



Knowledge Organiser

Henry VIII & His Chief Ministers 1509-1540

Unit #1

Key Terms

Renaissance:

Transition period from the Middle Ages to Modernity 15th-16th Century. Changes in literature and arts and a new appreciation for learning.

Divine Right:

The idea that the monarch was chosen by God and acted as God's representative.

Salvation: going to heaven

Cardinal: A senior leader in the Roman Catholic Church

Papal Legate: represented the Pope in a foreign country.

Lord Chancellor: most important post in Henry VIII's government, responsible for advising the king on all matters.

Annulment: A legal term declaring that a marriage was never valid, and therefore never existed. Could only be granted by the Pope.

Cardinal Campeggio: sent by Pope Clement to work alongside Cardinal Wolsey to hear Henry's case for an annulment.

Leviticus: contained the passage Henry believed had cursed his marriage causing him to not have any healthy male heirs.

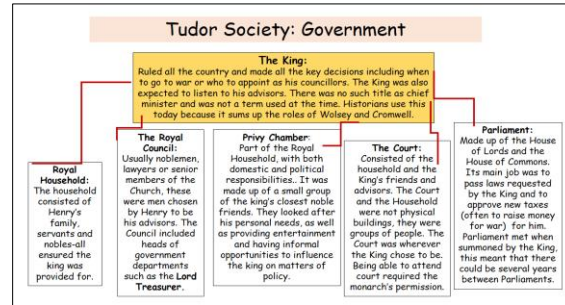
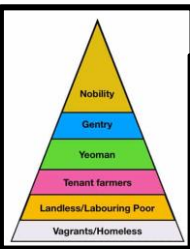
Pope Clement VII: head of the Catholic Church and ruler of the Papal States from 1523 to his death in 1534. He was approached by Wolsey but refused Henry's annulment.

Catherine of Aragon: first wife of Henry VIII and Catholic (mother of Mary).

In 1509, Henry VIII (Henry the 8th) became King. Aged only 18 in 1509, the young king now ruled over 2.5 million people. His was mainly a rural kingdom, with most people living and working on the land. The religion of the whole of England was Roman Catholicism - a form of Christianity followed throughout Western Europe during much of Henry VIII's rule. By the time Henry became king in 1509, England had been a Catholic country for nearly 1000 years. Most people went to Church every Sunday and all the important rituals of their lives were linked to the Church. In Tudor England, the Roman Catholic Church was central to people's lives.

Henry had a clear vision for his kingship. He wanted to model his rule on the great Renaissance monarchies of France and Spain. He believed the king should be the towering figure with a dazzling court that celebrated the king as well as the latest ideas in arts, culture and learning. Henry was inspired by past stories of English kings winning victories over the French. Henry wanted to decide on England's policies and dictate this to his ministers.

Tudor society was hierarchal - this meant that you were ranked in society based on your wealth and social status. There was only very limited opportunities to move up on the social ladder. People were expected to know their place in society.



How did Thomas Wolsey Rise to Power?

Thomas Wolsey was Henry VIII's chief advisor from 1515 until 1529.

He gained power through:

1. Education-

He was the son of a butcher and therefore a commoner. Wolsey was extremely intelligent, charming and gifted. He gained a degree at the age of 15. whilst at Oxford University he became a priest.

2. The Church- 1501, Wolsey became chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and got to know other important people. In 1507, he was appointed a royal chaplain to Henry VII (7th), so now he was at court. In 1514 he became Bishop of Lincoln, Archbishop of York and in 1515 the Pope appointed him a cardinal. In 1518 he was appointed as **Papal Legate** in England, which meant he now outranked all of the clergy in England.

Wolsey's Domestic Reforms/Policies

The Amicable Grant 1525

In 1525 Charles V defeated Francis I. Henry wanted to take full advantage and invade France. To do this he needed money! **The Amicable Grant** was the tax designed to do this. The church had to pay 1/3 and ordinary people 1/6 of their property's wealth. It was deeply unpopular.

- In Suffolk a full scale rebellion broke out. 10,000 men rebelled but surrendered to the Duke of Suffolk/ Duke of Norfolk
- Henry had to postpone/ Duke of Norfolk.
- Henry had to postpone/ abandon invasion.
- Wolsey was embarrassed
- Wolsey's enemies sized on the failure and Henry started to doubt his minister.

