

History: Unit 2
Lesson 22 of 30

Enquiry Lesson: When was Elizabeth most threatened between 1569-1588?



How was Elizabeth threatened by the revolt of the Northern Earls?

The **revolt** of the Northern Earls aimed to remove **Elizabeth I** from the throne and replace her with the Catholic **Mary Queen of Scots**. Its primary aim was to restore Catholicism to England. It involved the Duke of Norfolk and was led by the Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland.

The rebellion got off to a bad start. On 1st November 1569 **Elizabeth** had the **Duke of Norfolk** arrested after hearing of his involvement in the rebellion. **The Earls of Westmorland** and **Northumberland** continued with the rebellion and seized control of **Durham Cathedral**.

By November 22nd the rebels had gained control of the northern areas of England including Barnard Castle in County Durham. Spain had promised to send troops, however they never arrived, meaning that the rebels, made up of approximately 5400 men, were easily crushed by **Elizabeth's** army of 14,000 men. The rebellion failed and afterwards **Elizabeth** had **Northumberland** executed and the **Duke of Norfolk** imprisoned. She was reluctant however, to take any action against **Mary Queen of Scots**, who had been implicated in this plot.



How was Elizabeth threatened by Catholic plots?

During the 1570s and 1580s there were three main Catholic Plots that threatened Elizabeth, the Ridolfi Plot (1571), the Throckmorton Plot (1583) and the Babington Plot (1586). All of these plots were very similar. All of these plots planned to remove **Elizabeth I** from the throne and replace her with **Mary Queen of Scots**. The aim of all of these plots was to restore Catholicism to the country.

Another similarity between these plots is that they were all supported by various foreign powers. For example, the Ridolfi plot was backed by both **the Pope** and **King Philip II of Spain**. The Throckmorton Plot was supported by the **French Duke of Guise** and **King Philip II of Spain** and the Babington Plot was backed by France and Spain. However, all of these plots were uncovered before they could take place, by **Elizabeth's** spymaster **Francis Walsingham**.

However, it was only as a result of the Babington Plot that **Elizabeth I** decided to take direct action against **Mary Queen of Scots**, due to evidence that was uncovered which proved her involvement within it. This represented another threat to **Elizabeth** who after uncovering this evidence, later signed the death warrant for Mary which led to her execution in 1587. This action angered **King Philip II of Spain** even more and escalated the tension between the two countries.



How was Elizabeth threatened by the Mary Queen of Scots?

During **Elizabeth's** reign, **Mary Queen of Scots** represented a threat. **Mary Queen of Scots** was seen by many people at home and abroad as having a legitimate claim to the English throne. She had Tudor blood and was the second cousin of **Elizabeth I**. In addition to this, she was also **anointed** monarch in her own right as Queen of Scotland.

Mary Queen of Scots was also a Catholic and after her arrival to England in 1568 she became a figurehead for many Catholic plots in the 1570s and 1580s which planned to remove **Elizabeth I** from the throne and replace her with **Mary**. Many of these Catholic plots received support from Catholic powers in France, Spain and even the **Pope**. This increased the threat England felt from a foreign invasion, especially as the relationship between them was particularly bad at this time.

In 1587, **Sir Francis Walsingham** uncovered a coded letter, allegedly written by **Mary Queen of Scots** which gave her approval to the Babington Plot. This plot led to Mary being put on trial for **treason** and **Elizabeth** eventually signing her death warrant which was used to execute her in 1587. **Mary's** execution also represented a threat, as it angered the Catholic **King Philip II** of Spain who had hoped to place **Mary** on the throne.



How was England threatened by the deteriorating relationship with Spain?

