

THE ELIZABETHANS, 1580-1603

In this British 'Depth Study' students will study the complexity of late Elizabethan society and the interplay of political, religious, economic, social and cultural forces within it. It will enable learners to understand how and why different **interpretations** of late Elizabethan England (e.g. the 'golden age') have been constructed, and the reasons why such **interpretations** have been challenged.

Christopher Haigh: Queen Elizabeth 1 was both "a bully" and "a show-off" at court
 Stephen Alford: the threat from the Catholics created "dangerous and uncertain times"
 Keith Wrightson: late Elizabethan England was a "period of crisis" for many people
 Was the late Elizabethan period a "golden age" of culture, or was "Merry England" a myth?
 A.N. Wilson: explorers laid "the foundation of power and prosperity for future generations."
 R.J. Unstead: the Elizabethans "successfully increased trade in all parts of the world"

TIMELINE:

KEY VOCABULARY:

1558	Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen following the death of Mary Tudor	'Bloody Question'	Asked of priests on trial to test their loyalty and discredit them
1559	Act of Supremacy – Elizabeth becomes Supreme Governor of the Church	Censorship	Preventing people from saying or publishing what they like
1559	Act of Uniformity – all acts of worship had to follow the Anglican pattern	Colony / colonies	Land taken and ruled by a foreign power, e.g. Roanoke
1568	Mary Queen of Scots arrives in England after the murder of her husband	Gentry	Land-owning class in Tudor society, usually without a title
1570	Elizabeth is ex-communicated from the Catholic church by Pope Pius V	Husbandman	Name for an ordinary jobbing farmer in Tudor England
1580	Sir Francis Drake arrives back in England following his circumnavigation	Jesuit priest	Catholic priests sent by the Pope to work undercover in England
1580	Arrival of undercover Jesuit priests in England to help restore catholicism	Justice of the Peace (JP)	Person responsible for aspects of local government and the law
1581	Act of Persuasions increases recusancy fines by a whopping 10,000%	Kinship	Family ties – between people or families who were related
1583	Francis Throckmorton plots against Elizabeth with King Phillip II of Spain	Martyr	Someone who is prepared to die for his or her religious beliefs
1585	Sir Walter Raleigh sponsors expedition to found the colony of Roanoke	Mass	The most important part of the Roman Catholic Church service
1585	Act against Priests allows death penalty for sheltering Catholic priests	Middling sort	People in the middle of Tudor society – neither rich nor poor
1586	Babington Plot – casket letters de-coded by Sir Francis Walsingham	Papist	Name used by Protestants for Catholics, i.e. followers of the Pope
1586-87	Trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots at Fotheringay Castle	Patronage	Granting a job or favour because you know somebody personally
1587	Recusancy Act allows government to take two-thirds of Catholic lands	Privy Chamber	The Queen's personal suite of rooms at court – very private!
1588	Spanish Armada sails in July but is defeated by Drake and the weather	Privy Council	A small group of trusted advisors, those closest to the Queen
1590s	Peak of late Elizabethan witchcraft trials in England, e.g. Ursula Kemp	Propaganda	One-sided, often false, message – spread as widely as possible,
1593	Act Restraining Recusants ordered Catholics stay within 5 miles of home	Puritan	Particularly committed Protestant Christian (from the word pure)
1596	Offensive portraits of QE1 burnt, followed by younger pattern for artists	Recusant	Catholics who refused to attend Anglican (C of E) church services
1597	Theatres shut down in London after plays criticised the Government	Roman Catholic	A member of the Roman Catholic church, headed by the Pope
1597-99	Large areas of England suffer from famine after years of harvest failure	Royal progress	Queen's tour of the kingdom, held throughout summer months
1599	Globe Theatre is built in Southwark, London, for Shakespeare's plays	Secretary of State	Queen's leading, most trusted advisor: Burghley or Walsingham
1600	East India Company is set up to encourage trade with India and the east	Seminary priest	Young English Catholics who had to train abroad as priests
1601	Earl of Essex's rebellion fails and he is beheaded at the Tower of London	Settled poor	Those living in poverty in towns: often women, children, elderly
1601	Queen Elizabeth makes 'Golden Speech' where she flatters Parliament	Vagabond	Those poor people who deliberately chose to avoid work
1601	Poor Law provides for impotent & unemployed and punishes vagabonds	Vagrant poor	Poor people who wandered the countryside looking for work
1603	Queen Elizabeth 1 – the 'Virgin Queen' – dies at Richmond Palace, London	Yeoman	A fairly wealthy farmer, owned some land, but not quite gentry

KEY PEOPLE:

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Anthony Babington	Conspired with MQS to overthrow Elizabeth – casket letters	Humphrey Gilbert	Claimed Newfoundland for QE1, drowned on way home (1583)
Edmund Campion	Jesuit priest - finally captured, racked and executed in 1581	Ursula Kemp	'Cunning woman' and healer – hanged for witchcraft in 1582
Sir William Cecil	Secretary of State 1558-72 & 1590-98 – AKA Lord Burghley	James Lancaster	Commander of East India Company's first fleet to India in 1601
Margaret Clitheroe	Accused of sheltering priests – executed by "pressing" 1586	Mary Queen of Scots	Elizabeth's Catholic cousin who had a claim to the English throne
Dr John Dee	Adviser to QE1 on all matters: astrology, maths & navigation	King Phillip II	Catholic King of Spanish Empire & former husband of Mary Tudor
Sir Francis Drake	'Sea Dog' and first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe	Sir Walter Raleigh	Explorer & royal favourite who founded a colony at Roanoke
Early of Essex	Royal favourite who rebelled against QE1 - executed in 1601	Sir Thomas Tresham	Catholic gentleman, persecuted and fined for recusancy by QE1
Ralph Fitch	Tried to establish trade between England & Mughals in 1583	Sir Francis Walsingham	Secretary of State 1572-90 - cold and cunning - royal spymaster!

