

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603

1. The Religious Settlement & Protestant resistance

4.

Influences on the Settlement

1.

Domestic situation:

- Religious upheaval since Henry VIII's reign – uncertain population.
- Many radical Protestants returning from exile.
- Marian bishops and conservative peers still in House of Lords.

Foreign situation:

- England officially at war with France – Elizabeth needed peace with this Catholic nation.
- Requirement not to alienate Catholic Spain too far – they controlled the Netherlands which was vital to English trade; Philip seemingly more concerned about preventing England from joining a French alliance than Elizabeth's Protestantism.
- Catholic Mary Queen of Scots had claims to the English throne.

Elizabeth's background and personal beliefs:

- Elizabeth's birth symbolic of Break from Rome; she was illegitimate to Roman Catholics = Protestantism key to her legitimacy to be queen.
- Intention to have one religion in England. Elizabeth herself Protestant but liked some Catholic traditions, e.g. church music, unmarried clergy.

The Religious Settlement of 1559 – The Middle Way

2.

- **Act of Supremacy:** Elizabeth made Supreme Governor of the Church; all clergy to take an oath confirming their belief in this; heresy laws repealed; bread and wine authorized.
- **Act of Uniformity:** 1552 Book of Common Prayer to be used in all churches; all must attend church on Sundays (or risk a fine); Black Rubric removed from 1552 Book.
- Taxes paid by the Church now went to Elizabeth.
- Monasteries reinstated by Mary dissolved.
- Clergy could marry but wives must be approved by bishops.

Protestant Disagreement

3.

- Most vocal were those who had been in exile during Mary's reign – radicalized abroad and wanted to eradicate all Catholic traditions.
- Belief that Holy Scriptures should be the only basis for religious practice – disagreed with kneeling for communion, sign of the cross in baptism and vestments.
- Concern that there was insufficient provision for the personal spiritual needs of Church members – not content with Church just on Sundays.
- Some hostile to the structure of the Church (bishops) but Elizabeth believed firmly in the hierarchy of the Church and its role in maintaining her power.

Who were the Puritans and how did they try to alter the Settlement?

- **Vestiarian Controversy:** Puritan clergy refused to wear vestments; those who refused to conform lost their jobs; they appealed to Zurich religious leader Henry Bullinger who told them it was better for them to give in and keep their jobs to help the Church.
- **Thirty-Nine Articles:** a definition of the beliefs and practices of the C of E; in 1571 a concession made to Puritan clergy in that they only needed to swear to the Articles concerned with doctrine.
- **Walter Strickland's proposals** to abolish surplices (item of clerical dress), marriage ring and kneeling at communion were struck down in the House of Commons.
- **Anthony Cope's proposals** to overturn the power of the bishops and replace the Book of Common Prayer with the Genevan Prayer Book landed him in the Tower of London – his bill disappeared.
- **Academic criticism from Puritan Thomas Cartwright** led to his freedom of speech being removed.

5.

How far did Puritanism survive?

Evidence it survived: Cartwright went abroad and continued the struggle from a distance; some clergy threatened with dismissal spoken for by queen's ministers such as Leicester and Cecil; prophesyings (meetings of clergy for study and preaching instruction) were seen by Elizabeth as having treasonable potential but did enjoy success in increasing the volume of preaching in Elizabethan England.

Evidence survival was limited: lack of agreed doctrine between different groups; Puritanism Bible-centred so literacy requirements of adherents limited support; determination of Archbishop Whitgift to crush Puritanism; defeat of Spanish Armada suggested Church of England was favoured by God.

How far did the Archbishops enforce the Settlement?

6.

Parker: oversaw passage of Thirty-Nine Articles; tackled the vestments issue in 1560s; Elizabethan Church established on firm foundations despite Puritanism rearing its head.

Grindal: believed prophesyings could improve educational standards within the Church – in this he went against the will of the queen to suppress them; he wrote the queen a long letter justifying his position and was suspended and put under house arrest until his death.

Whitgift: ensured Cartwright was removed from Cambridge professorship when he attacked hierarchy of the Church; aim to ensure uniformity; Court of High Commission established to take action against non-conformists within the Church.

Key Terms

Conservative: in terms of religion, a conservative was someone who supported traditional religious practices.

Black Rubric: part of the 1552 Prayer Book which denied the bodily presence of Christ at communion.

