



Henry VIII

Authority, Nation and Religion
1509 - 1540





Part One: Foreign Policy 1510-1529

What were Henry's foreign policy aims?

- Henry wanted to pursue his claim to the French throne – Henry adopted a hostile foreign policy towards France until 1525
- Henry wanted to boost his reputation, and make his 'mark' on Europe
- Foreign policy was quite aggressive – wanted war to please the nobles and gain their support (had been denied this under Henry VII)
- Bring England to the centre of international affairs
- Wanted to create an image of himself as a warrior, like previous Kings such as Henry V
- Henry engaged in personal rivalry with Francis I and Charles V

The First French War 1511-1514:

1511

- Henry joins the Holy League against France

April 1512

- Henry declared War on France and agreed to attack the South West of France with Ferdinand

June 1512

- Henry was naïve and Ferdinand betrays him, seizing Navarre for himself

1513

- Henry attacks Northern France with his army of 25,000 - seizes the towns Therouanne and Tournai
- Henry wins the Battle of the Spurs (captures nobles)

August 1514

- Maximilian and Ferdinand agree peace with France - Henry followed suit (The Anglo-French Treaty 1514)
- Henry keeps towns, claim to the French throne is recognised, receives pension arrears and gives his sister to Louis XII

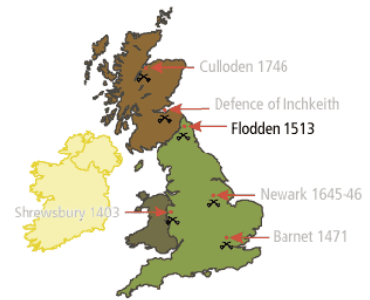


*Killed at the Battle of Ravenna 11 April 1512.
French engraving 1655. Gaston de Foix, Duke of
Nemours (1489-1512) French military commander.*

Evaluation of the First French War:

War with Scotland, The Battle of Flodden 1513:

- August: King James IV invades England in Henry's absence
- There were 3 lines of English defence:
North, Midlands and South
- Earl of Surrey's troops defeat the Scots in September
- King James IV and many nobles were killed
- Scotland was no longer an immediate threat to England

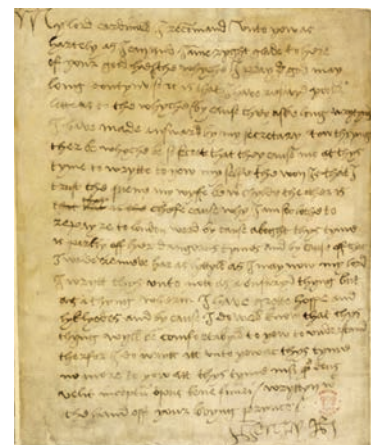


Above: In King Henry's days, armour protected Knights against injury - and yes, armour was made of heavy metal.



Above: Ordinary soldiers wore maybe chain mail and thick leather tunics. They fought with pikes or billhooks.

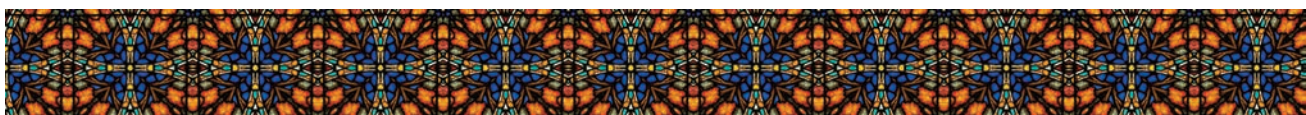
An image of the real treaty.





The Treaty of London:

- 2nd October 1518
- A settlement of universal peace
- Put England at the centre of diplomatic affairs
- Collective security (an attempt to banish war)
- Wolsey achieved great diplomatic success
- Gave great prestige to Henry's reign
- Ended the threat of isolation in Europe for England
- Conflicting treaties stopped
- Wolsey made "Legate a latere" (personal representative of The Pope, with highest powers)

The Treaty of London was a non-aggression pact, all of who signed agreed not to attack one another and to come to the aid of any that were under attack. The treaty was designed by Cardinal Wolsey and so came to be signed by the ambassadors of the nations in London. It was a response to the rising power of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans.



Wolsey was very keen on making lasting peace and persuaded Henry to avoid war and take a more diplomatic route in financial affairs.

|  Henry's Foreign Policy Aims |  Wolsey's Foreign Policy Aims |
|--|--|
| <p>England gains prestige – being placed at the centre of international relations</p> | <p>England gains prestige – being placed at the centre of international relations</p> |
| <p>Henry gains status and prestige – plays role as an arbiter, ends English diplomatic isolation and Henry's daughter betrothed to the French heir</p> | <p>Humanistic peace – guaranteed peace between major powers in Europe</p> |
| | <p>Closer to Papacy – gained reputation as the architect of peace in Europe and became Legate a Latere</p> |



King Henry VIII



Cardinal Wolsey



Henry's main opponent at this time was Louis XII of France, a man who also suffered from an inability to produce a male heir.

His life was fairly unremarkable but he was a solid traditional French King, and became both famous and popular for keeping himself out of the affairs of both The People and the Aristocracy.

This went against the general view of French Kings that they should be absolute monarchs.

Evaluation of the Treaty of London:

| Success | Failure |
|--|--|
| Gained land of importance (made an impact) | Henry did not become King of France |
| 1514 peace agreement recognised Henry's claim to the French throne | Henry was betrayed by Ferdinand in 1512 (shows naiveté) |
| Henry's status and prestige enhanced | Battle of the Spurs was an accident/luck, wasn't significant |
| Henry leads an army into battle | |
| Discovers Wolsey | |

Charles' growing power:

- Charles won a decisive victory at the Battle of Pavia in 1525 and therefore no longer needed, nor wanted Henry as an ally
- Wolsey therefore opted for a pro-French foreign policy

Field of the Cloth of Gold

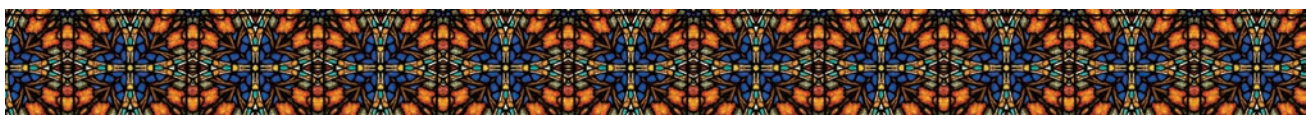


Context:

- Maximilian replaced by Charles V as Holy Roman Emperor in 1519
- Increasing Habsburg-Valois rivalry – England courted as an ally
- Followed directly after a meeting with Charles V in England
- Attempts to enforce the Treaty of London
- Henry deciding who to ally with in future conflict – Wolsey: pro-French, Catherine: pro-Spanish

Events:

- Henry built a massive structure
- Included a tiltyard for jousting – to show how athletic he was



- Henry met Francis I at the Field of Cloth of Gold in June 1520 – try to outdo each other (the meeting came to nothing)
- Henry left the Field of Cloth of Gold for talks with Charles V – Charles tried to drive Henry away from friendship with France, but Charles was preoccupied with his own problems

The end of peace:

- In 1521, Francis attacked Navarre and Luxembourg
- Henry signed a *secret* treaty with Charles V

We know that making secret treaties leads to all sorts of diplomatic problems. For example before the First World War, all the secret treaties and agreements made between European countries helped no one but made war actually happen.

