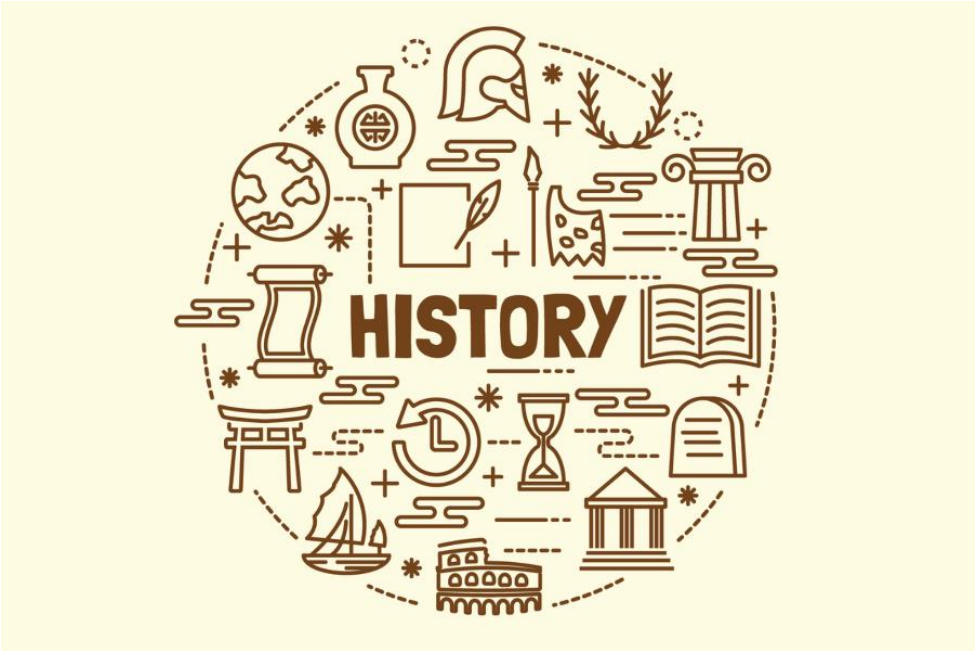
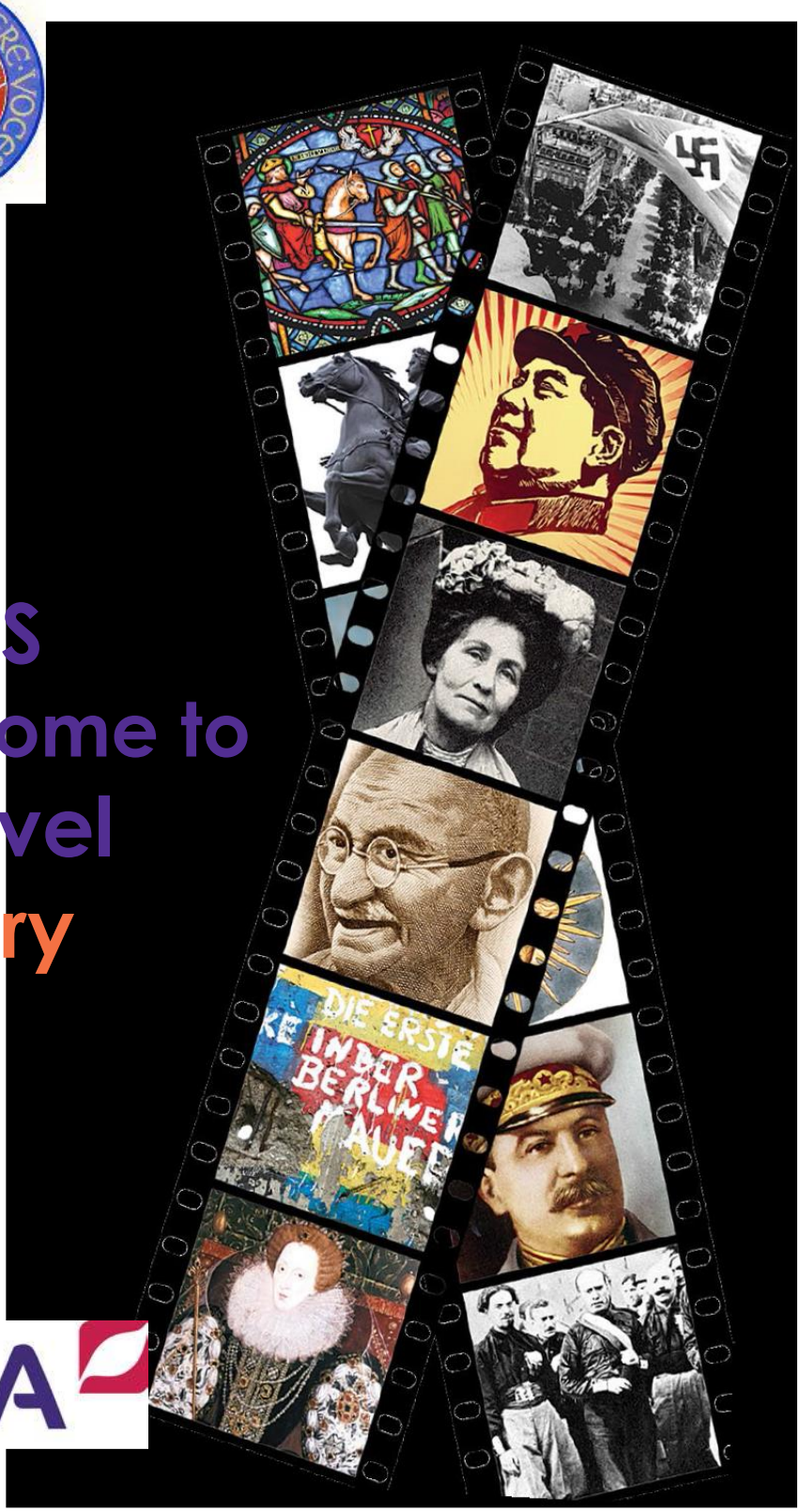
AQA A Level History Transition Work



You should complete the transition work for the Tudors and The America Dream

Name	



KGGS Welcome to A-Level History

A-Level (7042)

Transition Pack Overview

Specification

Component 1: Breadth study

1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

Component 2: Depth study

2Q The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

A-level

A-level students must take assessments in all three of the following components in the same series:

- Component 1: Breadth study
- Component 2: Depth study
- Component 3: Historical investigation (Personal study)

Students must:

- study the history of more than one country
- study a British history option for Component 1 or 2
- study a non-British history option for Component 1 or 2
- study topics from a chronological range of at least 200 years.

Assessments

Component 1: Breadth study

What's assessed:

The study of significant historical developments over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations.

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- two sections
- Section A – one compulsory question linked to historical interpretations (30 marks) Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

Component 2: Depth study

What's assessed:

The study in depth of a period of major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.

Assessed

- written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- two sections
- Section A – one compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary

- to the period (30 marks)
- Section B – two from three essays (2 x 25 marks)

Component 3: Historical investigation

What's assessed:
A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content of options chosen for Components 1 and 2.
Assessed

- 3,000 – 3,500 words
- 40 marks
- 20% of A-level

Component 1: Breadth study

Each Breadth study requires the study of an extended period and enables students to develop secure understanding of the process of change over time. Each Breadth study is introduced by six key questions which identify issues and perspectives which are central to the period of study. They emphasise that the study of breadth requires students to develop an understanding of:
•• the nature of causes and consequences, of change and continuity and of similarity and differences over a long period of time
•• the links between perspectives, such as political, economic, social or religious as well as appreciating developments relating to the perspectives separately over time
•• the role played by individuals, groups, ideas or ideology.
The content for each period of study is set out in chronological sections. An examination question may arise from one or more of these sections of specified content. There is an important interrelationship between the six key questions and the specified content. Study of the content enables students to develop a secure understanding and knowledge of the period. The key questions inform and guide how the content should be studied. This combination of historical content, informed by key questions, seeks to combine 'periods or themes' in a manner which is manageable and historically valid. Thus, 'understanding of the process of change over time' stems from secure knowledge of shorter periods which enable the development of a broader understanding as the study progresses.

Component 2: Depth study

Each Depth study is focused on a significant period of historical change or development. Students will gain deep understanding of change and continuity through the study of the interrelationships of a variety of perspectives as indicated in the content. They will develop detailed knowledge and understanding of developments and the roles of individuals, groups, ideas and ideology. Depth studies also promote an understanding of the complexity of the historical process through a detailed focus on a specific period of change. Content is presented chronologically in sections as is most appropriate to the period of study. An examination question may arise from one, or more than one, section of specified content. To demonstrate depth of historical knowledge and understanding, students should be able to make links and comparisons between the aspects of the period studied. Therefore it is important that specified content should be studied both in its own right and holistically. In this way links and contrasts will be rooted in secure knowledge and understanding.
Each of the Depth studies has an introductory commentary, setting out the focus of the study and the key concepts that apply to it. There is a close interrelationship between the commentary and the content that follows which enables students to appreciate the focus of the depth study.

Component 3: Historical investigation – non-exam assessment (A-level only)

Students will be required to identify an issue they wish to study and develop a question from this issue which will be the focus of the Historical investigation. To ensure that this represents a substantial study, the issue to be investigated has to be placed in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content studied for Components 1 or 2.
Students may study a specific issue or development in depth, but this must be placed in the context of approximately 100 years, or a broader theme and/or development. Issues which relate to international,

national or local developments are appropriate, as are investigations which adopt specific historical perspectives such as cultural, social or technological.
Through undertaking the Historical investigation, students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work. They will broaden their study of the past whilst having the opportunity to study a specific issue in great depth.

1C-The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:
•• How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
•• In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
•• How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
•• How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
•• How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
•• How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Part One: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485–1547

Henry VII, 1485–1509

•• Henry Tudor's consolidation of power: character and aims; establishing the Tudor dynasty
•• Government: councils, parliament, justice, royal finance, domestic policies
•• Relationships with Scotland and other foreign powers; securing the succession; marriage alliances
•• Society: churchmen, nobles and commoners; regional division; social discontent and rebellions
•• Economic development: trade, exploration, prosperity and depression
•• Religion; humanism; arts and learning

Henry VIII, 1509–1547

•• Henry VIII: character and aims; addressing Henry VII's legacy
•• Government: Crown and Parliament, ministers, domestic policies including the establishment of Royal Supremacy
•• Relationships with Scotland and other foreign powers; securing the succession
•• Society: elites and commoners; regional issues and the social impact of religious upheaval; rebellion
•• Economic development: trade, exploration, prosperity and depression
•• Religion: renaissance ideas; reform of the Church; continuity and change by 1547

Part Two: England: turmoil and triumph, 1547–1603

Instability and consolidation: 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563

•• Edward VI, Somerset and Northumberland; royal authority; problems of succession; relations with foreign powers
•• The social impact of religious and economic changes under Edward VI; rebellion; intellectual developments; humanist and religious thought
•• Mary I and her ministers; royal authority; problems of succession; relations with foreign powers
•• The social impact of religious and economic changes under Mary I; rebellion; intellectual developments; humanist and religious thought
•• Elizabeth I: character and aims; consolidation of power, including the Act of Settlement and relations with foreign powers
•• The impact of economic, social and religious developments in the early years of Elizabeth's rule

The triumph of Elizabeth, 1563–1603

•• Elizabethan government: court, ministers and parliament; factional rivalries
•• Foreign affairs: issues of succession; Mary, Queen of Scots; relations with Spain
•• Society: continuity and change; problems in the regions; social discontent and rebellions
•• Economic development: trade, exploration and colonisation; prosperity and depression

•• Religious developments, change and continuity; the English renaissance and 'the Golden Age' of art, literature and music
•• The last years of Elizabeth: the state of England politically, economically, religiously and socially by 1603

2Q-The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

This option provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American Dream' but the **prosperity** was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-**communism**, social equality, ethnic identities and **federal** versus **states' rights**. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of **democracy** in a **pluralist** society, political protest and the power of the media.

Part one: prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945–1963

Truman and Post-war America, 1945–1952

•• The United States in 1945 and the legacies of the world war: the powers of the presidency; the main political parties; post-war prosperity; regional, ethnic and social divisions
•• The USA as a **Superpower**: Truman's character and policies; post-war peace making; the Cold War and **'containment'** in Europe and Asia; the response to the rise of Communism in Asia
•• Truman and post-war **reconstruction**: the **economy**; political divisions and **domestic** problems; the rise of **McCarthyism**
•• African-Americans in North and South: the impact of the Second World War; campaigns for **Civil Rights**; the responses of the federal and state authorities

Eisenhower: Tranquillity and Crisis, 1952–1960

•• The presidency: Eisenhower's personality and the policies of 'dynamic conservatism'; Nixon as Vice- President; the Republican Party; the end of McCarthyism
•• The growth of the American economy in the 1950s and the impact of the '**consumer society**'
•• The USA and the Cold War: **Superpower rivalry** and conflict with the USSR; responses to developments in Western and Eastern Europe; reactions to the rise of Communism in Asia; responses to crises in the Middle East
•• African-Americans in North and South: the emergence of the **Civil Rights Movement**; the policies and attitudes of the main political parties; the responses of the state and federal authorities

John F Kennedy and the 'New Frontier', 1960–1963

•• The presidential election of 1960 and reasons for Kennedy's victory; the policies and personalities of the Kennedy **administration**; the ideas behind the **'New Frontier'**
•• Challenges to American power: the legacy of crises over Berlin and relations with Khrushchev; the challenge of Castro's Cuba; deepening involvement in Vietnam
•• African-Americans in North and South: the rise of the Civil Rights Movement; the opponents of Civil Rights, including within the Democratic Party; Kennedy's policies in response to the pressures for change
•• The United States by 1963: its position as a world power; economic prosperity; the growing pressures for social change from women and youth

Part Two: challenges to the American Dream, 1963–1980

The Johnson Presidency, 1963–1968 (A-level only)

•• Johnson as President: personality and policies; his pursuit of the **'Great Society'**; the impact of the Kennedy legacy; economic developments

•• Maintaining American world power: escalation of the war in Vietnam; relations between the USA and its Western allies
•• African-Americans in North and South: developments in the Civil Rights Movement; Johnson's role in passing Civil Rights legislation; the impact of change including urban riots
•• Social divisions and protest movements: education and youth; feminism; **radicalisation** of African-Americans; anti-war movements; the role of the media

Republican reaction: the Nixon Presidency, 1968–1974 (A-level only)

•• The Presidential election of 1968 and the reasons for Nixon's victory: divisions within the Democratic Party; the personalities and policies of the Nixon administration
•• The restoration of **conservative** social policies; the reaction to protest movements and forces of social change; economic change and the end of the post-war boom
•• The limits of American world power: peace negotiations and the continuation of the war in Vietnam and Cambodia; the influence of Kissinger on US policies towards the USSR, Latin America and China
•• **The Watergate Affair** and its aftermath: the role of **Congress**; the resignation of the President; Nixon's political **legacy**

The USA after Nixon, 1974–1980 (A-level only)

•• Ford and Carter as presidents: responses to social divisions; political **corruption** and the loss of national self-confidence
•• The position of the USA as a world power: the final withdrawal from Vietnam; relations with the USSR and China; the response to crises in the Middle East; Iran and Afghanistan
•• African-Americans in North and South: the impact of civil rights **legislation**; change and continuity in the 'New South'
•• The USA by 1980: its position as a Superpower; the extent of social and economic change; the reasons for Reagan's victory in the presidential election.

Component 3: Historical investigation (non-examined assessment) To be completed post-Year 12 exams

Purpose of the Historical investigation

The purpose of the Historical investigation is to enable students to develop the skills, knowledge and historical understanding acquired through the study of the examined components of the specification. Through undertaking the Historical investigation students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work. The Historical investigation contributes towards meeting the aims and objectives of the A-level specification. In particular it encourages students to:

•• ask relevant and significant questions about the past and undertake research
•• develop as independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers
•• acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study
•• organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding in a piece of sustained writing.

Introduction

Students will be required to submit a Historical investigation based on a development or issue which has been subject to different historical interpretations. The Historical investigation must:

•• be independently researched and written by the student
•• be presented in the form of a piece of extended writing of between 3,000 and 3,500 words in length
•• draw upon the student's investigation of sources (both primary and secondary) which relate to the development or issue chosen and the differing interpretations that have been placed on this
•• place the issue to be investigated within a context of approximately 100 years
•• be an issue which does not duplicate the content of Components 1 and 2.