Middle Way: historians describe Elizabeth's settlement as a middle way between Catholicism and Protestantism, but the settlement clearly could not be described as Catholic.

Vestments: rich dress worn by clergy.

Puritans: extreme Protestants who disagreed with the practices of the 1552 Prayer Book.

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603

2. Catholic Resistance

Mary Queen of Scots

1.

Why did Elizabeth execute Mary in 1587?

3.

- Early years – little Catholic resistance: most outwardly conformed by attending C of E services and number of **recusants** was small.
- Mary Queen of Scots was Catholic and had a claim to the English throne, making her a figurehead for Catholic resistance.
- Mary had French support through her marriage but Philip II was alarmed by the idea of a French-dominated England and so did not initially support Mary's claim (nor did the Pope immediately excommunicate Elizabeth).
- 1560 – Mary's husband the King of France died; she returned to a Scotland governed by the Protestant Lords of the Congregation and agreed to recognize the Protestant Church (but she would hear private Mass). Sound outcome for the English.

- 1569 – Rising in the North by earls of Westmorland and Northumberland had wanted the return of the Mass and Mary as queen.
- 1570 – Bull of Excommunication from the Pope absolved Elizabeth's Catholic subjects of loyalty to her (not treason to kill her).
- Ridolfi Plot (1571): plot to marry Mary to the Duke of Norfolk and put her on the throne.
- Urgings from parliament to execute Mary.
- Throckmorton Plot (1583): plot with Spanish Ambassador to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary.
- 1585: Philip II allied with France against Protestant Europe and gave Mary his support.
- Babington Plot (1586) – Mary directly implicated (through coded letters) with Anthony Babington's plot to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary. Privy Council demanded her execution.

4.

What changed in 1568?

2.

How serious was the threat from seminary priests and the Jesuits?

- Mary forced to abdicate the Scottish throne in 1567 and arrived in the north of England seeking Elizabeth's help in May 1568.
- Mary being present in England amplified the Catholic threat – she was an anointed queen with a claim to the throne and an heir (James).
- Elizabeth's options – send Mary back to Scotland (danger of her being killed and Elizabeth being blamed); send her to France (and risk French action to put Mary on English throne); bring her to court (and risk her gathering supporters around her) or keep her under house arrest.

- William Allen established a **seminary** in Douai to train priests and send them to England to maintain Catholicism; Catholic practice depended on delivery of the **sacraments** by a priest so training them was vital to the survival of Catholic practice.
- 1574 – first seminary priests arrived in England. Small in number but did have success.
- First seminary priest executed in 1577 – condemned under an Act that made possession of Papal bulls a treasonable offence.
- Jesuits emerged in the 1580s – seen as a huge threat by the government. As a result, recusancy fines increased and it was made treason to recognise the authority of Rome.
- Act of 1585 made it a treasonable offence to be an ordained Catholic priest in England.

Key Terms

Recusants: non-attenders of Church.

Seminary: school for training people in divinity and theology (religion).

Sacraments: the main rites of Catholic practice, e.g. baptism, confession.

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603

3. Government and Parliament

4.

How important was the Privy Council?

1.

- Chosen from a small group of men – usually a dozen at a time. Elizabeth rarely attended meetings but always received reports; regular Council meetings meant they were in immediate control of important issues.
- Elizabeth also open to influence from members of the court (e.g. Robert Dudley very influential before he became a councilor) who had the advantage of daily access to the queen.
- In local government, each county was headed by a Lord Lieutenant (normally a noble); each county had a sheriff but the main work of maintaining order was done by Justices of the Peace (JPs) who could arrest and imprison offenders.

Who were the members of the Privy Council?

2.

- Three main groups of councilors when Elizabeth came to power - nobility (natural advisers); those who had experience under her predecessors and those who had not been in the Council before (but seemed suitable to Elizabeth).
- Nine new members of the Privy Council – Protestants such as William Cecil, Nicholas Bacon and Sir Francis Knollys who attended Council meetings more regularly than the nobles who were frequently away at their estates.
- 1562 – both Dudley Protestant) and the Duke of Norfolk (Catholic) added to Council showing that Elizabeth liked balance of opinion.
- Later Councils largely made up of officials rather than nobles.
- Key topics of conversation: the queen's marriage prospects; 1559-60 intervention in Scotland; Mary Queen of Scots and the Catholic threat; international affairs such as the assassination of William of Orange and whether to support the Dutch rebels.