Enclosures 1517:

Rich land owners started enclosing land which meant tenant farmers and poor farmers could not graze their cattle/ livestock.

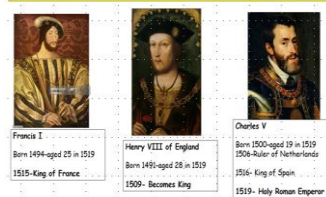
In 1517 Wolsey set up an enquiry to investigate enclosures. 260 cases were brought against landowners.

Finance:

Wolsey needed to raise money for Henry's battles abroad. There was already a taxation system of 1/10ths an 15ths. Wolsey also:

- Recovered crown lands from the nobility, this raised £15,000 alone in 1515
- Introduced a subsidy tax which taxed people on what they earned. This raised £800,000 between 1509-1520
- Forced loans. Wolsey forced major landowners to lend the government

The Three Rivals- France, England and the Holy Roman Empire

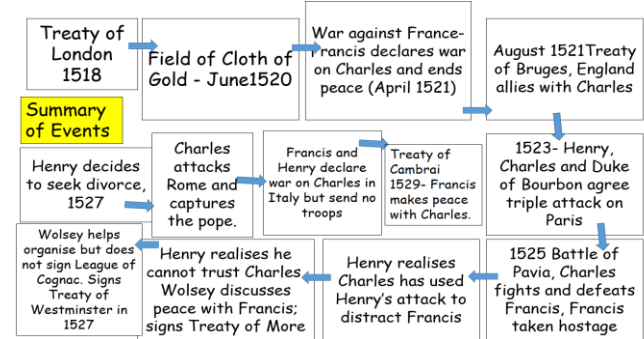


Why Wolsey?

1. Henry VIII had no interest in day to day duties running England. His appointment as Royal Almoner gave him access to the king, this increased his power/ influence.
2. Henry VIII disliked his father's advisers who were too cautious
3. War with France in 1512 was a chance for Wolsey to demonstrate his organisational skills
4. Wolsey was a charmer! He flattered Henry VIII and was a skilled negotiator.

Aims of Foreign Policies

1. Improve relationships with France and Habsburg empire
2. To play France and Habsburg empire off against each other
3. Increase England's military glory and win land/ wars while keeping the cost down
4. To increase Henry's prestige and power as a major peacemaker rather than 3rd best



Successes:

- 1514 battle of the spurs
- 1518 Treaty of London
- Signed by 20 leaders
- Brought Henry prestige
- 1520 Field of Cloth of Gold
- Francis I and Henry VIII met near Calais. It was a show of wealth and power. Each monarch tried to best the other. Nothing was decided at the meeting

1522-25 failed war Duke of Suffolk invades but Charles had no interest in invading France but Henry thought that the Treaty of Bruges (1521) was a plan to split France with Charles V! The unpopular war costs £430,000
1525-29 - alliance with France against Charles V. In 1529 Francis I makes a peace treaty with Charles V called Treaty of Cambrai. Wolsey is snubbed and told last minute!

Justice System:

Wolsey wanted to create a fairer justice system. Rich people often used bribes to get their own way
Wolsey: - Created and strengthened the **court of star chamber (CoSC)**
Using the CoSC Wolsey encouraged the poor to bring their cases. He also supported the poor. The Earl of Northumberland was a powerful landowner imprisoned by Wolsey's CoSC

The Eltham Ordinances

Wolsey was concerned about misspending at the King's palaces, he was keen to cut spending! He came up with **79 chapters of rules.**

- Cutting spending on meals and servants
 - Laying off sick/ unnecessary servants
 - Reduce amounts of money spent on lodgings, food and fuel
 - Reduce the privy chamber from 12 to 6
- Wolsey's main aim was to reduce the power of the privy chamber so he had control over government and Henry VIII.

