

Knowledge Organiser – Early Elizabethan England 1558-88.

Part 3 – Queen, government and religion 1558-69 : Challenges at home and from abroad

1. **Financial weakness** – Monarchs needed money to rule successfully, which could be raised from rents and income from their own lands (**Crown lands**), taxes from trade (**customs duties**), additional taxes (agreed by Parliament), profits of Justice (fines, properties and land of those convicted of crime) and loans. When Elizabeth came to the throne, the Crown was £300,000 in debt, but her income was only £286,667 per year. Mary I had sold off lots of Crown lands to pay for the war with France.

The French Threat – France was England’s traditional enemy, and they had been at war during the reign of Mary I (England had sided with Spain in a war with the French, as Mary was married to the Spanish king). In 1559 the conflict ended with the Treaty of **Cateau-Cambresis**, where England had to give Calais back to France (it had been held by the English since 1347). The English were humiliated, and Elizabeth wanted to win it back. Elizabeth was also concerned that France and Spain, who were no longer at war, could unite against her, as they were both Catholic countries and Elizabeth was Protestant.

The Scottish Threat - England’s other enemy was Scotland. Scotland and France were allies (**The Auld Alliance**). There was an added complication in that Elizabeth’s cousin **Mary Queen of Scots** was half French and married to the heir to the French throne. Mary became Queen of France in 1559 when her husband Francis became king. Mary was also Catholic and had a strong claim to the English throne (she was a great granddaughter of Henry VII). The Catholics who questioned Elizabeth’s legitimacy viewed Mary as England’s legitimate Catholic heir. Mary’s mother, **Mary of Guise**, who ruled Scotland on behalf of her daughter, kept French troops stationed there.

Key Events

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| 2. | 1559 – The Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis. |
| 3. | 1559 – Mary, Queen of Scots, becomes the Queen of France. |

Key Individuals

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| 4. | Mary, Queen of Scots – Elizabeth’s Catholic second cousin |
| 5. | Mary of Guise – The mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, who ruled Scotland on her daughter’s behalf (while she was in France). |



Key Words

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| 6. | Crown Lands | Land owned by the Crown. |
| 7. | Custom duties | Money raised by taxing imports and exports. |
| 8. | Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis | England had to return Calais to France. |
| 9. | Auld Alliance | The friendship between France and Scotland . |