The Historical investigation must be supervised in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.1 of this specification. The centre must complete a non-examined assessment (NEA) proposal form no later than 12 months before the intended completion of the A-level course. The form must detail the topic and date range of the proposed Historical investigation for each student. The teacher must state which examined components will be studied. This form must be submitted to AQA for review. AQA will check that the

proposed Historical investigation, when combined with the examined components, meets the following requirements:

•• the proposed topic is set in the context of approximately 100 years
•• there is no overlap with the content of the options studied for the examined components
•• all three components together cover a chronological range of at least 200 years.

Reading and resources list

1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

- C Lee, *Britain, 1483-1529,* Nelson Thornes, 2008
- R Carpenter, *The Church in England and the Struggle for Supremacy, 1529-1547*, Nelson Thornes, 2009
- M Tillbrook, *The Triumph of Elizabethan Britain 1547-1603,* Nelson Thornes, 2009
- I Dawson, *The Tudor Century*, Nelson Thornes, 1993

Useful books for students

- D Murphy (ed), *England 1485-1603*, Collins, 1999
- N Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, Hodder, 2009
- R Lockyer & D O'Sullivan, *Tudor Britain 1485-1603*, Longman, 1993
- K Randall, *Henry VIII and the Government of England,* Hodder, 2001
- K Randall, *Henry VIII and the Reformation in England,* Hodder, 2001
- J Warren, *Elizabeth I: Meeting the Challenge*, Hodder, 2008

Reference books

- G W Bernard, *The Kings Reformation*, Yale, 2005
- C Carpenter, *The Wars of the Roses*, CUP, 1997
- C S L Davies, *Peace, Print and Protestantism*, Paladin, 1995
- S Doran, *Princes, Pastors and People*, Routledge, 1991
- E Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars*, Yale, 1992
- G R Elton, *England Under the Tudors*, Routledge, 1991
- A Fletcher & D MacCulloch, *Tudor Rebellions*, Longman, 2004
- Griffiths (ed), *The Experience of Authority in Early Modern England*, Macmillan, 1996
- S Gunn, *Early Tudor Government*, Macmillan,1995
- J Guy, *Tudor England*, OUP, 1998
- C Haigh, *The Reign of Elizabeth*, Macmillan, 1984
- C Haigh, *English Reformations*, Clarendon Press, 1993
- J Loach, *The Mid Tudor Polity 1540-1560*, Macmillan, 1980
- D Loades, *The Mid-Tudor Crisis, 1545-1565,* Palgrave, 1992
- D Loades, *Politics and the Nation 1450-1660*, Blackwell, 1999
- D M Palliser, *The Age of Elizabeth*, Longman, 1992
- A J Pollard, *The Wars of the Roses*, Macmillan, 1988
- J Scarisbrick, *The Reformation and the English People,* Blackwell, 1984
- A G R Smith, *Emergence of A Nation State*, Pearson, 1997
- P Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times 1485-1603*, CUP, 1999

Biographies and first-hand accounts

- S Chrimes, *Henry VII,* Yale, 1999

- D Cook, *Sixteenth Century England Documents and Debates*, Macmillan, 1980
- D Cressy & L Ferrell, *Religion and Society in Early modern England A Sourcebook*, Routledge, 1996
- R Horrox, *Richard III,* CUP, 1991
- D Loades, *The Reign of Mary Tudor,* Longman, 1991
- J Loach, *Edward VI*, Yale, 1999
- D Starkey & L Wooding, *Elizabeth,* Vintage, 2001
- L Wooding, *Henry VIII*, Routledge, 2009

Visual sources and websites

- www.johnguy.co.uk
- www.history.ac.uk
- www.activehistory.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/history
- www.tudoerplace.com
- The Six Wives of Henry VIII, Elizabeth DVDs – D Starkey
- A History of Britain DVD – S Schama

Reading and resources list

2Q The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945–1980

- C Bragg, *Heinemann Advanced History: Vietnam, Korea and US Foreign Policy 1945-75,* Heinemann, 2006
- Edwards, *Access to History: The USA and the Cold War 1945-63*, Hodder, 2002
- D Murphy, *Flagship History - United States 1917-2008*, Collins, 2008
- M Hall, *The Vietnam War (Seminar Studies in History)*, Routledge, 2008
- M Scott-Baumann, *Civil Rights and Social Movements in the Americas*, CUP, 2012
- V Sanders, *Civil Rights in the USA 1945-68*, Hodder, 2008
- J de Pennington, *Modern America: 1865 to the Present*, Hodder, 2005

Useful books for students

- J Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War*, Penguin, 2007
- J Patterson, *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974*, OUP, 1998
- E Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*, Basic Books, 2008
- H Higgins, *Vietnam*, Heinemann, 1982
- D Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the Sixties*, Hill & Wang, 1994
- T Riches, *The Civil Rights Movement: Struggle and Resistance*, Macmillan, 2003
- D Sandbrook, *Mad As Hell: The Crisis of the 1970s and the Rise of the Populist Right*, Anchor, 2012
- L Cohen, *Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America by Lizabeth Cohen,* Vintage, 2003

Reference books

- T Anderson, *The Movement and the Sixties*, OUP, 1995
- C Appy, *Vietnam: The Definitive Oral History, Told From All Sides*, Ebury Press, 2008
- R Perlstein, *Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America*, Scribner, 2008
- M Halliwell, *American Culture in the 1950s,* Edinburgh University Press*, 2007*
- D Halberstam, *The Fifties*, Fawcett, 1994
- G Moss, *Moving on: The American People Since 1945,* Pearson, 2004

- M Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, Princeton University Press, 2011
- D Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the Sixties*, Hill & Wang, 1994
- T Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954–1963*, Simon & Schuster, 1998
- M Herr, *Dispatches*, Picador, 1991
- C Hitchens, *The Trial of Henry Kissinge*r, Atlantic Books, 2002
- M Isserman & M Kazin, *America Divided, The Civil War of the 1960s*, OUP, 2007
- S Karnow, *Vietnam: A History*, Pimlico, 1994
- G Kolko, *Anatomy of a War*, New Press, 1994
- M Dickstein, *Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties*, Harvard University Press, 1997
- M Marable, *Race, Reform and Rebellion 1945-82*, Pimlico, 1984
- T Weiner, *Enemies: A History of the FBI*, Penguin, 2012
- P Biskind, *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls: How the Sex-drugs-and Rock 'n' Roll Generation Changed Hollywood*, Bloomsbury, 1999
- G Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*, Norton, 2007
- J Williams, *Eyes on the Prize*, Longman, 1999

Biographies and first-hand accounts

- S Ambrose, *Nixon: The Triumph of a Politician*, 1962-72, Simon and Schuster, 2014
- D McCullough, Truman, Simon & Schuster, 1993
- R Dallek, Lyndon B, *Johnson: Portrait of a President*, OUP, 2004
- R Dallek, J*ohn F Kennedy: An Unfinished Life*, Penguin, 2013
- A Haley & Malcolm X, *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Penguin, 2007
- H Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, Pocket Books, 2003
- P Ling, *Martin Luther King*, Routledge, 2002
- M Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, Black Classic Press, 2012
- J Edward Smith, *Eisenhower in War & Peace*, Random House, 2013

Visual sources and websites

- http://www.jfklibrary.org/
- http://www.lbjlibrary.org/
- http://www.trumanlibrary.org/
- http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/
- http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/
- http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/
- http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/
- http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/econhist.htm
- http://www.270towin.com
- http://vault.fbi.gov/
- http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/ads/amadv.html
- http://www.loc.gov/teachers/additionalresources/relatedresources/ushist/special/social.html
- http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/
- http://www.nbclearn.com/finishingthedream#
- http://www.archives.gov/education/special-topics.html
- http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive

Films/DVDs

- The Butler
- M*A*S*H
- The Help
- Mississippi Burning
- The Long Walk Home
- Goodnight and Good luck
- Ali
- Malcolm X
- JFK
- Milk
- J. Edgar
- All the President's Men
- Thirteen Days

- Platoon
- Hamburger Hill
- Full Metal Jacket
- Forrest Gump
- Born on the Fourth of July
- Frost/Nixon
- Bobby or 'Bobby Kennedy for President'

Transition Work:
1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

1. **Read through the Summary of Events 1399-1485** (see the reading below). Make brief notes about each of the monarchs and then annotate the family tree (attached below). You need to identify which monarchs belong to the Houses of York and Lancaster.

2. **Use the internet to research the following about Henry Tudor**;
   - His claim to the throne
   - His life up to 1485

3. **Use the internet to investigate the Battle of Bosworth and produce a timeline of events** from Henry Tudor landing in Wales to Richard III being killed.

4. **Why was Henry Tudor able to become King of England in 1485?**

5. **Complete the work on Tudor society & economy** (attached below).

6. *You could*……visit the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre or the King Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester.

   www.**bosworthbattle**field.com/

   www.kr**iii**.com/

Transition Pack

Reading

a) The Deposition of Richard II and the Ascension of Henry IV

On 22 September 1399 Henry Bolingbroke, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, claimed the throne of England after the deposition of Richard II, whose reign had been marked by his constant overriding of law and the property rights of his nobility – itself sufficient to stimulate the opposition that led to Richard's downfall. The simplified genealogical table shows why the new king, Henry IV, had felt the need to declare his title to the throne in rather vague terms. If one accepted the legality of the deposition (and it was doubtful at best), then Henry's claim rested on being the *heir male* – being the person having the best claim to the throne through the male line, which stretched back to John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward III. However it could be argued that the stronger claim was that of the *heir general,* whose descent was through the female line via Philippa, daughter of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, the second son of Edward III. In 1399 the *heir general* was Philippa's grandson, Edmund, Earl of March, but he was a child and no fit opponent for Henry of Lancaster. But this claim through the Mortimer family did not go away. In particular, Richard, Duke of York, the son of Anne Mortimer, inherited that claim after the death of his uncle Edmund Mortimer in 1425. This is the origin of the so-called Yorkist title to the throne.

Henry IV rarely had the opportunity to enjoy his kingdom. He was faced with rebellions in Wales, complaints from Parliament about extravagance, more rebellions from the powerful northern nobles, the Percy's, incursions from Scotland, attacks on the south coast by the French and chronic ill-health in his later years. It is small wonder that some contemporaries were inclined to blame the king's troubles on divine retribution for his usurpation.

b) Henry V

Any doubts about the stability of the new Lancastrian dynasty were quelled by the accession of Henry V in 1413. Admittedly, there was a Yorkist plot in 1415 which aimed to put Edward Mortimer on the throne, but Mortimer himself tipped off the king. Make no mistake, Henry V was impressive. He seemed to have every quality expected of a monarch. Profiting from the internal divisions in France, he won a famous victory at Agincourt in 1415, conquered half of

France, married Catherine, daughter of the French king, was acknowledged as King of France by his ally the Duke of Burgundy, and became regent and heir to the French king, Charles VI. And, despite his absences, he maintained the fullness of royal authority over the administration of England. The royal lieutenant in England assisted and advised by a council, never presumed to initiate policy without Henry's full knowledge and support.

c) Henry VI and the Outbreak of the Wars of the Roses

Henry V died of dysentery in 1422. He was only 34 years old, and left as his heir a baby son of 9 months. However, this calamity signalled neither a wave of plots about the Lancastrians nor the collapse of government. There were certainly problems: most notably the resentment of Henrys V's youngest brother Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who objected to the way in which the late king's instructions in his will had been set aside by the lords assembled in Parliament. It seems that Henry V had intended Humphry to act more or less as regent in England until Henry VI came of age, but the lords were not prepared to accept this, preferring rule in England by a council of 17, with Gloucester was 'Protector', but without the power to make policy decisions except with council approval. Gloucester did all he could to disrupt this conciliar government in the years of Henry's minority, but, when Henry VI at last assumed the full powers of king in 1437, the council could look back on a job well done. The boy of 16 had come to power, and royal authority had not been damaged in any way. It took Henry VI himself to do that.

Henry V had secured loyalty and stability for his crown through conquests in France: his son's policy of seeking peace did nothing to help the morale or sense of purpose among his commanders or soldiers in his second Kingdom (France). By 1453 only Calais was left: a bitter and mocking reminder of what his father had achieved and of what Henry VI had lost. He was unable to control rivalries among his nobles, and he clumsily alienated his most powerful kinsman Richard, Duke of York. In fact, he displayed few or none of the qualities required of a king.

He lapsed into insanity in the autumn of 1453. York was the only possible choice for Protector, but the birth of Henry's son in October 1453 exposed the limitations and the dangers of York's position. Henry's queen, Margaret of

Anjou, clearly saw York was a threat to the inheritance of her son; and York could only look forward to an uncertain future. He, therefore, decided to bid for the throne. By 1460, through battle and through a formal assertion of his right to the throne, he had achieved a curious and unworkable compromise. By the Act of Accord, he recognised Henry VI as king, but was himself recognised as Henry's heir – displacing, of course, Henry's son, Edward. What York lacked was real support from his fellow nobles. In December 1460 he was killed in a skirmish near Wakefield in Yorkshire. His son, Edward, Earl of March, headed for London, where he was proclaimed king on March 1461.

d) Edward IV

Edward IV made a startling contrast to Henry VI. He clearly had the presence and military acumen expected of a king, and was rewarded with a decisive victory over the Lancastrian forces at Towton in March 1461. He also had the good fortune to capture Henry VI in person some four years later. His freedom of manoeuvre was hampered by the overweening power of his greatest ally, the grasping and ambitious Earl of Warwick. Warwick 'the Kingmaker' sought to maintain his status as the king's most importance subject, and was therefore greatly perturbed by Edward's marriage to the widow Elizabeth Woodville in 1464. This was partly because Warwick was looking for a foreign match for Edward to prop up the shaky international credibility of the new regime, and partly because Warwick, as a greedy and ruthless man, knew and feared what the equally greedy and ruthless Woodville's might do to his position. And what was worse, the Woodville's were social climbers and 'new money': distinctly *arriviste* and *nouveau-riche*. Warwick, exploiting the dissatisfaction of Edward's brother, the Duke of Clarence, encouraged the latter to join him in taking an extraordinary decision: they switched sides. In 1470 Edward IV was forced to flee abroad as Warwick and Clarence brought about the return and restoration of Henry VI: the so-called 'Readeption'. Within a year Edward had returned, winning massive victories at Barnet and Tewkesbury. Warwick died in battle, Prince Edward met a similar fate, and Henry VI was murdered shortly after the Tewkesbury defeat.

The remainder of Edward's reign was relatively peaceful on the surface, but the problems created by the Woodville marriage did not go away. They were compounded by Edward's over-reliance on his own ability to control the

rivalries occasioned by his marriage. As he fell dangerously ill in the spring of 1483, he realised that the likely minority of his eldest son, Edward, was going to be troubled by the bitterness felt towards the Woodville's by two of his most powerful supporters, William, Lord Hastings and his own youngest brother, Richard of Gloucester. A desperate death-bed attempt to reconcile Hastings and the Woodville's produced fair words but nothing else. When Edward died on April 9, Gloucester and Hastings moved rapidly. The 12-year-old Edward V was journeying to London under the protection of a Woodville escort. Gloucester wrote conciliatory letters to the queen (Elizabeth Woodville) and made arrangements to meet the young king *en route*. After liberally entertaining the accompanying Woodville's in Northampton, he had them arrested the next day.

