The English Reformation

The Church of England, though affiliated with Catholicism, separated from Rome in 1534 during the reign of Henry VIII. It is ruled by the English monarch. Its seat of power is at Canterbury Cathedral. Its spiritual leader is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Canterbury Cathedral (left) was founded in the 6th century by Augustine of Canterbury (right).

The Church of England is part of the Catholic Church. It bases its authority on an unbroken line of apostolic succession going back to Saint Peter. The Church of England emphasizes the teachings of the Church Fathers (early Christian thinkers), particularly the Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

The Church of England is part of the Catholic Church.

Apostolic Succession: A line of bishops originating with the original apostles.

Apostle’s Creed

Excerpt from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Nicene Creed

Excerpt from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

Constantine and the bishops holding the Nicene Creed of 381 CE

Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the Catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the Catholic faith: We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another.

Athenasian Creed, excerpt from the Book of Common Prayer

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Athenasius of Alexandria

Shield of the Trinity

John Wycliffe preached for reform of the Church of England during the 14th century. His supporters were called Lollards.

Wycliffe and Lollard preachers


The Vulgate Bible was a Latin version translated by Saint Jerome between 382 and 405 CE.

The Vulgate Bible was a Latin version translated by Saint Jerome between 382 and 405 CE.

William Tyndale translated the New Testament into English in 1525. In 1536 he was condemned to death for heresy. He was strangled to death while tied at the stake; then his body was burned.

In 1539, King Henry VIII directed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, to publish a new English version of the Bible. Myles Coverdale was hired to prepare the “Great Bible,” as it was called for its large size.

Myles Coverdale published the first complete printed English Bible in 1535.

John Rogers ("Thomas Matthew") printed the first English Bible translated from Hebrew and Greek Bibles in 1537. He was executed as a heretic under Mary I of England.

The English Versions of the Bible

The Great Bible was published in 1558. The Geneva Bible was completed and published in 1560. The Douay-Rheims Bible was printed between 1582 (New Testament) and 1610 (Old Testament).
In 1604 King James I of England commissioned an English version of the Bible which has come to be known as the Authorized King James Version.

King James Version, 1611

CAUSES – ENGLISH REFORMATION

- Religious Disputes
- Economic/Political Gain
- Personal/Emotional

HENRY VII

- Founder of the Dynasty
- War of the Roses (1455-1485)
- Lancaster (Henry VII) vs. York (Elizabeth)
- Maintained Peace
- Stability and Order

Henry VIII was responsible for the separation of the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534.

The Final Seduction

The Tudors

St. Peters
Rome

Canterbury
Cathedral
Henry VIII
Was Once a Good Catholic

Defense of the Seven Sacraments (1521)
AGAINST LUTHER

PRIOR TO THE BREAK
- Henry VIII – Catholic
- 1521 – *Defense of the Seven Sacraments* – against Luther
- Pope Leo X (1515-1521) – "Defender of the Faith"

Good Boy!

Defender of the Faith

THE TUDORS (1485-1603)
- HENRY VII (1485-1509)
- HENRY VIII (1509-1547)
- EDWARD VI (1547-1553)
- Lady Jane Grey (1554)
- MARY I (1553-1558)
- ELIZABETH I (1558-1603)
Henry VIII wanted Pope Clement VII to grant him an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Catherine had suffered several miscarriages and Henry VIII wanted a son to carry on the House of Tudor. Henry VIII wanted to marry Anne Boleyn. At the time, Clement VII was a captive of Emperor Charles V, Catherine’s nephew. Clement felt obligated to refuse the annulment.

Canon Law did not allow a man to marry his deceased brother’s wife. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother’s wife: it is thy brother’s nakedness. (Leviticus 18:16)

Annulment
This Never Happened
Became known as “The Matter”

Dispensation
The previous Pope had granted an exception to this rule.
God’s Judgment?

And there’s another woman

Annulment

This Never Happened

NO!

Can’t Stop Me

Act of Supremacy

1534
Act of Supremacy 1534

Parliament declares Henry the SUPREME HEAD of the Church of England.

Dissolved

The ruins of Glastonbury Abbey dissolved in 1539, following the execution of the Abbot on charges of treason.

