

QUEEN ELIZABETH I 1533-1603

- 1533 Elizabeth born (September 7),
daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
- 1535 execution of Anne Boleyn
- 1547 Jan: Edward VI, aged 9, becomes King.
Feb: Thomas Seymore pursuing Eliz age 13
Marriage of Thomas Somerset to Cath Parr
- 1548 Jan: Eliz moves in to Cath Parr home Chelsea w/ Tho Seymore
Seymore dangerous flirtation with Eliz; Parr catches them.
Seymore goes into bedroom early morn in only his nightgown.
May: Eliz leaves house at request of Cath Parr.
- 1553 AUG: death of Ed VI
Lady Jane Grey Queen for 9 days
Mary becomes Queen, launching a period of retaliatory
persecution against Protestants, who look to Elizabeth as a figure
of resistance.
- 1554 Elizabeth is briefly imprisoned in the Tower of London, after
which she withdraws to the country.
- 1558 NOV 17. On the death of Queen Mary, Elizabeth becomes
Queen. She appoints a Privy Council including Sir William
Cecil as Secretary of State and his brother-in-law Sir Nicholas
Bacon as Lord Keeper.
- 1559 War with France is ended by treaty (March); as a result England
loses the continental port of Calais.
The Act of Uniformity establishes the Book of Common Prayer
and a standard worship service for the Church of England.

1560s: Marriage

- 1561 On the death of the King of France (Francis II), his wife, Mary,
Queen of Scots, assumes the Scottish throne.
SEPT Sir Robert Dudley's wife, Amy Robsart, dies under
suspicious circumstances, and there are rumors that he will marry
the Queen.
Scottish churchmen, led by the Calvinist John Knox, draw up the
Confessions of Faith.

- 1562 Elizabeth's illness (smallpox) raises fears about the uncertainty of succession and begins a period of courtly and Parliamentary pressure on her to marry. Dudley is made a member of the Council (partly as a counterbalance to Cecil).
- 1563 The Thirty-Nine Articles establish basic principles of the Anglican faith, renouncing some key tenants of Catholic belief, such as the doctrine of Purgatory.
- 1564 Elizabeth creates Sir Robert Dudley the Earl of Leicester; he is looked on as a possible husband for Mary.
Birth of William Shakespeare (baptized April 26) in Stratford.
- 1565 Mary marries her cousin, Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, father of James Stewart (later James I of England, James VI of Scotland).
- 1566 Darnley, with a gang of accomplices, murders Mary's Italian secretary David Rizzio in her presence at Holyhead House,
- 1567 Darnley is murdered, probably by the Earl of Bothwell, whom Mary marries, in a Protestant ceremony. This is too much for the Scottish nobility. After several military engagements, Mary is forced to abdicate in favor of her infant son.
KING JAMES VI The Earl of Moray acts as regent.
- 1568 Mary escapes but is defeated by an army of the Regent. She flees to England, where she is held virtual prisoner but in time becomes the subject of Catholic conspiracies against Elizabeth.
- 1569 Catholic rebellion in northern England is easily suppressed.
- 1570s: MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**
- 1570 The Pope excommunicates Elizabeth, in effect authorizing Catholic rebellion against her and in favor of Mary.
SCOTLAND: The Earl of Moray is assassinated.
- 1571 An international conspiracy to marry Mary to the Duke of Norfolk (the Ridolfi Plot) is uncovered.
- 1572 The DUKE OF NORFOLK is executed. Parliament passes a bill defining conversion to Catholicism and efforts to make converts as high treason. Sir William Cecil is created Lord Burghley.
- 1572 AUG 24: The St Bartholomew's Day massacre of Protestants in France and a Protestant uprising in Holland intensify

- international tensions. Burghley is created lord high treasurer.
- 1573 Sir Francis Walsingham is made chief Secretary of State.
- 1574 Richard Burbage receives a license to open a theater in London.
- 1575 Leicester lavishly entertains the Queen at Kenilworth Castle.
Edmund Grindal becomes Archbishop of Canterbury, tangles with ELIZ who tells him to suppress Puritans.
- 1576 Protestants in the Spanish Netherlands continue to seek independence from Spain. The Protestant Prince of Orange is acknowledged regent of Holland and Zeeland by the States General. Spanish forces under the command of Don John (brother of King Philip) accept a fragile truce in the Low Countries. In England a royal letter, directed against Puritans, insists on strict adherence to established religious practices, despite the disagreement of Grindal.
The Theatre, a playhouse owned by Burbage, opens in London.
- 1577 Don John's siege of Namur ends the truce in the Low Countries; English forces are prepared to intervene.
Don John is deposed by the States General; William of Orange enters Brussels.
Cuthbert Mayne becomes the first priest tried and executed under the 1571 act against Catholics. By 1603 some 123 priests and 60 Catholic laypeople will be executed.
Publication of Holinshed's Chronicles.
- 1578 Lettice Knollys marries Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester on 21 September 1578
- 1579 DUKE OF ANJOU:
After a period of complex negotiations, Elizabeth accepts and then, in response to popular pressure, rejects marriage to the Duke of Anjou (brother of the French King).
Elizabeth discovers (and forgives) Leicester's secret marriage with her cousin Lettice Knollys.
HOLLAND: The Union of Utrecht marks the foundation of Dutch Republic.