The Second French War 1522-1525:

Build Up:

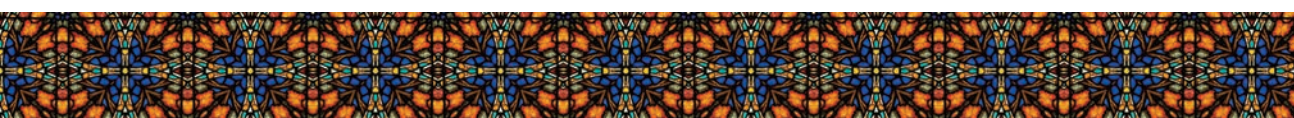
- April 1521: Francis invades Luxembourg and declares war on Charles
- August 1521: Calais Conference – Wolsey, representatives of Francis and Charles and Treaty of Bruges (England and Empire – War was to be declared on Francis if he refused to make peace, and Charles and Mary to be engaged)
- 1522: Charles was successful in Milan

Events leading to the wars:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| May 1522 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England declares war on France • English troops in Picardy with no imperial support despite agreement |
| 1523 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke of Bourbon joins coalition against Francis - triple attack on Paris planned |
| August 1523 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11,000 strong English Army unsuccessful in March on Paris - Charles failed to march at all |

Recurring themes:

- Actions depend on major powers
- Marriage and betrothal of Mary was to secure allies
- The aims of war were not met – Henry was no nearer to becoming King of France
- Henry’s allies were unreliable
- There were some divisions with Henry’s advisors over the direction of policy



The divorce and foreign policy:

- ⚙ Henry's desire for a divorce meant he could no longer be allied to Charles V
- ⚙ The problem was made worse by the fact that only the Pope could grant a divorce and, after the Sack of Rome, he was effectively Charles' prisoner – this was a disaster for Wolsey who was also trying to secure Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon
- ⚙ This was further made worse when Francis I and Charles V made peace at Cambrai in 1529, leaving England isolated and without an ally



Catherine of Aragon

How successful was foreign policy up to 1529?

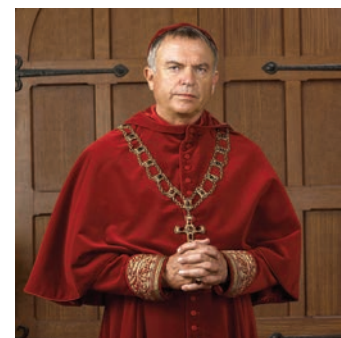
| Successes | Failures |
|--|---|
| Henry achieved some personal glory on the battlefield at the Battle of Spurs in 1513 | Repeated wars were ruinously expensive for little practical benefit |
| Henry's domestic status and independence at home were enhanced as he distanced himself from Henry VII's councillors through foreign policy | Henry came nowhere near to reclaiming the French crown |
| English prestige was enhanced through Wolsey's diplomatic efforts | Henry was repeatedly outmanoeuvred and out-resourced by his rivals |
| England managed to avoid direct involvement in the Habsburg-Valois wars | The switch to a pro-French policy contributed to the failure to get a divorce |
| | The expense of it all led to revolt at home in the 1525 Amicable Grant affair |

Personality: Cardinal Wolsey

The common-born son of a butcher, Wolsey was an intelligent and capable administrator. Henry, who was not interested in administration and paperwork, allowed Wolsey to rise through the ranks to become the second most powerful person in the country.

Wolsey's foreign policy aims:

- Nationalism
- Prestige (for England, Henry and himself)
- Power
- Wealth
- Personal advancement - promotion to Pope



This is the character of Cardinal Wolsey. The real Cardinal also dressed mostly in red as the colour of his importance and office.



Interpretations of Wolsey's foreign policy aims:

Traditional Interpretation:

- Try to maintain the balance of power between France and the Holy Roman Empire by supporting the weaker one

Creighton in 1888 said Wolsey's aims were:

- To increase his own domination and so serve England's interests

Pollard in 1929 said Wolsey's aims were:

- To defend the interests of the Pope first and so increase his own chances of becoming Pope

Scarisbrick in 1968 said Wolsey's aims were:

- to work towards international peace and so make England more secure

Guy in 1988 said Wolsey's aims were:

- Get honour and prestige for Henry VIII and further his own claim to the French Throne

Gunn in 1989 said Wolsey's aims were:

- React to fast changing circumstances as best he could

Starkey in 1995 said Wolsey's aims were:

- Survival in an age of Habsburg-Valois conflict

Doran in 1996 said Wolsey's aims were:

- Henry's and his own prestige



Henry consults with Wolsey

Wolsey's powers and responsibilities:

Temporal power:

- Keeper of the Great Seal, used to authorise all important state documents (he gave executive control, which meant nothing became law - until Wolsey permitted)
- Responsible for organising and supervising law courts
- Senior judge, sat regularly in the Court of Chancery. This gave him control over the nobility – a chance to show his superiority over them, amass wealth and a chance to dispense patronage - which made people loyal)
- As Lord Chancellor: this position gave Wolsey power over the legal system
 - Using his own Court (Star Chamber) to overturn unjust common law verdicts in favour of commoners, which caused resentment among the nobles
 - Sped up and broadened access to law courts
 - Worked against Enclosure from 1517 by launching an inquiry into enclosures
 - Tax reform – replacing the fifteenth and tenths system with more accurate assessments of wealth



As a Judge, Wolsey was firm but fair

Spiritual power:

- Legate a Latere: Wolsey was made a Cardinal in 1515 and Legate in 1518. He had held several bishoprics. These offices developed political standing in Rome and brought him many powerful contacts. By 1518, his authority over the Church was second only to the Pope. He used this to:
 - Make only limited attempts to reform the Church
 - Carry out a limited dissolution of monasteries to pay for building a school in Ipswich, and Cardinal College Oxford (28 Houses – no more than 8 monks in each)
 - Weaken Church independence and tie it to Henry's rule
 - Establish his own probate courts and so become even richer

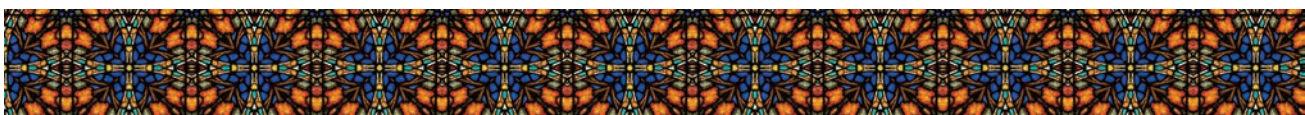
What was 'The Star Chamber'?

The Court of Star Chamber was named for the star pattern painted on the ceiling of the room at Westminster Palace where its meetings were held. The Court of Star Chamber was a court of law which evolved from meetings of the King's royal council. Although its roots go back to the medieval period, the court only became powerful as a separate entity during the reign of Henry VII. In 1487 the court became a judicial body separate from the King's council.

In a sense the court was a supervisory body; its members oversaw the operations of lower courts. As well, its members could hear cases by direct appeal. Members of the court were either privy councillors or judges drawn from the courts of common law.

