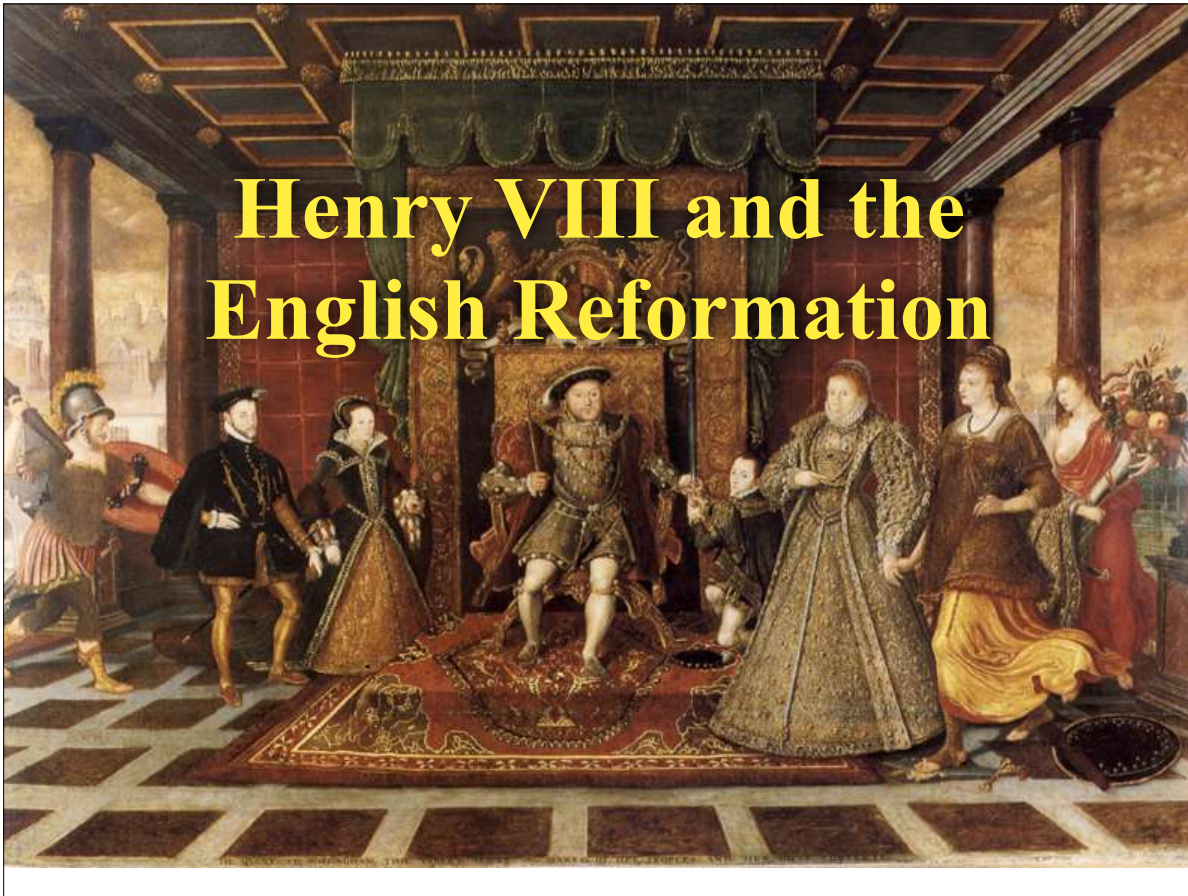


Henry VIII and the English Reformation



History of English Rights of the Crown Against the Pope



Late medieval England had a reputation for maintaining the rights of the crown against the pope.

Edward I (1272-1307) had rejected efforts by the pope to prevent taxation of the clergy.



Parliament passed laws that curtailed payments and papal appointments in England.

Humanism and widespread anticlerical sentiment prepared the way for Protestant ideas in the early 16th century.



Marriage to Catherine of Aragon



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

(Catherine had been married to Henry's brother Arthur, who suffered an untimely death; Henry's father, Henry VII, had betrothed Catherine to Henry in order to keep the English alliance with Spain intact. As such, 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, who happened also to be Catherine's nephew (his Holy Roman Empire soldiers had sacked Rome).

When the king's advisors could not obtain a papal annulment, they conceived of a plan to declare the king supreme in English religious affairs.

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





Government Control of the Clergy

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

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

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.

In the same year, Parliament passed the Submission of the Clergy, which placed religious law 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 invalidated Henry's marriage to Catherine.



In 1534:

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

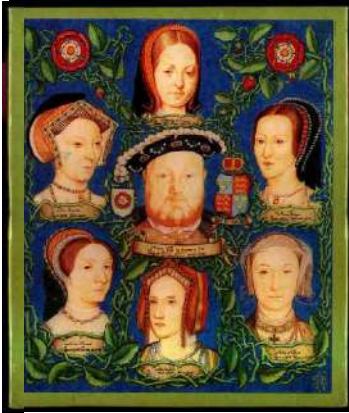
Anne Boleyn's children were proclaimed legitimate heirs to the throne under the Act of Succession.

Henry was declared "the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England under the Act of Supremacy.

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.

Henry the Dichotomous

To satisfy his desires and 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 the break with Rome, Henry maintained most of the Catholic doctrine in a country filled with Protestant sentiments.

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.

Angered by the growing popularity of Protestant views, he:

reaffirmed transubstantiation.

denied the Eucharistic cup to the laity.

declared celibate vows inviolable.

provided for private masses.

ordered the continuation of auricular confession.

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.

A Second Act Of Uniformity in 1552 imposed a revised edition of the Book of Common Prayer.

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 1533, 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 the 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, the Act of Uniformity mandated a revised version of the second Book of Common Prayer for every English parish.

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