**‘Henry VIII’s actions as King destroyed Henry VII’s legacy.’ Assess the validity of this view.**

In 1509, when Henry VIII inherited Henry VII’s legacy that includes both positive aspects such as money, a peaceful foreign policy and a conciliar form of government but also an unpopular mechanism for extracting money. By 1514, Henry VIII had effectively used the money he inherited on his wars with France, a hostile relationship with France which stayed consistent throughout his reign and government run by leading minister, Thomas Wolsey however he did effectively get rid of bonds and recognisances so it’s arguable how much damage Henry VIII posed to Henry VII’s legacy.

Arguably, Henry VII’s most negative aspect from his reign was his method of extracting money from nobles – bonds and recognisances. This concept was created by Bray and Dudley and served to exploit the rights of the nobles by providing that they kept in line to avoid having to give money or land to the crown. Crucially, this method was hugely disliked and caused fear and frustration amongst the nobles. Henry VIII succeeded the throne in 1509 and his succession was greatly celebrated because he ‘put joy in place of our long distress,’ as quoted by Thomas More. Henry was younger and more of a Warrior King than his father and in favour of Nobles. Henry abolished the Council of the Learned Law and had Empson and Dudley executed. This strategic move was said to be a ‘calculated ploy,’ by modern historians as it gained Henry VIII the support of the Nobles who had disliked Empson and Dudley for their corruption and greed. Therefore Henry VIII’s eliminations of the bonds and recognisances only served to highlight the problems of Henry VII’s legacy and by removing it, he set a hopeful precedent that his reign would be much more positive especially for nobles.

Henry VII was an administrative King, he was described as ‘cautious, open and fair,’ by the Milanese Ambassador. This quote shows how Henry VII did gain support from foreigners in regards to his way of ruling. By the end of his reign the country was financially stable, this was because Henry did not readily get involved in many wars, and he had the French pension and used the Church as another means of getting money. Henry formed alliances with several other European countries such as France, Spain and Scotland; he also had recognition from the Pope which only made his rule stronger. A historian says, ‘Henry secured the recognition of his dynasty in Europe,’ which suggests the Henry did successfully have support and recognition from other monarchs making the Tudor dynasty more secure however by the end of his reign due to the death of his son, his alliance with Spain was insecure. Henry VII left England financially stable but his main income was through the Church which was rumoured to be corrupted and politically England was safe but it was not secure as a powerful country in Europe.

In contrast, Henry VIII quickly ruined England’s foreign relations with France by engaging in a war with them which initially Henry did not succeed but in 1514 did win. However it’s crucial to recognise though they won in war, the money used in the war meant that the finances of the Crown were scarce and so Henry within a few years had managed to wipe through the inheritance that Henry VII left him for a war that though on the surface was a success, was only the first of many battles between France and England. Furthermore the instability of England’s financial position meant that when King James IV of Scotland was killed in the Battle of Flodden, Henry wasn’t able to take advantage of Scotland’s weakness as he had no money. Nevertheless, Henry VIII’s foreign policy was not all around unsuccessful and unlike Henry VII who failed to secure an alliance with Spain in his final years, Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon securing an Anglo-Spanish alliance. Crucially, this demonstrates how Henry VIII was a quick thinker in his early years and sought to establish himself as a successful warrior King by using all the resources possible and though he wasn’t overall successful, in some aspects he did succeed further than his father.

Arguably, the most dramatic change under Henry VIII came in terms of government though it wasn’t until 1514 when he elected Thomas Wolsey as leading minister of his government. This is significant as prior to this, Henry VII had established a conciliar form of government to ensure that the power stayed in the hands of the monarch and key decisions were made by experts however Henry VIII was less keen on administration and so sought to appoint Wolsey for the position. Arguably, this was successful in some aspect as Wolsey secured Henry VIII his most successful foreign policy, the Treaty of London however more concerning was Wolsey’s increasing power and wealth which his role allowed him to continuously increase. This demonstrates how Henry VIII gave Wolsey the exact power that Henry VII sought to restrict nobles and other members of his government from getting in order to prevent any potential opposition to the throne.

In conclusion, by 1514, Henry VIII had effectively destroyed every aspect of Henry VII’s legacy but in some aspects it was presented to be more beneficial for him. For example, by getting rid of bonds and recognisances he ensured the nobles were loyal to him and supported his rule giving him the power to pursue the title of Warrior King. However this ambition led to his losses in money as the wars proved to be highly economically problematic and by 1514, Henry had used all of his inheritance in wars that were though successful on the surface, gave Henry no extra power. Nevertheless, he managed to secure Anglo-Spanish relations very early in his reign through marriage which Henry VII failed to do but his change in style of government from conciliar government to government led by minster Wolsey, left him in a potentially threatening position which he wasn’t aware of and which Henry VII had tried to prevent. Overall, Henry VIII in his earlier years had destroyed Henry VII’s legacy for the worse because though he had some success, his failures outweighed the little success he had.