

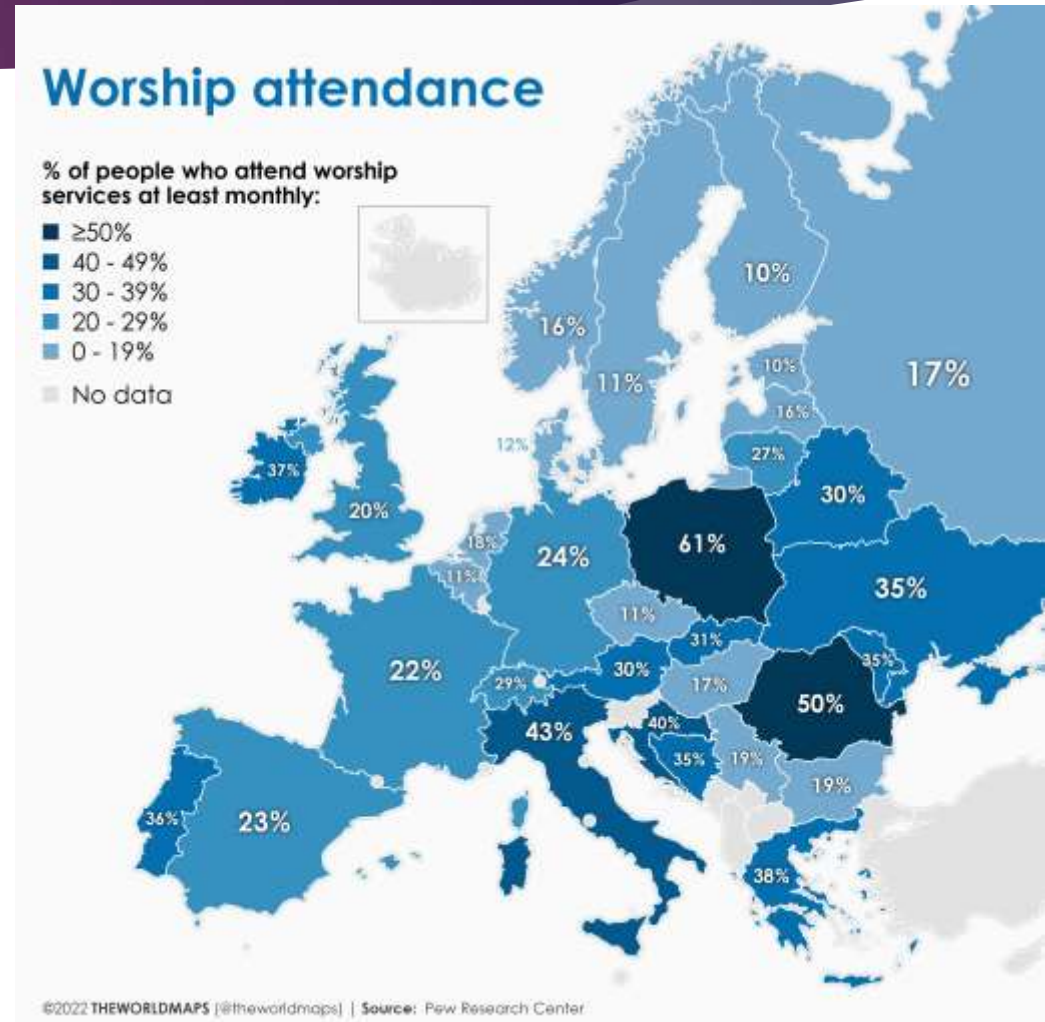
Religious Reformation and The Church of England