The mandate of the court expanded under the Tudors to include instances of public disorder. Judges would receive petitions involving property rights, public corruption, trade and government administration, and disputes arising from land enclosures. Under the leadership of Thomas Wolsey and Archbishop Cranmer, the Court of Star Chamber became a political weapon for bringing actions against opponents to the policies of Henry VIII, his ministers and his Parliament. Although the court was initially a court of appeal, Henry VIII and his councillors Wolsey and Cranmer encouraged plaintiffs to bring their cases directly to the Star Chamber, bypassing the lower courts entirely.

Although the court could order torture or prison, it did not have the power to impose the death sentence or hear cases that might involve the death penalty. Under the Tudors Star Chamber sessions were public.



Wolsey was:

- Appointed by the Pope on Henry's request
- Representative of the Pope in England (more important than Archbishop of Canterbury) (Henry was able to use Wolsey to create a compliant Church)
- Orders could only be over-ridden successfully appealing to the Pope

Cardinal Wolsey: Summary

- He was a butcher's son – not from an important background
- He was well educated – he went to Oxford
- His enemies saw him as arrogant and vindictive
- He used his legal powers as Lord Chancellor and network of informants to intimidate anyone he saw as a rival
- He was proud and ostentatious
- He was very well organised
- He was able to anticipate the King's demands, allowing him to progress further



Henry and Wolsey's relationship:

Wolsey had risen to power after successfully organising Henry's invasion of France in 1513. From then on his rise was dramatic. The nature of their relationship and extent to which Wolsey was 'Alter Rex' (acting in place of the King) is unclear but we can say that:

- Henry directed policy, but often left the minutiae of government to Wolsey
- Wolsey jealously guarded access to Henry as this was key to his power
- Wolsey was a highly able manager who worked tirelessly to give good service
- Henry actively protected Wolsey from criticism because he served him well

The benefits of Henry VIII and Wolsey working together

Foreign Affairs

- Treaty of London 1518- 20 powers signed, brought fame to Henry and ended English isolation.
- Treaty of Bruges 1521- Short term failure however after 1525 it created an alliance with Charles V with the marriage of him to Mary.

Personality and Positions of Power

- ❁ Wolsey was the son of a butcher - this meant that he wasn't respected by nobles; therefore Wolsey was dependant on Henry for power.
- ❁ Wolsey's attitude towards the nobility aided Henry's power by decreasing the power of over mighty nobles.

Annulment

- ❁ Wolsey found the Leviticus argument 'If a man shall take his dead brothers wife they shall remain childless'
- ❁ Wolsey used the 'Star Chamber' (page 8) increased to 120 per year to punish nobles for Henry's benefit eg. Duke of Buckingham (1521) reduced the risk of a rebellion.

Finance and Parliament

- ❁ He made a National survey 1522 and Subsidy 1523 provided Henry with money to invade Northern France.
- ❁ He reduced the number of people in Parliament - which reduced expenditure.

Wolsey and anti-clericalism:

As Papal Legate, Wolsey did little to reform the Church:

- ❁ He appeared relatively untroubled by corruption. He himself had two illegitimate children from whom he found careers in the Church
- ❁ He never visited any of the Cathedrals over which he was Bishop until the end of his career, when he was sent to York
- ❁ He weakened the morale of the bishops because as legate, as he was their superior
- ❁ He often kept bishoprics vacant or appointed foreigners who never visited, so he could take the revenues himself
- ❁ He was quite lax on the spread of new ideas. Lutheran ideas spread unchecked at Cardinal College, Oxford, which he had founded

"As Head of the Church in England, Wolsey's failings and unpopularity added to anti-clericalism. With his extravagant lifestyle and laxity, he was increasingly seen as personifying all that was wrong with the Church."



Wolsey's relationship with the nobility

- ❁ He was despised by the two greatest nobles: Earls Norfolk & Suffolk – however they did not try to undermine his authority in the 1520s
- ❁ By the time that Wolsey debated policy with the nobility, the decision had already been made in private with the King and Wolsey may have paid lip service to conciliar government but his close partnership with the King created envy and no little resentment

Wolsey was loathed because:

- ❁ He was of low birth and subsequent vanity and ostentation
- ❁ His legal findings went against the nobility
- ❁ He had a monopoly of patronage
- ❁ He reformed taxation, which resulted in nobility paying more

Wolsey, Parliament and attempts to raise revenue:

- ❁ Wolsey needed Parliament to raise revenues for the King
- ❁ Parliament had to agree a subsidy, and then Commissioners would collect it when taxes were required
- ❁ In 1523 when Parliament met, it was clear that people were unhappy about paying taxes.
- ❁ In 1523, when Wolsey tried to raise £800,000, he was told by Parliament to ask for less. After 4 years, only £151,215 had been collected

Tax commissioners had found it difficult to raise revenues expected in 1513; the “Amicable Grant” of 1525 showed Henry wouldn't hesitate to make Wolsey a scapegoat if his own popularity was threatened. Here's what went wrong:

- ❁ It was a non-parliamentary tax (so people would not want to pay)
- ❁ Many refused to pay for reasons such as: lack of enthusiasm for a French war they were expected to finance, anti-clericalism and the unpopularity of Wolsey
- ❁ Rebellion followed and the tax was abandoned: Henry blamed Wolsey for the idea of the Grant, saying he hadn't been told about it

Henry learnt a number of things from the amicable grant:

- ❁ He needed the support of taxpayers
- ❁ He couldn't risk rebellion in the south-east, not only because people in the south-east tended to be his most loyal supporters, but also because it was too near to his own places of residence for comfort
- ❁ People often didn't object to taxation if they agreed with its purpose: Henry became more wary of funding war or his allies, and revenues collected began to reflect the interests of the taxpayers more



What do historians think of Wolsey?

| Historian | Summary of interpretation | Quotation |
|----------------|---|--|
| Skelton | Critical of Wolsey: acts in a very hostile manner towards | 'Why come yet not to Courte?' – critical poem of Wolsey |
| Vergil | Critical of Wolsey: Wolsey thought too highly of himself | "he became so proud that he began to regard himself as equal of kings" |
| Cavendish | Defends Wolsey: worked effectively and fairly | "I never saw this realm in better order" |
| Creighton | Wolsey was an effective statesman | "Wolsey had a capacity which amounted to genius |
| Pollard | Wolsey was self-serving | "but always after wealth and power" |
| Elton | Wolsey too praised – he lacked the attributes to make him memorable | "Wolsey had tried to do a highly professional job in a very amateur manner" |
| Scarisbrick | Wolsey was a peace maker | "Wolsey was sympathetic to contemporary humanism" |
| Guy | Wolsey was an intelligent deceiver | "neither evil nor quite genius" |
| Gwyn | Wolsey's abilities led to success | "Wolsey was evidently able both physically and mentally to take it in his stride" |
| Gunn & Lindley | Wolsey's positions led him open to attack | "he completeness of his executive control opened Wolsey to more general hostility" |
| Loades | Success dependent on Kings support – Wolsey was not as successful as people claim | "he could find himself in the position of having responsibility without power" |

How effective were Wolsey's domestic policies?

