**The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603**

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| **Elizabethan Government**  Life before she became queen:   * Henry VIII had turned England Protestant to marry Anne 0 Elizabeth’s mum. * Edward VI – took over aged 9, country became more Protestant. * Mary I – Elizabeth’s half-sister, made England Catholic as Queen. Elizabeth was under house arrest.   Coronation and popularity:   * Coronation lasted many days – won support. * Portraits were important in showing Elizabeth as strong. * Royal Progresses – Elizabeth toured the country. * Patronage – Elizabeth bribes her councillors with land and titles.   Government:   * Royal Court – wherever Elizabeth was. * Privy Councillors – advisors including Robert Dudley and William Cecil. * Local Government – Lord Lieutentant and Justices of the Peace. * Parliament – mainly called for raising taxes, banned from discussing foreign policy and religion. | | **Lifestyles of the rich and poor**  Different lifestyles:   * Nobles – educated, ‘H’ shaped buildings, landscaped garden, fashionable. * Gentry – similar to nobles, but less well-off and luxurious. * Poor – long hours, poorly educated, poor living conditions – lived with straw floors with animals.   Poverty causes:   * Rising inflation. * Bad harvesters. * Rural depopulation. * Costly wars. * Rising population.   Types of Vagrants/Vagabonds:   * Hooker. * Clapper dudgeon. * Doxy. * Abraham man. * Ruffler. * Dummerer. * Counterfeit Crank.   Laws to help poor:   * 1572 – Vagabonds Act – severe punishments against vagabonds – whipping/hot iron/death penalty. * 1601 – Act for Relief of the Poor – government took responsibility for looking after the poor.   Types of poor:   * Impotent – can’t work. * Able-bodied – won’t work. | | **Popular Entertainment**  Cruel Sports   * Bull-baiting * Bear-baiting * Cock fighting.   Entertainment enjoyed by rich:   * Hunting * Archery * Dancing * Music and singing * Ball games – bowls and tennis.   Features of theatre:   * Circular design. * Thatched roof. * Trap door to ‘hell’/ * No scenery – just painted walls. * Rich people in boxes/galleries. * Cheap tickets for groundlings. * Performances in daytime. * Often turned into a brothel in the evening. * Lots of crime – pick-pockets. * Actors were only male. * Playwrights included William Shakespeare.   Attitudes towards theatre:   * Support – many supported it due to Elizabeth’s love of theatre. * Opposition – local authorities who feared crime. * Opposition – Puritans who believed it was sinfull. | |
| **The Problem of Religion**  Religious Problems:   * England was divided. * Mary Queen of Scots was claiming to be Queen. * Powerful countries are Catholic. * England was Catholic. * Elizabeth was Protestant.   Religious Settlement:   * Religious compromise – some Catholic, mainly Protestant. * Protestant – English bible, Elizabeth Head of Church. * Catholic – some decoration and vestments. * Act of Supremacy – made Elizabeth Head of Church. * Act of Uniformity – set out rules for all churches.   Reactions:   * At home – most clergy accepted it. * At home – reaction was muted. * Abroad – France wasn’t interested – civil war. * Abroad – Spain wanted friendship so didn’t react. * Abroad – Pope criticised but hoped Elizabeth’s changes would be over turned. | **The Catholic threat**  Recusancy:   * Catholic priests trained abroad, returned to England to convert people to Catholicism – Edmund Campion.   Mary Queen of Scots:   * Forced to abdicate Scotland, and turned to Elizabeth for help in 1568.   Rebellion of Northern Earls:   * Rebellion in the North in 1569. Planned to replace Elizabeth with MQS. Failed, 800 rebels were killed. * Resulted in excommunication of Elizabeth by the Pope.   Ridolfi Plot 1571:   * Plot involving Italian banker, Spain, the Pope, and MQS. * Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed.   Throckmorton Plot 1583-84:   * Plot involving France, Throckmorton (English Catholic), Spain, the Pope, and MQS. * Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed.   Babington Plot 1586:   * Another plot involving Mary. * This time there was evidence of Mary’s involvement – “set the six men to work”.   Execution of MQS 1587:   * Mary found guilty of treason. * Elizabeth still reluctant to kill her. * Privy Council took signed death warrant and executed Mary against Elizabeth’s wish. | | **Spanish Armada**  Causes:   * Pope excommunicating Elizabeth. * Execution of MQS. * Elizabeth rejecting Philip’s marriage proposal. * Francis Drake raiding Spanish ships. * Elizabeth supporting Protestants in Spanish Netherlands.   Events:   * Armada sails through channel, followed by English ships. * Spanish in crescent formation – difficult to attack. * Spanish reach Calais, but troops they are meeting are delayed. * English send fire ships to break up crescent formation. * Wind changes and blows Spanish ships north. * Many Spanish ships are destroyed by English and bad weather around Scotland.   Reasons for failure:   * Fireships tactic. * Spanish Navy commander Duke of Medina was seasick. * Spanish cannons didn’t work. * Luck – wind change. | | **Puritan Threat**  Who were they:   * Extreme Protestants. * Believed in plain churches and vestments. * Hated theatre and decoration.   Problems:   * 1566 – Vestments – Puritans refused to wear them, 37 were sacked. * 1571 – Walter Strickland – MP tried to introduce law stopping vestments – parliament shut down. * 1579 – John Stubbs – wrote a criticism of Elizabeth for discussing marriage to French prince – hand chopped off. * 1586 – Anthony Cope – MP tried to introduce Puritan reforms – Elizabeth shut down parliament. * 1588-89 – Marprelate Tracts were anonymous pamphlets criticising Elizabeth – were too violent to gain support of the public.   Elizabeth’s response:   * 1570s – she suspended the Archbishop for failing to ban Puritan meetings. * 1580s – she appointed a new Archbishop to crack down on the Puritans. * 1590s – Separatist movement – Puritans started meeting in secret. Elizabeth executed three of leaders. |