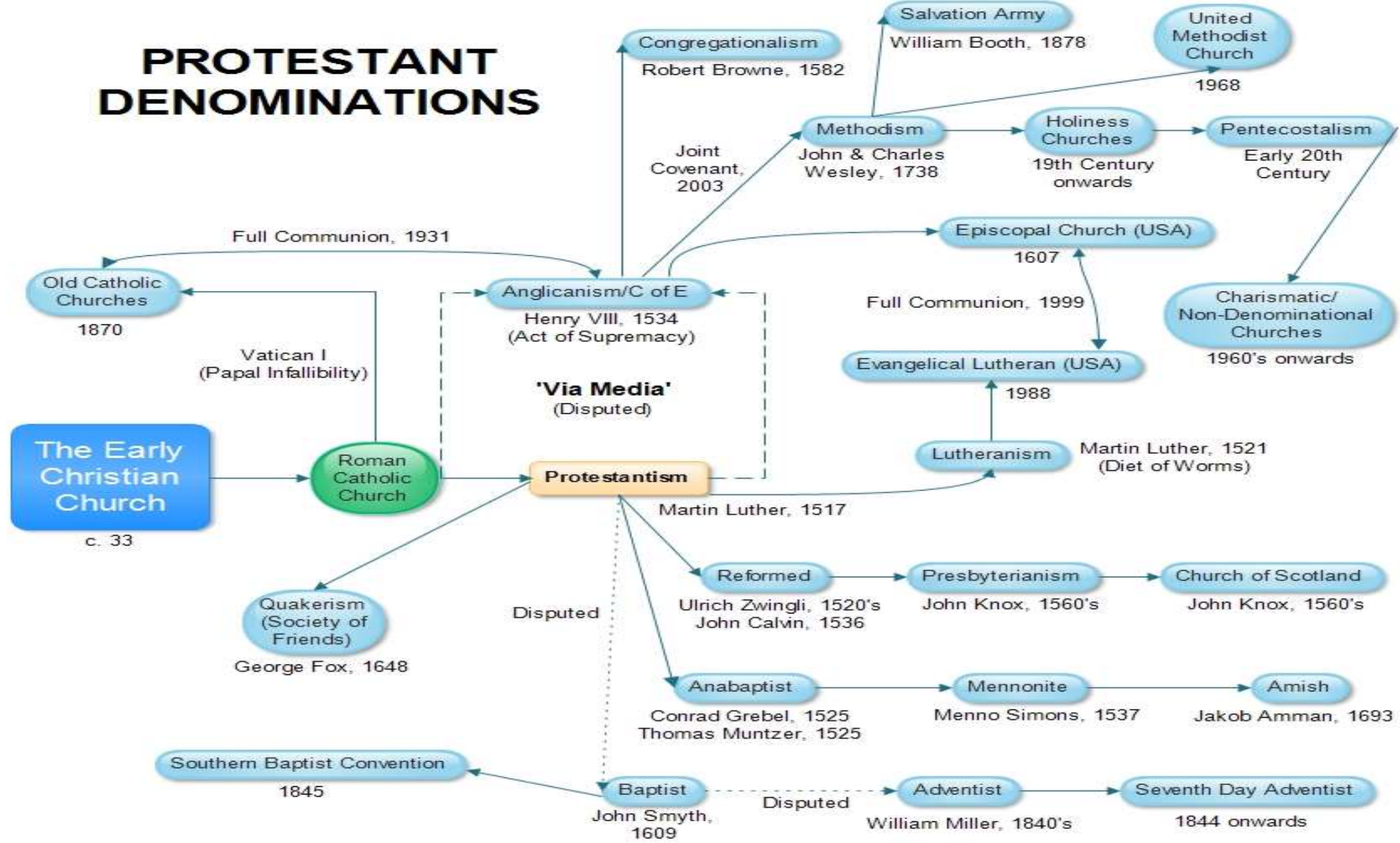
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Opening Remarks

- ▶ Importance of religion across the Channel
- ▶ Differences with France:
 - 4 nations in the U.K
 - State / Church : never been dissociated
 - Church of England = Established Church
 - endowed with certain state duties
 - A mosaic of Christian denominations
 - A multi-racial nation = non-Christian religions



PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS



Outline

- ▶ Focus on the historical background
- ▶ Movement from UNITY (Catholicism) to DIVERSITY (a mosaic of Christian denominations)
- ▶ **I) Martin Luther, John Calvin & the European Reformation (Early 16th century)**
- ▶ **II) Henry VIII & the Shift from Rome (mid-16th century)**
- ▶ **III) Henry VIII's Succession: from Counter-Revolution (1550s) to Anglican settlement (Late 16th century)**

II. Martin Luther, John Calvin & the European Reformation (Early 16th century)

THE EDUCATION OF A CHRISTIAN PRINCE

BY
DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION
ON ERASMUS AND ON ANCIENT AND
MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