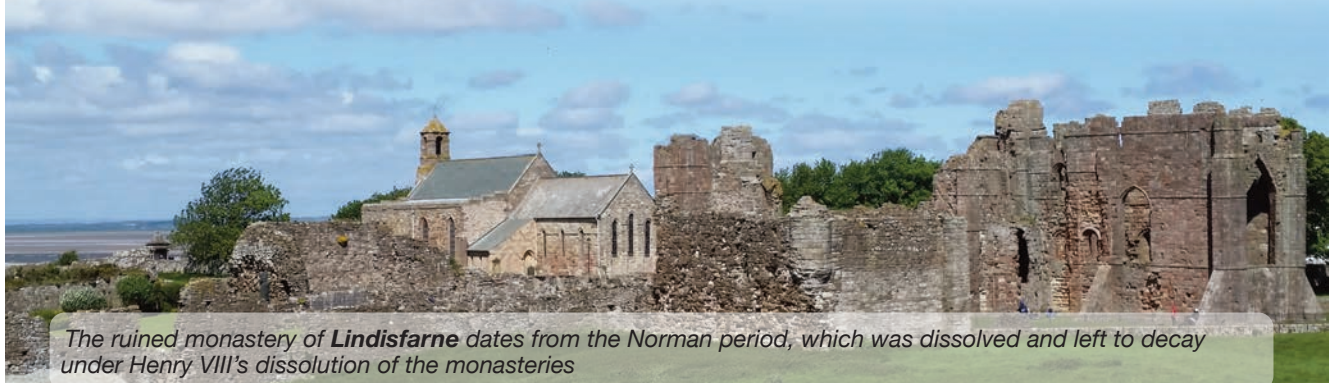
- 🌸 Dawson: *'Wolsey seems to carry an air for disappointment. His capacity for detailed hard work together with his creativity promised more than was delivered'*
- 🌸 Elton: *'Wolsey turned out to be the most disappointing man who ever held great power in England'*

The graph on the next page shows an overall view of how well Wolsey seems to have done.



How do historians think Wolsey did in his work?

| Area | Negative things | Positive things |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey failed to carry out any lasting institutional reform • Dawson: legal system couldn't cope with demands • Dawson: courts needed reform but Wolsey got caught up in foreign affairs and lost interest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey was active in both the Court of Chancery and the Court of Star Chamber • More access to the courts • Wolsey was involved and led legal reform and tried to bring greater justice to the system • Civil law over common law in the Court of Star Chamber promoted – less open to abuse and favoured the poor |
| Enclosure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to stop the problem of enclosure • Accepted existing enclosures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed statutes against enclosure • Brought those committing enclosure crimes to justice |
| Finances and Parliament | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey's demand in taxation led to problems between Henry and Parliament • Wolsey had to accept concessions on enclosure and it is clear that parliamentary session did not pass harmoniously • Fiscal policies resented (tax) • Rarely called – Hunne affair and Amicable Grant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced the traditional fifteenths and tenths with a system that accurately reflected the true wealth of taxpayers • Rejected fixed rates • Based on ability to pay • Between 1513-1516, subsidy raised £170,000 while fifteenths and tenths raised £90,000 |
| Church Reform | No meaningful church reform | Tried to raise monastic standards |



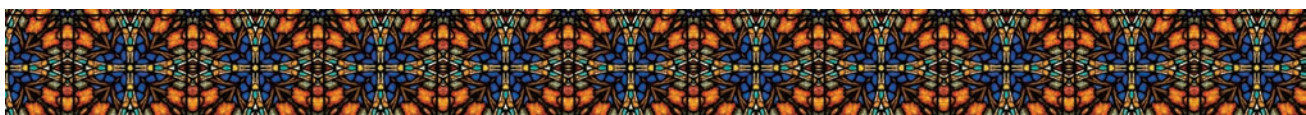
The downfall of Cardinal Wolsey

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1525 | Henry becomes infatuated with Anne Boleyn |
| 1527 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry makes it clear to Wolsey he wants a divorce • Major changes in personnel of Privy Chamber • Supporters of Wolsey (example: Sir Richard Pace) • Supporters of Anne Boleyn (example, her father, George Boleyn – who had the potential to influence and get inside information) |
| 1528 | Imperial Sack of Rome – divorce made impossible |
| 1529 June | Pope agrees to set up Commission and sends Campeggio (to create a delay) |
| 1529 June: | Blackfriars Court opens |
| 1529 July: | Pope recalls Campeggio |
| 1529 August: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francis and Charles conclude the Peace of Cambrai – Henry is unable to ally with either and therefore cannot get a divorce • Nobles (Norfolk and Suffolk), Boleyn and Aragon factions unite against Wolsey – they get to Henry, to convince him of the need to remove Wolsey |
| 1529 October: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey dismissed from Lord Chancellorship and charged with Praemunire, surrendered all his possessions and retired to York – the final failure of Wolsey’s divorce campaign |
| 1530 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey corresponds with French and imperial agents, reported to Henry by rival factions, persuade Henry of his treachery (betrayal) |
| 1530 November: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolsey arrested • Wolsey collapses and dies at Leicester Abbey |

Did the nobility conspire against Wolsey?

- ✿ It was predictable that Wolsey would create enemies, because of his many positions of power, and especially his influence over Henry
- ✿ Wolsey was unpopular with the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk but they did not try to undermine his authority in the 1520s
- ✿ Anne Boleyn is seen as a key figure in Wolsey’s fall:
 - ✿ She had reasons to despise Wolsey as he broke up their affair
 - ✿ It was not in her interests to support any anti-Wolsey faction

Although there was resentment and envy of Wolsey’s position and wealth, there is no evidence of a long term conspiracy against him because such actions were pointless while he held the trust of Henry VIII.



How much did Wolsey affect Royal power?

| Positive points: | Negative points: |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He provided Henry with a foreign policy that fitted with his ambitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His domestic reforms produced little change |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He brought international recognition for Henry's court | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He failed to enrich the monarchy |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He revolutionised the taxation system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His foreign policy eventually ended in failure and left England isolated |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He held the nobility firmly in place while Henry's power grew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His lack of financial management resulted in rebellion in the Amicable Grant crisis |



In spite of being a great and true friend of Henry's, Cardinal Wolsey eventually fell to his own desire and greed. Henry was persuaded against Wolsey by noblemen; the Cardinal was sent off to York in the wild and windy North East where he became ill, and died before he was able to reconcile with King Henry.

Later, Henry regretted sending Wolsey away as he was the only person who was really capable of looking after the administration of the country.



Part Two:

The break with the Church of Rome

Why did Henry seek an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon?

- ❁ Henry was preoccupied with the need for a male heir – Catherine was past childbearing age and Henry was very wary of a daughter inheriting the throne
- ❁ Catherine was losing her looks through growing age
- ❁ Henry had religious concerns over the validity of his marriage based on the Biblical extract Leviticus – it stated that one should not marry his dead brother's wife. Henry also had doubts over the legality of the dispensation to marry – Henry believed that the previous Pope, Julius, did not have the power allow the marriage to Catherine, and infertility of the marriage was God's punishment
- ❁ Henry had already fallen in love with Anne Boleyn
- ❁ Foreign policy was anti-Habsburg

What complications did Henry face in trying to attain this annulment?