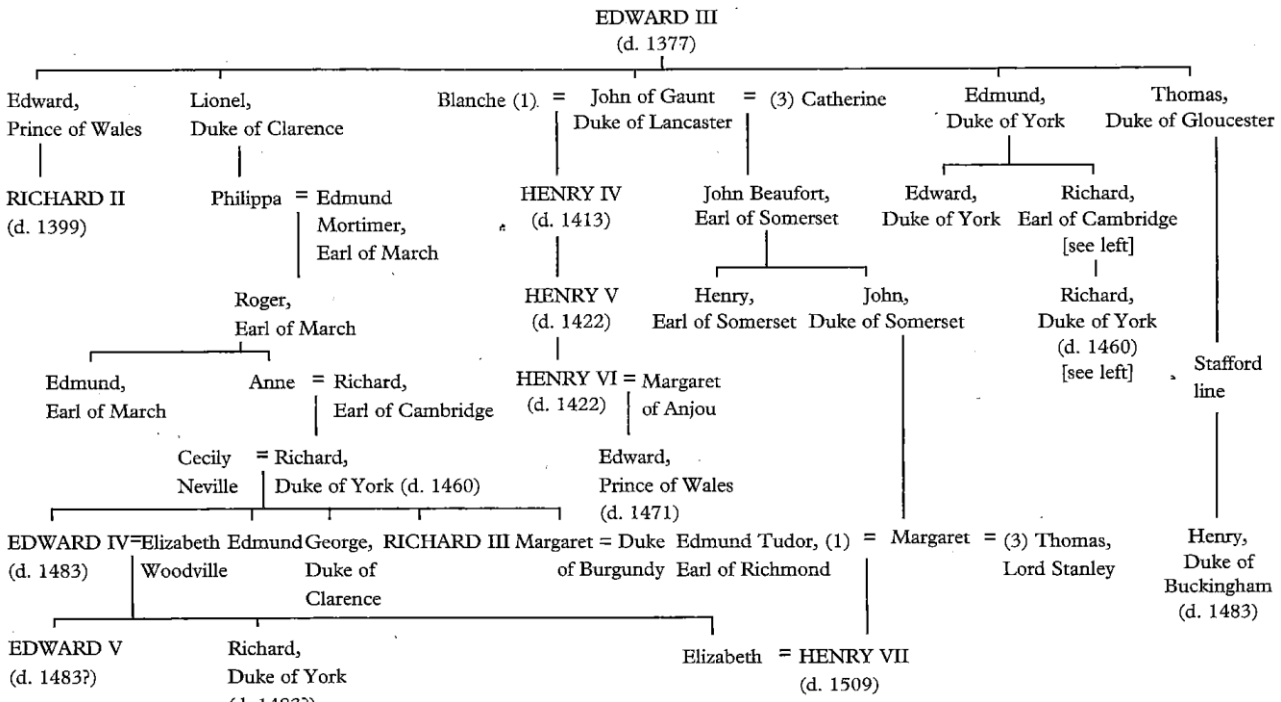
They were despatched to one of his northern strongholds for later execution. He then accompanied the king to London, to all intents and purposes eager to see him crowned. But Gloucester may have believed that Edward V was going to be the Woodville weapon of revenge. Brought up under Woodville influence, and clearly distressed at the disappearance of his relatives, Edward would have four years at most to wait before he held power in his own hands. And what then would be the fate of his uncle Richard?

Gloucester, it seems, had no desire to wait to find out. With the support of the soldiers of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, Gloucester set out to overawe the city of London and bid for the crown. Likely opponents were dealt with ruthlessly. Hastings could not be relied upon to oppose the Woodville's, but he could also be relied upon to support the young Edward. So he was arrested and then executed with a haste that shocked the capital. Of course, even Gloucester needed a claim of some sort to the throne, and he therefore employed a tame priest to provide the interesting and convenient information that Edward's two sons were illegitimate. For good measure, Gloucester also accused his own mother of adultery, claiming that Edward IV was not the son of Richard of York.

e) <u>The Reign of Richard III</u>

Richard of Gloucester was crowned on 6 July 1483. Whatever pains he took to secure the crown, including the alleged murder of the so-called 'Princes in the

Tower', he had little leisure to enjoy his success. In a curious parallel with Warwick the Kingmaker, Richard's most powerful and trusted ally, the Duke of Buckingham, was involved in an unsuccessful rebellion within months of Richard's accession. In 1484 Richard's only son, Edward, died. In August 1485, and in an atmosphere of uncertainty and suspicion, Richard sought to defend his crown in battle against a somewhat obscure pretender – Henry Tudor, Early of Richmond. Treachery on the battlefield led to Richard's death.



Simplified genealogical table - Lancastrians and Yorkists

Henry VII 1485-1509 - Society		Complete	Questions I need answered
Learning Objective 1: **To investigate the structure of English society, including churchmen, nobles and commoners.**	Task: Use p.33-38 to make notes on the structure of society. You should include; • Diagrams to illustrate (i) the structure of society and (ii) the hierarchy of the Church. • Notes on each key section of society; Nobility, Gentry, Churchmen and Commoners. • Reference to key terms such as; feudal system, sumptuary laws, bourgeoisie, peerage, bastard feudalism, reformation, grazing rights and peasants. • A list of key people and their responsibilities.		
Learning Objective 2: **To investigate regional divisions within England.**	Task: Use the information on p.38 to annotate the provided map: The farming regions of England.		
Learning Objective 3:	Tasks: 1) Use p.39 to answer the following questions;		

To investigate social discontent and rebellions.	• What happened to living conditions for the poor in the second half of the 15th century? *Remember to use key terms in your answer.* • What is a subsistence crises? 2) Use p.39-41 to produce a mini fact file on the two rebellions – The Yorkshire Rebellion 1489 and The Cornish Rebellion 1497. Try to identify; • Causes of the rebellions • Some key events (more difficult for Yorkshire!) • Consequences • How threatening the rebellion was to the stability of Henry VII's rule.		
Conclusion:	Task: Use your notes to answer the following question; • How did English society change during Henry VII's reign?		
Henry VII 1485-1509 – Economic development		Complete	Questions I need answered
Learning Objective 1: **To investigate the economy of**	Task: Use p.43-48 to make notes on the economy and trade. You should include;		

England and the importance of trade.	• Notes on each key section; Population, The agrarian economy and Trade and Industry. • Reference to key terms such as; mixed farming, pastoral farming, common rights, open-field husbandry, enclosure, Merchants of the Staple, Merchant adventurers, Hanseatic League, Intercursus Magnus and Intercursus Malus. • A list of key trading developments under Henry VII.		
Learning Objective 2: **To investigate early English exploration and its significance.**	Task: Use p. 48 to make notes on exploration. You should include; • Key dates and people.		
Learning Objective 3: **To investigate economic prosperity and depression.**	Task: Use p. 49-50 to answer the following question; • Was there a period of economic prosperity or depression in the last years of the 15th Century?		


N
0
100 km
Teesmouth
North Sea
Hull
Fens
Lynn
Yarmouth
Norfolk
Norwich
Suffolk
Worcester
Herefordshire
Ipswich
Bristol
Kent
Canterbury
High Weald
Sussex
Dorset
Weymouth
Key
Mixed farming
Pastoral farming
Grain farming and fruit growing

4 English society at the end of the fifteenth century

The structure of society

EXTRACT 1

The nobility was defined in early Tudor England more clearly than any other element in society. But the English nobility was not a **caste** like that in most parts of the continent. Although knighthood had lost most of its military significance, it still retained its value. It was normally conferred on the heads of about a dozen of the leading noble families in each shire. For every early Tudor knight there were at least ten other landowners calling themselves gentlemen. Yeomen on the whole occupied larger farms and they also tended to be the farmers with the most secure tenure.

Adapted from Joyce Youings, *Sixteenth-Century England*, 1983

KEY QUESTION

As you read this chapter, consider the following Key Question:
How did English society change?

ACTIVITY

Read Extract 1 and try to identify all the groups of society mentioned. As you read through this chapter try and find out more about each group.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you will learn about:

- the structure of English society, including churchmen, nobles and commoners
- regional divisions within England
- social discontent and rebellions.

KEY TERM

caste: a class or group of people who inherit exclusive privileges or are perceived as socially distinct

CROSS-REFERENCE

Yeomen were significant members of Tudor society. They are described later in this chapter on page 38.

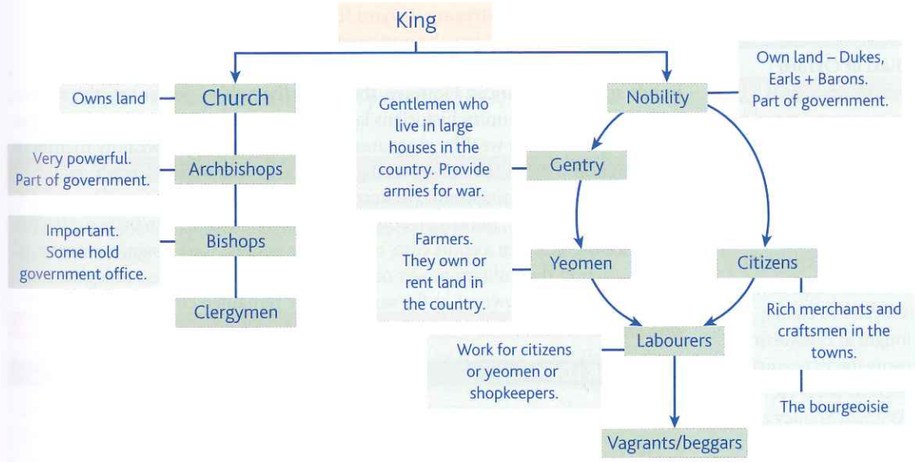


Fig. 1 *English society in the early Tudor period*

English society at the end of the fifteenth century, while not as rigidly hierarchical as that of France or Spain, was exceedingly stratified (i.e. layered). At one level society had changed little from that which had existed during the high point of the **feudal system**. The apex of the system under the monarch comprised the great landowners and senior churchmen; the base of the system comprised those who laboured on their behalf. In contrast, society also witnessed the growth of a professional and mercantile **bourgeoisie** who had

KEY TERM

feudal system: the medieval system by which society was structured depending on relationships in which land was held in return for some form of service; at the top end of the structure land was held of the monarch in return for military service, and at the bottom serfs were required to give labour services to their lord in return for the lord's protection

bourgeoisie: middle-class residents of towns and cities

sumptuary laws: laws that attempted to regulate how individuals should dress, depending on their social status

peerage: group of persons who held one of the five ranks of the aristocracy (duke, marquis, earl, viscount, baron); they were usually considerable landholders, exercised considerable power in their localities and were members of the House of Lords

become increasingly important in London and the major provincial cities such as Norwich and Bristol.

The remnants of the feudal system were still apparent in the law, social relationships and attitudes. However, economic pressures, especially since the **Black Death** of 1348 to 1349, had increased social mobility and had created alarm amongst more conservative-minded members of the upper classes who attempted vainly to uphold traditional values by passing **sumptuary laws** which proved unenforceable.

A CLOSER LOOK

The **Black Death** reached England in August 1348. Between 20 and 40 per cent of the English population died of plague within 2 years. The plague returned in 1361, and there were further outbreaks in 1368 to 1369, 1374 to 1375 and 1378. These later outbreaks reduced the population of England by half, and it did not begin to recover until after 1450. These deaths caused a shortage of land usage and food.

Nobility

The nobility still dominated landownership. The **peerage** (i.e. the nobility) comprised no more than about 50 or 60 men. The peerage was not a closed caste. Peerage families died out on a regular basis but were replaced by others who had acquired or bought the king's favour. The Crown often relied on such families for the maintenance of order in the countryside. Henry VII, unlike Edward IV before him or Henry VIII after him, was reluctant to create new peerage titles. This is possibly because he was deeply distrustful of the nobility as a class. Only trusted Lancastrian military commanders such as the **Earl of Oxford** and **Lord Daubeney** had much political influence under Henry. He never really trusted the Earl of Northumberland, even though he had swung the Battle of Bosworth in Henry's favour by betraying Richard III. Nevertheless, Henry relied on Northumberland to control the northeast of England on behalf of the Crown.

Henry's most important method of controlling the nobility was through bonds and recognizances. However, the key to the nobles' power was the system which nineteenth-century historians labelled **bastard feudalism** (also known as 'retaining') by which wealthy magnates (the leading and most wealthy members of the nobility) recruited knights and gentlemen (also known as 'retainers') to serve them as administrators or accountants, or sometimes for military purposes. Potentially, noblemen could use their retained men to bring unlawful influence on others in a court case, or use them against the Crown, so Henry sought to limit the military power of the nobility through the use of legislation against retaining. However, at the same time he remained conscious of the fact that loyal retainers were essential to maintain the Crown's security.

KEY PROFILE

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford (1442–1513) was Henry's most trusted military commander and led his troops at the battles of Bosworth and Stoke.

Giles, Baron Daubeney (c1451–1508) was originally a Yorkist, but he rebelled against Richard III in 1483, fled to Brittany and transferred his loyalty to Henry, for whom he fought at Bosworth. He led the Crown's forces against the Cornish rebels in 1497. He succeeded Sir William Stanley as Lord Chamberlain in 1495.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The use of bonds and recognizances as a means of improving Crown finances is covered in Chapter 2, pages 14–15.

Magnates are explained in Chapter 2, page 14.

A CLOSER LOOK

Bastard feudalism

This system implied a reciprocal relationship between the magnate and his retainers. In return for service, which could be military service if necessary, a retainer might receive rewards such as local office or grants of land as well as direct payment. The Victorian historians who invented and developed the use of the term 'bastard feudalism' saw the system as abusive and contributing largely to the violence associated with the Wars of the Roses. However, the influential historian of late-medieval England, Kenneth B. McFarlane, argued that the system should be seen in a positive light as a natural response to the changes of the period. It was only when the position of the monarch was insecure that the system could be seen as politically destabilising.

Henry VII's response was to have Parliament pass Acts in 1487 and 1504 and to take strong action against individual nobles who were held to abuse the system, such as Lord Bergavenny in 1506. However, such action had to be balanced with the realisation that nobles were a powerful social force.



Fig. 2 *The funeral effigy of Lord and Lady Daubeney*

There were a number of limits on retaining employed during Henry's reign:

- In 1486 peers and MPs were required to take an oath against illegal retaining or being illegally retained. However, what constituted illegality in this context remained conveniently undefined.
- In 1487 a law against retaining was established.
- The 1487 law was reinforced by an **Act passed in 1504**, under which licences for retaining could be sought.

ACTIVITY

Explain the importance of the nobility in Tudor society. Jot down several ideas and share with a friend. Consider the role the nobles played in their own localities and their relationship to those beneath them.

ACTIVITY

Divide into groups. Each group should identify a peer who played a significant role during the reign of Henry VII, research the roles which he played in the Crown's service and find out where his power base was (for example, the land he owned, the office he held, or the affinity he had with the king).

Gentry

Immediately below the peerage in status came the greater gentry. By the late fifteenth century these were often great landowners in their own right. The most important members of the gentry, such as **Sir Reginald Bray**, sought knighthoods as confirmation of their social status. In 1490 there were about 375 knights. Originally, this status had imposed military obligations upon its holders. Though that was dying out as a specific obligation, it was, nevertheless, assumed that those holding the status would assist in the



Fig. 3 *Lord Bergavenny, by Holbein*

A CLOSER LOOK

The 1504 Act stated that only the king could grant licences for retaining. However, this lasted only for the duration of the king's lifetime. The one significant victim of the Act was Lord Bergavenny, who was indicted for illegal retaining in 1507 and fined the enormous sum of £100,000. However, he probably paid no more than £1000 and was pardoned by Henry VIII shortly after he came to the throne.

ACTIVITY

In pairs identify the advantages and disadvantages to Henry VII of adopting a strict attitude towards retaining.

CROSS-REFERENCE

More information on Sir Reginald Bray is in Chapter 2, page 10.

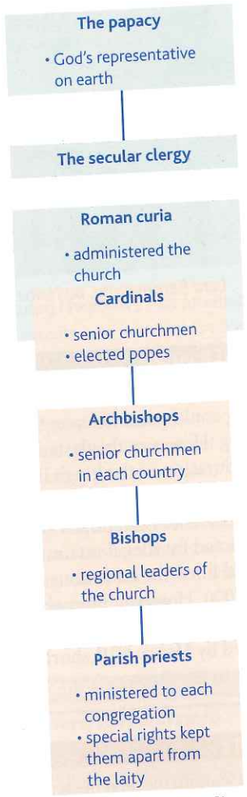


Fig. 4 *The hierarchy of the Church*

CROSS-REFERENCE

For more information on chantries go to Chapter 6, page 54.

John Morton is profiled in Chapter 2, page 9.

To learn about the borough corporations and the importance of guilds and confraternities to the religious life of England, see page 58.

administration of their localities. According to John Guy, peers and knights together owned 15 to 20 per cent of the country's land and together they 'formed a homogeneous [of the same kind] elite with a common outlook derived from their substantial interest as landowners'.

Esquires and 'mere gentry' were far more numerous. At the end of the fifteenth century the status of 'esquire' could still be defined quite tightly: the eldest sons of knights, the younger sons of barons, men 'invested esquire', magistrates and others of wealth. Mere 'gentlemen' were harder to define. In practice, a 'gentleman' was anyone recognised as such by his neighbours.

A CLOSER LOOK

Gentry

The gentry were not a fixed caste. However, the identity of the greater gentry could be established by a number of features: the possession of a knighthood, a coat of arms authenticated by the College of Arms, considerable income, and an imposing country residence or courtly connections. They possessed considerable social prestige, often, for example, dominating local office. On the other hand, the lesser gentry often had more in common with the local yeomanry, living far more modestly than the greater gentry, and with social horizons which were much more local than national.

Churchmen

The Church was hugely important, not merely for its spiritual role but also as a great landowner. The social status of the clergy varied enormously. At the lower parish level, curates and chantry priests were modestly rewarded for dealing with the spiritual needs of ordinary folk. On the other hand, bishops and the abbots of larger religious houses were important figures who were entitled to sit in the House of Lords and who often had political roles to undertake.