BY
LESTER K. BORN

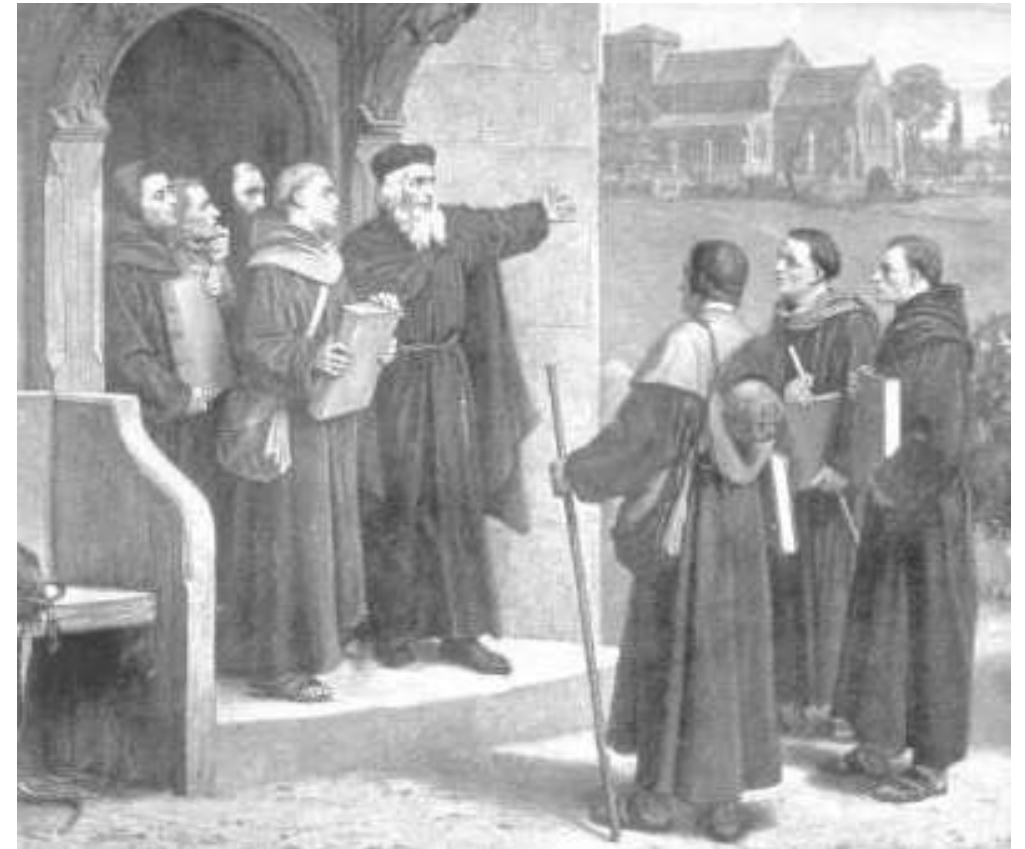


NEW YORK: MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS
M-C-M XXXVI

- ▶ **Erasmus of Rotterdam**, *The Education of a Christian Prince* (1516): a transcription of a general anti-clerical opinion
 - monastic rules above God's teachings
 - obedient and idle puppets / wealth for themselves
 - promotion and veneration of relics / business

a) John wycliff & the lollards

- ▶ 14th century
- ▶ John Wycliff = Oxford Theologian
- ▶ Criticised the lack of knowledge of the Scriptures (Latin / misinterpretation)
- ▶ Scriptures above the Church > questioned the clergy's and the Pope's abilities !
- ▶ Supported by the Lollards who read Wycliff's translation of the Gospel



John Wycliff speaking to Lollards preachers (Britannica)

