Religious Zeal

1. Introduction
   a. The vagueness of English religious direction under Henry VIII in 1530s and 1540s, followed by
      i. 6 years of strong Protestantism under Edward VI
      ii. 5 years of strong Catholicism under Mary,
      iii. return to being markedly Protestant, at least in doctrine, early in Elizabeth’s reign
      iv. Why the clear demarcation?
   b. Lead reason: the role of the martyrs burnt for heresy under Mary
      i. martyrs past and future
      ii. Other reasons: religious organization, government, and economy under Edward and Mary
      iii. The role of one book, Foxe’s “Book of Martyrs” in creating a pro-Protestant, or at least anti-Catholic climate that was decidedly English.

2. Reign of Edward VI: religion
   a. Edward only 9, rule by Edward Seymour, brother of Jane Seymour, soon created Duke of Somerset, called Lord Protector.
      i. Somerset strongly Protestant.
      ii. to improve popularity, repeals: Treason Act, Act of Six Articles, and other legislation of religious oppression
         (1) result: radicalization of Protestantism in England
   b. Government instituted religious change
      i. Chantry (chapels, masses for the dead) dissolved as superstitious
         (1) result: end of purgatory
      ii. Universities colonized by religious radicals
         (1) result: training a Protestant ministry
      iii. Renewed emphasis on the word of God/the Bible: services to be in English
         (1) result: word versus images affects the countryside
      iv. 1549, first Book of Common Prayer
         (1) result: common service in English
      v. 1552, Act of Uniformity penalizes not going to state Church

3. Reign of Edward VI: government
   a. Government of Somerset increasingly unpopular, though both because of factors within and outside its control
      i. Outside the Protectorate’s control was the Mid-Tudor Crisis: a period of price rises and unemployment
      ii. Within the Protectorate’s control was its (lack of) skill and vision
   b. Reaction against Protectorate exacerbated by unpopularity of religious changes and economic crisis
      i. Rebels in Cornwall and Devon, 1549
      ii. Rebels in Norfolk, Kett’s Rebellion 1549
   c. Last years of Edward’s reign and Northumberland’s rule
      i. Northumberland just as rapacious as Somerset
      ii. Edward begins to assume more control; interested in furthering his Reformation
      iii. Northumberland living on borrowed time, as, by 1552 Edward VI clearly ill

4. Mary and the royal line
   a. the problem: 1553, 36, single
   b. the solution: marriage—inside or outside the realm?
i. 1554, Philip II of Spain
ii. July 1555, illusory pregnancy (dropsy?)
iii. August 1555, Philip leaves England
c. developing sense of religious mission
   i. example of portrait

5. Catholicism reaffirmed
   a. 20 November 1554, Cardinal Reginald Pole (descendant of brother of Richard III, and Tudor line) lands at Dover as papal Legate
      i. by end of month, England ceremoniously reconciled to the Pope
   b. Plan for reconciliation with Rome realistic? Problems:
      i. absence of overarching plan
         (1) strongest Protestants allowed to leave country
         (2) no developed popular program of proselytizing
   c. turn from the carrot to the stick, by 1555 moving to policy of trying and burning heretics
      i. Some councillors opposed to burning heretics
      ii. Policy begins Summer 1555
         (1) some 286 "Marian martyrs"
         (2) some famous clergy

6. Foxe and the Protestant Victory
   a. born 1517, exiled 1554. Begins annals of those braver than him.
   b. "Book of Martyrs"
      i. Latin 1559 (just a list)
      ii. English (much expanded) Acts & Monuments 1563, 1570, 1576, 1583
      iii. 1570 ordered put in every Cathedral next to the Bible and many parishes followed
c. intention?, meaning?
   d. Significance?
      i. importance of printing in spread of Reformation
      ii. importance of millenarian vision
         (1) Fox convinced Pope is Antichrist prophesied in Revelations
      iii. importance of England as an "Elect Nation"
         (1) England's history and religious struggles within of the highest importance