

The Tudor Reformation

The Tudor Reformation was one of the most significant events in English history, fundamentally changing the country's religion, politics, and society during the sixteenth century. Its origins lay in the personal ambitions of King Henry VIII, who sought to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon after she failed to provide a male heir to the throne.

When Pope Clement VII refused the annulment, Henry took unprecedented steps. Through Parliament, he passed the Act of Supremacy in 1534, declaring himself the Supreme Head of the Church of England and severing ties with the Roman Catholic Church in Rome. This was a dramatic shift in power — religious authority now rested with the Crown, not the Pope.

Henry reinforced this by dissolving the monasteries (1536–1541), redistributing their considerable wealth and land to strengthen royal finances and secure the loyalty of the nobility. This permanently altered the landscape of England, both physically and socially.

The Reformation continued to shift under subsequent Tudor monarchs. Edward VI pushed the Church in a more strongly Protestant direction. Mary I brutally attempted to restore Catholicism, executing nearly 300 Protestants. Elizabeth I ultimately stabilised the nation's religion through her carefully crafted Religious Settlement of 1559, establishing a Church of England that blended Protestant doctrine with some traditional Catholic practices — a compromise intended to unite a deeply divided nation.

Questions

1. What does the article say were the origins of the Tudor Reformation?
2. What does "annul" mean?
3. Who refused to grant Henry VIII an annulment, and why was this significant?
4. What did the Act of Supremacy (1534) declare?
5. What does the article say was the effect of the Act of Supremacy on religious authority?
6. When were the monasteries dissolved, and what happened to their wealth?
7. How did the dissolution of the monasteries affect the nobility?
8. What did Mary I do in her attempt to restore Catholicism?
9. What was Elizabeth I's Religious Settlement, and when was it established?
10. Why do you think Elizabeth I chose to blend Protestant and Catholic practices in her Religious Settlement rather than choosing one religion completely?



Text D Quiz



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