- ❁ Pope Julius had given special dispensation to override the theological objections to the marriage, and to rescind this would be to suggest he had been wrong – which is against the idea of Papal infallibility
- ❁ Following the Sack of Rome in 1527, Pope Clement was a prisoner of Charles V – Charles knew Catherine had been his most effective supporter at court and didn't want to lose her influence. He was also concerned about the loss of face to the Habsburgs if the marriage was annulled.

As a result, Pope Clement created many delays.

- ❁ Henry sought a Papal Bull to allow him to marry a woman to whom he was already related, giving him permission to marry Anne Boleyn after having an affair with her sister – he ended up with a worthless document saying he could marry a relative, so long as his existing marriage was declared invalid, which it wasn't
- ❁ Henry tried to get Pope Clement to establish a Legatine Court in England, to try the case of whether the marriage to Catherine was valid. He was determined the case should settle in England, where he could control events, rather than in Rome



Why did Cardinal Wolsey fail to get a marriage annulment?

| | |
|---|---|
| • The Pope used delaying tactics | • Charles V and Catherine were relatives |
| • Declaring dispensation invalid would make the Pope weaker | • The bible was unclear on the matter |
| • Charles V and Henry were rivals | • Catherine refused to give up her marriage |
| • Charles V dominated the Pope | • Henry wanted a public pronouncement of invalidity |
| • Camppeggio's court ended without a decision | • The collection of theological proof was corrupt |
| • The theological case for the divorce was unclear | |
| • Charles V refused to let papers leave Spain | |

The role of Catherine of Aragon:

Catherine had refused to acknowledge the authority of the court. Having been summoned to attend on the opening day, she made a great play of appealing to Henry directly and then walking out. She also made the annulment very difficult to achieve:



Catherine still had feelings for Henry, but had too much pride and character to let herself be pushed aside



She was concerned that if her marriage was annulled, their daughter would be made illegitimate and removed from the succession



Catherine maintained her marriage to Arthur had never been consummated, so Biblical rulings didn't apply. This was the crux of the matter, and clearly impossible to prove one way or the other.



Catherine was popular in the country. Even when many of her supporters were kept away, two bishops were prepared to speak up for her when Parliament debated the issue of the divorce in 1531.



The campaign against papal authority, the beginnings of Royal Supremacy:



The pope said that the case for divorce should be held in Rome, and Henry should attend, however Henry had no intention of doing so as he felt the case should remain in England

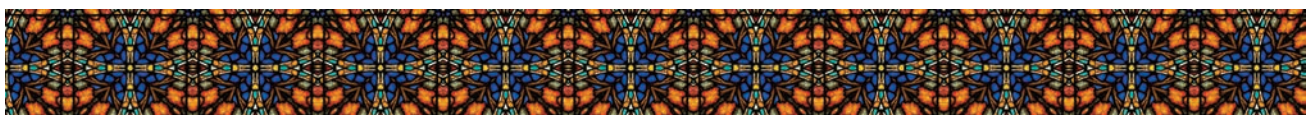


Royal Supremacy 1531: the Church had been forced to accept the title of Supreme Head of the Church of England as far as the word of God allows



Wolsey tried several tactics to try and gain an annulment which, considering the foreign affairs was near impossible:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Tactic: declaring the Papal Dispensation was invalid on basis of Pope's power | Tactic: Declaring that the Papal dispensation was invalid on a technicality | Tactic: Persuade Pope to allow the case to be judged in England |
| How this would work: Persuade Pope by reason, and diplomatic pressure | How this would work: argue that the marriage was invalid because the dispensation was incorrectly worded | How this would work: Wolsey would be relegated to the Pope's representative – to avoid The Pope's personal involvement |
| What happened: Widespread disagreement over what the Biblical instruction over Papal dispensation meant. Henry paid for theologians to write treatises supporting | What happened: Catherine of Aragon fought against Henry's plans - located a slightly differently worded version and satisfied criteria | What happened: The Pope wanted nothing to do with the great matter – he feared annoying Charles V and lose Papal independence in Italy. Cardinal Campeggio was sent to hold a court |
| Why it failed: | Why it failed: Charles V refused to allow the Spanish version to leave the country – this approach gradually lost momentum | Why it failed: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Pope would admit that one of his recent predecessors had | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clement suggested getting divorced in England, marry Anne then get annulment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of books supporting opposite view point appeared. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry didn't want divorce given by anywhere but Rome to legitimize future heirs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained high international profile – Papacy faced a loss of face if it gave in to Henry | | |



What really was the break with Rome?

The break with Rome, which was the most significant thing about the reign of Henry VIII, happened when King Henry, because he wanted a male heir (a boy to become the next King) was unable to have a boy child with Catherine of Aragon.

So, he wanted to divorce Catherine; but divorce was not allowed by The Pope, who was the leader of the Church. The Pope lived in Rome. So the Roman (from Rome) Catholic (broad-minded) Church was known as “The Church of Rome”.

The Pope finally decided that Henry could not have a divorce, so Henry decided that he would separate (split) England’s part of the Roman Catholic Church from Rome.

That’s the actual break.

Henry appointed himself leader of the Church of England, and was able to allow himself to divorce from Catherine and marry Anne Boleyn. And then Jane Seymour. And so on.

The break from Rome also had the following effects:

- ❁ Revenue – it gave Henry the wealth of the Roman Church in England
- ❁ Dynastic security – heirs to thrones - if no male heir was produced, Henry could marry another wife
- ❁ Control of the Church - and the power of the Church to influence The People
- ❁ Power - greater control over the destiny of England

These were the main political causes for the break with Rome:

- ❁ Henry’s need for revenue
- ❁ Henry’s conscious
- ❁ Henry’s desire for a male heir
- ❁ Henrys desire for power
- ❁ Thomas Cromwell
- ❁ Role of the Boleyn faction

Thomas Cromwell, 1st Earl of Essex was an English lawyer and statesman who served as chief minister to King Henry VIII of England.

Cromwell made enemies, including Anne Boleyn. He played a powerful role in her downfall. He also fell from power, after arranging the king's marriage to Anne of Cleves. Henry found his new bride unattractive, which was a disaster for Cromwell, ending in an annulment six months later. Cromwell was charged and executed for treason and heresy. The king later expressed regret at the loss of his chief minister.



Actor



There are two main schools of thought (points of view, based on research) about the events in the Reformation:

From the 'top down':

- ✿ Events were made to happen by the elite (orthodox (normal) view)

From the 'bottom up':

- ✿ Events were made to happen by the population (heterodox (not the usual) view)

| Historians interpretations of the Break With Rome: | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Historian | Pollard | Elton | Dickens | Scarbrick | Haigh |
| Key Work | Henry VIII, 1902 (Biography) | The Tudor Revolution in Government, 1953 | The English Reformation, 1964 | Henry VIII, 1968 | The English Reformation Revised, 1987 |
| Explanation for the break | Henry's desire for power – supported by the people | Part of Cromwell's master plan | State of the Church meant Reformation was needed | Henry desired control of the Church | The break was part of a series of religious events. |
| Key Points | Divorce wasn't the cause but just played a part | Cromwell had his own political agenda | People saw competition of the English/Roman Churches and encouraged Henry to act | Henry's dominant role was emphasised | Process begins before Henry |
| | Cause was Henry's determination to exercise supreme power in England | Henry had little to do with the English Reformation | Anti-Catholicism was already happening amongst public | Henry had always wanted Royal Supremacy | |
| | | | Lollards encouraged protestant ideas | Cromwell constructed actions and was the central role however Henry encourage Cromwell to act in such a way | |