b) Martin Luther & the reformation in Europe

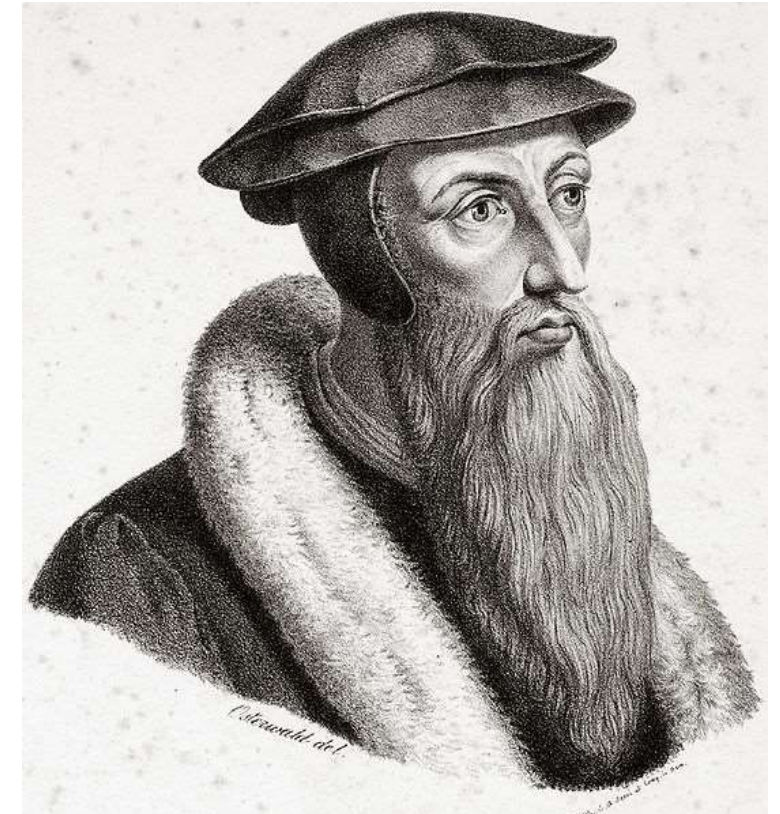
- ▶ Term « Protestant »
 - The Spires Diet in Spain under Charles V in 1529
 - « protestatio »
 - protested against the Diet's decision not to tolerate Lutheran ideas
- ▶ Rejected several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church (Cf. The 95 Theses)
- ▶ The view on indulgences (<indulgeo = permit):
 - specified prayers
 - pilgrimages or visits to particular places (shrines, churches, cemetery)
 - support to charities
- ▶ Translation of the Bible into German vernacular



Luther, Lucas CRANCH,
Lutherhaus-Wittenberg (1528)

c) John Calvin & the Scottish Presbyterians

- ▶ Swiss reformer (born French)
- ▶ Studied the writings of various reformers
- ▶ Agreed with the idea that Christians are reconciled to God by faith, not work.
- ▶ *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536) = a guidebook on how to read the Bible
- ▶ Doctrine of predestination
- ▶ Calvin's most famous student : John KNOX, founder of the Presbyterian Church



John Calvin, Georg Osterwald

II. Henry VIII & the shift from Rome

a) A Highly-Political Divorce

- ▶ Catholic country since the 6th century
(Cf. Saint Augustine sent by Rome)
- ▶ Henry VIII ≠ the Church :
 - a European network
 - Spain / France
 - a power against Henry's authority
 - taxes paid to the church
- ▶ Marriage with Catherine of Aragon :
 - no male heir
 - extinction of the Tudor Dynasty
 - fear of a new War of the Roses



These contemporaneous portraits of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon can be seen next to each other in Room 1 of the National Portrait Gallery.
Photograph: National Portrait Gallery

Annulment of Henry VIII's marriage

- ▶ Cf. the Scriptures : Leviticus (20; 21) « *If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impunity; he has dishonoured his brother. They will be childless.* »
- ▶ Different protagonists :



Cardinal Wolsey, Chief Minister



Pope Clement VII



Charles V, King of Spain, Holy Roman Emperor,
Catherine's nephew

b) Henrician Catholicism

- ▶ The Act of Appeal (1533)
- ▶ **The Act of Supremacy (1534)**
- ▶ The Act of Succession (1534)
- ▶ The Treason Act (1534)
- ▶ The Act against the Pope's Authority (1536)



Source : U.K Parliament
<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/private-lives/religion/collections/common-prayer/act-of-supremacy/>

Determining a Doctrine...

