

Knowledge Organiser – Early Elizabethan England 1558-88.

Part 5 – Queen, government and religion 1558-69 : Challenges to the Religious Settlement

1. The Puritan challenge

The Crucifix Controversy – Puritans thought **crucifixes** were idols and wanted them removed. Elizabeth demanded each church have one, to please Catholics. When Puritan Bishops refused and threatened to resign, Elizabeth backed down, but she kept one in her Royal Chapel.

The Vestment Controversy – Puritans believed priests should wear plain and simple clothes, but Elizabeth wanted them to wear elaborate vestments, to please the Catholics. By 1565, not all clergy were wearing them. In 1566 Matthew Parker, the Archbishop of Canterbury wrote a guidebook about it called the 'Book of Advertisements', and he invited 110 priests to an exhibition in London on what to wear. 37 refused to go and lost their jobs, but most priests consented, and Elizabeth had won.

The Catholic Challenge

The **Papacy** led the **Counter-Reformation** by persecuting **heretics**, and encouraging the waging of war against Protestantism. In 1566 the Pope instructed English Catholics not to go to Church of England services. These Catholics became known as **recusants**, and while many were fined, Elizabeth chose to ignore smaller examples of disobedience, rather than create **martyrs**. Around 1/3 of the nobility and much of the gentry were recusants, especially in the North West (in 1569 some of the northern earls would rebel against Elizabeth – see later notes).

The Foreign Challenge

Europe was dominated by Catholic powers determined to limit the spread of Protestantism, and they were a real threat to Elizabeth. Elizabeth was particularly worried about the possibility of a French and Spanish attack, so she had to be careful.

When religious war broke out in France in 1562, Elizabeth backed the Protestants, hoping to get Calais back in return. However, the Protestants made peace with the Catholics and in 1564 Elizabeth signed the **Treaty of Troyes**, giving up Calais forever.

In 1563, King Philip of Spain banned the import of English cloth to the Netherlands, which Spain owned. He believed English merchants were encouraging the spread of Protestantism. In return, Elizabeth stopped trading with the Netherlands. This **trade embargo** only lasted a year, as it affected both countries economically.

In 1566, the Dutch rebelled against Spanish occupation, leading to King Philip sending the Duke of Alba with 10,000 troops to successfully crush the revolt. Alba set up the **Council of Troubles** to enforce Catholicism and obedience to Spain, killing thousands in the process. Most of those killed were Protestant. Elizabeth allowed the Dutch rebels (**sea beggars**) to shelter in English Ports, from where they attacked Spanish ships (even though she openly condemned the rebels to avoid war with Spain). Spain was further angered in 1568 when ships carrying gold lent to Spain by the Italian city of Genoa, was seized by Elizabeth while the ships were sheltering in English ports. This was known as the **Genoese Loan**.

Key Events

2.	1562 – Elizabeth backs Protestants in the French religious war.
3	1563 – Trade embargo begins between England and Spanish owned Netherlands.
4	1564 – Elizabeth signs the Treaty of Troyes
5.	1566 – An exhibition is held in London to show priests what to wear.
6.	1566 – The Pope instructs English Catholics not to go to Church services.
7.	1566 – The Dutch rebel against Spanish rule.
8.	1567 – The Duke of Alba is sent to crush the Dutch Revolt, which he did by 1568.
9.	1568 – Elizabeth seizes the Genoese loan.

Key Individuals

10.	Matthew Parker – Archbishop of Canterbury
11	Duke of Alba – Sent by King Philip of Spain to crush the Dutch Revolt.

Key Words

12.	crucifix	An image of Jesus dying on the cross.
13.	Papacy	The system of Church government ruled by the Pope
14.	Counter-Reformation	The campaign led by the Catholic Church against Protestantism.
15.	Heretics	People who denied the teachings of the Catholic Church.
16.	Recusants	Catholic who refused to attend Protestant church services.
17.	Martyr	Someone who dies for their religious beliefs.
18.	Treaty of Troyes	Elizabeth gave up Calais forever.
19.	Trade embargo	When governments ban trade with another country.
20.	Council of Troubles	Set up by the Duke of Alba to enforce Catholicism and obedience to Spain. Also known as the Council of Blood.
21.	Sea Beggars	Dutch rebels.
22.	Genoese Loan	Gold lent to the Spanish government by the Italian city of Genoa.