Here are some of the Laws which helped to confirm the break with the Church of Rome.

| Legislation | Details |
|--|--|
| Submission of the | The clergy accepted that the King - not the Pope was the lawmaker |
| The Act in Restraint in Appeals 1533: | Legally complex, linked to case law, expertly worded, watertight, Anti-Papal, monarchist and nationalist |
| | Ended the appeals to Rome and ordered them to be heard by English Church Courts |
| | Catherine no longer able to appeal to Rome on behalf of her annulment |
| | Stated that there should only be one Supreme Head of the Church who should be in charge of all people |
| | Foreign princes/rulers should not intervene |
| | There are historical precedent for this belief – previous Kings have made all key decisions without foreign interference |
| | Rome has caused inconvenience and danger to England in the areas of will, marriage, divorce, money and rituals |
| Act in Restraint of Annates 1534: | Stopped taxes being made to the Pope |
| Succession Act 1534: | This act made princess Mary illegitimate and made people take an oath agreeing with the annulment and supremacy |
| Supremacy Act 1534: | Made official Royal Supremacy over the church from the Submission of the Clergy |
| | Enforced by oath and treason law |
| Treason Act 1534: | Widened definition of treason, so even denial of King's supremacy was now treason |
| Act for First Fruit and Tenths 1534: | Clerical taxes were to be paid to the King, not to the Pope |

The people who encouraged the break with Rome.

Anne Boleyn:

- ❁ Anne was strongly influenced by Martin Luther’s ideas and strongly believed in ‘reformed’ ideas
- ❁ She used her unique position with Henry to:
 - ❁ She influenced Henry by exposing him to Protestant ideas of writers
 - ❁ Anne Boleyn helped to promote key figures in the reform movement such as Cranmer, to Archbishop of Canterbury



Actress

Thomas Cranmer:

- ❁ Thomas Cranmer was an important scholar and writer
- ❁ Before he became Archbishop of Canterbury, he helped to write a book which made the case for Henry being an emperor
- ❁ As Archbishop, he helped to write the “Ten Articles” a book which gave the English Church theological direction
- ❁ He was also politically important, as he was capable of radical action such as marrying Henry and Anne in secret, and later divorcing him from Catherine while also promoting the reform at an acceptable and realistic pace



Actor

Cromwell:

- ❁ He had great political ability and was ruthless
- ❁ Before Cromwell, the divorce campaign stalled – he provided fresh ideas and drive
- ❁ Strategy: Cromwell managed to guide a course through use of Parliament – he sidestepped Henry’s conservative councillors
- ❁ Legality: Cromwell produced laws that gave the legal framework and justification for the break with Rome
- ❁ Organisation: as Vicegerent in Spirituals, Cromwell presided over key steps as the introduction of bibles written in English



Actor



Anne Boleyn



Cranmer



Cromwell



Why were Henry's marriages important?

Henry's marriages were extensive, tumultuous, and controversial, and they were directly related to policy changes during his reign. King Henry VIII's first marriage to **Catherine of Aragon** happened when he was 17 years of age. Shortly after the marriage, Catherine had a stillborn girl; however, a few months later baby Henry, named after the King, was born. The healthy state of the newborn was met with celebrations, but seven weeks after the birth the baby died. Catherine had another miscarriage and another infant death, but then in 1516, Princess Mary was born to the royal family.



1: Catherine of Aragon

After unsuccessful pregnancies, Henry VIII began having extramarital affairs with two mistresses: Elizabeth Blount and Mary Boleyn. Elizabeth Blount also conceived Henry's child, who was later given the title "Duke of Richmond", who died before having the opportunity to be possibly recognized to be next in line for the throne. As he became more and more disillusioned with his Catherine of Aragon, King Henry VIII pursued Mary's sister **Anne Boleyn**, who was a Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Catherine at the time.

This relationship with Anne developed into Henry's second marriage. However, in order to become married to Anne, his marriage with Catherine had to be annulled. King Henry VIII appealed directly to Pope Clement VII claiming that Catherine and his brother consummated their marriage: Henry could not marry his brother's wife. Catherine denied the accusations, and discussions went on for many years - where the Pope stated that a new marriage should not occur unless a verdict was given from Rome. The pope chose not to annul the marriage right away.



2: Anne Boleyn

During this period many changes occurred in English religion, which became a part of the English Reformation. Without the guidance of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Anne, as well as others, who were not supporters of the theology from Rome, influenced King Henry VIII. One action taken against the clergy in England forbade them from following orders from a foreign country or powers, such as Rome. Another event was when Henry was granted "Royal Supremacy", so that canon law (religious teaching) could not be made unless there was permission from the King. Various other provisions were enacted that distanced the Church of England from Rome. Most importantly, the "Acts of Supremacy" were made, which stated that King Henry VIII was the supreme head of the Church of England on Earth which also encouraged the break with Rome.



In spite of the Pope saying “no divorce”, Henry and Anne had a secret wedding. Soon after the wedding, Anne became pregnant, and the court in England cancelled Henry’s first wedding and legitimized the second.

The Pope responded to the marriage by excommunicating the King from the Catholic Church. In 1533, Elizabeth was born to Henry and Anne, but shortly before, the First Succession Act declared Mary a bastard and Elizabeth the next in line for the English throne. However, Anne could not produce a male heir to the throne. There was also disagreement regarding Henry’s new religious policies, yet the King was able to thwart the opposition.

The fact of Anne being unable to give Henry a son was a key factor in the beginning of Henry’s third marriage and end of his second.

Henry’s third marriage was with one of Anne’s ladies-in-waiting: Jane Seymour. This marriage came about after many accusations were made against Anne as well as her brother and other men. These charges involved incest, adultery, along with scheming to murder the King. She was put on trial and sentenced to death. About three years after becoming Queen, Anne was beheaded, and her marriage with Henry was said to be invalid. Ten days after the execution of Anne, Henry married Jane. Important to note was that the Second Succession Act was passed, which said that Jane and Henry’s children would be next in line for the throne and that both Mary and Elizabeth were illegitimate. Importantly, Henry was also given the power to declare the line of succession to the throne in his will. Jane soon gave birth to Edward; however, she died in childbirth, which led to the end of Henry’s third marriage.

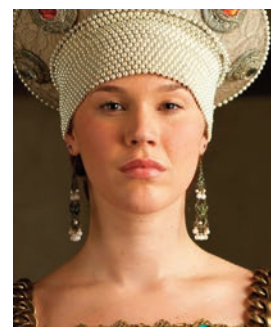
At the end of Henry’s third marriage to Jane, there was a period of mourning. The King desired to marry for a fourth time to solidify the line of succession for the throne. To secure an alliance with a country that supported of the Reformation, Henry married **Anne of Cleves**. The Duke of Cleves was thought to be between Lutheran Protestant and Catholic ideas. Although Henry married Anne of Cleves, he soon sought to have an annulment on the grounds of not being attracted to his new wife. The split was amicable in which both parties agreed their marriage had not been consummated. Furthermore, Anne was later called “The King’s Sister” and was given compensation in homes and money. This event allowed for the final two marriages in a reign defined by the royal unions.



