

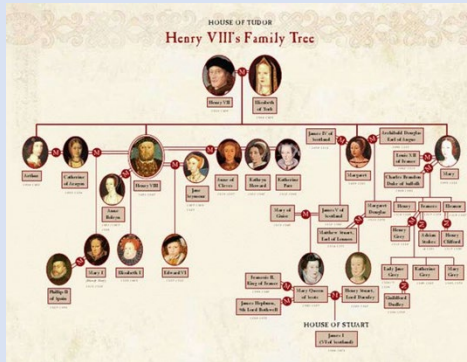
Tudors and Stuarts

Key dates and events in History

1485 – Battle of Bosworth
1532 – Break from Rome
1536 – Dissolution of Monasteries including Norton Priory
1558 – Death of Mary I coronation of Elizabeth I.
1588 – Spanish Armada
1605 - Gunpowder Plot
1642 – Start of the English Civil War
1649 – Execution of Charles I
1651 – End of Civil War
1660- Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II

Tudor period (1485 – 1603)

Known as Tudor 'dynasty'. Very important period in English history.



Henry VIII became king in 1509. His father had left him lots of money. He was a glamorous 'Renaissance Prince' and wanted to be the greatest king England ever had. He went to war with France in 1513 and built more warships. In 1536 he united Wales with England, and in 1541 he declared himself King of Ireland. Henry VIII is most famous for divorcing his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, because she could not give him a male heir, and then marrying five times more!

Henry VIII and religion - In 1534 Henry said that he, not the Pope, was the Head of the Church in England. Although Henry remained a Catholic to the end of his life, this was the beginning of the Church of England. In 1536 Henry used his new power to begin to close down the monasteries and take their land and money. This made many people unhappy, and there was a rebellion, called the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536. Henry put it down brutally. This was known as the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Norton Priory was one of the first in 1536!

A harsh and brutal king? - In 1539 a new law gave Henry power to make any law he pleased. Towards the end of his reign Henry became increasingly brutal, executed his enemies and burned Protestants at the stake.

In the past, historians said that Henry was the start of a 'new monarchy' and that he made 'a revolution in government'. Modern historians say that this is too simple. Henry was very powerful, but in many ways he ruled like a medieval king, surrounded and influenced by his nobles.

How did Henry change England during the Reformation?

Many of the most Catholic holy sites of pilgrimage in England were destroyed. Saint Thomas Becket, who had been made a saint after his murder by Henry II's knights in 1170, was branded a traitor in a trial. His shrine, one of the richest and most important in Europe, was destroyed. Becket's bones were dug up, burned in the centre of Canterbury, and the ashes were shot into the air from a large canon. Henry also made some important changes to church services. A copy of the Bible, translated into English, was to be placed in every church, so that anyone could read it. Superstitious practices, such as kneeling before images of saints, were forbidden and a new English litany* was published in 1545. With Henry's death, his son Edward became King Edward VI. Although the new king was only nine years old, he was a devout Protestant and had strong ideas about religion. His reforms went much further than those of his father, and began to have more of an impact on ordinary people: Clergymen were instructed to criticise the pope in church and to preach the works of Martin Luther.

The Book of Common Prayer, published in 1549, became the first prayer book to contain prayers and services exclusively in English.

The idea of transubstantiation was rejected and the Catholic Mass was replaced by Communion, a ceremony in which the bread and wine were regarded as purely symbolic. The appearance of churches became much plainer. Ornate screens, stained glass windows and colourful images of saints were removed and destroyed.

Key concepts

- Clergy – Someone who works for the church.
- Monastery – A large church.
- Catholic – A member of the Roman Catholic church.
- Protestant – A Christian who protested against some of the Roman Catholic beliefs.
- Dissolution – The break-up of the Catholic church in England
- Reformation – The creation of the Church of England
- Parliament – A powerful group who set taxes and passed laws.
- Civil War – A war between people from the same country.
- Lord Protector – Person who is in charge of England when the monarch is unable to rule.
- Restoration – The return of the King.



Mary I (1553 – 1558) -

When Edward died, many people feared what would happen if Mary (a Catholic) became queen. As a result, some of Edward's advisors planned to crown Edward's Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as queen. However, the plan failed; Mary became queen, and Lady Jane Grey was executed. Upon becoming queen, Mary I:

- reversed all of Edward's Protestant reforms
- re-installed the Pope as the head of the Church of England
- attempted to re-open the monasteries
- re-introduced Henry VIII's heresy laws and burnt protestants.