The King's Great Matter

In 1527, Wolsey was given the task by Henry that would later become one of the leading reasons for Wolsey's downfall. Henry instructed Wolsey to approach **Pope Clement** to annul his marriage to **Catherine of Aragon**. Catherine was the daughter of the King and Queen of Spain. She was also the Aunt of Charles V. In 1501, she was married Arthur at the age of 16. Arthur was Henry's brother and the eldest son. However, 6 months later Arthur died from illness. Catherine stayed in England. In 1509, shortly after Henry's accession to the throne, her marriage to Henry was arranged and England and Spain's alliance was maintained through this. The Church forbade a man to marry his brother's wife. However, as the marriage had not been consummated, the Pope at the time (**Pope Julius**) granted a dispensation (permission) for the marriage to take place. Catherine was well respected by English people as well as Henry at this time and they have a mutual affectionate relationship. She was deeply religious, loyal and also defended Henry's interests. In 1513, Henry appointed her as Regent while he led an invasion of France.



However - CoA was pregnant 6 times between 1509 and 1520. But only princess Mary survived. This reflected badly on Henry

1. He was not a man if he could not father a child
2. His Tudor throne was at risk without a son and heir
3. By 1527 CoA was well into her 40s making a son very unlikely..
4. **Henry was deeply in love with Anne Boleyn**, who he saw as everything Catherine was not. Catherine was in her 40's and had lost her looks. Anne however, was a young and beautiful woman who caught the eye of Henry in 1526. Anne was the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, a courtier and minister. She was also the niece of the Duke of Norfolk, who was becoming a key advisor to the king. Anne had spent her teenage years at the court of Francis, King of France, where she was maid to Queen Claude. It is possible that Henry first saw her during the field of cloth of gold. In 1522, Anne returned to England and became maid of honour to Catherine. She received much attention at court.



Wolsey fails to gain an annulment

- In 1527 Henry VIII instructs Wolsey to get an annulment to Catherine of Aragon from Pope Clement VII
- In 1528 Cardinal Campeggio heads the divorce commission
- In 1529 Charles V captures Rome (Charles is the nephew of CoA)
- Clement VIII recalls the annulment. Wolsey's plan as Papal Legate to rule alongside Campeggio is in tatters.
- With the case 'adjourned' Wolsey is charged with praemunire by Henry VIII
- Pressure is put on CoA to renounce her marriage to Henry VIII but she will not bow to pressure.

Wolsey's fall from power

There are several reasons for Wolsey's fall

1. Wolsey's (failed) reforms- both foreign and domestic.
2. The Amicable Grant was deeply unpopular.
3. Failure to get Henry VIII an annulment to CoA
4. Failed foreign policy
5. The Boleyn Faction
 - George Boleyn (Brother)
 - Thomas Boleyn (Father)
 - Thomas Howard (Duke of Norfolk)
6. Wolsey's personality and low birth status meant many nobles wanted to see him lose power and status.



In 1529 Wolsey was stripped of his powers and wealth and exiled to York. In 1530 he was charged with praemunire (working for the Pope and not the King) and summoned to face trial in London, he died on the way.

The Rise of Thomas Cromwell

Thomas Cromwell, like Wolsey was not a member of the nobility. He rose from humble beginnings to become the king's chief minister by 1533. Many people see Cromwell as a shadowy schemer who used plotting and torture to get ahead in the world-others see him as a loyal servant to the king, prepared to take difficult decisions to serve his master.

Background:

Cromwell was a lawyer from an average background.

- In 1519 he became a member of Wolsey's council and a trusted adviser
- In 1529 he became the MP for Taunton
- In 1531 he became a member of the Royal Council.

Cromwell was very loyal and capable, he had served Wolsey loyally even when everyone had turned on him in 1529. This loyalty impressed Henry VIII. Cromwell was witty and charmed people. He was skilled at persuading people too. He could also be ruthless and brutal if needed. In short, he got the job done! By 1530 Cromwell had made himself a vital part of Henry's court as the king became more involved in the running of his own country.