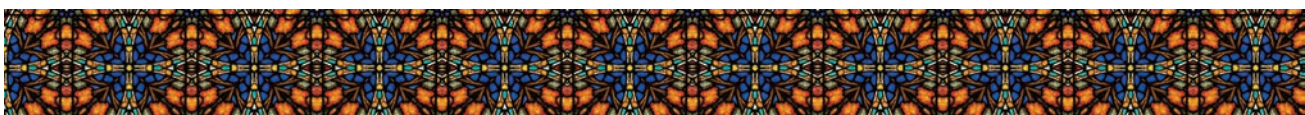
The Pope who would not



3: Jane Seymour



4: Anne of Cleves



King Henry VIII's fifth marriage was to **Catherine Howard**. Although there was a 30-year age difference between the two, the marriage lasted about two years. However, Catherine was accused of infidelity, and there was evidence of promiscuity before and after the royal marriage. Found guilty, Catherine was executed.



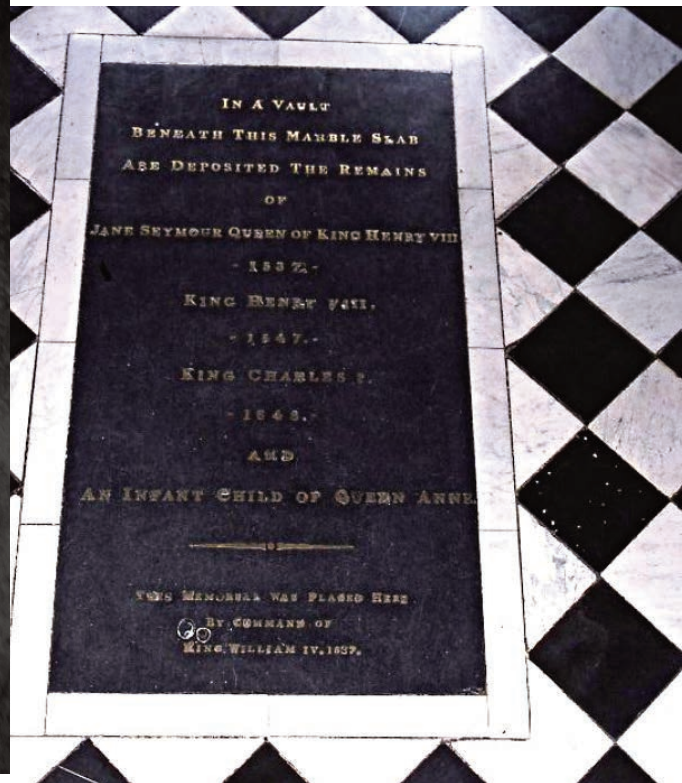
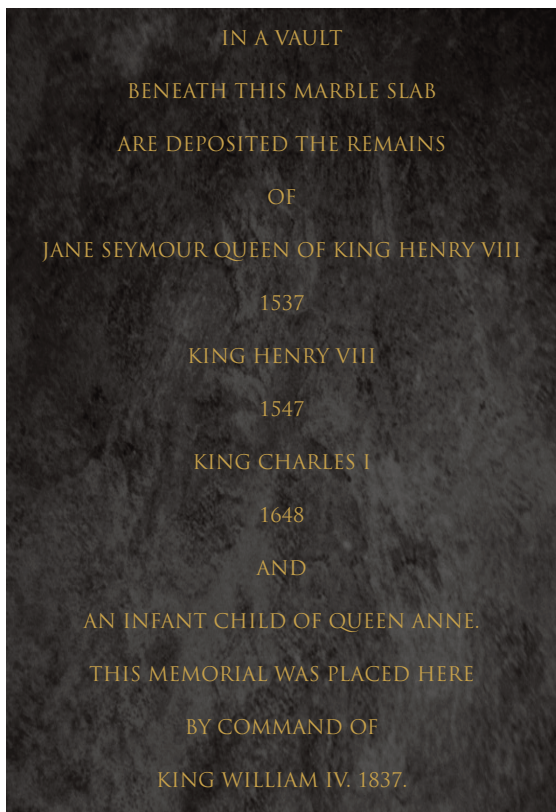
5: Catherine Howard

This event found the twice-widowed **Catherine Parr** having the opportunity to marry the newly available King. She did but soon made enemies in the court with her interest in religious reform. Although there was a plot to have her arrested, Catherine smartly manipulated the King and was forgiven. Additionally, Catherine had good relationships with all three of Henry's children. During this period, an act was passed by Parliament that reintroduced Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession, behind Edward (Jane Seymour's boy). Catherine Parr outlived the King, who died on January 28th, 1547 at the age of 55.



6: Catherine Parr

It is important to note that Henry was laid to rest next to his wife Jane Seymour, his only wife that gave him a son.



The memorial slab commemorating the burial of Henry VIII in the Quire of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle



Conclusion

King Henry VIII's tumultuous reign, dotted with unsuccessful marriages, with religious policy change, was affected by two major historical forces.

One of the most important forces that impacted his reign was **the role of specific individuals**. This force, along with the force of religion, were often intertwined and had an immense influence on King Henry VIII's reign, marriages, and religion.

There were three main examples of these individuals working together to make an impact.

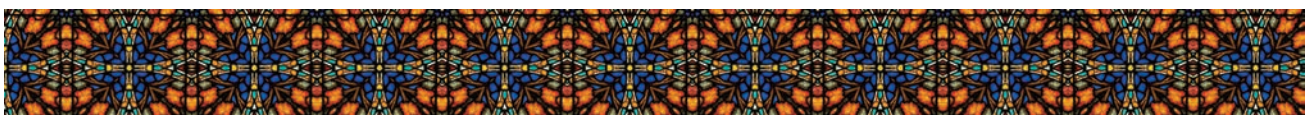
The King's first wife **Catherine of Aragon** caused great changes to religion in England simply by proving unable to provide a male heir to the throne. As she could not produce a son, Catherine forced Henry to make changes to the religion in England, that gave him more power - as well as supremacy in the Church of England (while lessening the hold that Rome had on the English church). Catherine was one of the *catalysts* of the English Reformation.

A second example to how religion and a specific individual provided influence in Henry's reign was **Anne Boleyn**. Anne assisted in the downfall of Henry's first marriage by attracting the King's attention, and she also introduced new Lutheran ideas to the King during a period where great changes were happening in the English church. Anne and her new religious ideas were pivotal in impacting Henry's marriage as well as religion in England.

A third individual having an impact on Henry's reign was **Anne of Cleves**. Henry wanted to align with powers that were supportive of a reformation of the Catholic Church, so he married Anne of Cleves. This union was the fourth marriage, and it underscored how religious forces, which brought the marriage together, were imperative to the reign of Henry VIII.

Though the historical forces of specific individuals as well as religion were evident in King Henry VIII's rule, his time in power was made distinct by the numerous marriages that induced many changes in religion of England.

King Henry VIII left not only a legacy of religious policy changes but also a legacy regarding his children and the impact they would eventually have on future generations in England.



