

## Key topic 1: Queen, government and religion, 1558–69

<b>1 The situation on Elizabeth's accession</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elizabethan England in 1558: society and government.</li><li>• The Virgin Queen: the problem of her legitimacy, gender, marriage. Her character and strengths.</li><li>• Challenges at home and from abroad: financial weaknesses, religious divisions, the French threat.</li></ul>
<b>2 The 'settlement' of religion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elizabeth's religious settlement (1559): its features and impact.</li><li>• The Church of England: its role in society.</li></ul>
<b>3 Challenge to the religious settlement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge.</li><li>• The nature and extent of the Catholic challenge, including the role of the nobility, Papacy and foreign powers.</li></ul>
<b>4 The problem of Mary, Queen of Scots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mary, Queen of Scots: her claim to the English throne.</li><li>• Relations between Elizabeth and Mary, 1568–69.</li></ul>

**Elizabeths Problems:**

**Plots:**

**Northern Earls**

**Ridolfi**

**Throckmorton**

**Babington**

**Mary, Queen of Scots**

**Key Topic 1&2:Elizabethan England  
Religious Settlement 1559**

**Act of Supremacy**

**Act of Uniformity**

**Royal Injunctions**

**Catholic Challenge**

**Puritan Challenge**

Foreign Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A peace treaty was signed with France in January 1559. This was just 3 months after Elizabeth became queen</li> <li>• Calais was lost to the English forever</li> </ul>
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The treaty with France helped Elizabeth with the immediate threat of the French forces on the border</li> <li>• With Mary, Queen of Scots. Elizabeth had to wait and see what Mary would decide to do</li> <li>• Elizabeth also spent £100,000 on military arms and munitions to prepare for potential invasion</li> </ul>
Financial problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth massively cut back of government spending</li> <li>• Strictly monitored the spending of her household</li> <li>• Elizabeth ordered that all debts to the crown were called in to help balance the cheque books</li> <li>• Crown lands were sold off bringing in £600,000</li> <li>• By the end Elizabeth had paid off all of Mary's debt and created a reserve of £300,000</li> </ul>
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth made very few public announcements regarding religion</li> <li>• Work happened behind the scenes to create a religious settlement to try to please everyone</li> </ul>
Marriage and the Succession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phillip II of Spain and Eric of Sweden were both turned down early on in Elizabeths reign</li> <li>• Elizabeth most likely decided early on that it was easier to remain single after seeing her father Henry VIII and Mary I example</li> </ul>
Choice of Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth had about 20 councillors compared to Mary's 50</li> <li>• She thanked previous councillors to keep them happy</li> <li>• She didn't choose Robert Dudley, her closest friend, to be councillor for another 4 years</li> <li>• Most of her new councillors were relatives or close friends</li> <li>• She kept about 10 of Marys councillors</li> </ul>

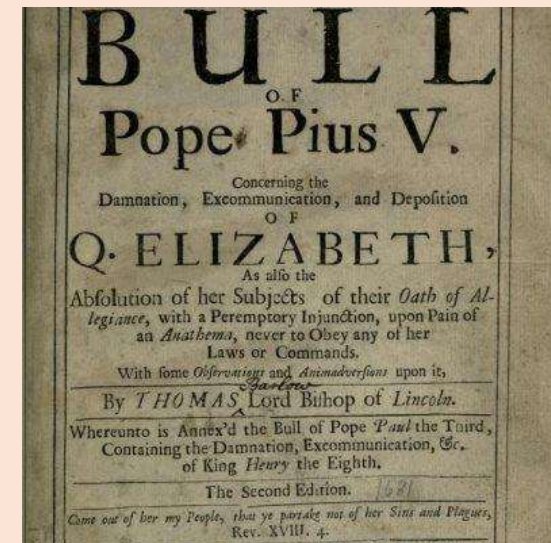
# The Northern Earls plan

- Earls Northumberland and Westmorland would raise armies and capture Durham
- They would then march south to link up with the Duke of Norfolk
- Spanish reinforcements would land at Hartlepool to combat resistance forces loyal to Elizabeth
- Then rebel forces would overthrow Elizabeth in London
- MQS freed, married to Norfolk and installed as Queen



# What actually happened?

- **Dudley was informed of the plot. Norfolk was arrested** and sent to the Tower of London
- November 9<sup>th</sup> 1569: **Northumberland and Westmorland pressed on to Durham**. By the 14<sup>th</sup> they had ousted the Archbishop and celebrated mass
- By November 22<sup>nd</sup> the rebels controlled the north. By December 14<sup>th</sup> they had **captured Barnard Castle in County Durham**. However, **no Spanish troops arrived**
- **An army of 14,000 soldiers loyal to Elizabeth was raised**, December 16<sup>th</sup> they had reached the River Tees. The rebels fled north.
- **MQS moved to Coventry** to keep her under close surveillance.
- The main players were not executed (yet). However, **450 people were executed** across the North as an example to would be rebels
- **1570 the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth by issuing a Papal Bull**



