



Filiere: English Studies

Semester 3

Module: 19

British Culture/ US Culture

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Lecture 4: Scotland in the sixteenth century

--The battle of Flodden on September, the ninth, 1513 was often considered as a simple defeat of the Scottish army by an English one. That was exactly what happened. But still, the implications of the battle went much deeper. In the late fifteenth century, the economics and politics of the western edge of Europe were dominated by France, England and Scotland. They were powerful and strong nations and tended to have a pattern of shifting alliances.

-The defeat at Flodden removed both James IV and the military forces he had so carefully developed. It also ended Scotland's role as a major nation in medieval Europe and ever since Scotland struggled to avoid being dominated by England.

-In 1503, James IV married Margaret Tudor, the eldest daughter of Henry VII. The marriage was intended to stabilize relations between the two countries. But James the fourth and Henry the eighth, who had succeeded his father to the English throne in 1509 were in different alliances. James the fourth backed up Scotland's old ally, France, and England supported the Holy Roman Empire. Later on, after the death of James the fourth, his son James the fifth

foolishly got involved in a war with Henry the eight, just as his father had done. The outcome of this war was the scots defeat at Solway Moss in 1542 and James the fifth passed away.

-Scotland remained within the Roman Catholic Church while Henry the eight broke ties with Rome. But at that time in history, it was impossible for the Scottish church to stop or to prevent protestant literature and ideas from crossing the border, especially and particularly when, after Henry the eight's death in 1547, England became a fully Protestant country.