How influential was William Cecil?

3.

- Cecil was Elizabeth's main adviser until his death in 1598 – they enjoyed a close working relationship and his position was virtually invulnerable, allowing him to set up his son as his successor.
- Strengths: highly educated; Protestant but had not been a Marian exile; trusted completely by the queen; methodical and hardworking; similar temperament to the queen (cautious and conservative – not a lover of change).
- Roles included Principal Secretary, Lord Treasurer and Master of the Court of Wards (a lucrative position); made Lord Burghley in 1571.
- Had his own intelligence network
- Attended nearly every single Council meeting, even when ill.
- His favour was sought by all who wanted access to the queen.

How successfully did Elizabeth manage faction?

- Factions arose from patronage – system where powerful individuals ensured gains for their clients in return for them serving his interests – and so a faction was built. Faction initially centered on people but could also be united by a common cause.
- Faction could be dangerous as if a monarch favored one over another, this could incite rebellion from the opposing faction.
- Early reign: Robert Dudley vs. William Cecil – Cecil unhappy with prospect of Dudley's potential marriage to Elizabeth; Cecil's caution and financial conservatism vs. Dudley's bolder approach.
- 1565-6: factional conflict between Dudley and the Howard alliance (Norfolk and Sussex). Leicester accused Sussex of misconduct; Sussex accused Leicester of murdering his wife. This was resolved when Elizabeth made it clear she would not marry Leicester.
- One of the best ways Elizabeth dealt with faction was by procrastinating and putting off all decisions, as this frustrated all factions.
- Factional rivalries settled down in 1570s as Cecil and Leicester realized they could co-exist.

How successfully did Elizabeth exploit her gender?

5.

- Still a hostility to female rulers in this period as well as a Biblical objection from radical Protestants.
- All members of Privy Chamber were now women (except guards) – ambassadors and councilors could not try and get information from people in these positions as had been possible under male monarchs as their loyalty was firmly with the queen.
- Drawbacks of female monarch: jealousy the relationships of women of the Privy Chamber; bad temper was associated with her femaleness by Councillors.
- Positives: use of favour to bind men to her, welcoming of flattery and sought men's praise to enhance her reputation; used her ladies to find out political gossip; exploiting gender when it came to marriage negotiations with foreign ambassadors such as Jean de Simier.

How successfully did Elizabeth manage parliament?

- View of J.E. Neale: considerable conflict between MPs and the queen; House of Commons under gentry influence and inspired by Puritanism; wanted Church reform.
- Geoffrey Elton: saw relationship between crown and parliament as co-operative. Elizabeth and Commons had aims in common despite disagreement about methods.
- Current view: Elizabeth's control of parliament was effective.
- Attendance to parliaments was often poor which helped the queen as there were less MPs to argue against.
- Calling and dissolving of parliaments entirely within queen's prerogative – she could adjourn/prorogue parliaments and Privy Council normally set the agenda.
- William Cecil used his 'men of business' to lead debates in the way Cecil wanted them to go.
- Elizabeth sometimes addressed parliament herself at the end of a session; In difficult situations she would make concessions.
- Used her power to veto bills, e.g. 1571 she vetoed a bill that was to fine those who refused to take communion.

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603

1.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Financial Situation in 1558

Ordinary income: income from landed estates, customs duties, profits from justices and patronage.

Extraordinary income: parliamentary subsidies (taxation).

Strengths

- Mary had introduced some reforms to make financial administration more efficient.
- Services of William Paulet – experienced Lord Treasurer.
- Advice from financier Sir Thomas Gresham who identified problems for her to tackle – debasement of coinage, war as too costly, Hanseatic League.

Weaknesses

- Debt of £227,000 inherited from Mary.
- 14% interest on money owed to Antwerp Exchange.
- Currency had lost value through debasement of coinage under Henry VIII.

How effectively did Elizabeth deal with debts?

- Prudent housekeeper – single woman so no large family expenses; no grand building projects; expense of progresses put on courtiers.
- Avoided war at all costs as she knew it had ruined Mary's finances.
- By 1584, Elizabeth had surplus of £300,000.

2.

How effectively did Elizabeth exploit sources of income?