Martin V, Pope from 1417 to 1431, famously declared that the king of England rather than the Pope governed the Church in England. Henry VII tended to use that power to appoint as bishops only men who had legal training and whose administrative competence was valued more than their spirituality. The two most important clergymen of the reign, **John Morton** and **Richard Fox**, both came into this category. Moreover, the king was reluctant to appoint men whose social background was aristocratic. The higher clergy were thus becoming less socially exclusive than had once been the case.

KEY PROFILE

Richard Fox (c1447–1528) began serving Henry VII when he was still in exile. In 1487 Fox became bishop of Exeter and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. He became successively bishop of Bath and Wells, Durham and Winchester and, along with Morton, managed the Crown's transition to Henry VIII.

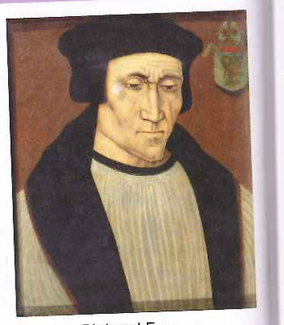


Fig. 5 *Richard Fox*

ACTIVITY

Based on your understanding of this section, why do you think Henry VII felt confident about appointing churchmen to senior roles within government?

Commoners

Below the nobility, gentry, and higher clergy were the commoners. At the top level of the commoner group were those known as the 'middling sort', the bourgeoisie. In towns and cities, the relatively small number of educated professionals, of whom the most numerous and influential group were lawyers, exercised considerable influence, often in collaboration with wealthier merchants. Lower down the social scale, but still considered respectable, came shopkeepers and skilled tradesmen. Such groups tended to dominate the borough corporations (town councils) and also played a key role in organisations such as guilds and lay confraternities which were a common feature of urban life in pre-**Reformation** England.

KEY TERM

Reformation: a sixteenth-century movement opposing the Catholic Church, which resulted in the establishment of Protestant and reformed churches



Fig. 6 *A contemporary illustration of peasant toil*

ACTIVITY

Divide into groups, representing each different social category in this chapter. Each group should argue for the worth of their social group to the country. Once each group has presented, take a vote to decide which group was the most valuable.

KEY TERM

peasant: a country dweller who farms directly land which can be either owned or rented; the term 'peasant' does not apply to town-dwellers

grazing rights: a legal term referring to the right of a user to allow their livestock to feed (graze) in a given area

In the countryside the middling sort comprised yeomen farmers who farmed substantial properties for an increasingly sophisticated market economy. The decline in population that had occurred as a result of the Black Death in 1348 to 1349 had reduced the demand for land and the resulting drop in land values had enabled the emergence of this group, which Joyce Youings termed a 'peasant aristocracy'. Below yeomen came husbandmen who typically kept smaller farms than yeomen and who supplemented their farming incomes through employment by yeomen or gentry. Together, the yeomanry and husbandmen can be described by the term **'peasant'**. Labourers were usually dependent for income on the sale of their labour, though in some cases they could supplement their irregular income through the planting of vegetables or the exercise of **grazing rights**. Their position was very insecure.

Regional divisions

Though both relatively small and politically relatively unified, England did demonstrate regional variations. Some of these derived from differences in agriculture. A line drawn roughly from the mouth of the Tees to Weymouth in Dorset would have revealed the extent of these contrasts, though even within the two areas distinctions could be made. Roughly three quarters of the population lived below this line, which divided the country into two basic agricultural areas. South and east of that line, mixed farming predominated in the more densely populated counties, especially Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent. In the more sparsely populated area to the north and west, pastoral farming predominated with the rearing of sheep, cattle and horses. There were exceptions to this rule: pastoral farming dominated in the Fens and in the wood pastures of the Kent and Sussex Weald, and grain farming and fruit growing in Herefordshire and the Welsh border counties. Contemporaries were certainly aware of regional differences. Londoners, in particular, tended to look down upon northerners for their perceived savagery, while northerners were envious of southern riches.

Regional identity was also reinforced by local government structures. Justice was increasingly administered at a county level and county towns often contained jails and major churches. On the other hand, areas of magnate influence often cut across county boundaries. Local identities were also reinforced by saints' cults which placed importance on centres of pilgrimage, such as Canterbury and Durham. Nevertheless, Derek Keene has argued that medieval England, 'was a country where ideas of language and nationhood conferred a stronger sense of a single identity than ever before'.

CROSS-REFERENCE

For more on the saints' cults that gave places and communities a sense of identity, look ahead to Chapter 6, page 55.

ACTIVITY

Extension

Research briefly *an* aspect of your own town or local area's history during the late-medieval period.

1. For example, what can you find out about the church and monasteries in your area?
2. Did your area have an important noble family resident in the vicinity? What can you find out about their importance?
3. If you live in a town which was a medieval borough, what can you find out about its local government?

Social discontent and rebellions

During much of the second half of the fifteenth century, living conditions for the poor appeared to be improving. **Real wages** seem to have increased, but towards the end of the fifteenth century inflationary pressures were becoming more evident. Though evidence points tentatively towards a further slight increase in real wages in the 1490s, by the following decade this situation seems to have reversed. Compared with later in the Tudor period, there does not seem to have been much social discontent. England also seems largely to have avoided the **subsistence crises** which every so often affected some other countries so that in John Guy's words, 'Tudor England's greatest success was its ability to feed itself'.

Two rebellions did take place in Henry VII's reign, in Yorkshire in 1489 and in Cornwall in 1497. In each case the main catalyst (or trigger) was taxation.

KEY TERM

real wages: the value of income in relation to prices of goods on the market, instead of actual money received

subsistence crises: when harvest failure raises food prices to such an extent that significant numbers of the poor die from starvation



Fig. 7 *Farming regions of England*

The Yorkshire Rebellion, 1489

This rebellion was sparked off by resentment of the taxation granted by Parliament in 1489 in order to finance the involvement of English forces in the campaign in Brittany. It became particularly notorious because of the murder

CROSS-REFERENCE

The Brittany campaign is discussed in Chapter 3, pages 23–24.

Northumberland was considered an untrustworthy character after the Battle of Bosworth. See Chapter 1, page 4.

KEY PROFILE

Polydore Vergil (c1470–1555) was an Italian humanist. Vergil came to England in 1502 in the employ of the Church. He was welcomed at the court of Henry VII and began writing his *History of England* in about 1505. The first edition was published in 1513, but a third edition published in 1555 covered the period up to 1537.

by the rebels of the Earl of Northumberland just outside Topcliffe near Thirsk in the North Riding of Yorkshire in April of that year.

The details on this rebellion are sparse. Northumberland was, according to **Polydore Vergil**, a victim of resentment against taxation. He was murdered by his tenants, but what enabled them to murder the earl was the fact that Northumberland's retainers allowed them to do so by deserting him in his hour of need – as punishment for his own desertion of Richard III at Bosworth.

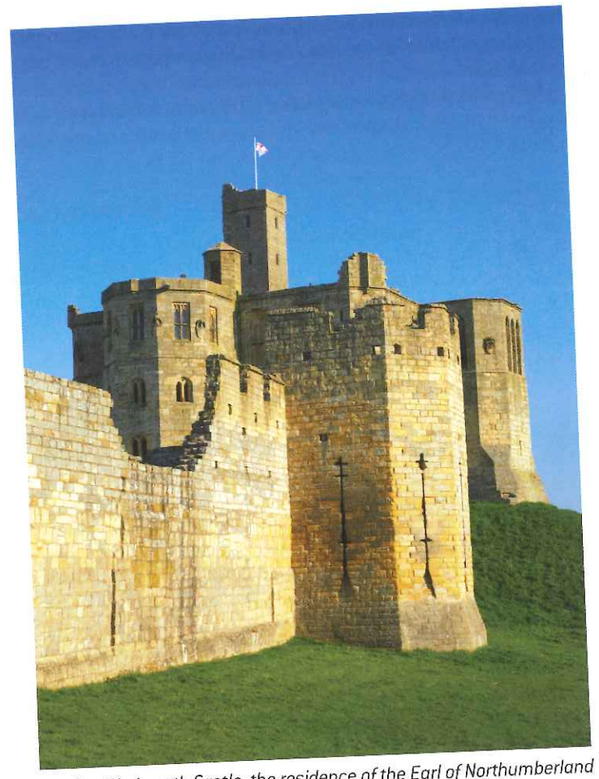


Fig. 8 *Warkworth Castle, the residence of the Earl of Northumberland*

CROSS-REFERENCE

The campaign against Scotland is covered in Chapter 3, page 27.

The Cornish Rebellion, 1497

Just as the Yorkshire Rebellion was sparked off by the demand for extraordinary revenue to finance a far-away military campaign, so also was the Cornish Rebellion of 1497. In this case the revolt was triggered by the need for revenue to finance the campaign against Scotland.

ACTIVITY

Evaluating primary sources

1. What does the source reveal about the reasons for discontent amongst the Cornish?
2. What interpretation of the rebels and their actions is offered in this source?

SOURCE 1

Polydore Vergil described the events in his *History of England* (first published in 1513):

The Cornishmen, who dwell in a part of the island as restricted in area as it is poor in resources, began to claim loudly that they could not bear the weight of tax imposed for the Scottish war. First, they accused the king, complaining of the cruelty and malice of his counsellors; then they began openly to get out of hand, threatening death to the authors of the great oppression and making bold to seek them out for punishment. While the people were this in an uproar, two men out of the dregs of the population, Thomas Flamank, a lawyer, and Michael Joseph, a blacksmith, both daring scoundrels, put themselves at the head of the rebellion. When these two saw that the mob was aroused, they continually proclaimed it to be an infamous crime that the king should, for the purpose of making such a small expedition against the Scots, so grievously oppress with taxes the wretched Cornish. But they attributed the blame above all to John Morton Archbishop of Canterbury, to Reginald Bray and to many other counsellors.

Though the Cornish rebels did not murder a high-profile political figure like the Earl of Northumberland, their rebellion posed a much greater threat to the stability of Henry's rule. This was a reflection of three factors:

- the sheer numbers involved (15,000 according to some estimates)
- the attempt to exploit the rebellion made by Perkin Warbeck
- the fact that the rebels marched on London, only being halted at Blackheath.

Christine Carpenter considers the rebellion to have been 'alarming' for the king. It was certainly a cause for immense concern for the Crown that the rebels could have marched such a long distance without any serious attempt being made to stop them. It raises questions about just how effective were the Crown's systems for maintaining order in the countryside. Moreover, by reaching London they were in effect challenging the security of Henry VII's regime.

The rebellion created a problem for Henry in that in order to ensure its effective suppression he needed to withdraw Lord Daubeney and his troops from defending the Scottish border. In the end the rebellion was crushed easily enough by Daubeney. The rebel leaders, including the peer Lord Audley, were executed. However, Henry punished only the leaders, and treated the bulk of the rebels with conspicuous leniency. The rebellion shocked Henry into ensuring that Anglo-Scottish tensions were eased and made him particularly cautious about entering into any further foreign conflicts.

CROSS-REFERENCE

For Perkin Warbeck's attempts to exploit the rebellion and lay claim to the throne, look back to Chapter 3, page 28.

Summary

Socially, England remained broadly stable in this period, and this is mainly because the people at the bottom of the social scale remained reasonably well off, as they had been since the Black Death.

For most of Henry VII's reign, most English people remained peaceable most of the time, and the various pretenders and claimants were unable to attract much support.

The two rebellions of the reign, the Yorkshire Rebellion of 1489 and the Cornish Rebellion of 1497, were exceptional, and easily suppressed.

EXTRACT 2

The nature of Henry VII's relations with the nobility has been examined in depth by T.B. Pugh. Pugh argued that bonds and recognizances were not unprecedented. The need to increase royal revenue in order to buy off the rulers of the Low Countries largely explains their increased frequency from 1502. Many noblemen found bounds and recognizances useful instruments as they arranged wardships and marriages. Between 1502 and 1509 only twenty-seven out of forty adult nobles were involved in any form of bonds and recognizances and only sixteen out of forty were involved as principals rather than as sureties. Only a few noblemen were listed in Edmund Dudley's petition, drawn up after the king's death and listing those whom he believed had been harshly treated by the king.

Adapted from George Bernard, 'Foreword', in Stanley B. Chrimes, *Henry VII,* 1999

ACTIVITY

Look back at Joyce Youings's interpretation given at the beginning of the chapter (page 33). In small groups, consider whether you find her interpretation convincing. You will need to find specific evidence to support or refute her views.

EXTRACT 3

The use of bonds and recognizances was of a piece with other aspects of the king's relationship with the nobility. Though quite prepared to give responsibility and reward to noblemen he trusted, he gave less wholeheartedly than most previous kings. Those he trusted from the start, such as Oxford and Derby, never gained complete regional power. Those he grew to trust as they proved themselves, such as Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, grew in influence only little by little. Those he never trusted, such as Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, he seemed to frustrate at every turn. These last were also prominent victims of his financial exactions. Meanwhile great offices which might have vehicles for noble ambition were often kept in the king's hands.

Adapted from Steven J. Gunn, 'Henry VII', in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 2004

STUDY TIP

Each extract makes judgements about the extent to which Henry was successful in foreign policy. In evaluating such judgements it is necessary to consider what Henry's objectives might have been and how close he came to realising those objectives.

AS LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

Evaluating historical extracts

With reference to Extracts 2 and 3 and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of Henry VII's relationship with the nobility?

STUDY TIP

This type of question invites students to make a judgement. It is important, when coming to the conclusion of an essay such as this, to make sure that the conclusion emerges logically from the way in which you have framed your discussion. When planning answers it is often good practice to begin by outlining those arguments with which, ultimately, you are going to disagree.

AS LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'The popular rebellions faced by Henry VII gave him more problems than the threats posed by pretenders to the throne.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

5 Economic development: trade, exploration, prosperity and depression

The economy: agriculture and trade

EXTRACT 1

Fifteenth-century England was much more regionalised than it is today. England was still overwhelmingly an agrarian [i.e. farming] country for nine tenths of the people lived more or less directly from the land. Probably no greater proportion of the population lived in towns than in Anglo-Saxon times. By 1500 the cloth industry, England's major industry, possibly employed 30,000 people, or about 1.3 per cent of the population, full-time. Although it provided part-time work for a great many more people to support peasant agriculture, it was still insignificant as compared with the contribution of agriculture to the national economy. The harvest was the harsh, fundamental fact of life. In a 'normal' decade about one harvest in every four would be, in some degree, deficient, one in six really bad. This caused price fluctuations so violent as to be almost inconceivable even these days.

Adapted from Jack Lander, *Government and Community: England, 1450–1509*, 1980

KEY QUESTION

As you read this chapter, consider the following Key Question:
How did the English economy change and with what effects?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you will learn about:

- the economy of England and the importance of trade
- early English exploration and its significance
- economic prosperity and depression.

ACTIVITY

What can we learn from Jack Lander about the English economy in the fifteenth century? Make a note of the key points raised in Extract 1.

The population of England at the beginning of the fifteenth century was around 2.2 million. The majority of people at this time were living in the countryside and relying on some form of farming for a living. Most of the 10 per cent of the population who were actually urban dwellers lived in towns which were small by continental standards. London was the obvious exception, with a population which probably exceeded 50,000, but probably no more than 20 towns had as many as 3000 people. Amongst provincial towns only Norwich had a population exceeding 10,000, with Bristol, York and Coventry having populations in the range of 8000 to 10,000. In these urban areas wool and cloth were the main industries. Other industries included mining tin, lead and coal; metal working; leatherwork; shipbuilding; and papermaking.

Although Henry VII was interested in building up his personal wealth, he had no specific 'economic policy' as a modern leader would. The Acts of Parliament that dealt with economic matters were mainly the result of the private lobbying of merchants, who had a vested interest.

The agrarian economy

Income from land had declined in the aftermath of the Black Death of the 1300s and early 1400s, though it has been suggested that there was something of a recovery in the 1480s and 1490s, as the population began to increase again. There was much evidence of a greater move towards sheep farming in the 1480s and 1490s. This was a reflection not only of the depressed profitability of arable (crop) farming, but also the improved profitability of sheep farming brought about by the increasing demand for wool, as the population grew and trade overseas developed.

ACTIVITY

Pair discussion

In pairs, discuss the factors which might have contributed to the fluctuation in agricultural prices during the reign of Henry VII.