Securing Henry's Annulment

Cromwell realised quickly that helping Henry secure an annulment would be the quickest way to gain further promotions. Following Wolsey's fall in Autumn 1529, Henry asked leading nobles, including the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Suffolk and Anne Boleyn's father (made Earl of Wiltshire in 1529) to look at the case- however they lacked the skills to come up with a strategy to legally gain the divorce. Cromwell quickly realised that Pope Clement was not willing to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine as he did not want to upset Charles V. Cromwell therefore changed tactic, arguing that the power to grant an annulment should be taken from the Pope and given to Henry instead. To provide the legal basis for this, parliament could be used to pass a law transferring the power.. On the 25th January 1533, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, performed a secret marriage ceremony for Henry and Anne. However, this was not legal and in the eyes of the Catholic church, Henry and Catherine were still married. Unless this changed, the baby Anne was carrying would be illegitimate. Parliament passed the **Act in Restraint of Appeals** in March 1533. This stated that England was now an empire and not subject to any form of foreign rule. Henry was now the head of the Church and only he, not the pope, could annul his marriage to Catherine. A divorce hearing began in May 1533 in a court led by Archbishop Cranmer. The court announced that:

1. The Pope's original dispensation allowing Henry and Catherine to marry was invalid.
 2. Henry and Catherine had never legally been married.
 3. Henry's secret marriage to Anne was therefore legal because he was a bachelor at the time.
- After six years Henry finally got what he wanted. Anne was crowned as Henry's queen in a royal coronation, followed by great celebrations. In September 1533, Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. Henry was disappointed, he had not gained the son he wanted.

Henry and Anne's marriage soon fell apart. Henry fell from his horse whilst jousting. On the day of Catherine's funeral, Anne miscarried (she later claimed it was brought on by the shock of Henry's accident) Her husband offered no sympathy. Within four months of this, Anne found herself being accused of adultery with five men, including her own brother. **Anne Boleyn was executed in 1536 just 3 years after marriage with Henry.**

- September 1533 Anne is heavily pregnant and gives birth to a girl - Elizabeth .
- 1534 Anne has a miscarriage
- 1536 Anne has another miscarriage
- May 1536 Anne is charged with adultery and treason
- Anne is accused of having an affair with
 - Mark Smeaton
 - Sir Francis Weston
 - Sir Henry Norris
 - Sir William Brereton
 - George Boleyn
- 15th May 1536 Anne is found guilty
- 17th May 1536 Anne and Henry's marriage was annulled
- 19th May 1536 Anne is beheaded

* Did Cromwell conspire against Anne? Some historians think Cromwell was all too aware of Anne's power to bring down Henry's ministers. Others feel Cromwell was just carrying out Henry's wishes.

Henry Marries Jane Seymour

Cromwell encouraged Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour- a courtier from a politically established family. Henry married Jane. This was 11 days after Anne Boleyn's execution. The swiftness of the marriage reflected Henry's desire for a son. Jane was sympathetic, obedient and popular. She worked hard to bring a reconciliation between Henry and his first daughter Mary. Above all, she fulfilled her role as a wife by giving birth to the future Edward VI on the 12th October 1537. Henry had finally got what he wanted! This rejoice did not last long- the birth had been difficult lasting 3 days, causing Jane to die less than two weeks on 24th October. Henry was deeply saddened.



Cromwell's Reforms

| | AREAS TO REFORM | PROBLEMS | SOLUTIONS |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| GOVERNMENT | Wales | - Semi-independent - Own laws and customs | -1536 Act of Union brings Wales under English law -Wales divided into 7 counties headed by JPs -Wales given MPs in parliament |
| | North of England | -Long history of independence | -Council of North (est. 1472) strengthened -Responsible for maintaining law and order -1536 Act abolishing liberties and franchises |
| | Royal Council | -Meetings were disorganised and unrecorded and had no rules -100 members of nobility & clergy: rarely met | -Turned Royal Council into Privy Council -Comprised of 20 well-trained lawyers and administrators -Clerk of the Privy Council appointed to record meetings |
| FINANCE | King's Chamber | -Keeping an eye on income and expenditure was boring to Henry -No rules on how the King's Chamber should be run: accounts not properly checked | -Created a bureaucracy of departments that dealt with different financial issues -Departments checked to ensure they were acting appropriately -Bureaucracy staffed by well-trained officials |
| | | -Dissolution of the monasteries led to massive increase in income: King's Chamber could not cope | -Court of Augmentations (1536): dealt with property and income from monasteries -Court of First Fruits and Tenths (1540): collected Church tax that used to go to Rome |
| PARLIAMENT | House of Commons and House of Lords | -Was a minor institution that approved taxes -England was ruled by a personal monarchy, with Henry making decisions by royal proclamation | -Used parliament to pass laws (esp. Act of Succession and Supremacy). -House of Lords represented by nobility and clergy; -House of Commons represented , landowners and merchants; Cromwell uses this to get support for laws. -1509-1531 = 203 Acts → 1532-1540 = 333 Acts -Cromwell uses experience as lawyer and MP to "persuade" parliament |

1530-32 Cromwell threatens church. He hops it will force Pope to annul marriage

1532 – submission of the clergy

1st step to accepting the king as the head of the church. Archbishops and bishops had to accept Henry VIII as head of the church. Taxes to pope ended too.