- **Crown lands:** revenue did increase from £86,000 to £111,000 across the reign but this was less than gains made by nobility (who were using short-term leases to increase rents). Reluctant to exploit tenants.
- **Parliamentary taxation:** assessments for taxes made by local gentry who collected them – many wealthy landowners seriously under-assessed but Elizabeth did not want to pay for a professional tax-collection service or alienate her gentry (who she relied on for her administration).
- **Customs duties:** Benefited from revision of the Book of Rates – more items subject to tax (from 790 items to 1170) and the amount of tax was increased (sometimes by 100%). Customs revenue initially leapt but was not maintained – did not keep pace with inflation.
- **Efficiency savings:** Paulet determined to end practice of money being stored in the homes of officials – wanted to take more direct control of cash flow (as his health deteriorated his level of control lapsed). Very few pay rises for officials, who were encouraged to supplement their income through unofficial channels such as patronage.
- **Other income:** Income derived from the Church (First Fruit and Tithes) that had once gone to the Pope. Fines for recusancy increased but collection was sporadic- especially in counties where JPs were sympathetic to Catholicism.

3.

4. Elizabethan Finances

4.

How did war effect Elizabeth and her government?

- England did not recognize Spanish monopoly over trade with Americas.
- 1563 – English restricted privileges of Flemish merchants – raising customs duties and prohibiting some imports. Spanish retaliated with similar restrictions and English merchants briefly abandoned Antwerp for Emden in Germany.
- 1565 – Spanish blamed England for piracy in English Channel – this affected trade relations.
- 1568 – ships carrying bullion to pay Spanish troops took cover from pirates in Plymouth and Southampton. Elizabeth discovered the money was a loan from Genoese bankers so she took over the loan herself. In retaliation, Spain seized property belonging to Englishmen in the Netherlands. England retaliated similarly – trade ceased until 1573.
- Some positives of conflict: voyage of Drake (1577-1580) amassed considerable prize money (£10,000) through attacks on Spanish shipping; 1587 – attack on Cadiz captured cargo worth £140,000.
- Intervention in Netherlands: Treaty of Nonsuch committed Elizabeth to providing an English force at annual cost of £126,000 (half of annual ordinary income). In the first year she ended up spending £160,000.

5.

How serious a problem was inflation?

- Debasement of coinage in 1540s led to considerable price rises – this was less rapid by Elizabeth's reign but food prices were affected.
- Growing population needed more food – when supplies were short, prices rose.
- Public opinion blamed greed of individuals – those who built large farms using enclosures in particular.
- Coinage was revalued in attempt to solve inflation – process initiated in 1560 and all old coins called in by 1561. New coins were circulating but prices stayed high – Privy Council had to raise loans in Antwerp which led to pound falling in value.

What other methods did the government use to control prices?

- Elizabeth encouraged fish days – dual role of encouraging fishing and conserving food stores.
- Forbidding the export of grain at times when prices rose.
- 1586 – poor harvest – JPs ordered to allow no grain hoarding and to ensure that corn was only sold in small bushels at market. Clergy told to preach against hoarding food.

6.

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603

1.

How successfully was overseas trade developed?

- American trade firmly controlled by Spanish; Near/Far East trade controlled by Portuguese and Venetians.
- English eager to develop new markets for their goods – ready to travel long distances to secure trade routes; finance came from private investors – sometimes in the form of a joint-stock company.
- **Muscovy Company:** trading woolen goods with Russia in return for furs; later trade in timber (for masts), hides and hemp (for ropes) was useful in expansion of the English navy.
- **John Hawkins:** learned slaves could be easily obtained on the Guinea coast and that there was a demand for them in the West Indies; his activities brought wealth to all investors, including Elizabeth, Cecil and Leicester.
- **Mediterranean:** in the 1570s, merchants began trading with this region directly (had previously been controlled by Italian merchants in London); Levant Company established in the 1580s to trade with the Turkish Empire.
- **North-West Passage:** attempts by Frobisher and Davis to discover a northwest passage through which English merchants could develop their own route to the East, with the backing of Elizabeth, Burghley, Leicester and Walsingham.
- **Colonising efforts on east coast of America** by Raleigh and Humphrey Gilbert in embryonic form.
- Diversification of these efforts may have spread them too thin, but shows urgency with which they sought overseas trade.

2.

What problems did ventures face?