HENRY VIII

- “New Monarch”
- Divorce – “The Matter”
- 6 Years
- Series of Legislation - Act of Supremacy (1534) “Head of the Church and State”
- Six Wives

Pope Clement VII excommunicated Henry VIII in 1533 and nullified the marriage between Henry and Anne Boleyn.

Henley VIII had himself declared Supreme Head of the Church in England in 1534, thereby separating the Church of England from the Church of Rome.

Thomas Cranmer was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church of England.
* He approved the marriage between Henry and Anne.
* Cranmer introduced many reforms that helped solidify the Church of England.
* Cranmer introduced the Book of Common Prayer to unify the new church.
* The prayer book was approved by the English Parliament in the Act of Uniformity of 1549.
* Cranmer was tried for treason and heresy and put to death under the rule of Mary I in 1556.

Clement VII

St. Peters Rome

Canterbury Cathedral
The English Parliament approved many acts introduced by Henry VIII to reduce the pope's authority in England.

- Submission of the Clergy Act required all clergy to accept Henry's authority.
- Supplication against the Ordinaries Act limited the ability of the clergy to protest.
- Act in Restraint of Appeals forbade the clergy from protesting to the papacy.
- Act Concerning Peter's Pence and Dispensations denied Rome the ability to collect money from English churches.
- Treasons Act made speaking out against the king as head of the Church a capital offense.
- Dissolution of the Monasteries Act closed all monasteries and seized their assets.

Landed Gentry

Henry sold land on the cheap, bolstering the Gentry (English landowning class).

The Pilgrimage of Grace

Henry's reforms met with resistance in Northern England, where monasteries were an important part of community life and vital to the economy.
While Henry reigned, few changes were made in doctrine and practice to differentiate the Anglican Church from the Roman Catholic Church.

**Henry VIII wives**

1509-1537

Katherine of Aragon
16th December 1485 to 7th January 1536

- Age 3, promised to Henry VII eldest son Prince Arthur.
- Age 16, married Prince Arthur until he died 6 months later.
- Age 23, married King Henry VIII on June 11th 1509 in Greyfriars Church, Greenwich.
- Age 30, gave birth to Princess Mary.
- Age 47, King Henry divorced her to marry Anne Boleyn.
- Died 7th January 1536 of a broken heart, aged 50.
Anne Boleyn

- We don't know her date of birth, it is guessed to be 1501/02.
- She was a lady-in-waiting to Henry VIII in 1533.
- She apparently had an extra finger on her left hand.
- Aged about 31, she married King Henry VIII on January 25th 1533 in Westminster Abbey.
- Aged about 31, she gave birth to Princess Elizabeth.
- Accused of witchcraft and treason, she was sentenced to death by her own uncle.
- Died 19th May 1536 in the Tower of London, she was beheaded, aged about 34.

Jane Seymour

- We don't know her date of birth, it is guessed to be between 1504-09.
- She was Lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn.
- Aged between 27-32, she married King Henry VIII on 20th May 1536 in York Place.
- It is said that she was the favourite wife of Henry VIII.
- On 12th October 1537 she gave birth to Prince Edward.
- Jane grew sick after giving birth.
- She died on 24th October 1537, aged between 28-33.

Anne of Cleves

- Born in Dusseldorf (Germany) in 1516.
- Holbein, a famous artist from the era, was commissioned to paint her portrait for Henry VIII before he met her.
- Aged 24, married King Henry VIII on January 6th 1540 in Greyfriars Church, Greenwich.
- 4 months later she allowed King Henry VIII to have the marriage annulled.
- Henry ensured she was well taken care of and she lived a happy independent life with many homes in England.
- Died 1557 of illness aged 41.

Kathryn Howard

- We don't know her date of birth, it is guessed to be 1521.
- She was a lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn and the cousin of the ill fated Anne Boleyn.
- Henry called her his 'Rose without a Thorn'.
- Aged about 19, she married King Henry VIII on July 28th 1540 in Oatlands Palace, Surrey.
- Accused of adultery she was sentenced to death.
- Died 13th February 1542 (6 years after her cousin) in the Tower of London, she was beheaded, aged about 20.

