

Henry died in 1547. Though he was a gross and selfish tyrant he left his country more united and more confident than before, and his reign was glorified by the Utopian vision of More, drawings of Holbein, poetry and music of the Tudor court and other claims to greatness.

Henry VIII had destroyed the power of the Pope in England, but he didn't change the religious doctrine. He appointed Protestants as guardians of the young **Edward VI** (1547–1553) and they carried out the religious reformation.

After the death of Edward VI there was a highly unstable situation in the country. In his will which contradicted his father's bequest, King Edward VI disinherited his sisters and proclaimed Lady Jane Grey the Queen of England (1553). Jane Grey ruled only for nine days. But the people opposed her reign and supported the claim of Mary, the daughter of Catherine of Aragon.

**Queen Mary I** was determined to return England back to the Pope, as she was a fanatic Roman Catholic. She failed

to understand the English hostility to Catholic Spain, and her marriage to Philip of Spain, son of the Emperor Charles V, was her own idea, celebrated in July 1554 despite the pleas of privy councillors and Parliament. Parliament had to accept Philip as King of England for Mary's lifetime; moreover, his rights in England were to expire if Mary died childless, which proved to be the case. Her marriage was very unpopular and caused several uprisings simultaneously. She crushed the rebels and pursued an aggressive policy against protestants: more than 300 people were executed in the worst traditions of the Inquisition — burned them. That is why she earned the nickname **Bloody Mary**.

During the reign of **Bloody Mary** France was the traditional enemy and England was little better than a Province of Spain. Being the wife of Philip II she got England to be drawn into a war with France and Calais, the last English possession on the continent, was lost in 1558.

Her reign and life were a political and



*Edward VI (1547–1553)*



*Bloody Mary (1553–1558)*

a personal disaster. When Mary died in November 1558, deserted, unhappy and hated by many, people in the streets of London danced and drank to the health of the new queen.

**Elizabeth I**, Queen of England and Ireland, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, succeeded her half-sister to the great delight of the people.

Princess Elizabeth after her mother's execution was declared illegitimate, she spent her childhood in loneliness, and only sometimes enjoyed the company of her brother Edward, encouraged by her step mother Catherine Parr.

Elizabeth was a well educated, remarkable woman, who had endured the hardships of her youth and succeeded to a dangerous heritage. The country was surrounded by powerful enemies: Spain possessed the Netherlands and France controlled Scotland, where the French mother of the 16 year old **Mary Queen of Scots** was Regent. To all the true Catholics Elizabeth still remained illegitimate, but Mary Stuart, the great granddaughter of Henry VII Tudor by his daughter Margaret was supported in her claim to the English throne as the rightful Queen of England.

Yet Elizabeth was equal to the situation. She had the Tudor courage and combined an almost masculine intelligence with an altogether feminine intuition, which enabled her to understand her people and select the right advisers.

Her first steps were to restore the moderate Protestantism of her father: the Anglican service was reintroduced, and 39 articles, formulating the established doctrine of the Church, the Symbol of the Faith.

Specific differences in the development of the Reformation in England and Scotland didn't prevent the Scottish Pres-



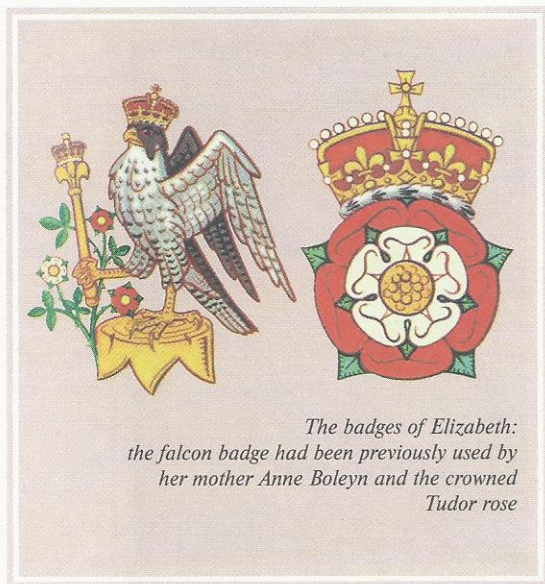
*Elizabeth I (1558-1603)*

byterians and the Church of England from cooperation in the conflict and struggle against the Catholics, both in England and Scotland.