- Mediterranean trade suffered badly from attacks of pirates.
- Difficulties of foreseeing the attitudes of foreign rulers so different to Elizabeth, e.g. Shah of Persia did not want to trade with non-Muslims.
- Length of journeys meant some routes were never going to be sources of substantial wealth.
- Hawkins' slave trade ran into difficulty as Spain resented English infringements on their monopoly of trade with the American settlements.
- Attempts to find sea route to the East suffered due to weather conditions and the impenetrable nature of the inlets they sought; neither Frobisher nor Davis found a northwest passage.
- Raleigh's hopes of a settlement at Roanoke in Virginia came to nothing.

3.

Monopolies (grants which gave the holder exclusive rights to a particular trade):

- Complaints that they put up prices – holders had no competition so could make prices as high as they wanted; in 1601, Elizabeth compromised and annulled the most contentious monopolies (everyday goods such as salt).
- Complaints about purveyance – the right of the Crown to buy goods at less than market value.

5. Overseas Trade/ Socio-Economic Problems

4.

Why was there more poverty and vagrancy?

- **Population increase:** prices rose more than wages; estimated that living conditions declined by a quarter across the reign; resulted in migration of workers to towns in search of jobs and larger numbers of under-employed labourers – concern that these groups might cause riots.
- **Soldiers/sailors being discharged** far from their parishes and with very little money.
- **Enclosure:** contemporaries believed enclosing arable land for pasture caused unemployment (sheep farming requires fewer workers than harvesting) – Elizabethan government agreed and in 1563 a law was passed saying that land currently being tilled could not be converted to pasture.

5.

How did some towns/cities try to solve the problem?

- More effectively than rural areas – city fathers had more resources and the poor were more centralized.
- **London:** acquisition of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Bethlehem Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital and Christ's Hospital allowed for provision for three groups of poor (the sick, the mentally ill and orphans); Bridewell established for the "disobedient" poor – run by the city so there was incentive for rich merchants to remember them in their wills.
- **Norwich:** begging forbidden; 650 well-off householders made contributions to the upkeep of 200 really poor townspeople; showed how a compulsory tax was the only way to get sufficient funds to deal with the poor.

6.

What efforts were made to regulate employment?

- 1563 Statute of Artifices: those unmarried and under 30 bound to any employer than needed them (attempt to solve youth unemployment); wage rates to be settled locally by JPs – tended to be low and rarely altered.
- Apprenticeships: enforced a 7 year apprenticeship on any craft or occupation; some occupations in towns had limits on numbers of apprentices because of "overcrowding" of certain occupations such as goldsmiths and drapers.
- Did not succeed in immobilizing population – young men most likely to become vagrants.

7.

Laws passed to solve the problem of poverty

- **1563 Alms Act:** distinguished between idle/deserving poor – old and sick to receive help from a Poor Rate which bishops enforced payment of.
- **1572 Poor Relief Act:** Poor Rate contributions became compulsory; begging licensed in parishes where relief couldn't be provided; punishment of unlicensed beggars.
- **1576 Act for the Relief of the Poor:** able-bodied people who had lost possessions to be given begging licenses; persistent beggars to be sent to Houses of Correction.
- **1598 Act for the Relief of the Poor:** max amount laid down for compulsory Poor Rate; pauper children to be apprenticed until they were 24 (male) or 21 (female); begging forbidden; private endowments for facilities for the poor encouraged.
- **1601 Act for the Relief of the Poor:** became known as the Elizabethan Poor Law; 1598 law made permanent; government realised Church would no longer be responsible for the Poor; difference between the deserving and undeserving poor.