Katharine Parr

- Born in 1512. She was twice widowed and childless.
- Aged 30, she married King Henry VIII on 12th July 1543 in Hampton Court Palace.
- Henry tried to have her sentenced to death but was unsuccessful.
- Henry passed away 28th January 1547.
- She promptly married Thomas Seymour, brother of Jane Seymour, as soon as Henry died.
- Katharine had a baby girl on the 30th August 1548 but soon became ill and passed away 6 days later aged 35.
Laid the foundation for the **MODERN** nation state

- Centralized power
- Dissolved the monasteries / sold land
- Controlled nobility / church
- Executed those who opposed

Sir Thomas More (1475-1535)

1st battle ship – Mary Rose (1545)

Henry VIII and the Reformation in England

Politics and dynastic concerns

Henry VIII was succeeded by Edward VI, his only legitimate son.

**Edward VI**

- Crowned at age 9
- Died at age 16
Protestant

Edward VI
During Edward’s short reign, the Anglican Church took on a more Protestant character.

Thomas Cranmer
Archbishop of Canterbury
Senior Bishop of the Church of England

Book of Common Prayer
Cranmer wrote a new service book for the Church of England.

Clerical Celibacy
Unlike Catholic priests, Anglican priests can marry.

The Lady Jane Grey
Edward tried unsuccessfully to will the throne to a Protestant relative.

Mary I
- Daughter of Henry VIII & Catherine of Aragon
- Devout Catholic
- Married Philip II (Spain) 1554
- "Bloody Mary"
- Burned 300 Protestants

Queen Mary I succeeded Edward VI, the son of Henry VIII, who died at age 20. She was a Roman Catholic. She wanted to end the Protestant movement in England. She married Philip II of Spain, son of Charles. They became co-rulers of England and Spain.

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Mary I
- Daughter of Henry VIII & Catherine of Aragon
- Restored Catholicism

Philip II of Spain
- Mary’s Catholic Husband

First Cousins
- Maximilian I of Hapsburg
- Mary of Burgundy
- Ferdinand of Aragon
- Isabella of Castile

Once Removed
- Philip of Burgundy
- Joanna of Castile
- Catherine of Aragon
- Henry VIII of England
- Philip II of Spain
- Mary Tudor of England
The Marian Persecutions refers to the arrest and execution of Protestant reformers during the reign of Mary I of England. At least 284 people were executed for their religious beliefs. Queen Mary I became known as “Bloody Mary” for the severity of the persecutions.

Johan Hooper, Anglican bishop of Gloucester and Worcester, in Foxe’s Book of Martyrs.

Bloody Mary

Martyr

Thomas Cranmer was one of nearly 300 Protestants burned at the stake as a heretic during Bloody Mary’s reign.

John Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, published in 1563, documented the atrocities of “Bloody Mary.”

John Knox

Church of Scotland [Presbyterian] Calvinist-Influenced
The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women (1558)

John Knox

“I fear not to say, that the day of vengeance, which shall apprehend that horrible monster Jezebel of England, and such as maintain her monstrous cruelty, is already appointed in the counsel of the eternal. I very believe that it is so nigh, that she shall not reign so long in tyranny as hitherto she has done.”

d. 11/17/1558

(less than a year after Knox published his treatise)

A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which the power of the monarch is regulated by a written code of laws.

The Elizabethan Era is considered to be the Golden Age of English history.

The Elizabethan Era is named after the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603).

This period of time is noted for the works of William Shakespeare, the Protestant Reformation, and English exploration overseas.

The English Bill of Rights of 1689, passed by Parliament, established the constitutional monarchy in England.

King William III and his wife Queen Mary II were joint sovereigns subject to the Bill of Rights.

John I signs the Magna Carta

William I

Elizabeth I

William Shakespeare

Composer William Byrd

English Bill of Rights of 1689

John I signs the Magna Carta

William and Mary

The Elizabethan Era

The Elizabethan Era

The Elizabethan Era

The Elizabethan Era
Restored Anglican Protestantism after Mary's five year reign

Elizabeth I

Elizabethan Religious Settlement

1559

Principles

1. Religious Uniformity
2. Compromise with Catholics

Act of Uniformity

In the same year, the Act of Uniformity mandated a revised version of the second Book of Common Prayer for every English parish.