# Outcomes

- First and most serious threat Elizabeth faced from her Catholic subjects.
- **Treason laws were strengthened** e.g. including anti-Catholic definitions such as calling Elizabeth a heretic.
- The **traditional powerful families of the north** e.g the Percys and Nevilles **found their power at an end.**
- **Council of the North created to enforce Elizabeths laws.**
- **Majority of northern Catholics remained loyal to Elizabeth** and her Settlement.
- **Papal Bull was a problem.**

# Ridolfi Plot

- **Ridolfi was an Italian banker** living in England. He was also **one of the Popes spies.**
- Ridolfi arranged to **murder Elizabeth, launch a Spanish invasion and for MQS to marry the Duke of Norfolk.**
- Ridolfi left England to discuss his plans with the Pope, Phillip II and Duke of Alba. **He sent a letter to the Duke of Norfolk,** saying to prepare an army of 10,000 men.
- **Cecil uncovered** this plot by decoding the letter.
- **Elizabeth signed a warrant for the Duke of Norfolk's execution**



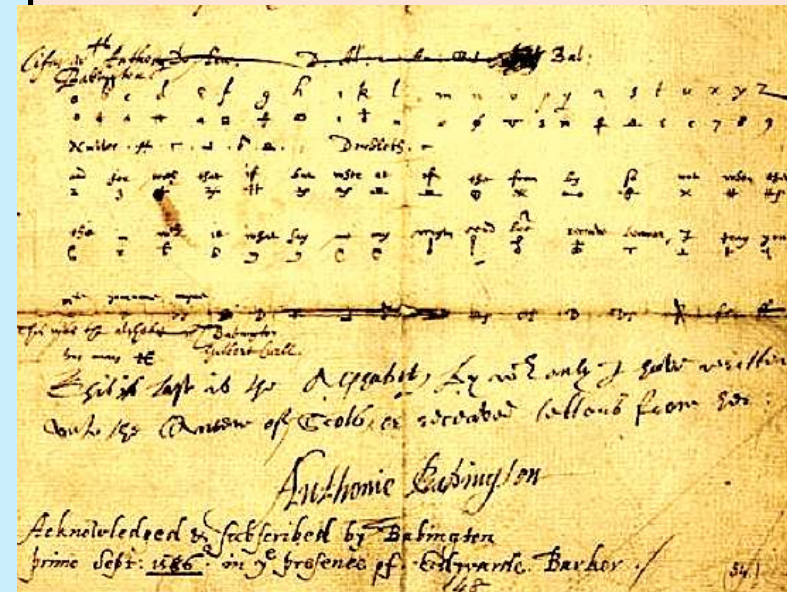
# Throckmorton Plot

- The plan: **French Duke of Guise to invade England, free MQS, overthrow Elizabeth and make England Catholic again**
- **Francis Throckmorton was to act as a go between** (messenger) between MQS and those planning the rebellion
- **The Pope knew and approved of this plan. Phillip II would provide financial help to fund it**
- **Francis Walsingham: uncovered the plot** when his spies found incriminating letters in Throckmorton's house
- **Throckmorton was arrest, tortured and executed**
- **MQS was moved to a different castle and not allowed visitors**
- **11,000 Catholics were even imprisoned or put under house arrest**



# Babington Plot

- The plan: **murder Elizabeth, Duke of Guise to invade with 60,000 men, Pope and Phillip support and put MQS on the throne**
- **Walsingham decodes the letters between Babington and MQS.** This included enough evidence to incriminate MQS and had the names of the 6 Catholics who were going to attempt Elizabeths assassination
- **Babington and his accomplices were hanged, drawn and quartered**
- **MQS was finally executed**





## Mary, Queen of Scots: her claim to the English throne.

This is Mary Queen of Scots, the Catholic Queen of Scotland at this time.

Scotland was a separate kingdom from England, but Mary was related to Elizabeth and, because of this, many people thought she had a claim to the English throne.

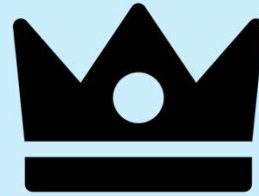
## Mary, Queen of Scots: her claim to the English throne.



