

History: Unit 2

Lesson 10 of 30

To what extent did Catholics and Puritans challenge the religious settlement?



What was the Catholic challenge to the religious settlement?



Catholic challenge to the religious settlement

Since the beginning of the European Reformation, the **Papacy** had been trying to stop the spread of Protestantism. It attempted this through dealing with its own alleged (claimed) corruption but also tried to strengthen Catholicism. In addition, the Catholic church attacked Protestantism by persecuting so-called '**heretics**'. Heresy is a term applied to the practice of going against a particular religious belief. Therefore, anyone who denied the teachings of the Catholic church (i.e. Protestants) were labelled as heretics. The Catholic church in some cases also encouraged war against Protestants. These actions were collectively known as the **counter-Reformation**.



Catholic challenge to the religious settlement

As we know, the reaction to Elizabeth's religious changes were 'muted' in the first part of the reign. The Pope did not offer much guidance to Catholics in England. However, in 1566, he gave the order that Catholics should not attend Church of England services (be **recusants**).

When some Catholics did not attend church repeatedly, there were fines, punishments and imprisonment for some. However, Elizabeth did not want recusants to be closely investigated or persecuted. This is because she did not want to make **martyrs** out of them, which is when someone is killed for their religious beliefs and often becomes followed or worshipped for doing so.



**What was the Puritan
challenge to the religious
settlement?**



Puritan challenge to the religious settlement

Puritans were happy that Elizabeth made Protestantism the official religion, but also hoped that the 'religious settlement' would not end there. They did not feel the issue of religion had been dealt with, but Elizabeth did.

Puritan clergymen began disobeying the religious settlement at local level. For example, they wanted the ending of music to accompany singing in the church and they wanted some Holy Days banned.



Puritan challenge to the religious settlement

The crucifix controversy

Crucifixes are images of Jesus dying on the cross and is the symbol of Christianity. Elizabeth had demanded that each church display a crucifix during her religious settlement. However, the Puritan clergy saw them as part of the decoration they disliked and saw the images as 'idols'. However, some of the newly appointed Puritan bishops threatened to resign if she did not remove them. Elizabeth had to back down, because she wanted to ensure there were enough educated Protestant clergymen in the church of England.

She, however, kept a crucifix in the Royal Chapel!



Puritan challenge to the religious settlement

The vestment controversy

Vestments were special robes worn by priests that separated the priest from the ordinary people in the church. They were often very elaborate and made of expensive materials. The Royal Injunctions said that vestments were to be worn. However, some stricter Protestants and Puritan clergy refused to wear them. In 1566, the archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker, issued the **Book of Advertisements**. This included explicit instructions about the vestments that should be worn. Parker also held a special exhibit to show priests what they should wear and when. 110 were invited to go to the exhibition, and 37 refused. However, the majority of priests accepted that they had to wear the vestments. Elizabeth did not back down on this occasion.



Glossary

Papacy - a term used to describe the Pope and their authority

Heretic - a person holding an opinion or going against the accepted norms in terms of religion

counter-Reformation - the Catholic challenge to the Protestant Reformation in Europe through strengthening the Catholic church and persecuting heretics

Puritan clergymen - Protestant members of the clergy who leant towards stricter Protestantism

Book of Advertisements - a book published by Matthew Parker, the Archbishop of Canterbury, outlining specific guidelines for the clergy to follow



Questions - let's test your understanding!

1. How did the Papacy attempt to stop the spread of Protestantism in Europe?
2. How challenging was the Papacy to Elizabeth's religious settlement?
3. How did Puritans in England attempt to challenge the religious settlement?
4. How serious was the Puritan challenge to the religious settlement?
5. Do you think Catholics or Protestants posed more of a challenge to the religious settlement?

Challenge yourself: Look at the interpretation from today's lesson. To what extent do you agree with it? Write a two-sided response.

The interpretation argues that... evidence to support this is that... however, evidence to contradict this is that... this means that... therefore, I agree/disagree with this interpretation to an extent because...