Thirty-Nine Articles

In 1563, the issuance of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion made moderate Protestantism the official religion within the Church of England.

1. Everyone would be compelled to attend Sunday services in the Church of England.
2. Several Catholic practices would be retained.

In 1559, an Act of Supremacy passed parliament, repealing all the anti-Protestant legislation of Mary Tudor and asserting Elizabeth's right as "supreme governor" over both spiritual and temporal affairs.

These terms would be resisted by radical Protestants over the following century.
The Pope declared Elizabeth to be an illegitimate ruler and advocated her overthrow.

Philip II planned an invasion of England in order to reclaim the country for himself and Catholicism.

England defeated Philip II's Spanish fleet, thwarting Philip's plans to invade England and re-establish Catholicism.
The defeat of the Spanish Armada shifted the balance of naval power in Europe toward England.

Elizabeth’s 44 year reign established England as a Protestant kingdom.

The Elizabethan Religious Settlement established order in the Church of England. The Act of Supremacy of 1559 re-established the Church of England’s independence from Rome. Queen Elizabeth I was made the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Act of Uniformity of 1559 established a common liturgy through the Book of Common Prayer.

ELIZABETH I

(r. 1558-1603)

Daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn

“I may not be a lion, but I am a lion’s cub, and I have a lion’s heart”

“Virgin Queen”

The Last TUDOR
The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion were established in 1563 to define the doctrine of the Church of England. Canterbury Cathedral, the seat of the Anglican Church (Church of England).

**ELIZABETH I**
- ABSOLUTISM???
- Politique
- Parliament – Legislation
- Religious upheaval – 30 years
- RELIGIOUS UNITY = POLITICAL UNITY
- ANGLICAN CHURCH

**PARLIAMENT**

**MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**
- (1542-1587)
- Stuart
- Cousin of Elizabeth I
- Queen of Scotland (1542-1567)
- Catholic = heir to the throne
- Imprisoned 19 years
- Beheaded
V. The Counter-Reformation: The Catholic Response

Ingredients

- Reformation shaped the form and rapidity of the Catholic response
- Council of Trent (1545-1563)
- The Society of Jesus ("Jesuits")—1534
  - Ignatius Loyola
- The Inquisition
- The Index
- Renewed religious emotionalism
  - Baroque Art
- Religious warfare and a new Bible
The Counterreformation

Counter (verb): To go against

For every action...

There is an equal and opposite reaction.
-- Newton's Third Law of Motion

A Response is Necessary.

Counter-Reformation

The Council of Trent
The Society of Jesus
The Revival of Spirituality
COUNCIL of TRENT  
1545-1563

THE COUNCIL OF TRENT

- Called by Pope Paul III (1534-1549)
- 1545-1573
- Three-fold purpose
  - Stop the spread of Protestantism
  - Stop the abuses within the RCC
  - Reaffirm Church Doctrine

1. AFFIRMATION of Catholic Doctrine

2. REFORMATION of Church Practice

AFFIRMATION of Catholic DOCTRINE

Sources of Authority

- Scripture: The Foundation of Catholic Doctrine
- Tradition: Respect for Precedent
- Magisterium: Teaching Authority of Pope & Bishops

Photo Credit: GleesonLibraryRBR

Photo Credit: Catholic Church (England & Wales)
If any one shall say, that any one shall say, that man may be justified before God by his own works, whether done through the strength of human nature, or through the teaching of the law, without the divine grace through Jesus Christ; let him be anathema.

-- Canon I on Justification

If any one shall say, that since Adam's sin, the free will of man is lost and extinguished; or, that it is a thing with a name only, yea, a title without a reality, a figment... let him be anathema.

-- Canon V on Justification

If any one shall say, that by faith alone the impious is justified; so as to mean that nothing else is required to co-operate in order unto the obtaining the grace of justification... let him be anathema.

-- Canon IX on Justification

If any one shall say, that the sacraments of the New Law were not all instituted by Jesus Christ, our Lord; or, that they are more, or less than seven... let him be anathema.