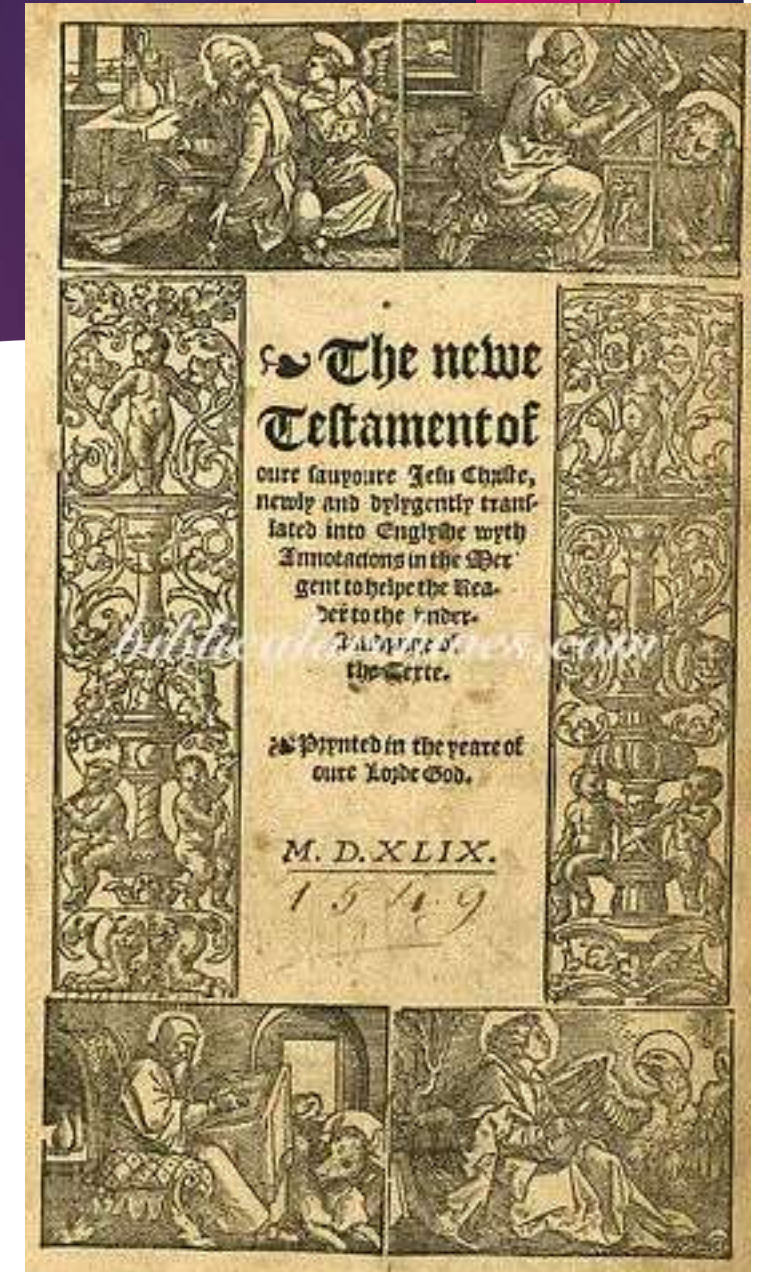
- ▶ Brought up a devout Catholic :
 - typical worship
 - prayer scroll (Latin prayers / illuminations)
 - purchase of papal indulgences
 - title of *Fidei Defensor*
- ▶ Supreme Head of the Church of England :
 - determine a doctrine
 - dilemma between his Catholic faith and the Protestant influence of his circle (Anne Boleyn / Thomas Cromwell / Thomas Cranmer / Parliament)



It was a common belief that the soul of a person who died in the state of grace would be purified in purgatory before entering heaven. This belief was based on the idea that a person's sins were not completely forgiven at the moment of death, but that they were purified through the suffering of purgatory. The length of time spent in purgatory was believed to be proportional to the severity of the sins. This belief was a central part of Catholic doctrine and was widely accepted by the general population. The illustration above shows the Crucifixion, a central event in Christian history, and the text below it likely discusses the nature of purgatory and the process of purification.