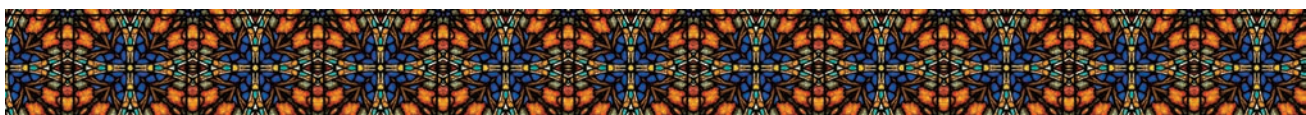
Vocabulary

Vocabulary

| Page | Word | Meaning |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | pursue hostile aggressive rivalry naïve, naiveté seize arrears | to follow or chase the enemy or an opposing force forceful and violent people who are against each other innocent and child-like, in thinking to capture by force money owed from before but not paid |
| 2 | diplomatic collective prestige treaty isolation ambassador | to do with making governments work, careful, very polite acting all together, a group of people the amount of respect for a person an agreement between two countries to be alone, without friends (or without people on your side) representative of one country, living in another country |
| 3 | arbiter betrothed, betrothal Humanistic Papacy, papal heir aristocracy | person who talks with people who are at war or have major differences and tries to make the two sides agree promised in marriage the well being of real people, not with 'governments' or 'countries' to do with The Pope the next person to be King, Queen or other high ranking person the people close to the monarch in title or position |
| 4 | ally, allied opt, opted enforce pro- tiltyard jousting | (personal) someone who supports you (global) a country who supports another country to make a choice (often) using force to make sure something happens to be in favour of something small arena for jousting sport where men in armour carry long poles and try to knock the other off their horse |
| 5 | preoccupied | continually thinking about something and unable to focus on other things |
| 6. | ruin, ruinously manoeuvre, outmanoeuvred ranks | to spoil and destroy, 'very much so' (eg ruinously expensive - cost so much there's little money left for other things) a plan of movement someone's plan of movement works better than yours the lower levels of social status |



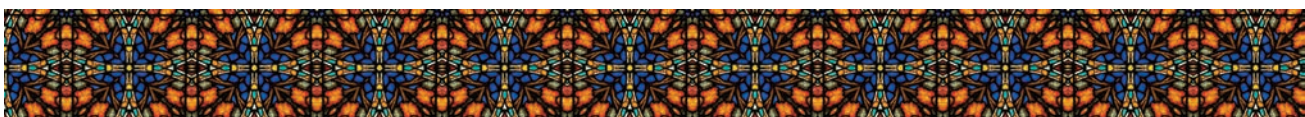
| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 7 | <p>amass patronage commoner Enclosure</p> | <p>to collect (usually money, or land) to give grants of money a person of non-Royal, normal birth, normal social status when people illegally put fences around areas of land which belonged to everyone.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Bishopric dissolution probate (court)</p> | <p>the Church, land and money belonging to a certain geographical area the closing of monasteries and the way in which members of the monastery were sent out around the country a legal court where Wills were confirmed and a fee paid for that confirmation</p> |
| 9 | <p>over-ridden, over-ride arrogant vindictive ostentatious anticipate minutiae</p> | <p>to ignore someone's decision and use your own decision to think oneself more important than any other person to act against anyone who opposes you or you don't like to display wealth or power more than is necessary to guess what will happen next the smallest things of interest</p> |
| 10 | <p>Leviticus revenue (s) despised illegitimate, bastard</p> | <p>a book of the Bible money received from land rent, taxes hated for one's lowly birth a child born to unmarried parents</p> |
| 11 | <p>vanity monopoly subsidy scapegoat</p> | <p>the quality of feeling that one must always be presented perfectly being the only one an extra payment a person who is unfairly blamed</p> |
| 12 | <p>sack faction</p> | <p>in this context, to destroy a city of importance a small group within a larger group, having different ideas to the main group</p> |
| 13 | <p>statute harmonious, harmony monastic, monastery</p> | <p>a law, an Act of Parliament working well together of or a place where monks live. Being a monk in the West is a lifelong commitment. Monks live in monasteries and are always monks.</p> |
| 14 | <p>conspiracy predictable</p> | <p>when a group of people join together to plan and plot against someone or something when the result of an action is easy to see coming</p> |
| 16 | <p>annulment wary Habsburg</p> | <p>to make something as if it had never happened, to cancel cautious the ruling family in Europe, a powerful group of relatives named ... Habsburg</p> |



| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 16 | Papal Bull | a legally binding statement from The Pope |
| 17 | dispensation pronouncement theological succession crux | special permission a public declaration of a statement of theology, of the Bible or holy teachings in this context, the people next 'in line' to become the monarch crucial (central argument) point |
| 18 | tactic | method of acting to achieve one's aims and goals |
| 21 | monarchist nationalist precedent oath | strongly in favour of the monarchy strongly in favour of the desires of the population previous binding decisions a solemn promise before God |
| 22 | Martin Luther sidestep, sidestepped Vicegerent in Spirituals | a man who's religious ideas were to open the church to the normal people in this context to go around someone's ideas most important advisor to the King about Godly matters |
| 23 | tumultuous stillborn extramarital disillusioned | full of ups and downs, rough and rocky born dead outside of a marriage to realise one's hopes or dreams will not happen |
| 24 | thwart excommunicate legitimise (d) bastard, illegitimate invalid amicable solidify compensation incest adultery scheming consummated | to act to stop someone's plans to throw out of the Church (with no hope of going to heaven) to make legal and acceptable a child born to unmarried parents pronounced with the stress on the second syllable, this means something which is not allowed, or is incorrect friendly to make stronger or to make solid money or something given in because of the loss of something else having intimate relations with a brother or sister having intimate relations with someone to whom you are not married while you are married to someone else planning and plotting secretly confirmed by marital relations |
| 25 | promiscuity infidelity manipulate, manipulative widow, widowed | to be intimate with many partners being unfaithful to act in a way to make others act the way you want the wife left after a husband's death |



| | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 26 | intertwined | mixed with, inseparable |
| | immense | massive, huge, very large |
| | catalyst | that which gathers all influences together and creates a final action |
| | pivotal | central to, the event around which action happens |
| | reform | to change things to a better or new way |
| | Reformation, The | when Henry VIII created the Church of England and broke with the Church of Rome |
| | legacy | the influence someone has after they have died; what they have left behind |



Where did they all come from?

Kings in bold, others in plain.

Henry VIII **England**

Catherine of Aragon Aragon (at the time, part of Spain)

Anne Boleyn England

Jane Seymour England

Anne of Cleves Cleves (at the time, part of Germany)

Catherine Howard England

Catherine Parr England

Cardinal Wolsey England

Francis I **France**

Charles V **France (Burgundy) and The Holy Roman Emperor**

Ferdinand II **Aragon**

Maximilian I **The Holy Roman Emperor**

Louis XII **France**

James IV **Scotland**

James V **Scotland**

Pope Clement VII Pope (head of the Roman Catholic Church)
from 1523 - 1534, from Florence, (now part of Italy)

Pope Julius II Pope (head of the Roman Catholic Church)
from 1503 - 1513

A 'Pope' is elected as head of the Roman Catholic Church usually when the previous Pope dies. He is in charge of the whole world's Roman Catholic people.

The **Holy Roman Emperor** is in charge of the Roman Empire, and is appointed by the Pope. This gives that man, the Emperor, all the power and resources of the Roman Empire which was very large in those days.