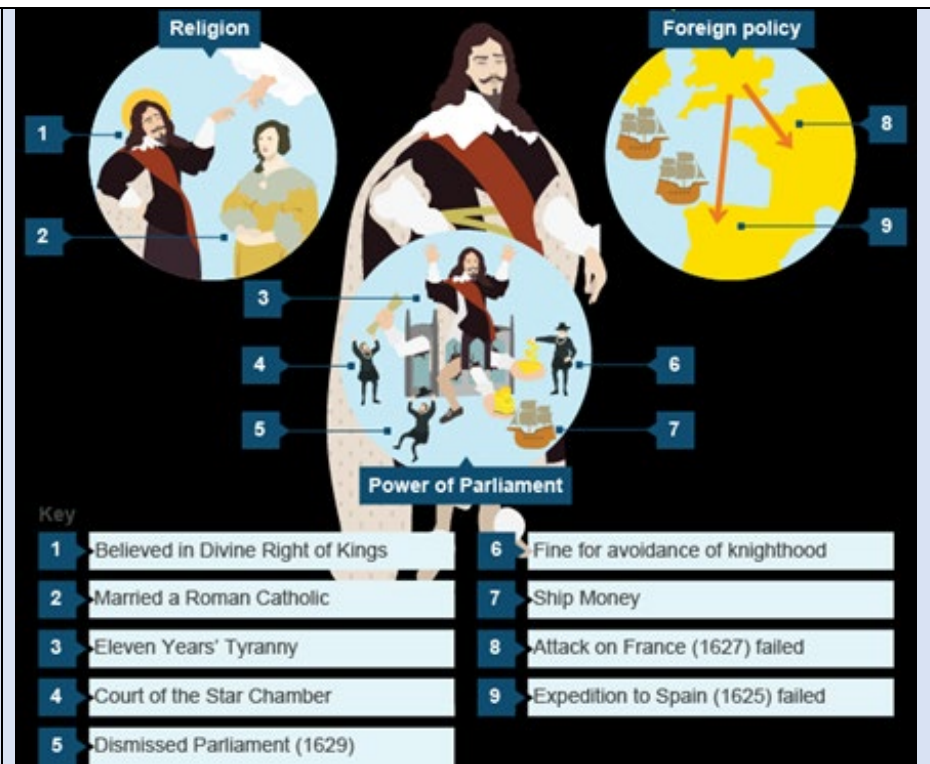
Elizabeth came to the throne after three short-reigned rulers – her brother Edward VI (1547–1553), Lady Jane Grey (10–19 July 1553) and her sister Mary (1553–1558).

A Mid-Tudor Crisis?

Some historians have suggested that the years between 1547 and 1558 were a time of 'crisis', when government and society were in danger of collapsing altogether. Modern historians do not agree about this. However, the government had suffered a period of disasters, and Elizabeth faced big problems when she came to the throne. This crisis, it is suggested, involved five problems:

There was a danger that England would fall into a 'war of religion'. There was brutal conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Europe at the time.

Poverty was especially high in the countryside, caused by harvest failures and rising prices. Elizabeth inherited a recent defeat in a war against France and the loss of Calais in 1558. No-one knew who would be the next ruler or if Elizabeth would 'give up' some of her power and marry in order to produce an heir. The monarchs before her were Edward, who was a child, and Mary, whose reign was full of problems.



The restoration of Charles II - The Civil War, however, achieved no permanent change in the balance of power between king and Parliament. In 1660, Charles II was restored to the throne and continued, as his father had done, trying to rule without Parliament.

Charles came to the throne in 1625. Relations between Charles I and Parliament gradually got worse. There were clashes about foreign policy and many Puritan Protestants disliked Charles' religious policy. Charles married a French Catholic against the wishes of Parliament. Charles revived old laws and taxes *without* the agreement of Parliament. When Parliament complained in 1629, he dismissed them. Until 1640, Charles ruled without a Parliament – this period is often referred to as the 'Eleven Years Tyranny'. War with Scotland forced Charles to recall Parliament. Instead of granting Charles money, Parliament sent him the Grand Remonstrance (1641). This was a list of 204 complaints about the way he was running the country. After Charles had tried and failed to arrest the five leaders of the Parliament, a civil war broke out. Civil war, Charles' execution and England as a republic. Parliament had the support of the south-east of England, merchants, London and the navy. Charles' forces were gradually worn down. After Oliver Cromwell set up the New Model Army, Parliament won decisive victories at Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645). Charles surrendered in 1646. He failed a second time to defeat Parliament during the the Second Civil War in 1648. Parliament put him on trial for treason and he was executed in 1649. Historians in the past portrayed the Civil War as the time when Parliament defeated the power of the king. England was a republic for the next 11 years, ruled by Oliver Cromwell.