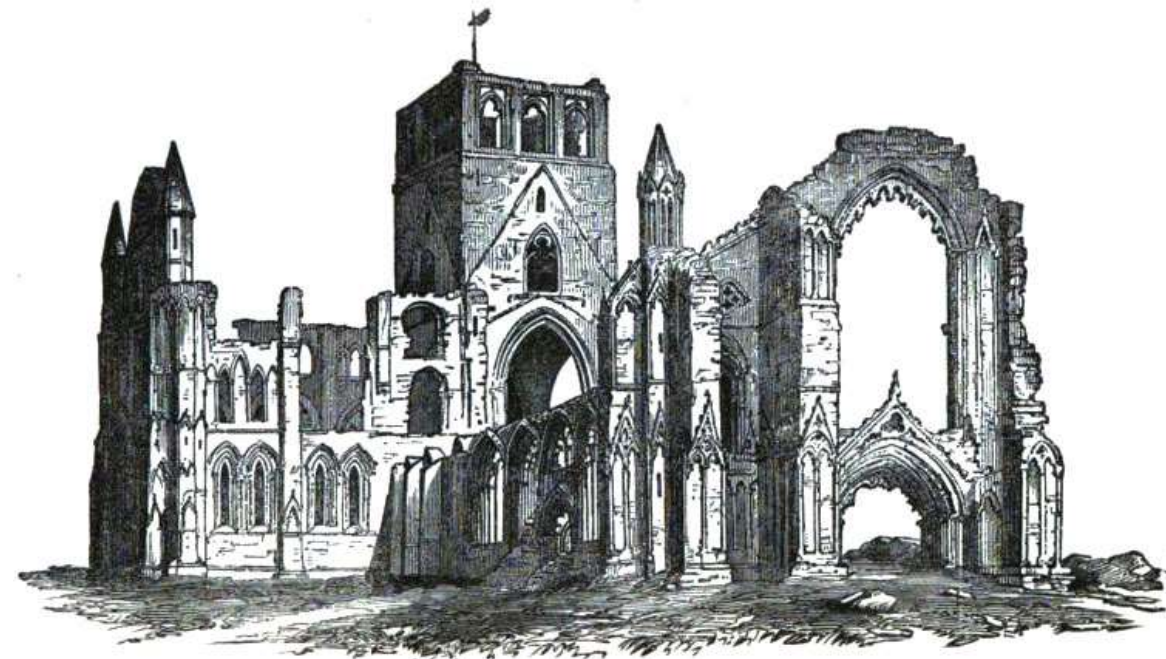
The English Bible

- ▶ The most important thing: the reference for religious customs
- ▶ Should not be in Latin but in any language people could read or understand
- ▶ Groundbreaking → priests had been the only ones to read the Bible
- ▶ Now, individual access to God
- ▶ Translation of the Bible in English → King James Bible (1611)



c) The Dissolution of the Monasteries

- ▶ Papal primacy = a sham to deprive Kings of titles and inheritances
- ▶ The shift = a means to
 - get a divorce
 - enlarge his power
 - legitimize the King's Divine Right
 - enlarge his wealth
- ▶ Survey of Church property
- ▶ 1536-1539 :
 - 560 monasteries closed
 - given / sold to landowners and merchants
 - some monks / nuns : beggars / imprisoned / executed



WHITBY ABBEY AS IT APPEARED IN 1780.

Source:

Smales, Gideon. *Whitby Authors and Their Publications*.
Whitby: Horne and Son, 1868. 1.

III. Henry VIII's Succession

a) Edward VI's Lutheranism

- ▶ 3rd Act of Succession (1544):
- ▶ Privy Council in politics
- ▶ Competition
- ▶ Henry's death kept secret
- ▶ Edward Seymour (Earl of Hertford, Duke of Somerset): Protector and Governor
- ▶ King Edward VI: educated as a Protestant
- ▶ Somerset:
 - reissued the Book of Homilies
 - dissolved the chantries
- ▶ Died of tuberculosis in 1553



Painted by the Flemish artist
William Scrots (c. 1550)

b) Bloody Mary's Catholicism

- ▶ A female ruler in a patriarchal society
- ▶ A staunch Catholic, committed to the ideal of dynastic monarchy
- ▶ Advantages of marriage: please opponents to female ruling / fulfill will to have an heir / take royal duty seriously
- ▶ Had to impose her policies onto her Privy Council: marriage to Spanish Catholic King Philip (July 1554)
- ▶ Failure of her marriage: Philip rarely present / inability to conceive an heir
- ▶ Persecution of the Protestants: concentrated in the South-East and in a short time / focused on young persons (under 14)



Portrait of Queen Mary I, by Master John (1544)

