

Age of Elizabeth: Settling and Unsettling

1. Settling the Throne
 - a. May 1536, Elizabeth not 3 years old when mother, Anne Boleyn, charged with treason, marriage annulled and beheaded
 - i. unlikely to favor Catholicism, but learned to outwardly conform
 - b. Purged Privy Council and Royal Household
 - c. Continuity of Tudor Rule made problematic by her sex
 - d. The ideal for woman, was to marry
 - e. Instead glorification of Virgin Queen (Astraea, moon-goddess)
2. Settling the Church
 - a. After the religious zeal of the 1540s and 1550s, Elizabeth wanted to settle religious divisions, not by tolerance, but certainly not by succumbing to the demands
 - i. Radical Calvinist demands of the International Protestant agenda, led by Foxe's "Book of Martyrs"
 - b. new C. of E. under Elizabeth will be Puritan in doctrine, but Catholic in Ritual
 - i. criticized by both Catholics and radical Puritans
 - c. *politique* position hampered by continuing struggles
 - d. Anglican hardline from 1570s
 - i. Puritans fail from 1590s
3. Threats from abroad
 - a. "The Queen poor. The realm exhausted. The nobility poor and decayed. Want of good captains and soldiers. The people out of order. Justice not executed. All things dear. The French King bestriding the realm."
 - b. Elizabeth as a *politique*
 - i. Between International Protestantism...
 - ii. ...And International Catholicism
 - c. Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587)
 - d. Conflict with Spain
4. Elizabeth and Posterity
 - a. Crisis of 1590s (continued war)
 - i. expense of naval war with Spain and land war with troops in Netherlands
 - ii. New World, exploration, but no successful (remunerative) colonization
 - iii. military problem, England becomes expert at suppressing guerilla warfare
 - b. Pomp & magistracy
 - i. Elizabeth successfully held onto her throne in part through the image of the Queen
 - (1) the drama of playing Queenship
 - ii. Difference between Gloriana cult and reality
 - (1) Elizabeth toothless, hairless, and wrinkled
 - c. the Queen and Parliament
 - i. Rules with nobles, Privy Council, and Court(iers)
 - ii. Did she rule with Parliament? Less so than her predecessors.
 - (1) Father, brother, and sister called 28 Parliaments in 30 years.
 - (2) Elizabeth called 13 Parliaments in 45 years