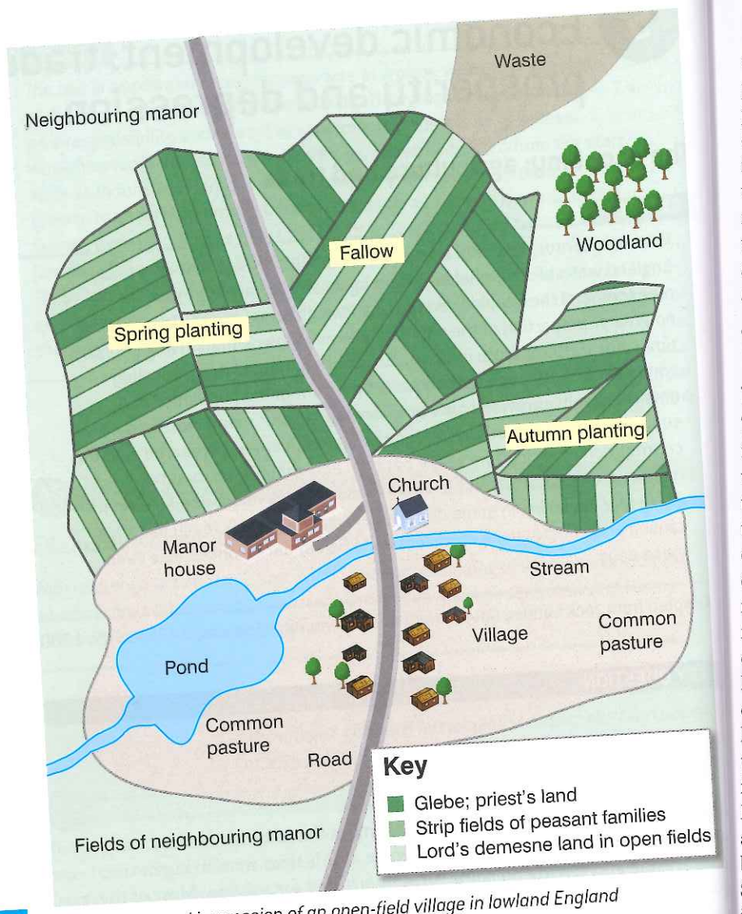


Fig. 1 *A general impression of an open-field village in lowland England*

CROSS-REFERENCE

For a detailed picture of the 'highland' and 'lowland' zones refer back to the map in Chapter 4, page 39.

KEY TERM

mixed farming: a system of farming which involves the growing of crops as well as the raising of animals as livestock

pastoral farming: farming involving the rearing of animals – either for animal by-products such as milk, eggs or wool, or for meat

common rights: denotes the legal right of tenants to use common land, for example for keeping animals; the exact nature of these rights varied from place to place

As a largely agricultural society, England could be divided into a 'lowland zone' to the south and east (a line drawn from the Tees estuary to Weymouth) and a 'highland zone' (roughly north and west of that line). **Mixed farming** was the most common form of farming found in the lowland zone, though **pastoral farming** predominated in woodland areas and there were specialisms such as horse breeding in the Fenlands. The traditional manorial system of **open-field husbandry** could be found in such areas and was concentrated mainly in the grain-growing areas of the southeast and the east Midlands.

A CLOSER LOOK

Open-field husbandry

The 'manorial system of open-field husbandry' (or open-field system) was the form of landholding which predominated in most of 'lowland' England. The manor was a specific landed estate whose tenants farmed strips of land found in open fields and who enjoyed **common rights**, particularly for keeping animals. This system came under increasing pressure by **enclosure** in some parts of the country as the sixteenth century unfolded.

However, some parts of this region were increasingly experiencing change, with the wool and cloth trades making sheep farming relatively more profitable. The efficiency gains in terms of improved production and profitability came at a price for **peasants** who lost their access to land and common rights, and were often left destitute by the process. In the late fifteenth century this was not a frequent occurrence. It became more widespread in the first half of the sixteenth century, when it created both a moral outcry and political pressures which proved difficult to contain. On the whole, however, it would be fair to say that English agriculture underwent no significant changes towards the end of the fifteenth, and beginning of the sixteenth, century.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The wider impact of enclosure is discussed on page 122.

Trade and industry

The cloth trade

The cloth trade was responsible for about 90 per cent of the value of English exports. The trade certainly flourished in the last quarter of the fifteenth century. Jack Lander has estimated that there was an increase of over 60 per cent in the volume of cloth exports during Henry VII's reign. In the earlier part of the century, the bulk of exports had comprised raw wool; this was shipped mainly from east-coast ports such as Boston, Lynn and Yarmouth and exported through Calais by the **Merchants of the Staple**. Increasingly, however, it was finished cloth which dominated the trade. This led to the development of weaving, usually done as a domestic process, and **fulling** and dyeing, which were commercial enterprises. As a result, the industry offered opportunities for rural employment to supplement agrarian incomes.



Fig. 2 *Women spinning woollen cloth*

Some cloth towns, such as Lavenham in Suffolk and Lewes in Sussex, were extremely prosperous. However, some historic cities such as Winchester and Lincoln had suffered significant decay as the cloth industry tended to move from older corporate boroughs to newer manufacturing centres in smaller market towns and villages in East Anglia, the West Riding of Yorkshire and parts of the West Country.

An increasing proportion of the finished cloth was exported from London through the **Merchant Adventurers**. This reinforced London's commercial dominance within the country and established a commercial axis with Antwerp which, during this period, according to the economic historian Donald Coleman, was the commercial metropolis of Europe and its main money market. From Antwerp, English cloth was transported all over Europe.

KEY TERM

Merchants of the Staple: incorporated by royal charter in 1319, they controlled the export of wool; the staple was based at Calais (an English possession) from 1363, but the eventual decline in the wool trade reduced the company's importance

fulling: a step in woollen cloth making which involves the cleansing of cloth (particularly wool) to eliminate oils, dirt, and other impurities, making it thicker in the process

CROSS-REFERENCE

The Intercursus Magnus and the Intercursus Malus were introduced in Chapter 4, page 25. They are outlined further in this chapter on page 47.

KEY TERM

Hanseatic League: a group of free cities originating in the thirteenth century, which came together to form a commercial union with the intention of controlling trade in the Baltic Sea; the league dominated commercial activity in northern Europe from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century

CROSS-REFERENCE

The Earl of Suffolk's claim to the throne and the threat posed by the de la Poles are discussed in Chapter 1, page 7. For the political repercussions of these events, see page 29.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Merchant Adventurers

Founded in 1407 and dominated by members of the Mercers' Company, the wealthiest and most influential company of the City of London, the Merchant Adventurers were a trading organisation which came increasingly to dominate London's cloth trade with Antwerp. The Merchant Adventurers' domination of the cloth trade matched the dominance of the wool trade by the Merchants of the (Calais) Staple, whose economic position they increasingly supplanted. Their positive relationship with the Crown was immensely important. On the one hand, they could act as the voice of the industry when its commercial needs were subordinated to national policy; on the other hand, the king increasingly used their expertise in the negotiating of trade treaties such as the **Intercursus Magnus** and the **Intercursus Malus.** They had become the most powerful English business organisation of the age.

The Merchant Adventurers could not achieve complete domination of trade because they proved unable to overcome the trading privileges enjoyed by the **Hanseatic League** which had been reasserted by treaty in 1474 and again in 1504. Henry VII may have agreed to reassert this treaty because he needed to ensure that the Hanseatic League would offer no support to the Yorkist claimant to the throne, the Earl of Suffolk. However, this sacrifice of English commercial interests was, Jack Lander has asserted, 'out of all proportion to the feeble threat' posed by the de la Poles.

ACTIVITY

Research

Research the origins of the Hanseatic League and find out which cities were members and where the bulk of their trading activities took place.

Other industries

England remained dependent, in trading terms, on the cloth industry, especially as other industries remained small and failed to compete effectively with their continental competitors. Germany and Bohemia, for example, were superior in mining and **metallurgy** and the Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch were superior in shipbuilding.

Most industrial activities, for example weaving or brewing, were small-scale craft operations which required little capital investment. Most such operations supplied the basic necessities of life, food and shelter. Mining required rather more capital investment, but remained fairly small scale. Tin was mined in Cornwall, lead was mined in upland areas such as the high Pennines and the Mendips, and coal was mined in Durham and Northumberland. Iron ore was mined and smelted in the Weald of Sussex and Kent, where there was a blast furnace as early as 1496. Much of the coal from the northeast was shipped from Newcastle to meet the growing demand for domestic and industrial fuel in London, but there was also a small export trade to Germany and the Netherlands. The development of basic pumping technology, first recorded at Finchale in County Durham in 1486, enabled greater production.

KEY TERM

metallurgy: the scientific study of the extraction, refining, alloying and fabrication of metals, and of their structure and properties



Fig. 3 *A contemporary depiction of commercial acti*

Trade laws and treaties

The Crown's approach to trade during Henry VII's reign had little consistency. Henry was clearly interested in maximising customs revenue. However, it was equally clear that he was quite prepared to sacrifice revenue and trade in the interests of securing the dynasty, and he was also happy for Parliament to legislate in favour of **sectional interests**.

The biggest issue concerning trade in Henry's reign stemmed from his embargo (i.e. ban) on trade with the Netherlands. He imposed this in 1493 as a result of the fear and insecurity brought about by Margaret of Burgundy's support for Perkin Warbeck. Instead of trading directly with the Netherlands, merchants were required to direct their trade through Calais. This simply invited retaliation from the Netherlands. The embargo ended with the treaty known as the **Intercursus Magnus**, though the terms of the treaty were still being debated two years later.

A CLOSER LOOK

Intercursus Magnus ('Great Intercourse') and **Intercursus Malus** ('Evil Intercourse') were terms which were used in Francis Bacon's *History of the Reign of King Henry VII*, written in 1621. Intercursus Magnus set down that English merchants could export to any part of the Duke of Burgundy's lands apart from Flanders, that merchants would be granted swift and fair justice and that effective arrangements would be put in place for the resolution of disputes. Philip of Burgundy confirmed Intercursus Magnus in 1499 and it was to prove a solid basis for trading relationships from that point on. Intercursus Malus was in practice **extorted** from Philip as a result of his weakness in 1506. The treaty never became fully operative and by the following year trading relationships had been restored on the basis of Intercursus Magnus.

Henry appeared to panic once again in 1503 when the claim of the Earl of Suffolk was once again being taken seriously around Burgundy. Henry attempted to reimpose the embargo. In this instance he was fortunate that circumstances in 1506 allowed him to negotiate the Intercursus Malus, even if its full terms were never imposed.

Several trade treaties were concluded, though these were of minor importance and showed that Henry rated foreign policy and dynastic interests as greater priorities than the interests of English merchants. Trading restrictions, which had existed since Edward IV's reign, were removed in 1486. They were reimposed in the following year as a result of Henry's support for Brittany, but largely removed again by the Treaty of Etaples of 1492. This treaty, while not primarily a trade treaty, did try to encourage Anglo-French commercial relations. Most of the remaining trading restrictions were removed in 1497. Weaknesses in trading policy were shown when the attempt to make a significant breakthrough in Mediterranean trade proved a dismal failure, and the Hanseatic League was largely successful in limiting the development of English trading interests in the Baltic.

CROSS-REFERENCE

Henry's policies on customs revenue were to help him secure his dynasty. They are discussed in Chapter 2, page 18.

KEY TERM

sectional interests: the interests of a particular group within a community or country

CROSS-REFERENCE

Return to Chapter 1, page 6, to refresh your memory on Perkin Warbeck.

Henry VII's relationship with Burgundy is discussed in Chapter 3.

KEY TERM

extort: obtain (something) by force, threats, or other unfair means

CROSS-REFERENCE

Refer back to Chapter 3 for information on Henry's foreign policy and Anglo-French relations, including the Treaty of Etaples of 1492.

KEY CHRONOLOGY

Trading developments under Henry VII

1485	Navigation Act
1489	Navigation Act
1492	Treaty of Etaples
1493	Trading embargo with the Netherlands
1496	Intercursus Magnus
1506	Intercursus Malus

KEY QUESTION

How did English society and economy change and with what effects?

KEY PROFILE

John Cabot (c1451–98) was, like Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa. He seems to have been a merchant involved in the Venetian spice trade before moving to Spain where his services were in demand as a harbour designer. He might have met Columbus in 1493 and his navigational intuition led him to believe that a more northerly course across the Atlantic would reach land more quickly.

Henry also passed the Navigation Acts of 1485 and 1489. The objective of these was to encourage English shipping by trying to ensure that only English ships should carry certain products to and from English ports. Such legislation had only limited usefulness, as foreign vessels continued to transport a substantial proportion of English exports.

Early English exploration

The fifteenth century had proved to be a great era of European exploration. Spanish and Portuguese explorers had opened up much of the world, and the Portuguese had particularly benefited from their domination of the spice trade. English sailors were much slower to engage in such activities. However, Bristol merchants and seamen were interested in the possibilities of transatlantic discovery; indeed, it was rumoured that such a discovery had been made some time before 1465 and there is evidence that Atlantic exploration was taking place from 1480, albeit on a small scale and unsuccessfully.

John Cabot appears to have arrived in Bristol in 1494 or 1495. This was a time when Bristol fish merchants were looking for alternative fishing grounds to exploit, having been excluded from Icelandic waters by the Hanseatic League. Cabot received authorisation from Henry VII to 'search out any isles, countries, regions or provinces of heathens and infidels whomsoever set in any part of the world soever, which have been before these times unknown to all Christians'. He sailed in 1497, located what became known as Newfoundland and reported the existence of extensive fishing grounds. He set off on a second voyage in the following year, from which he never returned. He was presumed lost at sea.

Cabot, however unrealistic his overall objectives, did establish, in the words of David Quinn, that 'a substantial land mass did exist within reasonable sailing from Europe' and laid the way for the Bristol fishery. Despite some claims to the contrary, it is almost certain that Cabot never set foot on the American mainland. However, it has recently been discovered that a Bristol merchant named William Weston might have done so in 1499 or 1500. Even if he did not do so he was certainly the first Englishman to lead an expedition to the New World.

Although John Cabot's son, Sebastian, received sponsorship from Henry VII and led an unsuccessful attempt to find the 'north-west passage' to Asia in 1508, English exploration of the north Atlantic tailed off with the accession of Henry VIII, who had little appetite for supporting such enterprises. The newly discovered fishing grounds became for a long time afterwards the preserve of seamen from Portugal and the Basque region of northern Spain.

SOURCE 1

In a letter dated 18 December 1497, Raimondo de Soncino, ambassador of the Duke of Milan, wrote to Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan:

And in the spring [John Cabot] says that his Majesty will arm some ships, and will give him all the criminals so that he may go to [Newfoundland] and plant a colony there. And in this way he hopes to make London a greater place for spices than Alexandria. And the principals of the business are the citizens of Bristol, great mariners that now know where to go. They say that the voyage will not take more than fifteen days, if fortune favours them after leaving Ireland. I have talked with a Burgundian who affirms the same, and who is willing to go, since the Admiral has given him an island. And I believe that some poor Italian friars will go on the voyage who have the promise of being bishops. And I, being a friend of the admiral, if I wished to go, could receive the office of archbishop, but I have thought the benefices which your Excellency has reserved for me a safer thing.

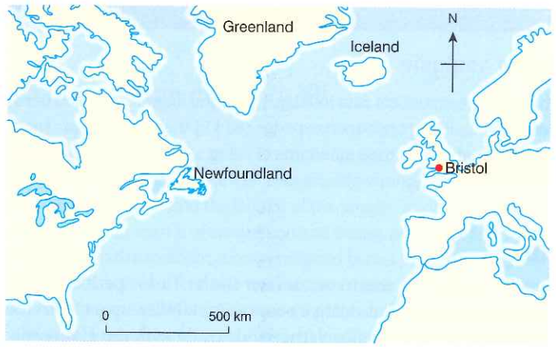


Fig. 4 *The North Atlantic, showing Newfoundland in modern Canada, where John Cabot landed in 1497*

Prosperity and depression

There is relatively little evidence from which to estimate the extent of prosperity and depression in the final years of the fifteenth century. Apart from a temporary rise in the 1480s, prices seem to have remained steady. The available evidence suggests that much the same happened to wages. On the other hand, there does appear to have been a decline in the export price of wool and in the price of grain and animal products in the 1490s. This might imply a reduction in farming profitability at this time but also rising real incomes for domestic consumers. Both building workers and agricultural labourers were, on the whole, better off during the 1490s than they would be at any other time during the Tudor period.

