

Knowledge Map: To what extent has religion shaped the English monarchy? Part 2: The Tudors

Summary:	The English Reformation, influenced by reformers such as Martin Luther, significantly impacted the monarchy and religion in England. Henry VIII's Break from Rome and the establishment of the Church of England cemented the shift away from Catholicism, while Edward VI strengthened Protestantism with reforms like the Book of Common Prayer. Mary I sought to restore Catholicism but earned the nickname "Bloody Mary" due to her persecution of Protestants. Elizabeth I created religious stability with the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, solidifying England's Protestant identity while retaining Catholic traditions.
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Key Terms

Act of Succession	A law passed in which declared Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boleyn valid and his heirs to be of her offspring
Act of Supremacy	A law enacted in 1534 that declared King Henry VIII the supreme head of the Church of England
Anglicanism	The form of Protestantism practiced in the Church of England and associated churches
Break from Rome	The process by which King Henry VIII separated the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church
Book of Common Prayer	A collection of standardized prayers and worship services used in the Anglican Church, written in English
Catholicism	A branch of Christianity that follows the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, led by the Pope.
Dissolution of the Monasteries	Henry VIII's closure and destruction of monasteries, convents, and priories in England, with their assets confiscated by the Crown.
Heretic	Someone who differs from accepted religious beliefs, often leading to punishment or persecution.
Indulgences	In Catholicism, acts or donations to the Church to be forgiven for or lessen the punishment for sins..
Martyr	A person who is admired for suffering or dying for a cause, particularly religious beliefs.
Protestantism	A branch of Christianity that emerged during the Reformation, rejecting the Pope's authority and emphasizing individual faith and biblical teachings.
Reformation	A movement that to change the ideas and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, leading to the creation of various Protestant denominations.
Regency	Ruling on behalf of a monarch who is unable to govern due to youth, illness, or absence.
Religious Persecution	The systematic mistreatment, harassment, or oppression of individuals or groups based on their religious beliefs
Saint	A holy or virtuous person recognized by a religious tradition
Shrine	A sacred place or object associated with a saint or religious figure.

The Reformation

Summary

The Reformation, sparked by Martin Luther in the 16th century with his 95 Theses, aimed to challenge the Catholic Church's practices. This led to Protestant denominations, which rejected the Pope's authority, emphasized individual interpretation of the Bible, and placed less importance on rituals compared to Catholicism. The Reformation created lasting divisions between Catholics and Protestants, significantly altering Europe's religious landscape.

Henry VIII

Summary

Henry VIII's reign in the 16th century was marked by significant religious changes, starting with the Break from Rome due to his desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon. This led to the Act of Supremacy, which established him as the head of the Church of England. As part of the Reformation, Henry dissolved monasteries and destroyed Catholic relics, such as Thomas Becket's shrine. These changes cemented England's shift away from Catholicism, leaving a lasting impact on the nation's religious identity.

Edward VI

Summary

Edward VI's reign, heavily influenced by his regency council and advisors, advanced the Reformation in England and strengthened its commitment to Protestantism. Under their guidance, Edward introduced reforms such as the Book of Common Prayer, dismantling of religious images, and the establishment of a more Protestant theology. Despite his short reign, Edward VI, along with his advisors, played a significant role in shaping England's religious landscape and solidifying its Protestant identity.

Mary I

Summary

Mary I's reign focused on restoring Catholicism in England after the Protestant Reformation. She became known as "Bloody Mary" due to her harsh religious persecution, which included executing many Protestants. During her reign, Mary reversed several of her predecessors' religious reforms, reinstating Catholic practices, and re-establishing connections with the Pope. Despite her efforts, Mary's reign was short-lived, and the lasting impact of her rule on England's religious landscape was limited.

Elizabeth I

Summary

Elizabeth I focused on creating religious stability in England by blending Protestant and Catholic practices. She introduced the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, a moderate form of Protestantism, and established the Act of Uniformity to standardize worship. Despite her efforts, Pope Pius V excommunicated her, increasing tension with the Catholic Church. Elizabeth's reign furthered England's Protestant identity while retaining some Catholic traditions and helped establish the Church of England as a lasting institution.