



### Summary

Elizabeth I faced threats from Catholics within England but also from several countries abroad. Mary Queen of Scots was a constant threat to Elizabeth and a rallying point for the English Catholics who saw her as the heir to the throne. Mary fled Protestant Scotland in 1568 hoping Elizabeth would help her. Elizabeth kept her prisoner, the two women never met and Mary remained a constant problem for Elizabeth until she had her executed in 1587 for her involvement in the Babington Plot. Within England the Northern Earls revolted in 1569 and there were three major Catholic plots against Elizabeth: The Ridolfi Plot 1571, The Throckmorton Plot 1583 and the Babington Plot 1586. In addition to these threats, after many years of religious, political and commercial tension between the two countries, England and Spain went to war in 1585. Spain sent the famous Armada to England in 1588 which was defeated by forces led by Drake, Hawkins and Howard.



**1568:** Mary Queen of Scots fled to England only to be imprisoned by Elizabeth.

**1569:** The Revolt of the Northern Earls.

**1571:** The Ridolfi Plot incriminated the Duke of Norfolk.

**1579:** Drake captured the Spanish ship *The Cacafuego*.

**1583:** The Throckmorton Plot.

**1585:** War between England and Spain.

**1586:** The Babington Plot. Letters incriminated MQS were found in beer barrels.

**1587:** Mary Queen of Scots executed.

**1588:** Spain sent an Armada of 130 ships to England. It was defeated.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Catholic Plots</b>	Many Catholics in England did not think that Elizabeth should be queen and they wanted to restore the 'Old Faith' to England.
<b>Treason</b>	Going against the monarch. To try to convert someone to Catholicism was classed as treason by a law of 1581.
<b>The 'New World'</b>	The name given to parts of South America which were part of the Spanish Empire. A licence from Spain was needed to trade with the 'New world'.
<b>The Spanish Netherlands</b>	Part of the Spanish Empire in present day Holland. Protestants rebelled against their Spanish rulers in 1572.
<b>Pirate/Privateer</b>	Someone who trades illegally. English sailors like Drake and Hawkins traded with the 'New World' without a licence from Spain. King Philip II regarded them as pirates.
<b>Cacafuego</b>	Drake captured this Spanish treasure ship off the coast of Peru in 1579. He captured cargo worth £140,000.
<b>'The Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard'</b>	Nickname given to Drake's raid on Cadiz in 1587 which destroyed cork needed for the supply barrels of the Armada. This delayed the Armada by a year giving England time to prepare.
<b>The Treaty of Nonsuch</b>	This committed Elizabeth to direct involvement in the Netherlands following the assassination of the Protestant leader William of Orange.
<b>Armada</b>	An attack of 130 Spanish ships in 1588. It failed.
<b>Galleon</b>	A large Spanish sailing ship used for war and also trade. Not as quick or easy to manoeuvre as the caravels.
<b>Battle of Gravelines</b>	Fought on the 8th August between the English navy and the Spanish Armada. 1000 Spanish killed to England's loss of 50 men.
<b>Fire Ships</b>	Howard ordered that 8 fireships be sent into the anchored Armada causing panic, chaos and damage.

## TIMELINE

Early Elizabethan England



Key People	
<b>Mary Queen of Scots</b>	Elizabeth's cousin. Queen of Scotland from the age of 6 days old, widow of the Dauphin of France and later married to Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley to whom she bore a son. She then married the Earl of Bothwell who was suspected of murdering Darnley. The Scottish Lords rose up against Mary who abdicated and fled to England.
<b>Thomas Percy, 7th Earl of Northumberland</b>	One of the Catholic leaders of the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569. He sympathised with the plight of Mary Queen of Scots, was excluded from court because of his Catholicism and was executed for his role in the failed uprising.
<b>Charles Neville, 6th Earl of Westmoreland</b>	Another leader of the Revolt of the Northern Earls who aimed to release Mary Queen of Scots from captivity and restore the 'old faith' to England. He fled into exile after the failure of the revolt.
<b>Roberto Ridolfi</b>	An Italian banker who may have been a double agent employed by Elizabeth's government to trap the Duke of Norfolk. He carried messages for MQS to Philip II and the Pope regarding Catholic invasions.
<b>Duke of Norfolk</b>	A prominent English Catholic Noble involved in the Ridolfi Plot to overthrow Elizabeth. Norfolk's servants betrayed him and he was executed for his part in the plot.
<b>Francis Walsingham</b>	A Secretary of State and responsible for protecting the Queen and the Protestant church. His greatest success was proving Mary Queen of Scots was involved in the Babington Plot.
<b>Francis Throckmorton</b>	A young English Catholic who carried letters between MQS and the French and Spanish ambassadors. Aimed to free MQS, restore Catholicism and possibly kill Elizabeth. He was executed at Tyburn.

### Extra resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zqcn4j6/revision/1>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/history/collections/edexcel-gcse-early-elizabethan-england-1558-1588>

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Key People	
<b>Anthony Babington</b>	An English Catholic who had been page to the Earl of Shrewsbury when the earl was in charge of the custody of MQS. His plot put into writing the intention to kill Elizabeth. Babington was executed.
<b>Francis Drake</b>	An experienced sailor and, according to the Spanish, a pirate known as 'El Draque' (The Dragon). Commander during the Armada attack.
<b>Lord Charles Howard</b>	He was made Lord High Admiral by Elizabeth in 1585. In 1588, with Drake, he commanded the forces at sea against the Spanish Armada.
<b>John Hawkins</b>	He was a renowned navigator and early slave trader. In 1588 he was a naval commander against the Spanish Armada.
<b>The Duke of Parma</b>	The leader of the Spanish army in the Netherlands. The 130 strong Armada tried to link up with 20,000 Spanish troops led by Parma in the Netherlands.
<b>Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester</b>	Elizabeth's friend and advisor. When Protestants rebelled against their Spanish Catholic rulers in the Netherlands, Dudley urged Elizabeth to send help. Dudley inflamed the situation between England and Spain when he took the title 'Governor General of the Low Countries.'
<b>Medina Sidonia</b>	Appointed commander of the Spanish Armada but he was not Philip II's first choice and suffered from sea sickness.

### Challenge-

Create a 'Threat Graph' to show how much danger Elizabeth was in for the years 1568-1588.

Create 5 revision flash cards using the information on this knowledge organiser.

Y10 Schoolology page



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