C) The Elizabethan Via Media

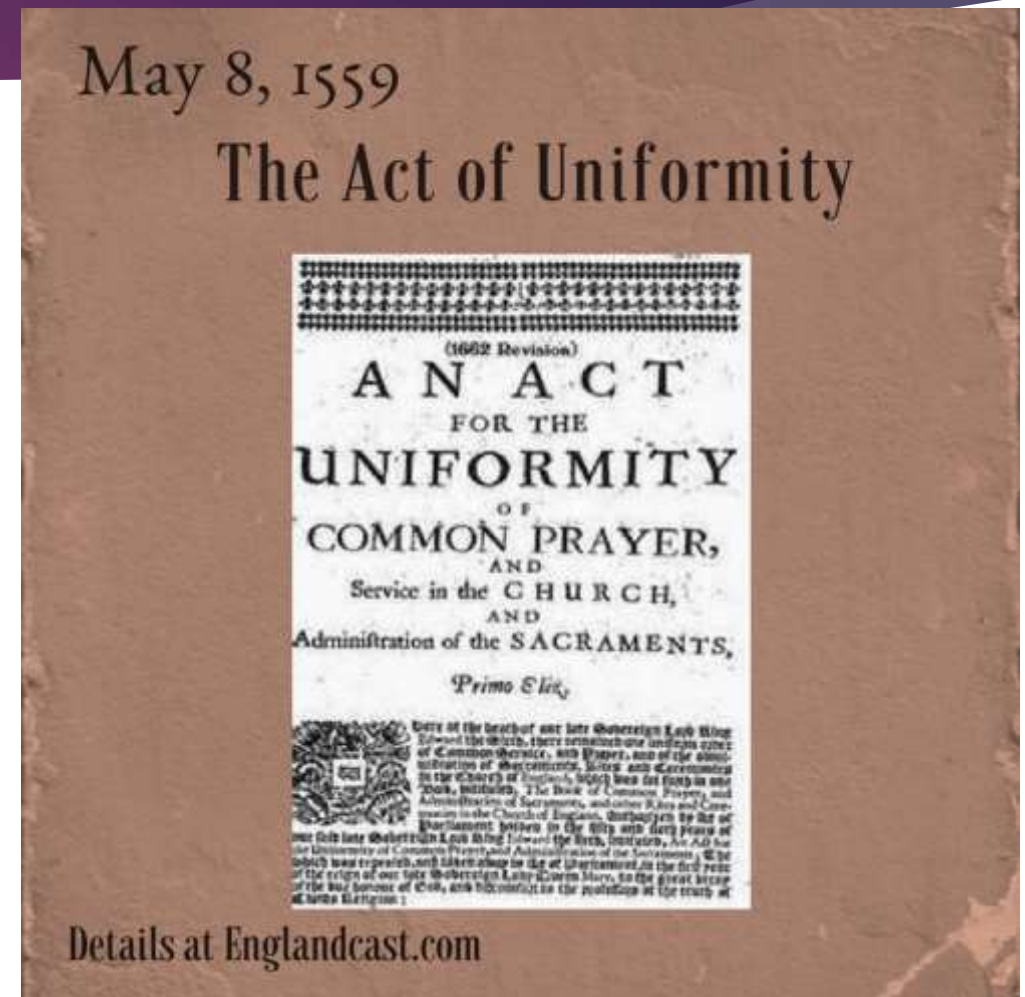
- ▶ Ascended the throne on Nov 17, 1558
- ▶ Emphasis on religious matters :
 - Revive her father's religious legislation
 - Re-establish the break with Rome and her own royal supremacy
 - Legislate for a church based on Edwardian Protestant Settlement
 - a monarch at the head of the Church
 - many Catholic elements (vestments)
- ▶ Elizabeth I = « Supreme Governor » instead of « Supreme Head »



The Coronation Portrait, c.1600, oil on panel,
127.3 x 99.7cm
(National Portrait Gallery, London)