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603	England after 1588
<p><u>How successfully did Elizabeth defend the royal prerogative after 1588?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purveyance: 1593 – Commons ask for remedy of grievances over this issue and the Queen acknowledged there was a problem and agreed to deal with it. • Succession: Peter Wentworth wrote a pamphlet urging the queen to allow parliament to examine the rights to the succession of all possible claimants – sent to the Tower by the Council where he died in 1597. • Monopolies: Elizabeth could no longer offer pensions/land as rewards due to financial constraints of war so she relied on monopolies; MP Roger Wingfield raised the issue of abuses in parliament and Elizabeth agreed to cancel any monopolies that were causing prices of basic foods to rise; Elizabeth did not revoke enough of them and this caused discontent in parliament in 1601. Elizabeth realised the danger so ended the most harmful monopolies at once – prerogative was preserved. <p style="text-align: right;">1.</p>	<p><u>How did the threat of the Armada affect England?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a navy: queen had 25 galleons; Hawkins had refitted ships and built new ones whilst reducing costs; ships remodelled to make them 'low and snug on the water' with more room on deck for artillery. • Review of local militia/defences: Lords Lieutenant ordered to review local militias, train troops in use of firearms, survey possible landing sites for an invasion and built defences there; beacons set up on hills to be lit as warnings if an invasion was seen; recusants whose loyalty was questioned were interned. • Appointing leaders: Lord Admiral was Lord Howard of Effingham (queen's cousin) – status ensured respect and he formed good relationship with Drake; army assembled at Tilbury under command of Leicester. <p style="text-align: right;">3.</p>
<p><u>To what extent did relations with parliament decline after 1588?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War with Spain required funding so Elizabeth had to call parliament more frequently – after the Armada parliament were generous with their money but successive parliaments were less ready with their consent; less contention over succession as there was no need for her to marry (James VI assumed to be her successor) and there were less religious discontents. • 1589 parliament granted two unprecedented subsidies of four tenths and fifteenths; 1593 parliament granted same double subsidy despite concerns about creating a precedent of such a huge levy; 1597 parliament also granted Elizabeth the money she needed to maintain her armies and navy; final parliament met in 1601 and again was largely cooperative over money. • Some criticism of harsh treatment of Puritans but Whitgift continued his campaign against radicals; attempts to enforce harsher laws foundered though with resistance led by Walter Raleigh. • 1597/1601 – parliament agreed to pass social legislation (regarding poverty); in 1597 the debates showed individual members taking more initiative – as this was not a prerogative issue they could speak more freely. <p style="text-align: right;">2.</p>	<p><u>How much did the continuing war impact England?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War on land: land war concentrated in France and the Netherlands. Elizabeth sent 4000 men to France in 1590 followed by 6000 the next year and 4000 more in 1594 – heavy casualties; 1592 she sent troops to recapture Rouen as she felt it dangerous for Spain to retain possession – French king abandoned the siege and Elizabeth felt her efforts had been wasted. 1588 – Elizabeth sent Sir Francis Vere to the Netherlands where Zutphen and Deventer were captured – Elizabeth's loans and troops just enough to give the Dutch superiority (by 1594 they had regained much of the Northern Netherlands). • Politics in England: many leading councillors passed on by early 1590s (Leicester, Hatton, Mildmay, Walsingham); Burghley worked alongside his son Robert Cecil and was determined to keep Netherlands secure and the King of France safe from Spanish control – he had largely reactionary policies which were supported by new councillors Whitgift, Lord Buckhurst and Lord Cobham. Others (such as Essex, Raleigh and Hawkins) wanted the war to be more than 'petty invasions' and saw the best chances in naval attacks = this created a Cecil-Essex rivalry which dominated court; costs of the war led to Elizabeth selling crown lands worth over £200,000 in 1599, she cut down on expenditure at court and especially on patronage. • Succession to the throne: after death of MQS, James VI had hoped to be recognised as heir – he gave no help to the Armada but still Elizabeth refused – she however agree that she would not allow parliament to bar him from the succession. James saw war as an opportunity to pressure Elizabeth so he kept in touch with her enemies (pope, Spain, Irish rebels) however he knew that if he took decisive action against her he risked losing crown altogether. • Roman Catholics: majority loyal to the queen and did not want Philip as their king but some leaders were ready to support him. Cardinal William Allen urged the English to join the Spanish army when it invaded. Lord Buckhurst (Catholic sympathiser at court) favoured the Infanta Isabella's claim to the throne and was supported in this by the pope and Father Robert Parsons (Jesuit leader in Rome); other English Catholics hoped James VI would eventually be king as they hoped he would be more tolerant. These divisions amongst Catholics weakened their position. • Case of Dr Lopez: 1594 – plot by Dr Lopez uncovered by Essex – he had supposedly plotted with Spain to poison the queen and was executed. There was some doubt about his guilt. As a foreign physician he may have simply been a pawn in the Essex-Cecil rivalry. <p style="text-align: right;">4.</p>