-- Canon I on the Sacraments
If any one shall say, that baptism is... not necessary unto salvation; let him be anathema.

-- Canon V on Baptism

If any one shall deny, that, in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, are verily, really, and substantially contained the body and blood... of our Lord Jesus Christ... let him be anathema.

-- Canon I on the Eucharist

REFORMATION of Church PRACTICE

Quality of Priests

Seminaries

Corruption

Schools for Training Priests
Indulgences

SALE of Indulgences

• Catholic bishops gathered to make some changes.
  1. No more selling indulgences (still have them, just can’t sell them)
  2. Bishops must live near their church.

Spread of Protestantism

• Indulgences
• Index of Prohibited Books
• Heresy
• Unrepentant

The Society of Jesus aka Jesuits

The Council of Trent

The Society of Jesus

Ignatius of Loyola

FOUNDER

A Converted Knight

Young Ignatius Loyola before becoming a priest
MISSION: Counter-Reformation

Emphasis on Personal Piety

All judgment laid aside, we ought to have our mind ready and prompt to obey, in all, the true Spouse of Christ our Lord, which is our holy Mother the Church Hierarchical.
9TH RULE

to praise all precepts of the Church, keeping the mind prompt to find reasons in their defence and in no manner against them.

13TH RULE

To be right in everything, we ought always to hold that the white which I see...

IS BLACK if the Hierarchical Church so decides it.

THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

- Jesuits
- Ignatius of Loyola
- 1548 – *Spiritual Exercises*
- Spiritual leader who fought Protestantism – preserved Catholicism in Germany, Poland, and Belgium
- New converts – India, China, Japan, and North America

The Catholic Church wanted to stop the spread of Protestantism.
- It was losing followers which meant it was losing money.
- They refocused on strictly following the commands and rules of the Church.

The Jesuits

- A group of Catholics who followed Church rules obsessively.
- Penance (working off sins) was a key teaching.
- They hoped this would help remove the corruption but not ruin the church.
The Revival of Spirituality

St. Teresa of Avila
Monastic Reformer, Theologian, & Mystic

simplicity

Counter-Reformation

The Council of Trent
The Society of Jesus
The Revival of Spirituality
• Stopped the sale of indulgences, pluralism, clerical absenteeism, concubines of women
• Established seminary for education and training of priests
• Veneration of Saints and the Cult of Virgin Mary continued
• Individual interpretation of scripture denied

SUCCESS? / FAILURE?

• Strong leadership from a succession of Popes continued reform
• Religious unity destroyed
• Religious Wars
• State gained power at the expense of the Church
• Encouraged education

SUCCESS? / FAILURE

Competition

• The churches were now competing for members.
• Each sent missionaries around the world to find new converts.
• This lead to “discovering” America and new relationships with Japan.

• Protestant England settled in what is now the United States.
• Catholic Spain and France settled in what is now Mexico and South America.

The Missionaries
Things to Remember

1. Problems in the church like selling indulgences led to the Reformation.
2. Martin Luther and others argued that God provided salvation, not the church.
3. France and Spain remained Catholic and spread Catholicism to Mexico and South America.
4. England and Germany became Protestant and spread Protestantism into what is now the USA.

VI. Results of the Reformation

- Germany was politically weakened and fragmented
- Christian Church was splintered in the West
- 100 Years of Religious Warfare
- Right of Rebellion introduced by both Jesuits and Calvinists
- Pope’s power increased
- Furthered societal individualism and secularism
- Growing doubt and religious skepticism

VI. Results of Reformation (cont)

- Political stability valued over religious truth
- Calvinism boosted the commercial revolution
- Witch craze swept Europe in the 1600’s
  - Between 1561-1670, 3000 people in Germany, 9000 people in Switzerland and 1000 people in England were executed as witches
- Possible reasons for this witchcraft craze

Church Differences

- Salvation is the free gift of God, you cannot earn it.
- Only God can forgive sins
- Regular church members help make decisions.