1533 – The Act of Succession.

- Henry VIII & CoA marriage was invalid
- Mary is banned from succession
- Marriage to AB is Henry's first time marriage so Elizabeth is 1st in line to the throne
- Criticism of Henry's marriage to Anne is treason

This act was designed to avoid a civil war after Henry's death. All important people had to take an oath of succession.

1534 – The Act of Supremacy

King is supreme leader of church in/ of England. By swearing this oath head of church reject the Pope's authority.

1534 – The Act of Treason.

Strengthens treason laws – even speaking out against Henry as a heretic was punishable by death

1536 – The Act for Dissolution of Lesser Monasteries

Monasteries with an income of < £200 a year were 'lesser'. This was a test of public opinion as lesser monasteries were less likely to have sympathy from people, Henry was convinced monks were loyal to Pope.

1536 – The Act of Ten Articles.

The Catholic church said there was 7 crucial ceremonies to save your soul from hell.

This Act said only 3 mattered

- Baptism
- Eucharist (bread + wine)
- Penance for sins

Great Bible printed in 1539 (the first official translation of the Bible in English)



1538 – Royal injunctions to the clergy

This was the high point of protestant reform.

- English bible in every church
- Thomas Becket's shrine in Canterbury cathedral was destroyed
- The 'stripping of the Alters' which was the confiscation of money, gold and silver at shrines of saints
- Holy relics removed from churches. This was another move against the worship of saints
- All parishes were to contain a book of deaths, births and marriages.

1539 – The Act of Six Articles

Concerned that reform was going too far, Henry VIII restored many catholic practices.

- Mass could be in private
- Priests were banned from marrying

1539 – The Act of Dissolution of Greater monasteries

Remaining church land was sized and sold.

*Many protestant reforms brought in under the Act of Ten Articles were removed. Was Henry losing trust in Cromwell?

The Reformation



The Impact of the Dissolution

Winners

- For Protestants/ Religious reformers like Cromwell and Cranmer. The Pope's symbol of power was gone – reform was closer. The closure of the monasteries removed a powerful symbol of Roman Catholicism. For the crown, it brought huge financial gain.
- Over time Henry sold most of the monastic land. This gave members of the nobility the opportunity to buy land previously owned by the monasteries. A lot of estates were also bought by those who ordinarily would have remained landless, including wealthy merchants and lawyers.

Losers

- The heads of houses were given a generous pension, while monks and nuns were given a one off payment of 20-30 shillings. 6500/8000 monks secured paid work in the Church. A significant number of monks and nuns were left in hardship and some even became beggars. England's 2000 nuns suffered the most and they were not allowed to even marry or work in churches. Poverty increased due to the loss of charitable work.
- Many beautiful buildings were destroyed. Libraries, art, stained glass windows and furnishings, were sold off or destroyed.

The closure took place in two stages. This was probably to make sure that any opposition could be dealt with by the government. It may also have been because Henry had not fully committed himself to become used to this huge change in religious life of the country.



Opposition to the Reformation



- Elizabeth Barton 'Nun of Kent'** Barton claimed to have had visions of the virgin Mary. Many people believed her to be a holy messenger who could make prophesies. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury (William Warham) believed her! In 1527 Barton's visions prophesied Henry die a villain's death. She criticised protestant ideas and even approached Henry to challenge him on his marriage to Anne Boleyn. 1533 a book of her prophesies was published by Dr Edward Bocking, in it she said Henry would burn in hell! In November 1533 she was arrested, interrogated and tried on an attainder by parliament (no trial). She was executed on the same date as the Oath of Succession and all 700 copies of her book were burned



- John Fisher** – Bishop of Rochester John Fisher had tutored Henry VIII as a young boy. He had also been a chaplain to Henry's grandmother. Fisher had links with Elizabeth Barton and was fined £300 for associating with her. However, when he refused to take the oath of succession in 1534 things got nasty. Henry sent him to the Tower of London and he was executed in June 1535. The pope had made him a cardinal shortly before he was executed.

