**TUDORS: SOCIETY**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HENRY VII** | **HENRY VIII** | **EDWARD VI** | **MARY I** | **ELIZABETH I** |
| * The feudal system which had been in the 15th © - no longer apparent - economic pressures increased social mobility - increased alarm amongst upper-class members - tried passing sumptuary laws but were unenforceable. * nobility dominated landownership – peerage remained of no more than 50 or 60 men   + Controlled through system of bonds and recognisances   + nobility’s main control of power was through bastard feudalism * retaining laws passed in 1486, 1487 and 1504 * gentry were landowners – sought knighthood - owned 15-20% of country’s land * Church – important for spiritual role and also a great landowner * below nobility, gentry and higher clergy were the commoners * 2nd half of 15th © - living conditions for poor improved, real wages increased but inflation pressure towards end of © became evident * England avoided subsistence crisis which often affected parts of the country * The Yorkshire Rebellion, 1489   + due to taxation for Brittany campaign   + notorious for murder of Earl of Northumberland * The Cornish Rebellion, 1497   + due to taxation for Scottish campaign   + proved greater threat due to:     - sheer no. involved (15,000)     - attempt to exploit rebellion by Warbeck     - rebels marched to London only being stopped at Blackheath   + Rebellion crushed easily by Lord Daubeney | * growth of professional and commercial bourgeoisie * nobility and greater gentry had political and economic influence * size of peerage increased * about 5000 gentry families in 1540 * about 200 knightly families in 1524 * no. of gentry increased during the reign of Henry VIII * 2nd ½ of reign – rise in rate of inflation lead to drop in real incomes * Law in Wales Act of 1536 bought Wales into same legal framework as England * 2 English palatines – Lancashire, Cheshire and Durham – Act Resuming Liberties to the Crown of 1536 reduced level of independence enjoyed by the bishop but didn’t destroy it completely * Establishment of Council in the North by Cromwell and Henry – permanent body of professional staff in York – had administrative and legal functions – kept north quiet in rebellions of 1549 * dissolution of monasteries begins in 1536 * royal injunctions of 1536 * religious upheaval had lasting consequences:   + land removed from Church and given to the Crown   + monastic schools closed   + monks and nuns became unemployed   + monasteries offered employment and business opportunities which were lost * Resistance to taxation: Amicable Grant – dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk faced about 4000 taxation resistors – cloth workers unable to pay levy – King backed down * Lincolnshire Rising and Pilgrimage of Grace – 2 Oct 1536 – 16 Jan 1937 – both religious and secular motives – popular in terms of participation – quickly suppressed by Duke of Norfolk | * social impact of religious changes under Somerset   + sustained attack on religious experiences of ordinary people   + plundering of Church’s resources   + injunctions of 1547 attacked traditional Catholic practices   + attack on chantries and plundering of their assets destroyed means of connecting the dead to the community they’d once been part of   + attack on guilds and confraternities meant crown confiscated money and property which had previously underpinned charitable activities, feasts and celebrations * social impact of religious change under Northumberland   + expenditure on church goods declined after 1540   + people less likely to leave money to their parish churches   + decline of Church attendance   + decline in no of candidates for ordination as priests * Causes of the rebellions:   + religious reasons   + Midlands and East Anglia – agrarian and social grievances – numerous reports of riots and of uprooting of enclosures   + resentment of taxation – consistent * Western Rebellion, June – Aug 1549   + in Devon and Cornwall   + prompted by religious grievances   + wanted to reverse religious reforms   + provoked by distrust between rural labourers and landowners over taxation   + peasant labourers resented sheep tax * Kett’s rebellion in East Anglia, July – Aug   + sense of class antagonism   + hatred of local government officials   + resentment of abuse by landowner of the Norfolk fold course system   + frustration about maladministration locally of the Howards | * social impact of religious reform   + 289 Protestants burnt for heresy   + burning failed to extinguish heresy   + widespread variation in practices and reversal to Catholicism   + bulk of country remained Catholic * social impact of economic changes   + rapid increase in population   + harvest failures in 1555 and 1556 – bought severe food shortage and strain on real wages for the poor   + ‘sweating sickness’ in 1557 and 1558 * Wyatt’s rebellion, 25 Jan – 7 Feb 1554   + Only Kent experienced serious rising   + Sir Thomas Wyatt raised forces of about 3,000 men   + Causes:     - some motivated by religion     - Xenophobia     - decline in local cloth industry     - attracted some gentry who had lost office within the country     - resentment of royal marriage main grievance   + implicit objective to get rid of Mary though never stated   + highly significant because:     - although Protestants minority in numbers their religious opinions couldn’t be ignored     - demonstrated extent to which there was popular suspicion of proposed Spanish marriage     - resulted in execution of Lady Jane Grey   + Elizabeth also arrested   + Wyatt may have won had he secured City of London | * problems of poverty and vagabondage remained widespread * increase in population * real wages for labouring poor were lower than they had been © earlier * wage rates consistently falling behind rises in prices * harvest failures caused food shortages * reformation destroyed institutions providing poor relief * Acts passed in 1552 and 1555 and again in 1563 – national legislation was behind local provisions which were set up in a no. of boroughs e.g. Norwich and Ipswich * society remained under aristocratic domination - few hereditary peers * gentry ranged from knights to landowners and included gentlemen and esquires who were JP’s * gap between rich and poor widened * beginning of consumer society * landed incomes increased * Act of 1572 – established principle that local ratepayers should be required to pay rather for the relief of their poor * Poor Law Act of 1576 – created national system of poor relief to be financed and administered locally – towns required to make provisions of the employment of deserving poor * Acts in 1598 and 1601 completed legislative process – praise designated institution for poor relief * treatment of undeserving poor was harsh * Act against vagrancy passed in 1547 though not enforceable - 1572 Act added branding to range of punished and 1597 permitted whipping and execution for repeat offenders * Ireland resisted policy of ‘Englishness’ and rebellions broke out between Gaelic Irish and Old English in 1569-1573 and 1579-1582 * 3rd rebellion in 1595 had close links with Spanish attacks and lasted till Elizabeth’s death * integration of English and Welsh continued * Northern Rebellion 9th Nov 1569-70   + in Durham and North riding of Yorkshire   + headed by northern nobility – Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland   + religious and political motives   + proposed Duke of Norfolk should marry Mary, Queen of Scots   + rebellion restated in Cumberland a month later but defeated   + reasons it failed:     - disorganisation     - poor leadership     - lack of expected foreign support     - decisive actions by the authorities   + reveals governments lack of sight in differences between North and South   + revealed problems of managing the nobility   + demonstrated ruthlessness of Elizabethan government   + rebellion – geographically limited   + didn’t get support of conservative nobility and little enthusiasm to get rid of Elizabeth |