Table 1 *Price of consumables and wage rates in southern England, 1480–1609*

Decade	1 Price of consumables	2 Purchasing power of wage rate of a building craftsman	3 Purchasing power of wage rate of an agricultural labourer
1480–89	116	93	86
1490–99	101	103	104
1500–09	104	96	97
1510–19	111	88	89
1520–29	148	76	80
1530–39	155	68	80
1540–49	192	70	71
1550–59	289	51	59
1560–69	279	62	66
1570–79	315	64	69
1580–89	357	57	57
1590–99	472	47	49
1600–09	475	46	50

1. Price of consumables (1451–75 = 100)
2. Purchasing power of wage rate of a building craftsman (1450–99 = 100)
3. Purchasing power of wage rate of an agricultural labourer (1450–99 = 100)

ACTIVITY

Statistical analysis

On the basis of the statistical data in Table 1, can you identify in which decades of the Tudor period building craftsmen experienced (1) their greatest prosperity and (2) the greatest attack on their standards of living.

ACTIVITY

Evaluating historical extracts

Look back at Jack Lander's interpretation given at the beginning of this chapter (page 43). In small groups, consider whether you find this interpretation convincing. You will need to find specific evidence to support or refute his views.

Summary

In comparison with what was to occur later in the Tudor period, the reign of Henry VII was a period of relative economic stability, apart from the temporary disruptions to Anglo-Netherlands trade with the Hanseatic League. There was little to differentiate the reign economically from what had gone before, under Edward IV. The economy remained firmly based on agriculture, with a leavening of small-scale industrial enterprises. The king was associated with some attempts to encourage English trade, though how much influence these had is debatable. Dynastic interests always prevailed over commercial interests when the two appeared to clash.

ACTIVITY

Extension

What evidence is there of economic change during Henry VII's reign? Use information from this chapter and your own research to complete the table below.

	Positive	Negative
Trade (Netherlands)		
Trade (elsewhere)		
Industry		
Agriculture		
Living standards		

STUDY TIP

In answering a question such as this, it is important to place the cloth trade within a wider context of economic features, such as farming and industries.

AS LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'The cloth trade was the most important contributor to the English economy during the reign of Henry VII.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

STUDY TIP

In assessing significance you will need to balance the contribution of agriculture to the English economy against other contributors in industry and trade. Try to provide a well-supported judgement that looks at all aspects of agriculture.

A LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

How significant was the position of agriculture in the English economy in the years 1485 to 1509?

6 Religion, humanism, arts and learning

Religion in the reign of Henry VII

EXTRACT 1

Late-medieval Catholicism exerted an enormously strong, diverse and vigorous hold over the imagination and the loyalty of the people. Traditional religion had about it no particular marks of exhaustion and decay, and indeed in a whole host of ways, from the multiplication of religious books to adaptations of the saints, showed that it was well able to meet new needs and new conditions. The teachings of late-medieval Christianity were graphically represented, endlessly reiterated in sermons [and] saints' lives, enacted in the Corpus Christi and Miracle plays and carved and painted on the walls, screens, bench-ends and windows of the parish churches.

Adapted from Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, c1400–c1580*, 1992

ACTIVITY

Evaluating historical extracts

In Extract 1, Duffy is referring to the Catholic faith, under which Englishmen had lived for centuries. What does he say about the strength of that faith and its ritual?

The function of the Church and churchmen

During the reign of Henry VII all English people belonged, at least theoretically, to the Catholic Church and were under the jurisdiction of the Pope in Rome. Although prayers in the Mass were always said for the Pope, what really counted for ordinary people was their own religious experience, which was central to the lives of most people living in the fifteenth century.

Lives were lived and regulated according to the Church's major ceremonies. The parish church, of which there were over 8000, was the focus of religious experience. The church provided the focus of popular entertainment. Its festivals, which were closely linked to the agricultural year, provided much-needed enjoyment and its **guilds and confraternities** offered charity, good fellowship and the chance for ordinary people to contribute to the good of their local community.

The Church made it easier for the social and political elites to maintain social control through its encouragement of good behaviour, obedience and stress on the values of community. It also provided employment opportunities and, for a few like Cardinal Wolsey, the opportunity to advance themselves socially through the attainment of high office in Church and State.

EXTRACT 2

Henry VII changed the character of the bench of bishops to the extent that he weakened its religious leadership. His policy marked a real shift. Most of Henry's theologians, too, were administrators – this transformation of the bishops' bench was a deliberate strategy. Moreover, service to the State, even to the detriment of the Church, was required of his bishops.

Adapted from John Guy, *Tudor England*, 1988

The political role of the Church was significant, both in terms of international relations and in domestic matters. The highest position in the

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you will learn about:

- the place of religion in late fifteenth-century English society
- the role and influence of the Church in social life
- the influence of humanism on the arts and learning in England.

KEY QUESTION

As you read this chapter, consider the following Key Questions:

- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and with what effects?
- How did intellectual ideas change and develop and with what effects?

CROSS-REFERENCE

Read more about the Corpus Christi and Miracle plays in this chapter, page 58.

KEY TERM

guilds and confraternities: voluntary associations of individuals created to promote works of Christian charity or devotion

CROSS-REFERENCE

The role of churchmen in society during the reign of Henry VII is covered in Chapter 4, page 36.

Cardinal Wolsey and his career are outlined in chapters 7 and 8.

10 English society in the reign of Henry VIII

EXTRACT 1

There was a long tradition of popular revolt in England. Tudor chronicles told of the revolt of 1381, when peasants and townspeople had denounced their oppressors and wrought havoc. The fear was always that the common people would rise again. Yet the people rarely showed their power. The poor would be cast weeping from their homes when land was enclosed, yet offer little resistance. Yet, when really provoked, they might take action. Rebellion of a greater or lesser kind – whether against the Crown or revolt against landlords – was, perhaps, the natural consequence of a political system which allowed the great majority no channel for grievances, in which any appeal for redress was taken as rebellion.

Adapted from Susan Brigden, *New Worlds, Lost Worlds: the Rule of the Tudors, 1485–1603,* 2000

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you will learn about:

- the social status of members of the elites and commoners
- regional issues and their importance
- the social impact of religious upheaval
- the significance of rebellions.

KEY QUESTION

As you read this chapter, consider the following Key Question:
How did English society and economy change and with what effects?

ACTIVITY

What views of the ordinary people of England are expressed in Extract 1? When you have studied this chapter, reflect on whether you feel these views are justified.

Elites and commoners

Elites

The reign of Henry VIII witnessed a dynamic period in English society in which remnants of the feudal system still existed, but, in contrast, there was the growth of a professional and commercial bourgeoisie. However, the traditional nobles (or peers) and the greater gentry still represented a social elite which wielded considerable political and economic influence.

The nobility

The size of the peerage increased during the reign of Henry VIII, though by the end of the reign there were only nine more peers than there had been at the beginning. The creation of new peers had been to a large extent offset both by 'natural wastage' and by the number of attainders during the reign. Most of the new peers had achieved their rank as a result of successful royal service as courtiers or soldiers. In some cases this was enhanced by a close family relationship; for example the king's brother-in-law Edward Seymour was elevated to the earldom of Hertford.

England had only one duke when Henry VIII came to the throne, Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who never enjoyed royal favour. Henry VIII only promoted two non-royal ducal titles, Norfolk and Suffolk. Their holders served the king as soldiers and courtiers. There was a distinction to be made between the two. Norfolk was restored to the title which had been enjoyed by his father. In contrast, Suffolk seems to have been promoted on account of the closeness of his personal relationship with the king in a move which prompted criticism in some quarters, for example by Erasmus.

Henry did sometimes bestow property on nobles to enable them to exert royal authority in particular areas. Thus, Suffolk was endowed with property in Lincolnshire after the rebellion there in 1536 and the king ordered him to move there to ensure that he could exert that authority in person. Similarly, **John, Baron Russell**, was raised to the peerage and endowed with lands in Devon to bolster royal authority in the south-west following the execution of the **Marquess of Exeter**.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The structure of society under Henry VII is described in Chapter 4.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The ranks of the peerage are outlined in Chapter 4, pages 33–35.

Attainders, by which a nobleman lost his title and lands, are described in Chapter 1, page 3.

KEY PROFILE

John, Baron Russell and Earl of Bedford (c1485–1555)

Russell had a long career as a courtier. He served Henry VIII as a diplomat and soldier, and became a councillor in 1536. Following Exeter's fall, Russell was granted a huge amount of monastic land in Devon to bolster royal support in the southwest.

KEY PROFILE

Henry Courtenay, Marquess of Exeter (c1498–1538)

A grandson of Edward IV, Exeter was dominant in the southwest. He had had a close relationship with Henry, but his identification with the Aragonese faction and his enmity towards Cromwell strained the relationship.

ACTIVITY

Why was Henry VIII willing to bestow large amounts of property on nobles? Here are some suggested reasons. Discuss with a partner which would be the most important and place them in order of priority.

- Create a different atmosphere among the aristocracy from that in his father's reign.
- Reward loyalty.
- Ensure control in provincial areas.
- Show his generosity as a king.
- Ensure he had nobles willing to follow him to war.
- Ensure he had homes if he travelled around the country.

KEY TERM

affinity: described all those who had relationships with a person of higher status based on landholding and/or holding a position within the household

Nobles were expected to have great households and offer hospitality to their **affinity** and neighbours. To do so too openly could make a noble an object of royal suspicion, as was the case with Buckingham. On the other hand, noble households remained critical to the maintenance of local influence and to the recruitment of royal armies. (The Earl of Shrewsbury raised over 4000 men for the invasion of France in 1513.) Bastard feudalism had not died away completely. Gradually, however, the nobility was being brought more under the control of the monarch. This helps to explain the fate of Thomas Fiennes, Baron Dacre of the South. In 1541 not only was he tried for the murder of a neighbour's servant but he was convicted and hanged like a common criminal. It would have been very difficult to envisage either of these events happening two generations earlier at the start of the Tudor period.



Fig. 1 *The arrest and execution of Sir Thomas More, one of the leading nobles executed; painted in 1591 by Antoine Caron*

Many other nobles fell victim to Henry VIII in more orthodox fashion. The Duke of Buckingham was executed for treason on the vaguest of charges in 1521. The king's relatives, Henry Pole Baron Montague and Henry Courtenay Marquess of Exeter, were accused of treasonable conspiracy and executed in 1538. Montague's mother, Margaret Pole Countess of Salisbury, having been attainted of treason, was held in the Tower for over two years before eventually being executed, arguably the most vindictive of all of Henry's punitive actions. Lords Darcy and Hussey were executed for their roles in the rebellion of 1536, Henry's actions being perfectly justified according to the legal standards of the day.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The rebellion of 1536 is outlined later in this chapter, on pages 104–107.

ACTIVITY

Discuss in pairs or in small groups why the nobility continued to be attracted to Henry VIII's court.

The gentry

John Guy has suggested that there were about 5000 gentry families in England in 1540. Some aspects of gentry status were specific. Knighthoods were conferred as a sign of royal favour, and it was assumed that a knight would possess an income which reflected his status. Susan Brigden has suggested that there were about 200 knightly families in 1524. A gentleman who was entitled to bear a coat of arms was deemed an esquire. Such status was certified by the royal heralds. By 1530 heralds were unwilling to grant or confirm the title to anyone with lands worth less than £10 per annum or goods worth under £300. The term 'gentleman' itself lacked legal precision, and 'gentility' was often acquired as a result of the proceeds of office, profession or business.

Though it is difficult to be precise, the number of gentry increased during the reign of Henry VIII. Moreover, the increase in the number of justices of the peace (JPs) increased the numbers of those who participated in local administration. In addition to the JPs, many other members of the gentry were drawn into unpaid administration on behalf of the Crown. Members of the gentry were increasingly keen on their sons acquiring the legal training which would make them better able to take on such roles as could offer the basis for local advancement. Moreover, whereas the Crown's local administrators had formerly been likely to be clergymen, increasingly they were laymen, whose office holding often generated the income which would bring about landownership and gentry status.



Fig. 2 *This shows the coat of arms of John Dudley, Earl of Warwick*

Commoners

There was little dramatic change in the standard of living of commoners during the first half of the reign of Henry VIII. However, the rise in the rate of inflation did lead to a drop in real incomes which contributed to the ill feeling felt by many towards the imposition of the Amicable Grant. The social structure remained substantially unchanged, with the vast majority of people having very few possessions and little chance of regular and secure employment. Governments were always fearful of such people, with some justification because, while full-scale rebellion was relatively rare, outbreaks of disorder were much more common – and these were held to upset the good ordering of society.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The imposition of the Amicable Grant is discussed below on page 103.

Regional issues

Tudor society was not only divided by class and title, it was also regionally divided, with local loyalties often being stronger than national ones. In order to bind the country as one nation, measures were taken to create a single unified state.

Creating a unitary state



Fig. 3 *Wales after the 1535 Act*

Wales

Before 1536 Wales was a separate territory from England, though in practice it was under English control, even though the ruling dynasty was Welsh in origin. Wales comprised **marcher** (i.e. border) lordships and the Principality of Wales. It had neither a single unified administration nor a formal political link with England. That was changed by the Laws in Wales Act of 1536 which:

- divided Wales into shire counties which operated on the same basis as their English counterparts
- gave the Welsh shires direct representation in the House of Commons at Westminster for the first time
- brought Wales into the same legal framework as England.

In practice this meant that Wales became incorporated into England with little of a separate identity except for the survival of the Welsh language in some parts of the country. Control over Wales continued to be exercised on the Crown's behalf. However, increasingly this became the responsibility of members of the aristocracy, such as the earls of Pembroke,

and by members of an anglicised Welsh gentry who controlled county politics, were elected to Parliament and became increasingly prominent within the legal profession.

The English palatinates

Three English counties, Lancashire, Cheshire and Durham, were technically 'palatinates'. In other words, they were separate jurisdictions from the rest of the kingdom. This mattered little in Lancashire and Cheshire, where the exercise of palatinate jurisdiction had long since fallen back into royal hands. Durham was still technically separate, with palatinate jurisdiction being exercised by the bishop. The Act Resuming Liberties to the Crown of 1536 reduced the level of independence enjoyed by the bishop, but did not destroy it completely. For example, the palatinate court of chancery continued to operate. The change therefore seems to have been as much evolutionary as revolutionary.

Border administration

The Anglo-Welsh border

The lands which were governed as part of the Principality of Wales, along with the four bordering English counties – Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire – came under the jurisdiction of the Council of Wales and the Marches, which was based at Ludlow in Shropshire. This offered relatively cheap and local access to the law and could therefore be seen as a benefit to the area under its jurisdiction.

The Anglo-Scottish border

This remained a problematical area for Henry VIII. The border with Scotland was difficult to police; much of it was remote and often inhospitable in the winter months. Both sides of the border had a reputation for lawlessness. Cattle and sheep rustling were rife and violence was common.

In order to deal with such problems the border with Scotland was split into three marches, each under the jurisdiction of a warden. The filling of these posts could be difficult for the king. Appointing from a local noble family ran the risk that the noble would exploit his office to enhance his own power at the king's expense. In any case Henry had little time for such border magnate families as the Percies and the Dacres. The other option was to appoint local officers who came from the gentry class (e.g. Thomas Lord Wharton, only recently raised to the peerage and a man of relatively humble origins, was appointed in 1542) or those who were complete outsiders: these two groups were more likely to owe complete loyalty to the king, but they had limited ability to influence the conduct of local people who often saw themselves as owing a primary loyalty to a local magnate.

The Council in the North

The north of England posed problems of governance to a regime based far away in London. This was demonstrated particularly strongly with the huge number of supporters of the **Pilgrimage of Grace** in 1536. This led Henry and Cromwell to re-establish the Council as a permanent body based in York with a professional staff. It had both administrative and legal functions. It showed its worth by helping to keep the north quiet during the summer of rebellions in 1549.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The Pilgrimage of Grace is described later in this chapter, on pages 104–105, and the rebellions of 1549 in Chapter 14, pages 139–141.



Fig. 4 *The King's Manor in York, formerly the residence of the abbot of St Mary's, became the headquarters of the Council in the North after coming into the Crown's hands in 1539*

STUDY TIP

It is possible for questions to extend across more than one reign. Revisit Chapter 4 before writing this esay.

A LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'The people of northern England, Cornwall and Wales had little reason to be grateful for the rule of Henry VII and Henry VIII.' Assess the validity of this view.

CROSS-REFERENCE

To recap on the structure, organisation and beliefs of the Church in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, reread Chapter 6.

The reform of the Church under Henry VIII, including the dissolution of the monasteries which had played an important social role, is described in detail in Chapter 12.

Sir Thomas More is profiled in Chapter 6, page 57, and his fall from favour and execution are outlined in Chapter 8, page 79.

Cromwell's attacks on the monasteries in 1536 and 1539, and the royal injunctions of 1536 and 1538, are discussed in Chapter 12.