- Two weeks after Fisher's death, **Sir Thomas More** was also executed. More was a leading scholar in Europe, author of 'Utopia' and a devout Catholic. More was an exceptional lawyer, Speaker of the House of Commons and a close advisor to the king. When Wolsey fell from power in 1529, Henry appointed More as Chancellor. Henry knew More opposed his plans to divorce Catherine, but at that stage there was still chance of an annulment. More believed Protestantism threatened the souls of English people. Appointed as Chancellor (the King's chief secretary) in 1529, he banned all protestant books many protestants were burnt as heretics for their beliefs. In 1530 More refused to sign a letter asking the Pope to annul Henry's marriage. By 1532, More could no longer work for Henry due the clash of his Catholic beliefs and Henry's wish to divorce Catherine. He resigned his chancellorship, claiming ill health, but Henry would not allow this. The King then appointed Cromwell as Chancellor. In April 1534, More was urged to take the Oath of Succession. When he refused, he was taken to the Tower of London. More did not want to die but also did not want to betray his Catholic principles, so he kept silent as he believed revealing the real reason (denial of Henry as the legitimate head of Church) would be committing treason. However, during trial in July 1535, evidence was produced showing that he had spoken his true feelings about Henry and the break with Rome. This evidence was probably made up, but was enough for More to be executed under the new Treason Act.

In 1538 the Pope excommunicated Henry VIII – Now all Catholics were potential traitors/ assassins!

Key Terms

Transubstantiation: the belief that bread and wine is transformed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ

Valor Ecclesiasticus:

The title of Cromwell's survey into the conditions and wealth of the Church.

Monastery: a building or buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows.

Previously in 1521, Henry was a firm Catholic and had written a lengthy book which expressed his support for the Roman Catholic Church and condemned Luther's Protestant ideas. It was called 'In Defence of the Seven Sacraments.' writing this book earned him the title 'Defender of Faith' by the Pope.

• Catholics

- Led by Pope and bishops
- Churches were decorated (stain glass)
- Bread and wine became body/ blood of Jesus Christ in Mass, during communion
- Thomas More, John Fisher, Duke of Norfolk, Stephen Gardiner
- Bible in Latin

• Protestants

- Local leaders, no Pope or bishops
- Plain churches
- Believe that bread and wine do NOT become body/ blood of Christ
- Bible in English (translated)
- Cromwell, Cranmer

At the start of Henry's reign, England was a land of abbeys and monasteries. Across the country, there were over 800 religious houses served by 10,000 monks and nuns. The religious, welfare and educational roles of the monasteries placed them at the heart of many communities. In November 1534, Henry became the Head of the English Church as a result of the Act of Supremacy and the monasteries fell under his direct power. From 1536, he began their destruction. By 1540, not a single one remained.

Reasons for the Dissolution of the Monasteries

- Religious – Cromwell and Cranmer did not approve of the religious practices going on. They saw them as backwards and in need of removal.
 - Political – Henry felt monks and nuns were loyal to the pope. This was confirmed when many religious houses had supported the pilgrimage of grace in 1536.
 - Financial – The monasteries were very wealthy. Renting and selling the land would raise £1000's for Henry to:
- Pay for future wars and the defence of England
 - Be financially independent from parliament.
 - Not rely on taxation to raise money
 - Gift or sell land to the nobility to win over those hostile to Henry VIII

- Valor Ecclesiasticus* -> survey of finances

How?

- In 1535 Cromwell ordered the survey of smaller monasteries
- This led to inspections. These alleged that monks were not keeping to their strict moral code. They accused monks of having mistresses, gambling and homosexuality. They said nuns were even having children!
- Cromwell's inspections said the wealth of the monasteries was £160,000 per year. All of England's royal; income was around £100,000 so this meant the church was rich!
- 1536 The Act for the Dissolution of the Lesser Monasteries.
- 1539 The Act for the Dissolution of the Greater monasteries

Religious Factors

- The North was mainly Catholic, and many believed their faith was under threat.
- The dissolution of the smaller monasteries was seen as an unforgivable attack on religion.
- The work of monks and nuns was important for the whole community.
- The dissolution led to fears that the parish churches would be the next target.

