

The English Reformation



The Marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon



In 1509, Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, and aunt of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

(Catherine had been married to Henry's brother Arthur, so the marriage required a special dispensation from Pope Julius II.)

By 1527, the union had produced no male heir to the throne and only one surviving child, their daughter Mary.

Henry was justifiably concerned about the political consequences of leaving only a female heir, as in this time people believed it unnatural for women to rule over men.

Henry came to believe that their union had been cursed by God because she had been his brother's wife, which was prohibited by both secular and religious law.



The King's Affair



By 1527, Henry had fallen in love/become infatuated with Anne Boleyn, one of Catherine's ladies in waiting.

The only way to put Catherine aside and take Anne as his wife was to get a papal annulment of his marriage.

The reigning Pope Clement VII was at the time a prisoner of Charles V, Catherine's nephew

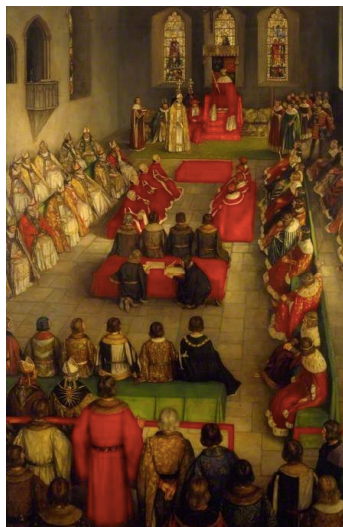


When the king's advisors could not obtain a papal annulment, they declared the king supreme in English religious affairs.

In 1531, Henry was publicly recognized as Head of the Church in England.



Government Control of the Clergy



Starting in 1529, Parliament convened for what would be a seven-year session that earned it the title the "Reformation Parliament."

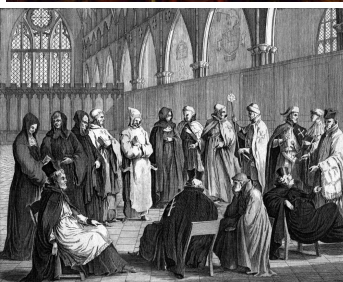
During this period, Parliament passed a flood of legislation placing governmental restrictions on the clergy.

In 1532 Parliament published official grievances against the church, ranging from alleged indifference to the needs of the people to an excessive number of religious holidays.

Parliament passed the Submission of the Clergy, which placed religious law officially under royal control.

Through these acts, Parliament established a precedent that would remain a feature of English government:

Whenever fundamental changes are made in religion, the monarch must consult with and work through Parliament.



Expanding Secular Power

In 1533:

Henry wed the pregnant Anne Boleyn.

Parliament made the King the Highest Court of Appeal for all English subjects.

The Archbishop of Canterbury officially invalidated Henry's marriage to Catherine.

In 1534, Parliament:

ended all English payments to Rome
gave Henry sole jurisdiction over religious appointments

passed the Act of Succession which proclaimed Anne Boleyn's children legitimate heirs to the throne

passed the Act of Supremacy which declared Henry as "the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England."

When the King's longtime trusted advisor Thomas More refused to recognize the Act of Succession and the Act of Supremacy, Henry had him executed, making clear his determination to have his way regardless of the cost.



Despite his break with Rome, Henry maintained most elements of Catholic doctrine:

reaffirmed transubstantiation.

denied the Eucharistic cup to the laity.

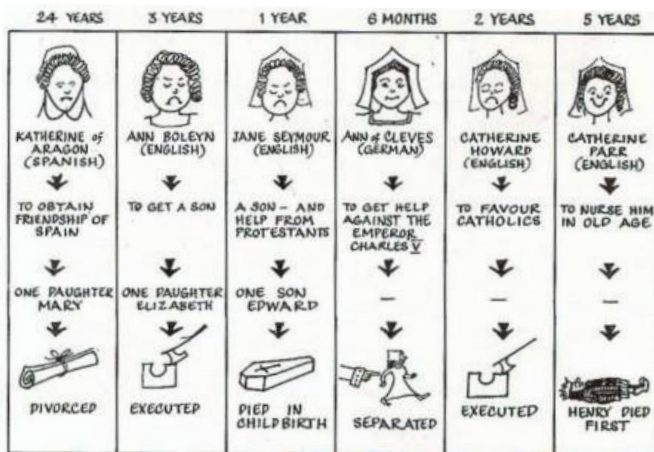
declared celibate vows inviolable.

provided for private masses.

ordered the continuation of auricular confession.

Henry VIII's Many Wives

To to secure a male heir Henry married six times:



His marriage to Catherine of Aragon was annulled in 1533.

In 1536, Anne Boleyn was executed for alleged treason and adultery and her daughter Elizabeth was declared illegitimate.

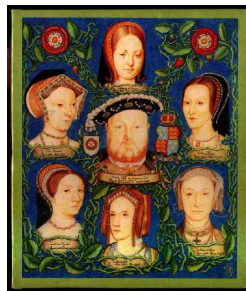
Jane Seymour died in 1537 shortly after giving birth to the future Edward VI.

Henry wed Anne of Cleves sight unseen in January, 1540 to create an alliance with Protestant German princes; the marriage was annulled in July.

Catherine Howard was beheaded for adultery in 1542.

Henry's last wife, Catherine Parr, survived him.

Despite his many wives and amorous adventures, Henry absolutely forbade the English clergy to marry and threatened any clergy who were caught twice in concubinage with execution.



Religious Policy Under Edward VI

(1547-1553)

When Henry died, his ten-year-old son Edward VI became his successor. Under the regencies of the duke of Somerset and the duke of Northumberland, England fully enacted the Protestant Reformation.

Henry's religious laws were repealed and clerical marriage and communion with cup were sanctioned.

In 1549, the Act Of Uniformity imposed the Book of Common Prayer on all English churches.

Images and altars were removed from the churches in 1550.

In 1552, the 42-Article Confession of Faith proclaimed the legitimacy of justification by faith and the Supremacy of Holy Scripture while denying the legitimacy of transubstantiation.



Mary I

(1553-1558)

In 1553, Edward died as a teen; Catherine of Aragon's daughter succeeded the English throne as Mary I

She proceeded to restore Catholic doctrine and practice.

Religious Policy Changes



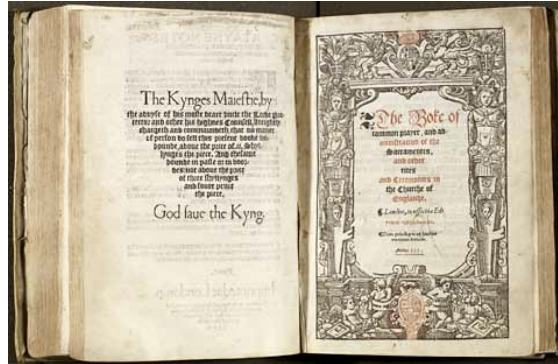
Elizabeth I

(1558-1603)

Anne Boleyn's daughter, Elizabeth I, created a lasting religious settlement, merging a centralized Episcopal system, which she firmly controlled, with broadly defined Protestant doctrine and traditional Catholic ritual.

A New English Religion Emerges

In 1559, Parliament passed a new Act of Supremacy, repealing all the anti-Protestant legislation of Mary Tudor and asserting Elizabeth's right as "supreme governor" over both spiritual and temporal affairs.



In the same year, a new Act of Uniformity mandated a revised version of the second Book of Common Prayer for every English parish.

In 1563, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion made a moderate form of Protestantism the official religion within the Church of England.

Tudor Family Tree