The social impact of religious upheaval

At the start of Henry VIII's reign there was little sign that there would be fundamental changes to the English Church. Although complaints were made occasionally about, for example, the worldliness of the clergy, on the whole the Church appears to have fulfilled the requirements of the bulk of the people to whom it ministered. There had even been some improvement in the early sixteenth century in the quality of the clergy and Cardinal Wolsey had dissolved some redundant monasteries, using their endowments for educational purposes. No one would credibly have predicted the destruction of Catholic England.

However, in the 1530s a major change took place in the English Church when Henry VIII broke with Rome and became head of a new English Church. Though a small minority of people undoubtedly welcomed the religious change this brought, there was no groundswell of popular support for the changes. There were executions of some who denied the royal supremacy, most notably Sir Thomas More.

Monasteries were an important feature of the appeal of the pre-Reformation Church. Cromwell's dissolution of the monasteries, begun in 1536, and his royal injunctions of 1536, attacked many of the traditional practices of Catholicism, such as holy days, pilgrimages and the veneration of relics. This provoked fears that these reforms might be accompanied by an attack on parish churches. The most important consequence of this was a major rebellion which broke out in the autumn of 1536 in Lincolnshire and parts of the north of England; this became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace.

The religious upheaval had long-lasting social consequences:

1. A huge amount of land was removed from the Church and taken by the Crown. This theoretically should have made the king more powerful.

However, the expense of the warlike foreign policy of Henry's final years led to the widespread sale of Church and monastic property, often at knock-down prices, thereby increasing both the size and the wealth of the landholding gentry. By 1547 almost two thirds of the monastic land acquired by the Crown had been sold off or granted away.

2. Many monasteries had been noted for their educational provision. With their demise, most monastic schools were lost also.
3. Many monks and nuns were rendered unemployed at a stroke. Some monks were able to secure employment as secular priests and many others received pensions. The position of nuns was very precarious.
4. Some monasteries played a very considerable role in the communities in which they were situated. As well as providing education, they also offered employment and business opportunities. Some major monastic churches, such as Durham, were the cathedrals of their dioceses; many others doubled up as the local parish church. Dissolution was seen as a potential disaster and some communities went to considerable lengths to try to protect their monasteries. At Hexham in Northumberland, for example, royal commissioners were prevented from beginning the process of dissolution by a gathering of armed men.

CROSS-REFERENCE

Henry's costly foreign policy in his later years is discussed in Chapter 9.

Rebellions

Henry VIII's reign saw various instances of disorder and disobedience which the authorities managed, with difficulty, to keep under control. It also contained one major rebellion, the Pilgrimage of Grace.

KEY QUESTION

- How was England governed?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups?

Resistance to taxation: the Amicable Grant

Just as in Henry VII's reign, the imposition of taxes to pay for foreign wars brought instability and disorder. There were complaints in Yorkshire, particularly in upland areas, about the subsidy to raise money for Henry's campaigns in 1513. The taxation demands for some of the areas affected were eventually written off.

Similarly, many refused to pay the Amicable Grant in 1525. Opposition was geographically widespread, but the strongest resistance occurred in north Essex and south Suffolk. The Earl of Essex reported that 1000 people had gathered at the Essex–Suffolk border and were determined to resist payment. The dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk also faced about 4000 taxation resisters, in particular, unemployed cloth workers who found it impossible to pay the levy. The dukes handled the matter sensitively and the king backed down. Wolsey publicly begged the king to offer pardon to those whom he saw as his Suffolk countrymen and the leaders of the resistance were treated leniently. The whole business demonstrated very clearly that Henry could not operate in defiance of the taxpaying classes. When next he opted to invade France he supplemented his extraordinary revenue with cash from the sale of monastic lands.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The introduction of the Amicable Grant, which was neither amicable nor a grant, but a forced loan (in other words a tax imposed without the approval of Parliament) is outlined, in its political context, in Chapter 8, page 74.

SOURCE 1

Adapted from a report by the Duke of Norfolk to Cardinal Wolsey, 11 May 1525:

And unto us came the inhabitants of the town of Lavenham and Brent Eleigh who were offenders to a great number. They came all in their shirts and, kneeling before us with piteous crying for mercy, showed that they were the king's majesty's most humble and faithful subjects and would continue during their lives, saying that this offence by them committed was only for lack of work so they knew not how to get their living. And for their offence most humbly

ACTIVITY

Group work

Working in pairs or small groups assess Norfolk's performance in dealing with the Amicable Grant rebels.

A CLOSER LOOK

Key events in the Lincolnshire Rising and Pilgrimage of Grace

1536	
2 Oct	Lincolnshire Rising begins at Louth
4 Oct	Lincolnshire Rising spreads to Horncastle; murder of Dr Rayne, chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln
7 Oct	Lincolnshire rebels converge on Lincoln Cathedral
8 Oct	Pilgrimage of Grace proper begins in the East Riding of Yorkshire under the leadership of Robert Aske
10 Oct	Pilgrimage of Grace spreads to the West Riding of Yorkshire
18 Oct	Lincolnshire Rising ends
20 Oct	Pontefract Castle surrendered to the rebels
25 Oct	Rebellion spreads to high Pennines and Lake District
26 Oct	Rebels meet Duke of Norfolk near Doncaster
Nov	East and West Riding rebels gradually disperse
3 Dec	Royal proclamation offering pardon to rebels
16 Jan	Renewed rebellion in the East Riding of Yorkshire led by Sir Francis Bigod

besought us to be means to the king's highness for pardon and remission, unto whom we made a long rehearsal the best we could to aggravate their heinous offence declaring the same to be high treason. Finally we tried out four of the principal of the offenders. We gave all the rest leave to depart.

The Lincolnshire Rising and the Pilgrimage of Grace

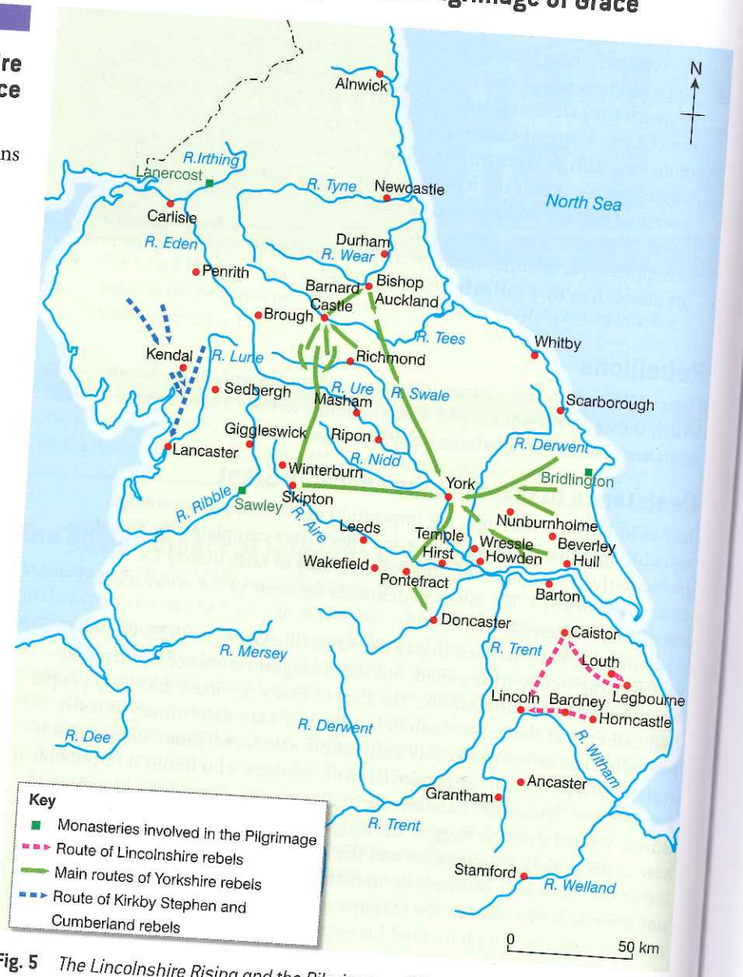


Fig. 5 *The Lincolnshire Rising and the Pilgrimage of Grace, showing the routes taken by the various groups of rebels*

Together, the Lincolnshire Rising and the Pilgrimage of Grace comprised the largest single rebellion in the history of Tudor England. It began as a rising which started in Lincolnshire in early October 1536, spread over the Humber into the East Riding of Yorkshire and continued from there into parts of the West Riding around Wakefield and Pontefract.

A second and more militant rising started in the dales between Ripon and Richmond, spread west into Cumberland, Westmorland and north Lancashire, north into Durham and southwest into the Craven area of the West Riding of

Yorkshire. The rebels here were more radicalised and more hostile towards the gentry because of the strength of their grievances against their landlords. Class antagonism was clear from letters sent out in the name of 'Captain Poverty', in a way which contrasted markedly with the Lincolnshire and the East Risings. The recreation of the 'Captain Poverty' movement helps to explain the revival of rebellion in Cumberland early in 1537.

Causes of the rebellion

The causes of the rebellion were complex, and various secular motives played a part. However, it is undoubtedly the case that opposition to the impact of Henry VIII's religious changes figured among the rebels' grievances. What sparked off rebellion was the huge resentment felt about a government which was pushing too quickly for fundamental religious change that most ordinary people could neither sympathise with nor even understand.

Religious motives

1. Dissolution of the monasteries
   By the early autumn of 1536 the work of dissolving the smaller monasteries was well under way. It was clear that the dissolution would have a number of effects which many people found undesirable:
   - the loss of the charitable and educational functions which some monasteries provided
   - the possible loss of parish churches which were monastic properties
   - the fear that the north would be impoverished by monastic land falling into the hands of southerners
   - the usefulness of the facilities and services which the monasteries offered.

   The importance of monasteries to the rebels can be seen in their attempts to restore some of the houses which had been suppressed. The rebel leader, **Robert Aske**, was a convinced supporter of the monasteries.
2. Fear for parish churches and traditional religious practices
   The 1536 Injunctions drawn up by Cromwell were seen as attacking traditional religious practices.
   - The celebration of locally important saints such as St Wilfrid in parts of Yorkshire had been discouraged.
   - This was linked to the discouragement of pilgrimage.
   - There were rumours that church plate and jewels, which had been bequeathed by parishioners, would be confiscated and that parishes might be amalgamated.

Secular motives

Several secular motives have also been attributed to the rebellion.

1. The ordinary rebels were generally more motivated by economic grievances, including resentment of taxation, than their leaders.
2. The Crown's attempts to impose the Duke of Suffolk upon Lincolnshire as a great magnate may initially have sparked the rebellion in Lincolnshire.
3. It has been argued, most strongly by Geoffrey Elton, that the rebellions of 1536 were brought about primarily by a courtly conspiracy prompted by councillors who had been supporters of Catherine of Aragon, who had died in January 1536. Their main motive was the restoration of Princess Mary as heir. These courtiers were able to exploit the religious and financial concerns of northerners to put pressure on the king as part of the factional politics of the reign.
4. The extension of the rebellion west of the Pennines into Cumberland and Westmorland has been linked in particular to tenants' grievances.

It is, of course, difficult to disentangle completely the motives of the rebels, especially given the huge geographical area covered by the rebellion and the varied identities of those most prominently involved.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Pontefract Articles

These give the most comprehensive set of rebel demands and incorporate a range of grievances: some of which were widespread while others were specific to particular areas, and some were highly contentious, while others were very minor. There is no sense of organisation and prioritisation about the Articles. They do express a range of religious grievances, some of which can be linked to the religious experiences of ordinary folk while others reflected the concerns of the clergy. Anger was directed against Cromwell and members of his circle. The desire for Parliament to meet at York suggested strongly held regional resentment.

KEY PROFILE

Robert Aske (c1500–37) led the Pilgrimage of Grace and devised its name which gave it its distinctive religious flavour. A capable leader, he turned the varied movements of the rebels into a cohesive whole. He tried to negotiate a settlement with the king but was executed after the outbreak of renewed rebellion in January 1537.

A CLOSER LOOK

The historiography of the rebellion

The difficulty in analysing the rebels' motives is reflected in the work of historians, who have asserted a multiplicity of motives. John Scarisbrick, in his biography of Henry VIII published in 1968, sees the rebellion as a comprehensive attack on the whole range of Henry VIII's policies, though he does accept the primacy of religion. One school of thought suggests the rebellion was led by aristocrats and gentry – particularly Lord Darcy (in Yorkshire) and Lord Hussey (in Lincolnshire) – and was 'planned and organised from above'. Another emphasises the view that the rebellions were risings of the commons.



Fig. 6 *The banner of the Five Wounds of Christ was used in both the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 and the Northern Rebellion of 1569 to symbolise the religious motives of the rebels*

EXTRACT 2

The whole course of the rebellion – its start, its spread, its open and secret purposes, its end – becomes clearer when it is recognised that it was at heart the work of a political faction which utilised the social, economic and religious grievances to be found in the disaffected north, grievances linked not to feudal or popular uproar but to the increasing distrust felt by the regional gentry towards a thrusting and revolutionary court policy. A common interest joined the defeated court faction with the anti-court 'country' and offered an opportunity for forcing Henry to change course. In Lincolnshire the conspiracy proved rather incompetent, perhaps because Hussey, old and dithery, was not up to it: he never controlled the rising which evidently started before everything was ready, and his intended allies among the gentry lost the taste for politics when they began to fear they had let loose the elements of social rebellion.

Adapted from Geoffrey R. Elton, 'Politics and the Pilgrimage of Grace' in *After the Reformation: Essays in Honor of J. H. Hexter*, 1980

EXTRACT 3

The Pilgrimage was threatening because nobles, gentry, clergy and people combined forces, and because they shared an ideology. Indeed this revolt was neither a clash between different social groups nor a split within the governing class, but a popular rising by northerners in general. They wore badges of the Five Wounds of Christ; they swore an oath that contradicted the Crown's oath of supremacy; and they circulated ballads connecting the theme of the Church in danger to the socio-economic distress they believed would result from the loss of monastic charity. Their oath bound them to take up Christ's cross, to defend the Catholic Church, to strive for suppression of heretics and to expel evil councillors from the king's council. The Pilgrimage followed medieval patterns of dissent – that is, protest combined with protestations of loyalty to the king and the established order.

Adapted from John Guy, *Tudor England*, 1988

EXTRACT 4

The revolts of 1536 to 1537, the Lincolnshire Revolt, the Pilgrimage of Grace and the Captain Poverty risings in October, and the renewed risings in January and early February 1537 must be understood as risings of the commons which the gentry, ultimately successfully, worked to tame through the re-establishment of their authority. In their attempts to harness the commons, the gentry were hindered, first by one of their number – Aske – who saw political and personal advantage in furthering the revolts and led the commons into a stand-off with a royal force at Doncaster; and second, by the refusal of Henry VIII to make concessions. The first revolt took place in Lincolnshire and east Yorkshire and was stimulated by fears for religion in the parish churches. The second revolt in the uplands was concerned with agrarian discontents.

Adapted from Richard Hoyle, *The Pilgrimage of Grace and the Politics of the 1530s*, 2001

A LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

Evaluating historical extracts

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the reasons for the outbreak of the Pilgrimage of Grace.

The suppression of the rebellions

Estimates of the numbers involved vary. However, it is evident that not only were these the most geographically widespread set of rebellions in Tudor England, they were also the most popular in terms of participation. Though the Lincolnshire Rebellion quickly collapsed when faced with the forces of the Duke of Suffolk, the northern rebels occupied York and Hull and captured Pontefract Castle. The rebellions therefore caused great alarm to both the king and many of his ministers.

The king sent an army north under the command of the Duke of Norfolk. When Norfolk encountered the rebels near Doncaster he was hugely outnumbered. Norfolk therefore sought to defuse the rebellion through the issue of a pardon and the promise that the dissolved monasteries would be restored and a free parliament established. The king almost certainly had not the slightest intention of honouring these promises. They did, however, secure their strategic objectives and most of the rebel forces dispersed.

Henry had the excuse he needed to go back on his word when rebellion was renewed in Cumberland and the East Riding in February 1537. The Duke of Norfolk quickly suppressed the renewed rebellion, declared martial law and hanged 74 rebels, though after that initial harshness he behaved relatively mercifully and with a concern for proper legal process. A number of rebel leaders including Darcy and Hussey, several members of the gentry and heads of monastic houses were brought to London, tried and executed.

The Pilgrimage of Grace shook Henry VIII. His own record in dealing with the rebellion was poor; he ignored warnings about the increase in resentment which he did not wish to hear. He was fortunate that the Duke of Norfolk showed common sense and flexibility. The Pilgrimage did not, however, slow the pace of religious change.