Social Factors

The monasteries provided:

- healing for the sick
- help for the poor
- refuge for travellers.

The fact that this was all under threat through the dissolution angered many.

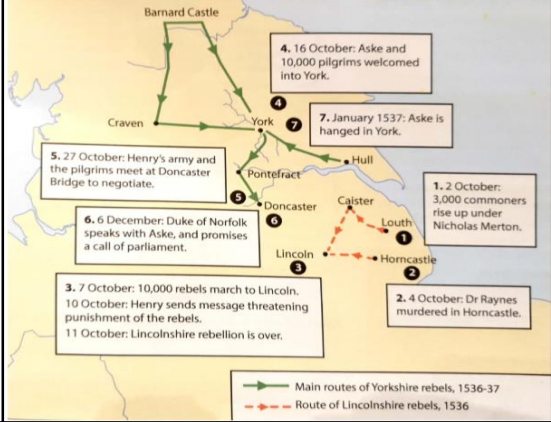


Economic Factors

- The 1534 Subsidy Act was still being collected in 1536. This was usually only raised in wartime. As England was at peace, it was deeply resented.
- Poor harvests in 1535 and 1536 made times even harder.
- Commoners had complaints about rising rents and enclosure of common land.
- Gentry and nobility were opposed to the 1536 Statute of Uses, a tax on landed inheritances.

Political Factors

- The northern nobility felt that Henry's court was too much under the influence of Cromwell.
- They disliked Cromwell for his low birth and reformist religious views.
- They hoped the uprising would increase their power in court and weaken Cromwell's.



- ### Lincolnshire
- October 1535 - 3000 people led by Nicholas Melton gather together
 - Dr Raynes, an unpopular church official investigating effectiveness of clergy, is murdered by a mob
 - 10,000 rebels march on Lincoln angry at the dissolution of the monasteries.
 - Henry sends Duke of Suffolk with 3000 men. The rebels back down and ask for pardons
- ### York
- At the same time as uprisings in Lincoln around 40,000 rebels led by Robert Aske march on York
 - By 19th October 1536 Hull is taken by rebels.
 - 21st October - Pontefract castle falls. Lord Darcy is sympathetic to the rebels and hands over the castle. The rebels now control most of the north and heavily outnumber the king's army!

The Pilgrimage of Grace

- Henry sends the Duke of Norfolk with an army of 8000. Aske and the rebels issue the Pontefract Articles.
- ### Pontefract articles - Dec 1536
- Extreme Protestant ideas ended and heretics burned
 - Pope restored as supreme head of the church
 - Queen Mary restored as the King's heir, not Elizabeth
 - Abbeys restored
 - Men who investigated the monasteries punished (Cromwell, Richard Riche)
- 6th December 1536. Pilgrim representatives meet the Duke of Norfolk at Doncaster Bridge. They accept a King's pardon and disband. They had no argument with Henry and only wanted those who had advised Henry badly punished (Cromwell). The pilgrims believed they were the 'good guys' saving Henry VIII from making a huge mistake! Norfolk promises that parliament will meet to discuss their concerns. Aske and the other pilgrims trust Henry and Norfolk.
 - Parliament never meets to debate the pilgrims demands. Norfolk had no intention of keeping his word.
 - Further rebellion breaks out in Cumberland and Westmorland. The Duke of Norfolk rounds up the leaders of the rebellion and has them hanged (178 are executed).
 - Aske is hanged in York in July 1537.
- HINT: Study the York Articles and the Pontefract Articles which are; religious, economic and political?
- Was it just a religious rebellion?

