*Henry VII’s Religious and Political Turmoil*

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Outside of his widely publicized and famous love life, King Henry VIII of England had equally unhinged religious and political challenges during his reign. England in the early sixteenth century existed within a complex religious and political landscape. The Catholic Church maintained significant influence throughout Europe, while monarchs increasingly sought to centralize their authority. Henry's eventual break with Rome and actions to place himself at the center of the church would dramatically reshape England's religious identity. As noted by historians Morrill and Elton, "The 1530s was the only period of the reign during which a coherent body of policies was purposefully carried through" (Henry VIII, King of England, Source 3). Despite the significant religious turmoil marked by the split from the Catholic Church, Henry VIII's reign was largely characterized by political turmoil, including challenges to his legitimacy, rebellions, and efforts to consolidate power.

II. Religious Turmoil: The Split from the Catholic Church

* Overview: Brief description of the religious changes during Henry VII's reign. The first trial and end of the first marriage of King Henry
* Argument: The split from the Catholic Church was a significant aspect of the religious turmoil.
  + Cite: Henry VII, King of England (Source 4) “The supreme headship on earth over the Church of England, though he had not sought it, represented Henry’s major achievement. It had very wide-ranging consequences, but those that immediately concerned the king were two. In the first place, the new title consolidated his own concept of kingship, his conviction that (as he once said) he had no superior on earth. "
* Evidence: Specific events or policies that illustrate the split.
  + Evidence: PBS, "Inside the Court of Henry VIII" (Source 1). No specific quote but Anne Boleyn Pray Book where Anne Boleyn where Anne had written a “love note” on a page opposite of baby Jesus influencing King Henry to split for her to bear a son for him., Also speak upon the corruption of the church and the protestant reformation.
  + Cite: Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts in the Archives and Collections of Milan 1385-1618 Source 6 Jan 16 1532 “The Consistory to-day lasted nearly until the 22nd hour, in discussing the English marriage suit. They had many debates about the matrimonial suit beween the King and Queen of England. The imperial ambassadors, who are acting for the queen, keep demanding a sentence, and ask for justice. The English, assisted by the French, asked for delay, as they have consistently done for some months past, saying that they want to fetch doctors and advocates from various places; and as these are old men and far away, they cannot get here very soon, owing to the bad roads and the cold of this winter season. Finally to-day, after a long discussion in the Consistory, they gave them the whole of the present month, though that must be the absolute term.  
    This has caused great dissatisfaction to the Imperialists, so that it could hardly be greater, as they say that before the festivals they had a promise from his Holiness to give them dispatch immediately after the festivals. Nevertheless the Collegio did not think it advisable to spur the English horse so hard, and drive him to desperation. But the Imperialists will not and cannot take it in good part, as they have arranged their operations and sent information to their superiors of exactly the opposite tenor from what has happened, owing to the promise which they received. However, they have to swallow it, as for the moment there is no other course open to them.  
    Rome, the 16th January, 1532.”
* Interpretation of Evidence: Analysis of how these events contributed to religious turmoil.
* Historical Context/Intellectual Culture: The broader context of religious changes in Europe and their impact on England.

III. Political Turmoil 1: Challenges to Legitimacy

* Overview: Henry VII faced numerous challenges to his legitimacy as king.
* Argument: These challenges were a major source of political turmoil.
  + Cite: University of Illinois, "The Legitimacy of Henry VII" (Source 5). Previous essay paragraph on Henry VII to adjust for this essay “Henry’s claim to the throne was controversial due to his weak lineage, which was dependent on his descent through the female line and the questionable illegitimacy of the Beaufort line. The dispute begins with King Henry V, monarch from 1413 to 1422, and his queen Catherine of Valois. After King Henry V’s death, Catherine remarried Owen Tudor, resulting in Edmund Tudor, Henry’s father. Edmund Tudor married Margaret Beaufort, Henry Tudor's mother, who became the head of the Beaufort house after her uncles and brothers passed away without legitimate heirs. While the house of Beaufort was legitimized as a sub-branch of Lancaster a respected royal family by both Richard II and Pope Boniface IX. After all male Lancasters died out, supporters of the branch saw the Beaufort line as successors.2 The complexity of this bloodline highlights the fragility of Henry's claim. However, the Wars of the Roses created a context where claims to the throne were often contested and settled with military victories. This gave Henry the opportunity to push his legitimacy on the battlefield, which he successfully did at the Battle of Bosworth.”
* Evidence: Examples of specific challenges, such as pretenders to the throne. Give an specific example, as well as mentioned i was not to far off from the wars of the roses days and Henry VII had no Signiant battle victories to claim the crown as his father did.
* Interpretation of Evidence: Analysis of how these challenges affected Henry's rule.
* Historical Context/Intellectual Culture: The context of dynastic struggles and the importance of legitimacy in medieval politics.