- **Mary had a strong claim to the English throne.** She was currently in France as she was married to the French king, Francis II
- Elizabeth's mum Mary of Guise had been ruling Scotland but was overthrown by Scotland's Protestant lords who supported Elizabeth.
- **With Mary of Guise overthrown the Treaty of Edinburgh was signed which said Mary Queen of Scots would give up her claim to the throne**
- Elizabeth would never name Mary her heir due to her being Catholic and that it would then divide the country again
- **Mary returned to Scotland in 1560** when the French King died. Although she was queen, **the Protestant lords controlled most of Scotland.**
- **Mary arrive in England in 1568**

## 1. The Act of Supremacy

This made Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church, taking power away from the Catholic Pope in Rome.



## 3. The Royal Injunctions

These added more detail to the religious settlement.

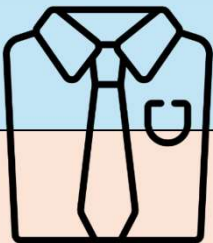
- All clergy were to teach that Elizabeth was the governor of the church.
- Anyone refusing to attend church had to pay a fine.
- Each parish was to have a copy of the Bible in English.
- The clergy were to wear special “vestments.”



## 2. The Act of Uniformity

This set out what form church services should take in a new Prayer book.

This kept some Catholic traditions which Elizabeth hoped would make a good compromise and keep her people happy. The wording of the service was deliberately unclear, so, for example, Catholics could take it to mean that the bread and wine became the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation) during the service, whilst Protestants could take it simply as an act of remembrance.



## The nature and extent of the Catholic challenge, including the role of the nobility, Papacy and foreign powers.

### Catholic threat before 1570:

- After the 1559 settlement, groups of people called recusants refused to attend Church of England services and practised the Catholic religion secretly.
- Non-attenders were fined a shilling with more severe punishments for repeat offenders.
- However, Elizabeth did not want to start a Catholic rebellion, so recusants were not investigated too closely.
- Therefore, at first, Catholics did not challenge Elizabeth and practised their religion in secret without fear of discovery.
- The Pope did not provide any leadership at this stage in terms of getting Catholics to resist Elizabeth.



# The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge.

“Puritan” was actually an insult. Most Puritans would have preferred to call themselves “the godly.”

**Puritans wanted the clergy to wear plain black gowns instead of elaborate vestments.**

**Puritans wanted wooden tables in churches instead of stone altars.** This implied that what was taking place in communion services was not a re-enactment of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, but a memorial meal.



Puritans wanted very plain churches with whitewashed walls. No stained-glass windows, pictures or statues and no music in church services.

Whereas Catholics thought that Jesus was physically present in the bread and wine, Puritans thought he was only spiritually present. **They therefore didn’t like the ambiguous words of the book of Common Prayer which allowed some to believe that transubstantiation was taking place.**

**Puritans did not believe that the Queen should be Head of the Church,** nor did they believe that it should be run by bishops. They wanted the church to be run by committees elected by churchgoers.

# Crucifix Controversy – Puritan threat



- **What was it?**

The Crucifix Controversy was a debate during Queen Elizabeth I's reign about whether crucifixes (crosses with the figure of Jesus) should be displayed in churches.

- **Why was it controversial?**

Protestants, especially Puritans, thought crucifixes were too “Catholic” and believed religious images encouraged idol worship, which they opposed.

- **Elizabeth's view:**

Elizabeth I liked having crucifixes and other traditional decorations in churches to maintain continuity and appeal to Catholics who might otherwise rebel.

- **Church leaders' opposition:**

Many bishops and church officials disagreed with Elizabeth, refusing to install crucifixes, seeing it as a step backward toward Catholic practices.

- **Outcome:**

Elizabeth had to compromise—she kept crucifixes in her private chapel but allowed many churches to remove them to keep peace with her Protestant advisors.

# Vestment Controversy – Puritan threat



- **What was it?**

The Vestments Controversy was a dispute in the 1560s about what priests in the Church of England should wear during services.

- **Why was it controversial?**

Some Protestant priests (especially Puritans) wanted to wear simple clothing, believing elaborate vestments were too “Catholic” and not in line with true Christian worship.

- **Elizabeth’s position:**

Queen Elizabeth I wanted priests to wear traditional, decorated vestments to show respect for the Church and maintain order and unity.

- **Resistance from clergy:**

Many Protestant priests refused to wear the vestments, seeing it as a betrayal of their religious beliefs. Some even lost their jobs because of it.

- **Outcome:**

Elizabeth enforced her rules through the Archbishop of Canterbury, and most priests eventually gave in, though Puritan discontent continued to grow.