- Jesus lived, was crucified and resurrected
- Communion and baptism are very important
- Jesus offers salvation but you must work to get it.
- Only clergy can forgive sins
Puritanism was a movement that fought for greater reforms in the Church of England. They were inspired by the Anabaptist movement. Puritans were tolerated under King James I. When Charles I succeeded King James I in 1636, he attempted to eliminate the practices of the Puritans in England. Puritans were critical of the Book of Common Prayer for being too close to Roman Catholicism. Puritanism was a movement that fought for greater reforms in the Church of England. They were inspired by the Anabaptist movement. Puritans were tolerated under King James I. When Charles I succeeded King James I in 1636, he attempted to eliminate the practices of the Puritans in England. Puritans were critical of the Book of Common Prayer for being too close to Roman Catholicism.

Many Puritans left England to settle in America. They arrived at the Jamestown Settlement Colony in 1607 and Plymouth Rock in 1620. John Winthrop led the foundation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. Many Puritans left England to settle in America. They arrived at the Jamestown Settlement Colony in 1607 and Plymouth Rock in 1620. John Winthrop led the foundation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.

Puritan woman

James I
Charles I

Jamestown church
Pilgrims at Thanksgiving

The Pilgrim’s Progress
The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come was written by John Bunyan in February 1678.

The Pilgrim’s Progress

The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come was written by John Bunyan in February 1678.

Pilgrims at Thanksgiving

The Winthrop fleet

The Winthrop fleet

The Pilgrim’s Progress

John Knox was a Scottish clergyman and leader of the Protestant Reformation. He is considered the founder of the Presbyterian denomination, which arose in Scotland during the 16th century. He was strongly influenced by John Calvin.

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The English Civil War lasted from 1642–1651 and was fought between supporters of the Parliament (Parliamentarians) and supporters of the monarchy under Charles I (Royalists). The civil war was fought in three phases. The Royalists were defeated in 1646 but began a fresh war in 1648.

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Charles I during the first civil war
Reenactment of the Battle of Naseby
The Second English Civil War lasted from 1648 to 1649. After the war ended, the English Parliament tried Charles I for treason. He was found guilty and beheaded at the Palace of Whitehall.

The Third English Civil War lasted from 1649 to 1651. A Royalist-instigated war in Ireland was suppressed by Oliver Cromwell in 1650. Cromwell led a campaign against a Royalist uprising in Scotland directed by Charles II, son of Charles I. Charles II had been proclaimed king of Scotland on February 5, 1649, and crowned on January 1, 1651. The third civil war ended with Cromwell’s victory at the Battle of Worcester.

The Protectorate of the Commonwealth of England was a republican form of government ruled by the English Parliament, known as the Rump Parliament, and led by Oliver Cromwell, titled Lord Protector from 1653–1659. Under the Protectorate, the Anglican Church was disestablished and replaced with Scottish Presbyterianism. The Book of Common Prayer was replaced with the Presbyterian Directory of Public Worship.

Charles II fled to Europe after the Scottish defeat by Cromwell in 1651. The death of Cromwell in 1658 led to political unrest. The English Parliament restored Charles II as king of England and Ireland on April 23, 1661. The Church of England was re-established under his reign.

The Act of Toleration of 1689 granted rights to non-conformists such as Baptists, Congregationalists and Quakers, but not Roman Catholics.

The Anglo-Dutch Wars
- The First Anglo-Dutch War was fought between England and the Dutch Republic in 1652–1654.
- All of the Anglo-Dutch wars were naval battles over trade disputes.
- England won the war and gained a monopoly over trade with its colonies.
- The Second Anglo-Dutch War, from 1665 to 1667, was England’s attempt to end Dutch domination over world trade.
- The Dutch were victorious in protecting their overseas interests.

Congregationalists (left) and Quakers (right) were religious non-conformists.
During the Third Anglo-Dutch War (1672–1674), England and France joined their naval forces to attack the Dutch. The war ended with little resolved except that the Dutch had to pay a penalty to England.

After the Glorious Revolution of 1688, England was ruled by Dutch-born William III of Orange and his wife Mary. All Anglo-Dutch fleets were put under English command. England prospered greatly, while the Netherlands went into decline.

In 1665, London was struck by bubonic plague, killing 20% of the population, about 100,000 people. The following year the Great Fire of London broke out, destroying the homes of almost 90% of the city’s inhabitants.