

Anglicanism 101

**What it means to be
Anglican/Episcopalian**

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

Fall, 2006

Week 3

- Political Context of the English Reformation

Political Context of the English Reformation

Background to Tudor Reign

Henry VIII (1509-1547)

- Spanish Alliance
 - Papal Dispensation – 1509
 - Catherine of Aragon
- Road to split from Rome (1527-39)
 - Appeal to Rome (Wolsey) 1527-29)
 - Debate in European Universities (1529)
 - 1530 – Henry as Supreme Head of the Church “as far as the law of Christ allows”
 - 1533 – English Ecclesiastical Court grants Henry’s annulment (marriage to Anne Bolyen – Elizabeth born September 1533
 - 1529-1536 – Reformation Parliament
 - 1535-1539 – Dissolution of the Monastaries

Edward VI (1547-53)

- ❑ Ruled by Regents (Duke of Somerset, Duke of Northumberland, and Archbishop Cranmer)
- ❑ Dominated by religious changes – Protestant reaction that Henry's changes didn't go far enough
- ❑ 1549 First Book of Common Prayer – with Act of Uniformity
- ❑ 1552 Second Act of Uniformity and 2nd Book of Common Prayer
- ❑ Political turmoil regarding succession
 - ❑ Lady Jane Grey v. Mary Tudor

Mary Tudor (1553-1558)

- Return to Catholicism – “Bloody Mary”
- Marriage to Philip II of Spain
- 1555 – Burning out Protestantism
 - Bishops Hooper, Latimer, Ridley, and Archbishop Cranmer

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

- Religious Settlement
 - Wedded to Protestantism by birth
 - Political Stability needed
 - Intense religious and political climate
 - “windows into mens’ souls”

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

- Parliamentary Religious Acts
 - 1559 Act of Supremacy
 - Abolished papal allegiance
 - Recognized Elizabeth as Supreme Governor of Church of England
 - 1559 Act of Uniformity
 - Restored the 2nd Prayer Book
 - Established the only form of public worship
 - Set up the Court of High Commission to enforce uniformity
 - 1562 Parliament passes 39 Articles
 - Revision from 42 Articles
 - Note this was a political act
 - Other Parliamentary legislation
 - Oath of Allegiance to Elizabeth as Queen and new Governor of the Church – required by all government and church officials
 - Accepted, by and large, with little opposition, initially.

Reaction to Elizabethan Compromise

- ❑ Catholic Reaction
 - ❑ 1570 Papal Excommunication of Elizabeth
 - ❑ Jesuit proselytizing
 - ❑ Catholic opposition awakened in England
 - ❑ Fines for non-attendance of church services and for saying or hearing Catholic Mass
 - ❑ Priests charged with treason
 - ❑ @200 Catholics executed during her reign
 - ❑ Plots against Elizabeth's life
 - ❑ Mary Queen of Scots executed 1587
- ❑ Protestant Reaction
 - ❑ Puritans and other separatists
 - ❑ Court of High Commission tried all cases of nonconformity – required political uniformity
- ❑ Successor James I of Scotland named on deathbed