

Time Line of the Sixteenth Century

- 1509 Henry VIII's accession & marriage to Katherine of Aragon
- 1517 Martin Luther publishes the 95 Theses and starts the Reformation
- 1531 Henry VIII setting aside Katherine of Aragon for Anne Boleyn
- 1533 Jan - Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn
June - Anne Boleyn's coronation
Sept 7 - birth of Princess Elizabeth
- 1536 dissolution of the monasteries begins
May - execution of Anne Boleyn for adultery
May - Henry VIII's marriage to Jane Seymour 11 days later
Oct - Pilgrimage of Grace (rebellion)
- 1537 birth of Prince Edward and death of Jane Seymour
- 1540 Jan - Henry VIII's marriage to Anne of Cleves
July - annulment of Henry & Anne's marriage on a technicality
July - 3 weeks later, Henry VIII's marriage to Katherine Howard
- 1542 execution of Katherine Howard for adultery
- 1543 marriage to Katherine Parr
- 1547 Jan 28 - death of Henry VIII and accession of Edward VI
takeover of Edward Seymour; he becomes Lord Protector & Duke of Somerset
Katherine Parr marries Thomas, Baron Seymour of Sudeley
- 1548 death of Katherine Parr in childbed
- 1549 Mar - Lord Admiral Thomas Seymour's trial and execution for treason
Jun - Prayer Book Rebellion - in the West Country, against protestant reforms
- 1551 fall of the Duke of Somerset
Duke of Northumberland moves in to fill power vacuum
- 1553 Edward VI's health is failing
May - marriage of Jane Grey & Guildford Dudley
July 6 - death of King Edward, age 15
Jane Grey's nine days' reign, engineered by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland
July 19 - accession of Queen Mary
Aug - execution of Northumberland
- 1554 many Protestants leave England (though not in response to persecution, which has not started yet)
Jan - Wyatt's Rebellion - against the Spanish marriage
July - Mary marries Philip of Spain, son of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor
- 1555 first Protestant burnings
Mary's "pregnancy"
- 1558 Jan - loss of Calais
Nov 17 - death of Queen Mary and accession of Queen Elizabeth
no radical changes in religion or policy at first
- 1559 Act of Supremacy and Act of Uniformity
- 1560 Treaty of Edinburgh - non-interference; excludes Mary Queen of Scots from English succession (she never ratifies this)
death of Amy Robsart causes a major scandal
- 1565 marriage of Mary Queen of Scots and Lord Darnley
- 1566 birth of James VI of Scotland

- 1567 Feb - assassination of Darnley at Kirk O'Field
May - Mary Queen of Scots marries Earl of Bothwell
- 1568 Mary Queen of Scots flees to England
- 1569 rebellion of the Catholic Northern Earls
- 1570 Papal bull "Regnans in excelsis" excommunicating Queen Elizabeth
- 1571 round of negotiations for a marriage between Her Grace and Henri, Duke of Anjou
- 1572 first round of negotiations for a marriage between Her Grace and François, Duke of Alençon
Aug 23 - St. Bartholomew's Day massacre in France - lasted more than 4 days, thousands dead
- 1575 second round of Alençon marriage negotiations begins
- 1576 £20,000 given to the Dutch to resist the Spanish; from this time increasing involvement in affairs of the Low Countries
- 1579 Jan - Simier comes to England
Aug - François, Duke of Anjou (formerly Alençon) visits England
treaty with Dutch; from here on out, supporting them with troops, supplies and money
- 1580 return of Drake from voyage around the world
- 1581 Duke of Anjou's second visit
- 1581-87 lots of plots
- 1585 project to settle Virginia
Drake raids Vigo
- 1586 project to settle Munster
Babington plot, leads to Mary Queen of Scots' downfall
- prophecies of Regiomontanus much discussed at this time; predict that 1588 will be a year of the downfall of princes or the destruction of realms
- 1587 Feb - execution of Mary Queen of Scots
Spanish Armada being prepared; Mary has bequeathed her right to the English crown to Philip II of Spain
Drake's raid on Cadiz and Cape St. Vincent
- 1588 May - Armada sets sail
July 29 - Armada first sighted off the Scilly Isles
July 31-Aug 8 - engagements along southern English coast almost every day, ending off French coast opposite Gravelines; English fleet chases Spanish north - end of Spanish invasion attempt
Sept - death of Earl of Leicester
- 1590 deaths of Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Christopher Hatton
- 1596 Earl of Essex' attack on Cadiz
- 1598 death of Lord Burghley
- 1599 Mar - Essex made Vice Regent of Ireland, to quash rebel Tyrone
Sept - Essex' abrupt return from Ireland, without permission
- 1600 Essex' fall - loses offices & banned from Court
- 1601 Essex' rebellion, execution
- 1603 Mar 23 - death of Queen Elizabeth & accession of James I