 1 shilling. Whilst this was a lot for the poor, it was not much for the rich, and Elizabeth often turned a blind eye when the files weren’t collected.
* Encouraged the manufacture of medallions and engravings featuring the Queen. These images were cheap, and quickly became popular.
* Added her day of Accession (Coronation) to the church calendar, meaning a day of feasting and having fun would be associated with her.
* Told the clergy what to say in their sermons. Every Sunday, people would pray for the Queen’s safety, and the blessings of her reign.

Act of Supremacy

* Queen Elizabeth was the Supreme Governor of the Church
* England was separate from the Catholic church and the Pope
* The church was restructured (eg removal of cardinals)

Act of Uniformity

* Made Protestantism the official religion in England
* Changed how churches looked (decoration/clothing)
* Changed how churches were run (eg prayer books in English)

Monday 8th November 2021

Mary Queen of Scots

Questions:

1. How are Mary and Elizabeth related?

Related through Henry VII (Elizabeth’s father and Mary’s Grandmother were siblings)

1. Why was Mary a threat to Elizabeth

Because she was a symbol of Catholic rebellion (previously Queen of France), had a strong claim to the throne, and has a heir.

1. Why did Mary come to England in 1568?

The Scottish nobles rebelled and forced Mary to abdicate, later imprisoning her. She escaped and fled to England

1. What impact did Mary’s execution have?

After Mary’s execution, there was a lower threat from Catholics in England, but a higher threat from abroad. The relations between England and Spain were already low, and this threatened invasion by Catholic powers.

Revolt of the Northern Earls (1569 - 70)

* The Catholic Earls in the North of England were unhappy because of they were losing power. Land and resources were being taken from the North and given to Protestants in the South.
* In 1569, the Duke of Norfolk decided to marry Mary, making her Elizabeth’s heir. This plan was supported by Catholic nobles, including the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland.
* The plan was uncovered, and in a desperate attempt, the plotters attempted to overflow Elizabeth to escape punishment. In November 1569, they captured Durham, and held a Catholic mass in the cathedral. They continued further South, likely heading for Derbyshire, where Mary was imprisoned.
* However, before they could reach Mary, a large royal army assembling in the South caused their troops to desert, and the Earls to flee to Scotland. Elizabeth executed the Earl of Northumberland, and 400 rebels.
* This plot was the most serious to challenge Elizabeth during her reign, as it showed the danger of Mary, as a figurehead for Catholic rebellions. The news of the rebellion created widespread fears among English Protestants, with many people fearing harsh persecutions, as during “Bloody” Mary’s reign.

The Ridolfi Plot (1571)

* Roberto Di Ridolfi was an Italian banker who had been in the Revolt of the Northern Earls. He used his Catholic connections in Europe to develop a plot to overthrow Elizabeth.
* Elizabeth would be assassinated, and Mary would marry Norfolk, making her Queen. At the same time, Spain and the Pope would send troops for a Spanish invasion.
* The plot failed after Elizabeth’s allies gave her the names of the plotters, and intercepted letters sent by Mary, which mentioned her and Norfolk. Mary was not punished, but here restrictions were tightened, and Norfolk was executed.

Throckmorton Plot (1583)

* This plot also included assassinating Elizabeth and replacing her with Mary, however this time there would be an invasion lead by French troops and financed by Spain.
* This plot was discovered by Francis Walsingham (Elizabeth’s spymaster). Throckmorton, was placed under surveillance for several months, and was found to be carrying messages between Mary and Catholic plotters in Europe.
* In response to this plot, Elizabeth’s advisors made the Bond of Association, which was signed by English nobles and gentry. This meant that they must execute anyone who tries to overthrow the queen.

Babington Plot (1586)

* The Babington plot also planned for the removal of Elizabeth and invasion by foreign forces, this time joint French and Spanish forces.
* Anthony Babington was the leader of this plot