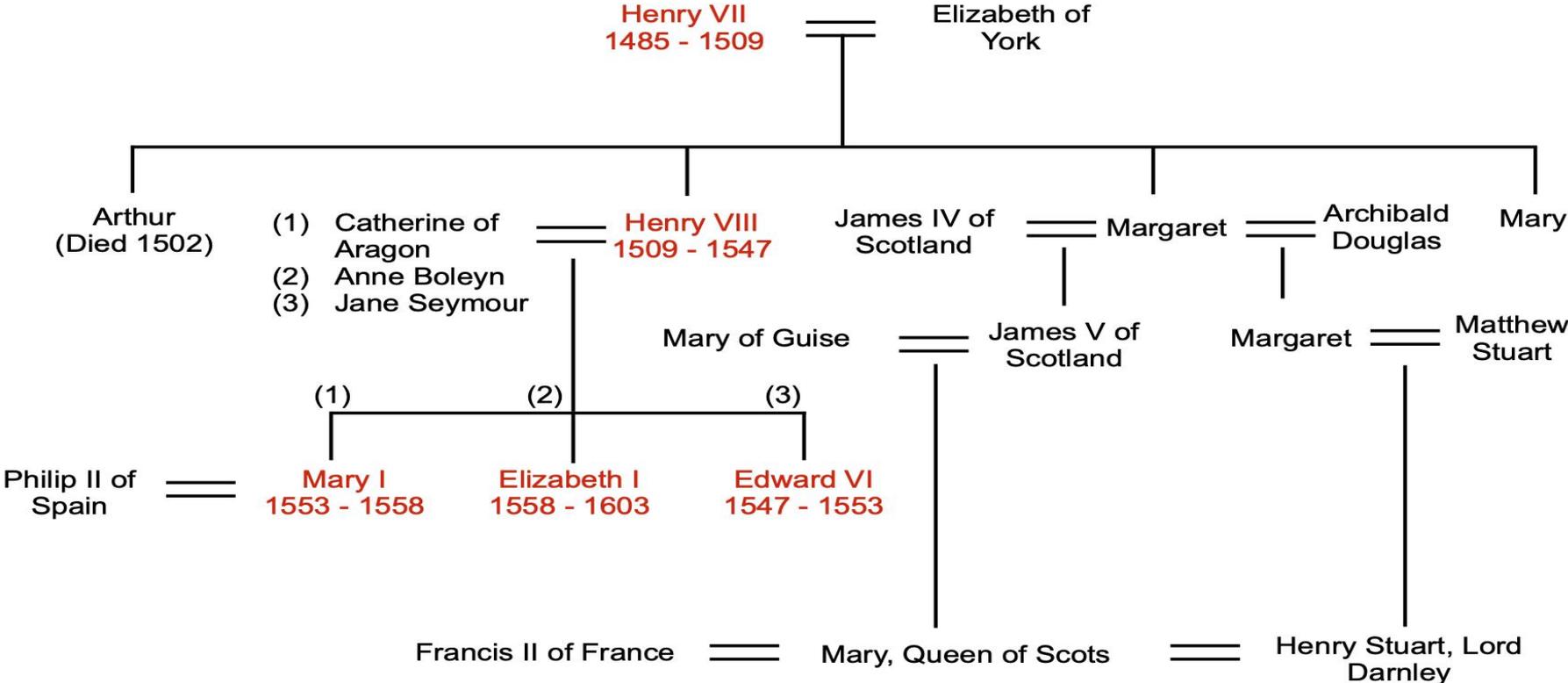
During the reign of **Elizabeth I**, the relationship between England and Spain deteriorated for various reasons.

One of these reasons was due to rivalry in the **New World** and Drake's **privateering**. Another was **Elizabeth's** actions in the Netherlands. In 1567, the Dutch had rebelled against Spanish rule in the Netherlands. **Elizabeth** felt compelled to help the rebels and from the 1570s she helped them indirectly. In 1585 she agreed to help the Dutch through **direct intervention** by sending a force to the Netherlands under **Sir Robert Dudley**. The execution of **Mary Queen of Scots** also angered **King Philip II of Spain** as he had supported various Catholic plots throughout the 1570s and 1580s to remove **Elizabeth I** from the throne and replace her with **Mary Queen of Scots**.

The deteriorating relationship between England and Spain lead **King Philip II** to support many Catholic plots to remove **Elizabeth I** from the throne in the 1570s and 1580s. It also lead him to begin to plan an invasion of England, which in 1585 culminated in the launch of the Spanish **Armada**. If **King Philip II of Spain** had succeeded, **Elizabeth I** would have been overthrown and England would have been controlled by Spain.



Tudor Family Tree



How can a monarch be threatened?



Written task

We have looked at several threats that Elizabeth faced between 1569-1568. These included:

- The Revolt of the Northern Earls
- Catholic Plots 1571-1585
- Elizabeth's deteriorating relationship with Spain

Question: What was the *biggest threat* that Elizabeth I faced between 1569-1568?



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Suggested structure

Point: What will you argue was the biggest threat?

Evidence: What evidence can you use to support your point?

Explain: How does this evidence support your point?

Link: Link back to the question OR to other ideas to explain why your factor is more important

Sentence stems

Elizabeth faced several threats at the beginning of her reign. These included...

The most serious was when...

This posed the greatest threat for Elizabeth because...

This was more significant challenge to Elizabeth than others because...



Glossary

Privateering - The act of attacking enemy ships at sea with the license to do so from the government.

The New World - A term used to refer to the Americas (North and South America).

Anointed- To be smeared with holy oil and crowned, this is sacred (connected with God) as it is carried out by a priest.

Revolt- Take violent action against an established government or ruler.

Armada- A large group of warships launched to attack or invade another country.

Direct intervention- To attack a country directly without using somebody else to do it for you.

Treason- To be disloyal to the government of your country. Usually this is an attack or attempt to remove the ruler of the country.

The Pope - The head of the Catholic church.