The Tudors: Elizabeth I, 1558-1603	Challenges in the 1590s
<p><u>How serious were social and economic problems?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor harvests in the later 1580s led to an increase in the price of wheat (source of the staple food bread) – a run of bad harvests in the 1590s made this far worse. By 1596 the average price had doubled compared with normal times. Severe outbreaks of plague – families who lost their breadwinner faced disaster; Burghley tried to enforce quarantine on plague victims but often sympathetic neighbours ignored this. Those who suffered most were those close to subsistence levels. Poor communications made it hard to move food from areas that had a surplus. Censuses of 1590s show that 12% of people in Kent could not support themselves. 	<p><u>Why did Essex rebel?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less prepared than Leicester to allow the queen to dictate to him; overconfident in his own capabilities and frustrated by his rivalry with the Cecils (this was further aggravated when he failed to secure a post for Sir Francis Bacon, damaging his reputation as a patron). He reacted badly when he didn't get his own way – in 1598 he annoyed the queen in discussions of who should be sent to Ireland; she slapped his face when he turned his back on her and then he almost drew his sword on her. His disgrace upon returning from Ireland led to him being put under house arrest.
<p><u>Unrest in England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising of troops much disliked and there were frequent desertions. Food riots in Kent in 1595 and in Sussex, Somerset and Norfolk over the next three years. Apprentices rioted regularly in London – feltmakers in Southwark in 1592, in Bow in 1593 and in Southwark again in 1595. Paranoia of government evident in the case of the so-called Oxfordshire Rising in November 1596. This was supposedly a protest against enclosures – there had been a previous demonstration when about 60 men went to the Lord Lieutenant asking for help for the poor and starving; ringleaders were planning to throw down local enclosures, attack the Lord Lieutenant's headquarters and march to London to join up with discontented apprentices. Five ringleaders taken to London and charged with treason – two were executed. Despite government reaction, this was not a serious threat. 	<p><u>What was at stake in the rebellion?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After his abrupt return from Ireland, Essex built up a party at court, including the Earl of Worcester and his brother-in-law Lord Rich. He had widespread support in London which concerned the government. After Elizabeth sent Blount to Ireland and revoked Essex's patent on sweet wine, he embarked on treasonous activity, including approaches to James VI. He was unable to recruit effectively for his rebellion – he had overestimated his level of public support and had lost touch with political reality. He had played on the unpopularity of the Cecil regime but could not unite its enemies into a coherent opposition. Essex and Southampton tried by their peers in Westminster Hall with Essex using the common defence that he had been merely trying to remove false advisers from the Privy Council. This was to no avail – both were found guilty with Essex being executed on 25th February 1601 and Southampton living out the rest of the reign in prison. For the final years of her reign, Elizabeth's government was to rely on a single faction for the first time.
<p><u>Unrest in Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebellion in Ireland led by Earl of Tyrone was a serious matter – fear was that discontented Irishmen would allow Spanish troops to land and pave the way for an invasion of England. In 1598, Tyrone captured a key fort that guarded one of the main entries to Ulster. He defeated and killed the English commander at the Battle of Yellow Ford – he was now able to seize Munster, drive out English settlers and take control of most of Ireland. Tyrone was a skilled leader with the rich resources of Ulster to supply his troops and reinforcements from Scottish mercenaries. Elizabeth sent Essex to Ireland with 16,000 men – he did not prove up to the task and wasted time and troops in needless manoeuvres; he met Tyrone alone and accusations of treachery followed. He then came home in disgrace. Elizabeth replaced Essex with Charles Blount who moved rapidly and effectively – he was better at winning over the native Irish who were tiring of Tyrone and when he advanced on Ulster, Tyrone surrendered. 	<p><u>To what extent did Elizabeth's popularity decline?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outwardly Elizabeth remained as popular as ever but several court scandals undermined her authority at court, e.g. Raleigh being disgraced after making Bess Throckmorton pregnant. Increase in criticism of the queen, aggravated by the economic crises of the 1590s – led to old scandals resurfacing such as Amy Dudley's death and rumours that she had given birth to children out of wedlock. Attendance at court declined and noblemen were reluctant to accompany the queen on progress. Elizabeth became depressed after the death of Essex and spent more and more time with her ladies; she became more short-tempered; her appearance also declined – she became wrinkled, lost several teeth and her bright red wig was mocked by younger courtiers – although she remained active – hunting, hawking and walking regularly. She died at Richmond in 1603 after seemingly losing the will to live any longer.