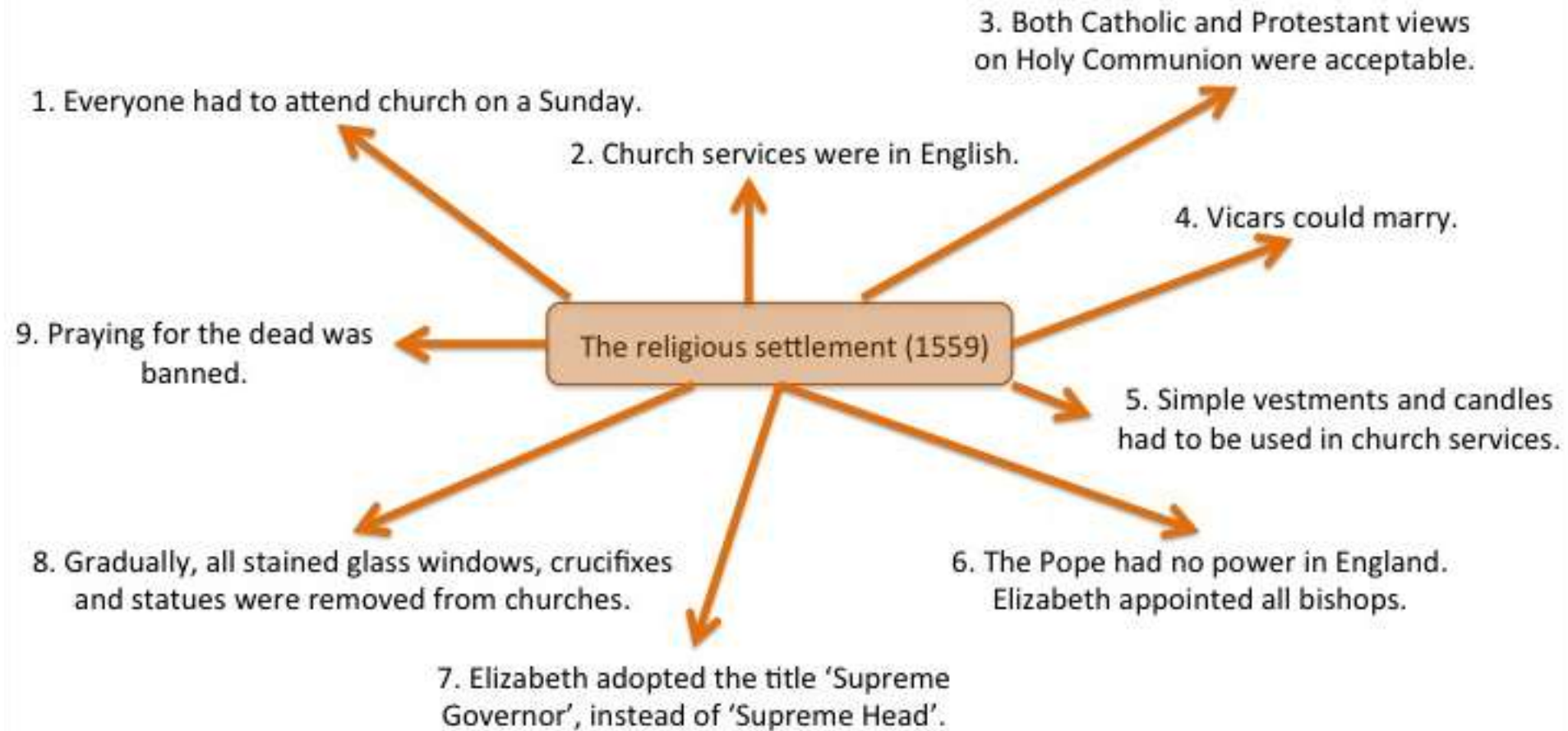
The new Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity (May 1559)

- ▶ Oath of loyalty to the monarch, as Supreme Governor
- ▶ Heresy laws repealed
- ▶ Attendance at church and use of the 1559 Book of Common Prayer made compulsory
- ▶ Acts passed without the consent of churchmen = constitutional first



Details at Englandcast.com

To sum up the Elizabethan Settlement



Elizabeth I versus Mary Stuart: royal Cousins & Rival Queens

- ▶ To the Catholics, Elizabeth I = unfit to rule
 - unmarried, Protestant and virgin
 - considered a heretic
 - a bastard
- ▶ Mary Stuart = the lawful queen
 - Catholic
 - married Henry Stuart (Henry VII's great grandson)
 - had a son, James
- ▶ James became King James VI of Scotland and was raised as a Protestant



Closing Remarks

- ▶ Elizabeth died on March 24, 1603
- ▶ King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England and Ireland
- ▶ Dynastic union of the crowns of England and Scotland sought by Henry VIII
- ▶ End of the main internal threats to England's security
- ▶ Next century = critical for the evolution and organisation of Monarchy and Parliament



James I of England
after John de Critz (Public Domain)

To go further

- ▶ Cardinal Wolsey
- ▶ Thomas Cromwell
- ▶ Thomas Cranmer
- ▶ William Tyndale
- ▶ Miles Coverdale
- ▶ Erasmus of Rotterdam
- ▶ John Wycliff
- ▶ Martin Luther
- ▶ John Calvin
- ▶ John Knox
- ▶ Edward Seymour
- ▶ William Cecil
- ▶ Mary Stuart