

The Protestant Reformation in England

- I. Reform Movements in Britain prior to Henry VIII
 - a. John Wyclif (ca. 1330-1384)
 - i. The Lollards - started in 14th century, Underground by the 15th
- II. Henry VIII (r. 1509–1547) and the break with Rome
 - a. 1527: Henry sought a divorce from Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn
 - b. Appealed to Rome for an annulment of his marriage
 - i. If the pope agreed, doubt would be cast on the validity of all papal dispensations
 - ii. It would also provoke the wrath of Charles V, Catherine's nephew
 - c. 1531: Henry declared himself to be "protector and only supreme head" of the church in England
 - d. 1534: the Act of Supremacy
 - e. Consequences
 - i. Pilgrimages and relics were prohibited
 - ii. English church remained Catholic in organization, doctrine, ritual, and language
 - iii. 1539: the Six Articles of the faith
- III. Edward VI (r. 1547–1553)
 - a. Came to the throne at nine years of age
 - b. Altered ceremonies of the English church
 - i. Priests were permitted to marry
 - ii. English was substituted for Latin
 - iii. The veneration of images was abolished
 - iv. New articles of faith were drawn up repudiating all sacraments except baptism and communion
 - v. Justification by faith alone
- IV. Mary Tudor (r. 1553–1558) and the restoration of Catholicism

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- a. Reversed Edward's religious policies
 - b. Many were burned at the stake for refusing to give up Protestantism
 - c. Asked Parliament to vote a return to papal allegiance
 - d. "Bloody Mary"
- V. The Elizabethan religious settlement
- a. Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603)
 - i. Daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn
 - b. The new Act of Supremacy (1559)
 - i. Repealed Mary's Catholic legislation
 - ii. Prohibited foreign powers from exercising authority within England
 - iii. Declared herself "supreme governor" of the English church
 - iv. Retained some Catholic vestiges
 - c. 1562: the Thirty-Nine Articles of Faith
 - d. Protestantism and English nationalism: God has chosen England for greatness