The Scottish merchants supported their own variant of Calvinism, the Presbyterianism — a cheaper church founded on democratic principles of elected preachers and community chiefs. They denied the right of one man (the Pope, the King, or the bishops) to the Supremacy in Church.

The Presbyterian Church helped to secure the Independence of Scotland in their struggle against catholic France.

The policy of Elizabeth was one of compromise and settlement. In foreign affairs she continued the work of Henry VII encouraging the expansion of the English merchants. Spain was the greatest trade rival and enemy as it dominated both Europe and the New World. The Spanish Catholic kings plotted against Elizabeth in their desire to substitute



*The badges of Elizabeth:  
the falcon badge had been previously used by  
her mother Anne Boleyn and the crowned  
Tudor rose*

Mary for Elizabeth as Queen and re-  
sented the first English efforts in the ex-  
ploration of the New World.

Elizabeth was a competent diplomat  
and maintained the balance of power in  
Europe.

But she helped Dutch Protestants  
who rebelled against Philip II of Spain  
and allowed them to use English har-  
bours. English ships were attacking Spa-  
nish ships as those were returning from  
America. The English captains — the  
sea dogs” tried to appear private adven-  
tures — John Hawkins, Francis Drake  
and Martin Frobisher, but they shared  
their plunder with their beloved Queen.

Philip was outraged and began to  
build up his naval forces to conquer  
England.

**In 1587 Francis Drake** attacked the  
fleet in the Spanish harbours of Cadiz  
and destroyed a great number of ships.  
And that was the last straw in this unde-  
clared war.

1587 was the most dramatic year for  
Elizabeth. Mary Queen of Scots was

forced to abdicate in Scotland in 1567  
and having left her baby son James VI  
of Scotland, had to flee from Scottish  
calvinists in 1568 and throw herself on  
Elizabeth’s mercy. The Queen of Eng-  
land had no alternative but to keep her  
in close custody. Mary’s presence in  
England provoked rebellions and plots  
to depose Elizabeth. The Spanish am-  
bassador was involved in a plot to mur-  
der Elizabeth and expelled from the  
country. Then Mary herself was impli-  
cated into a similar conspiracy.

The Parliament demanded her  
death; and Elizabeth had to agree, and  
in 1587 **Mary Queen of Scots** was ex-  
ecuted. But Elizabeth blamed her death  
on her officials.

Mary’s death and Drake’s raid on  
Cadiz both took place in 1587. The next  
year was to be fateful for England.

In August 1588 the Armada, the Great  
Spanish fleet, was in the Channel pre-  
paring to launch a full-scale invasion.

Elizabeth was at the head of her na-  
tion. She went to the Camp of her troups  
to encourage and inspire them with such  
words: “Let tyrants fear. I have always  
so behaved myself that, under God, I  
have placed my chiefest strength and  
goodwill in the loyal hearts and good-  
will of my subjects...”

I know I have but the body of a weak  
and feeble woman, but I have the heart  
and stomach of a King, and of a King of  
England too”.

The Spanish attempted invasion be-  
gan in July, 1588. The heavy galleons of  
Philip’s great Armada were rather awk-  
ward against the quick English ships.

The “Invincible Armada” was defeated  
by the English ships and the storm in the  
English Channel. Scattered by the winds,  
many of its ships were sunk or wrecked



Mary Queen of Scots, Stuart

on the rocky coasts of Scotland and Ireland. It was a glorious moment for England, and Elizabeth was the heroine of the hour. But that was not the end of the war with Spain. Peace was made only after the death of Elizabeth.

James VI of Scotland, the son of Mary Stuart, didn't support Spain as he had been given to understand that his right to the English throne would be honoured.

Ireland was another battlefield of Spain in the struggle against England and Elizabeth. It was only subdued by the time of her death. The best lands were captured by English landowners.

