

King Henry VIII and the English Reformation



**DID KING HENRY VIII
CREATE THE ANGLICAN
CHURCH TO ESTABLISH
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR
ENGLAND OR DID HE JUST
WANT MORE POWER?
SHOULD IT MATTER TO
HISTORIANS?**

Historical Context – Kings & Queens



- In societies with Monarch based governments the right to rule the country was passed down through the family.
- The King and Queen's son became the King after the King and Queen passed away.
- If there was a daughter and no son then the daughter would become Queen.
- Most Monarchs preferred to pass down their power to a son.

King Henry VIII



- This was the case in England during the rule of King Henry VIII in the 1500's.
- Henry wanted to have a son but he and his wife, Queen Catherine, were unable to do so.
- Henry blamed his wife and wanted to divorce her.
- To do so Henry would have to get the Pope's permission.

Henry takes over the Church



- As you remember the Roman Catholic Church, and its leader the Pope, was a powerful force in Europe.
- Pope Clement the II denied Henry's request for divorce.
- Unable to change the Pope's mind Henry VIII made his **Act of Supremacy** in 1534 and declared England free from the Catholic Church and established the **Church of England**.

Henry VIII's lineage



- Henry VIII would go on to marry another 5 wives, divorcing one and executing two.
- His son Edward ruled for nine years and was followed by Henry's daughters Mary who ruled for five years (she made England Catholic), & Elizabeth for four forty-five years. Elizabeth made England Protestant again and is considered one of their best leaders.

Enforcing his power



- People who disputed Henry's right to establish the Church of England were often tortured and then executed.
- Henry took most of the Church's possessions (esp. land) in England and claimed it as property of the Crown.

Henry VIII's Letter to Pope Leo X 1521

"Assertio Septem Sacramentorum"



Most Holy Father,

No duty is more important for a Catholic ruler than to preserve and increase the Christian faith and religion by his example and by preventing it from being destroyed by any assailant of the Faith or in any way impaired.

Henry VIII's Letter to Pope Leo X continued



We shall ever defend and uphold the Holy Roman Church, not only by force of arms but by the resources of our intelligence and services as a Christian.

Your Holiness' most devoted and humble son,
Henry, by the grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland.

King Henry VIII to Lord Benedetto, Henry's contact to the Pope. 1529

We are sending another ambassador of ours to His Majesty for important business of ours and we pray you treat him with the same kind and fair treatment and listen to what he has to say as if it were us who were speaking in person.

Central Historical Question:



Was the Church of England born out of King Henry VIII's desire for England's religious freedom or did he want something more?

Document #1 Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by English Parliament 1533



England is an empire governed by one Supreme King who has the power of an imperial crown. The people of England owe the King obedience second only to their obedience to God. The King is given his power, importance, authority, and right to make laws within his realm by Almighty God himself.

Document #1 Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by English Parliament 1533



From now on when any of the divine laws come in question, it will be interpreted by the English Church, without the involvement of any outsiders, such as the Pope. The King may also make laws to protect the rights and liberties of the imperial crown of England. This will keep us safe from attacks from Rome and any other foreign ruler attempting to weaken or destroy us.

Document #1 Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by English Parliament 1533



This includes laws that have been created because of disagreements with Rome about matrimony and divorces, required payments and gifts to the Church. These cause great trouble and costs of the King's Highness and the English people.

Document #1 Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by English Parliament 1533



This must all happen because the great distance and difference between England and Rome makes it impossible for Rome to know the true cause of an English problem and therefore cannot help solve the problem.

Document #2- Act of Supremacy Made by Parliament 1534



The King's Majesty justly and rightfully is and ought to be the supreme head of the Church of England, and so is recognized by the clergy of this realm. By the authority of this Parliament, the king, his heirs and successors, shall be taken, accepted, and reputed the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England, called Anglicans Ecclesia.

Document #3 The First Act of Succession Made by English Parliament 1534



This present Parliament, your most humble and obedient subjects, believe ourselves bound to provide for the perfect security of both you, and your heirs, upon which depends all the joy and wealth of this realm.

Document #3 The First Act of Succession Made by English Parliament 1534



This Parliament *abhors and detests* the Roman Church's involvement in the lives and rule of emperors, kings and princes out of their own self interest when doing so is against the powers given to those rulers by God.

Document #3 The First Act of Succession Made by English Parliament 1534



To ensure the success of this Act, people shall swear an oath to truly, firmly, and constantly observe, fulfill, maintain, and defend this Act. Any person who refuses to take the Oath shall be considered guilty of high treason.

Document #3 The First Act of Succession Made by English Parliament 1534



All those guilty of treason shall suffer such pains and imprisonment, losses and forfeitures, and also lose privileges of sanctuaries, in like manner and form as is above mentioned for the misprisions of treasons afore limited by this Act.

Document #4- the executions of John Fisher & Thomas More 1535

This year three monks were condemned of high treason against the king, and sentenced to be drawn, hanged, disemboweled, beheaded and quartered. John Fisher, bishop of Rochester, was also condemned for treason. The jury ruled he should be hanged, cut down alive, his bowels taken out of his body and burnt before him, his head cut off,

Document #4- the executions of John Fisher & Thomas More 1535



John Fisher's body be divided into four parts and his head and body be set in such places as the king should assign. The effect of the treason was denying the king to be Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Document #4- the executions of John Fisher & Thomas More 1535



This year also, Sir Thomas More, sometime chancellor of England, was arraigned for high treason and condemned. He was beheaded and his head was set on London Bridge. The effect of his death was for the same cause that the bishop of Rochester died for.

Book Cover - The Pope Suppressed by King Henry VIII, 1534



The cover of an early Church of England Bible



Timeline of the life of Henry VIII and the English Reformation



- 1509 - Henry VIII becomes king.
- 1517 - The Protestant Reformation begins; Martin Luther's 95 Theses
- 1521 - Henry VIII's writes Letter to Pope Leo X on the subject of his book "*Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*" criticizing Martin Luther. Henry VIII receives the title "Defender of the Faith" from Pope Leo X

Timeline of the life of Henry VIII and the English Reformation



- 1529- Letter from King Henry VIII to Lord Benedetto, Henry's contact to the Pope about obtaining a divorce. Henry VIII fails to obtain a divorce from the Pope; He calls the "Reformation Parliament" and begins cutting ties with the Church of Rome
- 1533 - Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn and is excommunicated by Pope Clement VII
- 1533 - Document #1 The Act in Restraint of Appeals Made by the English Parliament establishing & explaining England's separation with Rome

Timeline of the life of Henry VIII and the English Reformation



- 1534 – Document #2 Act of Supremacy: Henry VIII head of the Church of England
- 1535 - Sir Thomas More is beheaded for not taking the Oath of Supremacy
- 1536 - Anne Boleyn is beheaded; Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour; Religious buildings & monasteries are taken over by the Government.

Timeline of the life of Henry VIII and the English Reformation



- 1537 - Jane Seymour dies after the birth of a son, the future Edward VI
- 1540 - Henry VIII marries Anne of Cleves, then divorces her; marries Catherine Howard
- 1542 - Catherine Howard is executed