STUDY TIP

In answering questions such as this which deal with causation it is advisable to integrate your contextual knowledge as far as possible with the causes identified in the extracts. Use your contextual knowledge to expand upon and develop the points which you identify in the extracts.

ACTIVITY

Evaluating historical extracts

Look back at Susan Brigden's interpretation at the beginning of this chapter. In the light of this chapter, consider whether her views are convincing.

STUDY TIP

In answering a question such try to draw on evidence from across the whole reign. Levels of disorder might vary across the reign and between regions.

STUDY TIP

Look back to Chapter 4 and remind yourself of the rebellions faced by Henry VII. Use this information and your summary chart to assess the reasons for rebellion and evaluate the importance of economic factors.

ACTIVITY

Summary chart

Complete the chart below, to summarise the evidence for each of the reasons for disorder and rebellion under Henry VIII.

The reasons for disorder and rebellion

Reasons	Specific supporting evidence
Religious reasons	
Economic reasons	
Opposition to government policies	
Influence of gentry/nobles	
Regional/local factors	

A LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'English society in the reign of Henry VIII was characterised more by disorder than by order.' Assess the validity of this view.

AS LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'Tudor rebellions before 1540 were primarily driven by economic factors.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

11 Economic development in the reign of Henry VIII

EXTRACT 1

England and Wales were predominantly agrarian societies, subject after 1520 to sustained population pressure. Obvious opportunities sprang from the enhanced level of demand that stimulated the development of capitalistic agriculture and a more commercialised industrial economy, but inflation, speculation in land and foodstuffs, unemployment, poverty, vagrancy and urban squalor were the inevitable consequences of the sudden rise in population. The power of the State was negligible when faced by demographic, economic and social changes, but we can take a relatively optimistic view of the period for one overriding reason: some regional crises apart, Tudor England managed to feed itself.

John Guy, *Tudor England*, 1988

ACTIVITY

What is John Guy's view in Extract 1? List the positive and negative points made about Tudor England.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you will learn about:

- the importance of trade to the English economy
- the economic contribution of exploration
- the extent of prosperity and depression during the reign.

KEY QUESTION

As you read this chapter, consider the following Key Question:
How did English society change and with what effects?

CROSS-REFERENCE

To recap on trade, exploration, prosperity and depression during the reign of Henry VII, reread Chapter 6.

Trade

Though there were occasional downturns, the volume of English trade increased during the first half of the sixteenth century. There was a continued rise in cloth exports, though the market for raw wool declined. Woollen cloth exports almost doubled during Henry VIII's reign. This was accompanied by significant increases in the export of hides and tin. These exports were counterbalanced by an increase in the import of wine, which suggests that the spending power of the more prosperous classes increased.

The leading route for exports, particularly of cloth, was from London to Antwerp, from where it was frequently sent to customers in Central Europe and the Baltic. An increasing proportion of exported cloth was routed through London. This had a negative impact on some other ports, especially Bristol, and also east-coast ports such as Hull and Boston. Provincial traders seem to have found it difficult to compete against their London rivals. Southampton enjoyed a boom, especially in trade with Venice, but it was short-lived and was over by the middle of the century. Though broadcloths continued to be exported, the biggest change in the cloth industry was the increase in cheaper fabrics such as **kersey**.

The profits of the cloth trade did not always find their way into English pockets. Although 70 per cent of cloth exports were transported by English merchants from the 1550s, much of the trade was in foreign hands before this. Nevertheless there were certainly profits to be made in cloth, and the woollen industry grew in the first half of the sixteenth century in order to keep pace with increasing demand.

The ability of the cloth trade to supply its markets depended on the effectiveness of the woollen industry. The industry certainly grew in the first half of the sixteenth century, though by precisely how much is difficult to determine. The industry operated largely on a domestic basis with children carding the wool, women spinning and men weaving it. The wool was then passed from the domestic sphere for more specialist treatment such as fulling

KEY TERM

kersey: a coarse woollen cloth which was lighter than the traditional English broadcloth and which took its name from the village of Kersey in Suffolk, a centre of the cloth trade; its lightness broadened its popular appeal



Fig. 1 *Major trade routes from England to the Continent*

A CLOSER LOOK

It is significant in this context that the Crown seems not to have contested the tales of hardship recounted by textile workers who could not afford to pay the Amicable Grant (see Chapter 10, page 103).

and dyeing which existed as small-scale industries throughout much of the country. The three areas which undoubtedly saw the greatest growth in the cloth industry were the West Riding of Yorkshire, East Anglia (especially south Suffolk) and parts of the West Country (especially Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Devon). The work was not always secure and this could lead to poverty.

On the other hand, there were serious profits to be made, especially by rich and entrepreneurial clothiers who were able not only to acquire wealth but also to enhance their social status. The best such example is William Stumpe of Malmesbury in Wiltshire who became MP for Malmesbury, high sheriff of the county, wealthy landowner and beneficiary from the dissolution of the monasteries.

There was some growth in the mining industries. Cornish tin remained a prize export. Lead mining in the high Pennines and coal mining in the northeast of England were growing in importance, with Newcastle supplying an increasingly important London market by sea. Blast furnaces produced an increasing amount of iron ore in the Weald of Sussex and Kent. By the middle of the century their number totalled 26. However, the upsurge in iron ore smelting would come in the second half of the century.

ACTIVITY

Indicate on a blank map of England the areas most involved in the woollen industry and cloth trade and the major ports from which wool and cloth were exported.

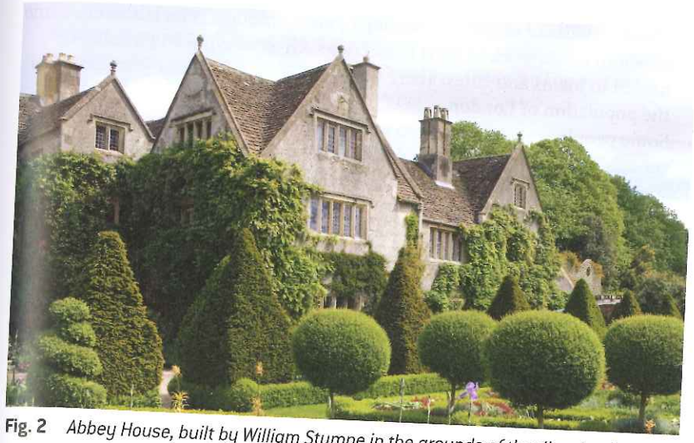


Fig. 2 *Abbey House, built by William Stumpe in the grounds of the dissolved Malmesbury Abbey in Wiltshire*

Exploration

Henry VIII was uninterested in exploration and made no attempt to build on the early achievements of Cabot and the Bristol merchants at the end of the fifteenth century. Although Robert Thorne, a Bristol trader, continued his involvement in an Iceland and Newfoundland fishery, other merchants that showed an interest in further exploration found themselves unable to win royal support for any venture.

Sebastian Cabot remained in Spain for most of Henry VIII's reign apart from two short visits to England, and it was only after Edward VI took the throne that he returned. Interestingly, however, he was assisted in his map-making activities by Robert Thorne's son who bore the same name as his father.

Prosperity and depression

John Guy has argued that 'England was economically healthier, more expansive and more optimistic under the Tudors than at any time since the Roman occupation.' There are a number of points which can be put forward to support this view.

- The population began to grow significantly from about 1525 with, allowing for fluctuations, a decline in the rate of mortality.
- From the 1520s, agricultural prices rose significantly, therefore there was an increase in farming incomes, enhanced in some cases by the practice of **engrossing**.
- **Debasement** of the coinage created a short-term artificial boom in 1544 to 1546, but at a long-term cost to living standards.

On the other hand:

- Bad harvests (for example 1520–21 and 1527–29) led to temporary but significant increases in food prices. Food prices almost doubled across Henry VIII's reign. John Guy has suggested that this caused problems in particular for urban workers.
- Real wages, after a period of stability, began to decline for many. This process was at its worst at the end of Henry VIII's reign when the effects of debasement were particularly evident.
- Assessment for subsidies indicated considerable urban poverty. For example, over half the population of Coventry were recorded as having no personal wealth. The same was true for a third of the population of Yarmouth.

CROSS-REFERENCE

John and Sebastian Cabot and their voyages in the time of Henry VII are covered in Chapter 5, pages 48–49.



Fig. 3 *Sebastian Cabot*

KEY TERM

engrossing: the joining together of two or more farms to make a single agricultural unit; it could be seen as improving efficiency and output at the cost of rendering families homeless

debasement: the reduction in the silver content of coins and its replacement by base metal; debased coins were regarded with suspicion and, as a result, merchants and shopkeepers put up their prices which resulted in an increase in the rate of inflation whose impact was greatest on low wage earners

CROSS-REFERENCE

See the table in Chapter 5, page 49, regarding the wage rates of building craftsmen and agricultural labourers.

- There is evidence of growing unemployment amongst rural labourers, some of whom found work in rural industries such as weaving and mining or moved to towns and cities. There were over 5000 migrants a year adding to the population of London.
- Some people seem to have been made homeless on account of engrossing, though its extent and effects are difficult to determine and legislation regarding the problem was ineffective.

CROSS-REFERENCE

The nature of open-field husbandry in lowland areas is discussed in Chapter 5, page 44.

Impact of enclosure

Enclosure of common fields had existed in the fifteenth century, but had had relatively little impact. It was, however, perceived as creating a moral problem in that it led to the poor being forced to leave their homes. Rather muddled legislation had been passed against enclosure in 1489 and 1515, but there was no real grasp of its extent or the scale of the problem. Its harmful social effects had been highlighted in Thomas More's *Utopia*, published in 1516. In response, Wolsey launched an enclosure commission in the following year to ascertain the scale of the problem, and proceedings were launched successfully against no fewer than 188 defendants who were found to have enclosed illegally. Enclosure at this time was, however, a largely regional practice, most commonly found in east Midlands villages. In any case, the bulk of the damage caused by enclosure and conversion of land from tillage to pasture had taken place before 1485. That did not prevent further legislation in 1534 which attempted to limit sheep ownership and engrossing – with predictably limited results.

Population

The main underlying cause of economic distress was the increase in population. This put a considerable strain on the supply of food which made it difficult at times to meet the rising demand. This problem was made worse by the fact that wages were at best stagnating, with a plentiful supply of cheap labour. The beneficiaries of population increase were wealthier farmers and landowners. Agricultural prices, and therefore income from farming, rose. There was a growing class of substantial farmers who were able or fortunate enough to respond effectively to changing market conditions and who enjoyed much better material conditions as a result. Thus, as John Guy has argued, 'agricultural improvement promoted economic growth at the cost of peasant distress; increased production generated prosperity for landlords and impoverishment for wage-earners.' Society became more polarised, which undermined traditional ideals of good lordship and social responsibility. Consequently, 'the upper strata of society became richer, but the poor became poorer.' Increasingly, the former assumed that the latter were poor on account of their own idleness, which would lead in the long run to much sterner measures taken against vagrancy and begging.

ACTIVITY

Summary

Working in pairs or small groups, choose one of the following features of the economy during the reign of Henry VIII: low wages; enclosing and engrossing; urban poverty; harvest fluctuation. Produce an argument that your chosen feature was the most important factor in ensuring low standards of living.

EXTRACT 2

England was a country of subsistence farming. Here and there, among the great landed proprietors of Norfolk, there were sheep flocks running into thousands, and there may have been cattle farmers in the Midlands and the northern hills who farmed in a big way for a specialised market. Over the country as a whole, however, nine farmers out of ten worked with their families to get enough to eat and make a small annual surplus with which to buy household goods and clothes at the nearest fair. Henrician England was a country of very slow economic growth, if any.

Adapted from W.G. Hoskins, *The Age of Plunder: the England of Henry VIII, 1500–1547*, 1976

EXTRACT 3

By the time of Henry VIII, the economic crises of the Middle Ages were no more. Agricultural improvement promoted economic growth, although at the cost of peasant distress. Increased production generated prosperity for landlords but impoverishment for wage-earners. The effect of economic change was to divide society. The diet of the poor deteriorated, and they were forced to live in bare cottages or rural hovels.

Adapted from John Guy, *Tudor England*, 1988

AS LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

Evaluating historical extracts

With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the development of the English economy during the reign of Henry VIII?

STUDY TIP

It is important that you draw on contextual knowledge when considering how convincing each of the extracts is. You must provide an overall judgement as well.

A LEVEL PRACTICE QUESTION

'The performance of the English economy remained weak throughout the reigns of the first two Tudors.' Assess the validity of this claim.

STUDY TIP

To answer this question effectively you will need to cover the whole period from 1485 to 1547. It will help to draw on information from chapters 5 and 11. It is important that you ask yourself what the characteristics of weak economic performance might have been during this period.

Preparing for A-Level History

The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945-1980

All resources can be found on SharePoint: Transition Y11 to Y12

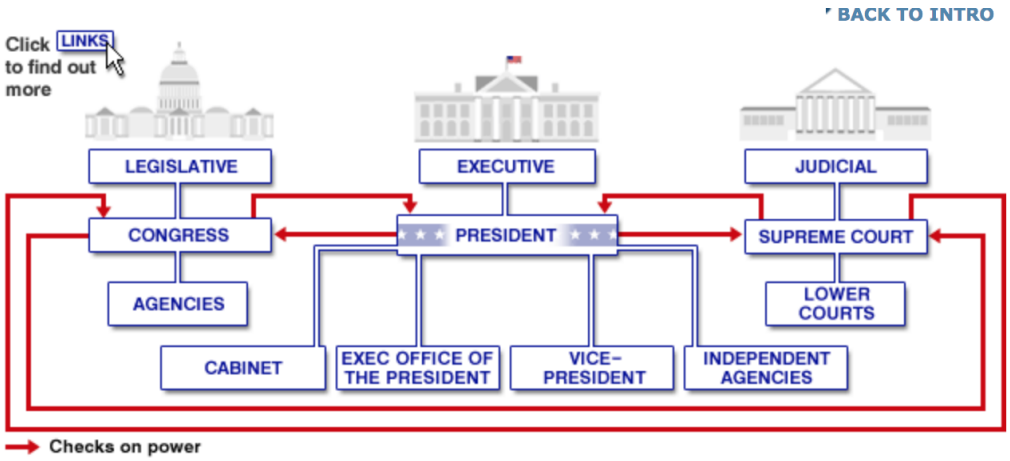
External students can find resources here:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15YV2LTp1W9bpkxWFgI_7snwgy31SKY53?usp=sharing

Numbers 1-6 must be completed and brought with you to your first A Level History lesson

1. **Read through the course specification and familiarise yourself with the course content.**

2. **Complete and print the course glossary**

3. **Make a diagram explaining how the US government works – use the below diagram as a starting point and add detail explaining what each part is (see SharePoint/Google Drive for useful links)**



4. **Make a diagram/flowchart to show how US elections work (see SharePoint/Google Drive for useful links)**

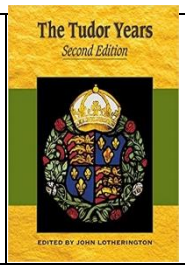
5. **Make a timeline of US Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan – who were they? What party were they representing? Any key successes/failures? (see SharePoint/Google Drive for useful links)**

Finished? See SharePoint/Google Drive for a list of optional extra watching, reading and listening that will help you get a head start with your understanding of the course.

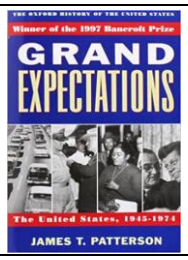
We advise that you purchase a copy of James Patterson, Grand Expectations. Textbooks will not be issued for use outside of class, if you want to purchase your own copy the link is here. Link for revision guide here.

Further preparation - History

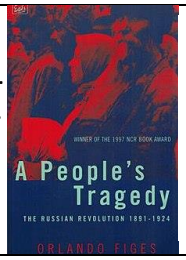




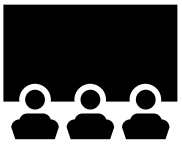
< The Tudor Years by John Lotherington. Available on Amazon.



< Grand Expectations by James T Patterson. Available on Amazon. You must purchase this book!



< A people's Tragedy by Orlando Figes.







Dan Snow's History Hit
BBC Podcasts

History Extra
Audible



Britain's Bloodiest Crown –Timeline documentary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3qER3Z3QyA
Henry & Anne – Timeline Documentary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0aI6QWV97s

Awakening - Eyes on the Prize documentary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WkvOePVOWo
Freedom Riders – BBC documentary
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tas9OzGYcM

NETFLIX

The King
Reign
The Last Czars

Who Killed Malcolm X?
JFK
The Russian Revolution

prime video

The Tudors
The Wars of the Roses: A Bloody Crown

Reign
Wolf Hall