IV. Political Turmoil 2: Rebellions

* Overview: Various rebellions occurred during Henry VII's reign. Mention once again England decades before had just finished the time of the wars of the roses which partially solidified the identity of England nobles to all try and take the throne for themselves
* Argument: These rebellions were a significant aspect of the political turmoil.
  + Cite: Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts in the Archives and Collections of Milan 1385-1618 Source 6
    - Aug 11, 1526: “722. — to Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan.  
      By letter of the 17th July from England my lord of Bath [(fn. 1)](https://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/milan/1385-1618/pp442-473#fnn1) sends to tell the Datary that he was leaving on the following day with a most honourable company, being sent by his king to the Most Christian. He assures his Holiness on his honour that his king and the Cardinal are following an excellent way, and they expect very little from the King of France. He hopes that God will make manifest by his works that he is a most faithful servant of his Holiness. Up to the present he has not arrived in France. I am afraid that the king is unwilling to make any real movement, and if the marriage alliance takes place, I am perfectly certain that he will take action upon the forces and promises. I refer to the advices received by Sig. Bonvisio from Scarpinello, in his letters of the 16th ult.  
      The English king writes many things about the articles of the league, among others that his Majesty will never conclude an agreement with France that the state of Milan shall remain to him, and the king has promised him and pledged his honour that he will never make any agreement with Cæsar without his knowledge and consent. The words that precede are all good, but the advices of the nuncio and Scarpinello correspond very ill with them, and this appears by the requests that your Excellency will see.  
      I hear also that the exiles want a more explicit declaration on their article in the league, and are trying and urging that he shall insist upon their restitution to the possession of all that they held in the time of the French. I told his Holiness that I thought your Excellency would consent so far as patrimonial goods were concerned, but in the time of the French they had possession of my goods and those of your Excellency's other servants, and we were reputed enemies and rebels in those times. It would not be right to restore these, as that would be unjust to your friends and would bring them back to Milan as opponents. His Holiness considers it perfectly right that they should not be gratified upon this point, but he would commend your Excellency if you did not examine too closely into cases where the royal chamber has made donation to some of these of things pertaining to the chamber.  
      Your Excellency will readily understand that as the pope and the Venetians have taken up arms solely for your Excellency's service, and as things have turned out so badly, the need of Italy for their succour being recognised, it makes them difficult to deal with, and they desire an accommodation with all their heart. They send no horse soldiers, and still less foot. Cæsar never ceases his efforts to bring Italy to terms more favourable to himself. Accordingly his Holiness and the Venetians are exceedingly perplexed, perceiving that their being the only ones to discover themselves has done them this hurt, and every day, as a rule, they call to mind the importunity of Sig. Taberna and myself; they find they have made a mistake, and the great expenses weigh heavily upon them.  
      The English king urges the pope and the Venetians to send most ample powers to France for the conclusion with the king there of the extension of the articles upon the conditions which have been agreed. If your Excellency decides to enter, I think it will be necessary for you also to send a representative to France.  
      Rome, the 11th August, 1526, at the 15th hour.”
    - Oct 27 1534: 957. Thomaso Gallerato, Milanese Ambassador in Spain, to Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan.  
      The Venetian ambassador in France writes to his colleagues here that they have news that the people of Ireland have rebelled against the English king, cut off the head of a bishop, their governor, and slain all the English they found in the island, saying that they were the enemies of Christ and of the Catholic faith.  
      Madrid, the 27th October, 1534.
* Evidence: Specific rebellions, such as the Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck uprisings.
* Interpretation of Evidence: Analysis of the causes and consequences of these rebellions.
* Historical Context/Intellectual Culture: The broader context of social and economic unrest in England.

V. Political Turmoil 3: Consolidation of Power

* Overview: Henry VII's efforts to consolidate power and establish control.
* Argument: These efforts were crucial in addressing the political turmoil
* Evidence: Policies and actions taken by Henry to strengthen his rule.
  + Cite: Trueman, "Henry VIII and Government" (Source 3). “Henry was happy to base all government decisions around one belief. God had placed Henry as king in that position. Therefore everyone had to conform to what Henry wanted because if they did not, they were not only defying God’s lieutenant on Earth, but also God himself. The duty of all subjects was to honour and obey the king even if they did not agree with what he did. There was nothing uniquely English about this as the same would have been thought in Spain, France and the Holy Roman Empire. To many, the law was the king’s law and he was above it and not controlled by it. Therefore, government decisions to an extent took on the aura of being infallible as they came from a man appointed by God to act on His behalf on Earth who was above the law. If government decisions were flawed it was only in the way they were carried out – which was the failing of others as opposed to the king.There were many who fully supported this view as it spared the country from the one thing that many feared – anarchy. If the country descended into anarchy because the normal order of life was challenged, many would suffer. Therefore, the bulk of the population in England supported the way things were done as the alternate was too much to contemplate. Thousands of men were landlords and they expected rents to be paid, for example. The policies of Henry ensured that the order of the day was maintained – and this suited the vast bulk of the population. A logical extension of this was the change in the definition of high treason in the 1530’s. This was refined so that any criticism of the king, be it in writing or verbal, was deemed high treason. The punishment alone for this would have been enough to quieten most people.”
* Interpretation of Evidence: Analysis of the effectiveness of these measures.
* Historical Context/Intellectual Culture: The importance of strong centralized authority in medieval governance.

VI. Conclusion

* Summary: Recap the main points discussed in the paper.
* Restate Thesis: Despite the significant religious turmoil, Henry VII's reign was primarily characterized by political turmoil, including challenges to his legitimacy, rebellions, and efforts to consolidate power.

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