

Unit 6



Absolutism and Reformation

C16

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6.1

1 Music and architecture

Music and architecture

- <http://tinyurl.com/cjhb8o1> [33.4 MB]
- Music by Thomas Tallis (1505(?)–1585).
- Written to mark the 40th birthday of Elizabeth I in 1573.
- A forty-part motet (8 choirs of 5 voices each).
- The church shown here is Ely Cathedral.
- Homework: Find out where Ely is.
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- Look out for the walls where the wood panelling is – what part of the cathedral is that?

6.2

2 Faces

How many of these people can you identify? (1)

6.3

3 Timeline

Timeline

House of Tudor:

- 1485 Henry VII
- 1509 Henry VIII
- 1547 Regency (Somerset)
- 1549 Edward VI
- 1553 Mary Tudor
- 1558 Elizabeth I

House of Stuart:

- 1603 James VI of Scotland / James I of England (son of Mary Queen of Scots) ...

6.4

4 More faces

How many of these people can you identify? (2)

6.5

5 Key issues

Some key issues in 16th century England

- Henry VIII's need for a male heir
- Absolutism (all power to the King)
- Reformation (really: nationalization of the Church)
- Counterreformation (return of Catholicism)
- Countercounterreformation (victory of Protestantism)
- Rapid economic and social change; class tensions
- Global exploration and trade: the search for the Northwest Passage
- England's "Golden Age" under Elizabeth.

6.6

How many of these people can you identify? (3)

6.7

6 Development of base

Development of base

- **Development of forces of production**
 - increasing use of land for production of a single agricultural commodity for export: wool, linen ("enclosures")
 - beginnings of global trade... English commercial expeditions (competition with Spain)
 - (Military technology: English shipbuilding.)
- **Development of relations of production**
 - growth of a new urban middle class not based on landed property
 - smaller, independent landowners: squires
 - rural unemployment and poverty
 - beginning of joint stock companies and the Stock Exchange
 - nationalization of church property

6.8

7 Development of superstructure

Development of superstructure / colonial relations

- **Development of state institutions**
 - centralized government: the age of absolutism in England (e.g. Star Chamber)
 - —> result of unresolved class struggle
 - trade monopolies granted by royal favour (class background of King's friends!)
 - establishment of an official state religion (but with a built-in compromise)
- **Development of ideology**
 - national pride: "Golden Age" of English literature: Shakespeare – Marlowe
 - protestantism as the religion of the rising classes
 - in philosophy: a tradition of empiricism and social philosophy; here: Bacon
 - English church music (!)
- **Effects on Ireland**
 - The "Old English" (from the Norman period – C12)
 - the "New English" (Tudor and Stuart periods – C16,17).

6.9

8 Specific people and events

Specific people and events 1

- **Henry VII**
 - efficient tax collection (NB: etymology of “Exchequer”)
 - beginnings of Royal Navy
- **The Six Wives of Henry VIII**
 - A simple mnemonic

No.	Fate	Wife’s name	Child
1	DIVORCED	Catherine of Aragon	Mary
2	BEHEADED	Anne Boleyn	Elizabeth
3	DIED	Jane Seymour	Edward
4	DIVORCED	Anne of Cleves	—
5	BEHEADED	Kathryn Howard	—
6	SURVIVED	Katherine Parr	—

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Specific people and events 2

- **Henry VIII**
 - Title: “fidei defensor” awarded by Pope Leo X (1521) for book defending Catholicism
 - Needed son (succession!); Catherine couldn’t give him a male heir; Pope Clement VII refused to annul the marriage.
 - Protestant doctrine of “divine right of Kings”: Henry declared his marriage to Catherine invalid (1533), married Anne; later executed her.
 - (Anglicanism: “a religion based on the family values of Henry VIII” – Christopher Hitchens)
 - Nationalized church property and sold it to his friends
 - Had the former Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas More, executed for treason for refusing to acknowledge the King as the “Supreme Head in Earth of the Church of England”.
 - See the trial scene from “A Man for all Seasons” (play by Robert Bolt, film by Fred Zinnemann (1966))
 - Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbZfh-5QsAw><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TP6wAFK7k1c>
- **“Bloody Mary”**
 - reintroduction of catholicism
 - execution of protestant bishops (e.g. Latimer and Ridley)

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Specific people and events 3

- **Elizabeth, the “Virgin Queen”**
 - well-educated, well-prepared; moderate, tolerant protestant
 - whom to marry? Spain? France? an Englishman?
 - had her cousin Mary Stuart (Mary Queen of Scots) imprisoned and finally executed for treason (1587)
 - **Walsingham**: head of secret police (and military supplier)

- **Raleigh:** entrepreneur – brought tobacco to England
- **Drake:** pirate and admiral
- **Essex:** her greatest love?
- conflict with Spain: Spanish Armada (1588): strategy and technology of Spanish, tactics and technology of English; luck: “God blew and they were dispersed” (flavit YHWH et dissipati sunt)
- died a virgin; succeeded by the son of Mary Queen of Scots: James VI of Scotland (**James I** of England)

6.12

9 A big leap forward

A big leap forward

- In sixteenth century England we begin to see the development of what U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower (in his exit speech on January 17, 1961) would describe as “the military industrial complex”.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y06NSBBRtYhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4R6dSteyCXQ&t=3m38s>
- Text of the full speech is here:
<http://www.panarchy.org/eisenhower/farewelladdress.html>

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