Thursday 4th November 2021

Elizabeth Revision

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)