

The legacy of the Reformation and the causes of the English Civil War

TASKS 2-4

In order to understand the problems that faced all of the Stuart monarchs - but especially the first two - you must understand something of the impact of the Reformation in England, Ireland and Scotland in the 16th century. The Reformation was the process whereby England broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome. It was begun under Henry VIII and became permanent under Elizabeth I. Only by understanding this background will you be able to see that in Early Stuart England. After the Reformation the following applied in England.

1. There was only one national Protestant Church to which everyone was **forced** to belong.
2. The monarch was head of the Church and saw the Church as a tool of controlling people. Anyone who did not go to Church was fined and anyone who tried to set their own Church up would be in serious trouble. Anyone who tried to continue to be a Catholic was also in serious trouble.
3. The Church and its officials including Bishops and archbishops were firmly under the control of the King
4. However, the Reformation and the publication of the Bible in English had unleashed many different interpretations of how to achieve salvation and of what the correct way to worship God was. These divisions were of major political importance because they could challenge the monarch's power as head of the ONE national church.
5. Catholicism had become hated and feared by much of English society. It was linked to terrorist plots, foreign invasion, torture, violence, confiscation of property and treason.

TASK 2: Read the file An Introduction to Stuart Britain and the file Stuart England-Religious Divisions.

Answer the following.

1. How were the ideas of Martin Luther different to those of the Catholic Church?
2. Why did many people begin to criticise the Catholic Church?
3. Read the box on John Calvin on page 13 as well as the following section on Britain and the Reformation. What ideas did he add to the Reformation? Why was preaching important to a Calvinist
4. How did the Reformation create political conflict in Britain? Mention Calvinism in Scotland as well as England.
5. Why did Elizabeth come up with a middle way in religion? What was the Middle Way?
6. How Protestant was the Elizabethan Settlement?
7. How serious was the Catholic threat to Elizabeth and how successful was she in dealing with the threat?
8. Why do you think that Elizabeth and Parliament's attitude towards Catholics in England hardened from the 1570s?
9. Why did Puritanism emerge as a threat to Elizabeth and her Church? How serious was the Puritan threat to the Elizabethan Church
10. To what extent did Elizabeth achieve a religious settlement in England in the 16th century?

TASK 3: Read through the file the Civil Wars and answer the following on paper or print out the document after typing in your notes.

How did the Reformation and the religious changes brought about by Edward, Mary and Elizabeth increase the power of Parliament?

What was the main consequence of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and how might it have led the English gentry and nobility to become supporters of the new Protestant faith?

Why did the gentry become more educated as a result of the Reformation? How might this have led to a growth in Parliament's power and role in governing the state?

Can you work out how the Reformation unleashed by Henry VIII both increased the power of the Monarch but at the same time meant that it became more vulnerable?

Why did Elizabeth see it as her priority to bring about a religious settlement?

What do you think were the main causes of the growing hatred and suspicion of Catholicism in the reign of Elizabeth? Why did Protestantism come to be associated with English national identity and freedoms? (read the box on p6.)

What do you think the Puritans meant by 'further reformation'?

How did Elizabeth react to the Puritans and Presbyterians? Why did she react that way?

Complete a glossary of religious terms by defining: Anglican, Arminian, Puritan, Predestination, Presbyterian, Separatist, Book of Common Prayer

TASK 4: Read through the file the Reformation and add anything new to your notes.