Significance of the Pilgrimage of Grace

- The Pilgrimage showed the reformation. The Act of Six Articles reversed some changes that had taken place earlier. Although, it did not stop the dissolution of the monasteries.
- The Pilgrimage was about much more than religion! As the York Articles show there were economic and political factors at play too. 1530's saw poor harvests, high taxation, unemployment and changes that frightened people.
- Thomas Cromwell was hated by many in the north. They blamed him for changes. Cromwell was easier to blame than nobles because of his low birth status.
- Henry was vulnerable because he didn't have a royal army. He had to rely on his nobles to put down the uprising (Norfolk).
- The actions of Henry VIII and Duke of Norfolk showed how ruthless Henry could be when dealing with opposition
- The numbers involved showed widespread hostility to the religious reforms. People were particularly angry about changes to their local churches and about the closure of the monasteries that had helped the poor/sick
- Nobles and gentry in the north had supported the uprising. This made the pilgrimage especially dangerous for Henry VIII.

10th June 1540 Cromwell was arrested and taken to the Tower of London, there he was interrogated by the Duke of Norfolk. Knowing Cromwell was a skilled lawyer, his enemies had him charged with treason so he would not get a trial. In a cruel twist of fate, parliament would get to vote 'guilty' or 'not guilty' ... They voted guilty. * Act of Attainder*

Why did Thomas Cromwell fall from power?

- Cromwell's ambition.
 - Charges were that Cromwell was trying to rival Henry's power and he was planning to marry Mary! This was not true, but these false charges did help to get Cromwell executed.
- Duke of Norfolk (DoN)
 - Thomas Howard was a strong Catholic and he hated Cromwell who supported reformist protestant ideas.
 - The DoN was jealous of Cromwell's rise to power.
 - The DoN wanted Cromwell's influence over Henry VIII. DoN had a key ally in Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester. Gardiner was a catholic who helped persuade Henry that Cromwell was a traitor and that his reformation of the church had gone too far! Norfolk instructed his niece Catherine to spread rumours that Cromwell was not working hard enough to secure an annulment for Henry from Anne of Cleves. In addition, he instructed her to say that Cromwell wanted to introduce Protestantism into England fully.



- Anne of Cleves (AoC)
In 1539 there was a real threat to England. Henry VIII needed allies! The Duke of Cleves was a German reformist who needed allies against Charles V too. Cromwell was a reformer, sympathetic to protestant ideas, he believed AoC would strengthen the Protestantism in England. By 1540 invasion was not likely. Henry blamed Cromwell for the failed marriage.



- Religion
The AoC marriage had deeply damaged Henry and Cromwell's relationship. Henry was furious that Cromwell had arranged such a humiliating marriage. This was the chance Norfolk and his allies had been waiting for! Henry VIII was NEVER a protestant, he disagreed with much of what the protestant faith stood for. By 1539 Henry had begun to move England back to Catholicism. The Act of Six Articles (1539) moved England back to more Catholic, repealing much of the Act of Ten Articles (1536). In 1540 Cromwell's enemies told Henry that he was secretly supporting preachers that opposed the Act of the Six Articles, and wanted to make the church protestant. Henry was furious yet again. The damage was done!
- Henry VIII's personality.
By 1540 Henry was in poor health. In 1536 he had a riding accident while out hunting and it never healed properly. His injured leg was full of ulcers and this caused him to stink and remain bed bound. A once fit and healthy king ballooned from a 32" waist to a 52" waist. Henry's temper grew fearsome and he had an increasingly short fuse.

Key Terms

Sacraments: Special church ceremonies including baptism and marriage. The central function of the Church was to deliver the seven sacraments.

Indulgences: A certificate issued by the Catholic churches granting a person forgiveness for their sins.

Martin Luther: leading thinker for the new religious movement at the time called **Protestantism**.

Anne Boleyn: second wife of Henry VIII and protestant (mother of Elizabeth)

The Boleyn Faction: A group of nobles including Anne Boleyn's family who competed to influence the King and increase their power.

Viceroy: Cromwell appointed as the king's deputy.

Pilgrimage: A journey completed for religious reasons.

Pontefract Articles: list of demands presented by rebels to Henry VIII/Duke of Norfolk.

Thomas Howard: The Duke of Norfolk- also uncle of Anne Boleyn.

Thomas Cranmer: A leader of the English Reformation and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reigns of Henry VIII.

Jane Seymour: third wife of Henry VIII (died after giving birth to Edward VI)

Anne of Cleves: daughter of German Duke and fourth wife of Henry VIII.

Catherine Howard: fifth wife of Henry VIII. (also niece of DoN).