1580s: Spain and France

- 1580 Sir Francis Drake, returned from his three-year voyage around the world, agrees privately with Elizabeth to raid Spanish shipping from America.
ROME: Pope Gregory XIII announces that the murder of the heretic Elizabeth would not be a sin.
- 1581 FRANCIS DUKE OF ANJOU LEAVES ENGLAND
DEC: EXECUTE EDMUND CAMPION, Jesuit martyr
- 1582 DUKE OF ANJOU IN LOW COUNTRIES AS "king"
- 1584 June 19: DEATH OF ANJOU
- 1584 JULY: ASSASS OF WILLIAM OF ORANGE
In the Bond of Association, many Englishmen pledge to persecute any parties who might be guilty of killing the Queen.
HOLLAND: assassination of William of Orange brings another crisis in Holland and the Low Countries: Elizabeth must either intervene on behalf of the Dutch Protestants, provoking war with Spain, or allow Spain to reconquer the Spanish Netherlands, which could then become a base for Spanish attack on England.
- 1585 The Bond of Association is essentially incorporated in the Act for the Preservation of the Queen's Safety.
ENGLISH EXPEDITION, LED BY ROBERT DUDLEY, unsuccessfully campaigns on behalf of the Protestant Dutch, an intervention that angers Philip of Spain.
- 1586 Queen Mary is detected in a conspiracy to assassinate Elizabeth and to gain the throne (the Babington plot). She is tried and convicted in Parliament.
- 1587 Drake successfully attacks the Spanish at Cadiz and Lisbon. The Spanish collect forces for a mighty armada against the English. After considerable hesitation on Elizabeth's part, MARY IS EXECUTED (FEBRUARY 8) public rejoicing.
- 1588 Philip launches the SPANISH ARMADA against England, which mobilizes its citizens to resist in case of invasion. The Spanish intend to bring an army from the Flemish coast to the Thames estuary, but a combination of bad weather and effective

English seamanship virtually destroys the Spanish fleet.

SEPT 4: DEATH OF LEICESTER

1589 FRANCE: ASSASS of HEN III

Henry of Navarre becomes King of France. He reigns as Henry IV until 1610. (A Protestant, he converts to Catholicism in 1593 in order to solidify support.) English forces are sent to aid Henry against the Spanish.

1590s: Old Men Gone, New Man Essex

1590 Death of Sir Francis Walsingham. Possible first performances of Parts 2 and 3 of Shakespeare's *Henry VI*. Edmund Spenser's *The Fairy Queen*, Books 1-3.

1591 ROBERT DEVEREUX, SECOND EARL OF ESSEX is appointed to the Privy Council, as is Robert Cecil, the son of Lord Burghley. For the next ten years, the rivalry of Essex and Cecil parallels the earlier rivalry of Burghley and Leicester. Essex recruits the considerable assistance of Francis and Anthony Bacon.

1592 The first recorded reference to Shakespeare as a playwright (by Robert Greene, a rival author) quotes *3 Henry VI*.

1594 The Chamberlain's Men, a theatrical company, is formed; Shakespeare is a charter member.

1595 The English launch a generally unsuccessful raid on Spanish shipping in the Caribbean. A Spanish attack on Cornwall burns Penzance and Mousehole. Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, the chieftain of Ulster, launches an open attack on the English, with Spanish support. Probable first performances of *Richard II* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

1596 England, under the leadership of the Earl of Essex, attacks and briefly takes Cadiz, but a subsequent expedition in the Azores is unsuccessful.

ROBERT CECIL is appointed as Elizabeth's principal secretary.

1597 A further naval operation against Spanish shipping is even more unsuccessful than those of the previous two years. A second Spanish armada is scattered by storms.

- 1598 FRANCE, under Henry IV, makes peace with Spain.
Edict of Nantes granting religious toleration to Huguenots.
PHILIP II dies and is succeeded by Philip III. In an angry exchange over appointment of the Irish deputy, Essex turns his back on the Queen, and she boxes ears. Deeply offended, he withdraws from court, but returns after three months.
DEATH OF LORD BURGHLEY.
- 1599 Commanding a large army against Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, ESSEX is sent as Lord Lieutenant to Ireland. Instructed to attack Tyrone, Essex instead conducts minor operations in southern Ireland. When, at last, he does march north, he does not fight Tyrone but concludes a weak truce with him. Essex returns to London, presumably to explain his behavior. He is briefly placed under house arrest and then sent to the country.
- 1600 ESSEX is tried for his Irish disobedience, but except for the disgrace of losing his offices and place at court, undergoes no punishment.
First production of *HAMLET*.
- 1601 Essex gathers supporters in his London house. They request and attend a performance of *Richard II* at the Globe (February 7). The next day, he and his supporters leave his house and try to rally London citizens on his behalf, apparently in an effort to storm the palace, separate the Queen from his enemies, and force her to listen to him. The effort is a dismal failure. Essex is sent to the Tower and quickly tried, with his former ally Francis Bacon acting as one of his principal prosecutors. He is executed on February 25. Although Spanish forces land in Munster, Tyrone's army is decisively defeated at the Battle of Kinsale and the Spanish quickly surrender.
- 1603 QUEEN ELIZABETH DIES (MARCH 24).
JAMES I arrives in London.