England had economic problems: inflation and unemployment. Enclosures of farm lands and wars, it produced armies of beggars and thieves, and they

*Cliffis Hispanica celeberrima, quae anno celeberrimo. MDLXXXVIII. inter Galliam Britanniamq<sup>ue</sup> perijt.*



The Defeat of the Armada, 1588

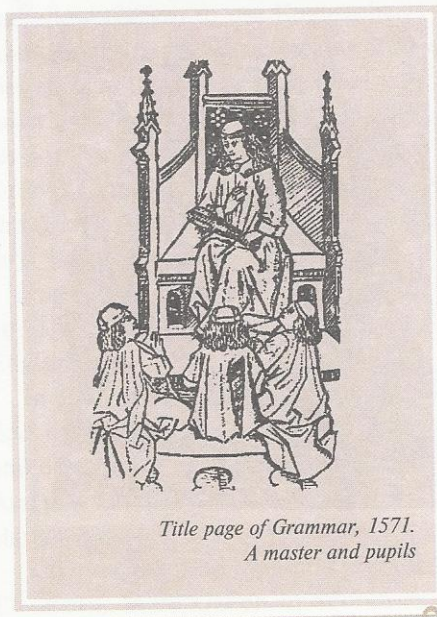
roamed about the country in misery and crime.

The government passed the Elizabethan Poor Law in 1601. It aimed at putting an end to beggars of all kinds, the poor were put into workhouses.

In the 16th century the economic growth was getting faster, though still limited by feudal relations. Trade and Industry were growing. The Royal Exchange was founded in 1571, East India Company — in 1600.

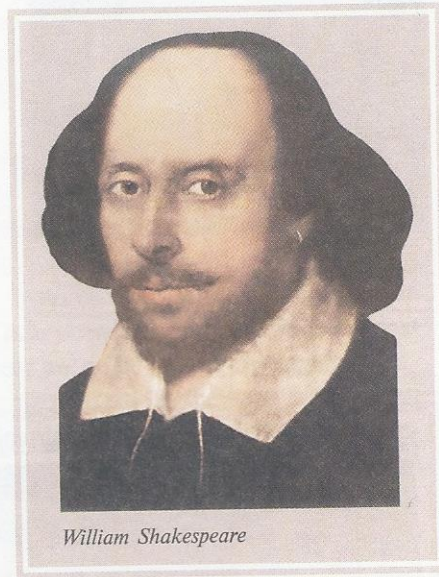
Education was further developing. Many Grammar schools were founded in the 16th century. New foundations like Harrow and Rugby admitted clever boys as well as rich ones, and could rightly be called “public schools”.

Elizabeth gave her name to the historical period, her reign (1558–1603) was described as “the Golden Age of Elizabeth”, the most colourful and splendid in English history. She was the embodiment of everything English, and the English had found themselves as a nation.



Title page of *Grammar*, 1571.  
A master and pupils

The power of Spain was challenged on the seas and finally broken by the defeat of the Armada. Elizabeth saw the foundation of the British Empire and the flowering of the Renaissance in England. The works of Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare were the foundation of the English literary and dramatic heritage.



William Shakespeare

Spenser's *the Shepherds Calendar* (1579) was a landmark in the history of English poetry, his masterpiece was *The Faerie Queene* (1589, 1596) which mirrored in allegories the age of his glorious sovereign the Queen, and her kingdom in Fairy-land.

In the last decade of Elizabeth's reign Shakespeare wrote about 20 plays, from *Henry VI* to *Hamlet*.

The English Renaissance has reached the greatest height in the field of theatrical Art. The Shakespeare's (drama) plays, his humanism and deeply popular realism were on the one hand produced on

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the basis of outstanding theatrical achievements of the period; on the other hand Shakespeare's drama made the English theatre an important contribution, achievement of the world culture treasury.

The 16th century was the century of the further consolidation of bourgeois relations. During the Elizabethan age the ideals of Renaissance embraced a broad spectrum of the population, including the merchants and citizens.

The philosophical ideas of the period were to serve the further evolution and

even the revolutionary changes that came later.

Francis Bacon (1561–1626) (“*Novum Organum*”), was the founder of English materialism and applicator of pragmatic sciences.

Literature, Art and Drama were playing an important role. In 1576 — the first theatre appeared. Public theatres were attended by aristocrats and Elizabeth I.

The 16th century was the age of transition from the medieval twilight to a more progressive age.

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*Questions:*

1. *Who were the first and last monarchs of the Tudor Dynasty?*
2. *What title was Henry VIII awarded with by the Pope?*
3. *What was the peculiarity of the Reformation in England?*
4. *What were the traits of continuity in the foreign policy of the Tudors?*
5. *Why was the reign of Elizabeth I called “the Golden Age”?*
6. *What threat was posed by Mary Queen of Scots to the rule of Elizabeth?*