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|  | **History - Year 10, Tuesday 7th July 2020** |
| Patronage | **Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley**   * Member of the gentry. Moderate Protestant. Had experience under Edward VI. Wanted to avoid war and unite the nation. Did not make rushed decisions. The Queen admired and respected him, relying on him heavily. Skilful manager in the House of Commons. Died in 1598 and was replaced as chief minister by his son, Robert.   **Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester**   * Younger son of the Duke of Northumberland who had been executed under Mary I. Childhood friend of Elizabeth and like Elizabeth had spent time locked in the Tower of London. Many rumours of love between Elizabeth and Dudley but mysterious death of Dudley’s wife meant they could not marry even if Elizabeth had wanted to. Member of the Court and Privy Council. Puritan, argued with William Cecil. Given title Earl of Leicester in 1564 and died in 1588.   **Sir Francis Walsingham**   * Member of the gentry, studied law. Fervent Puritan who had fled to Italy during Mary’s reign. Entered parliament in 1558. Ability at speaking different languages led him to become ambassador in Paris. In the Privy Council he was responsible for foreign affairs. Clashed with William Cecil. Superb organiser in charge of the secret service and network of spies. Died 1590   **Sir Christopher Hatton**   * Member of the gentry and studied law. Moderate Protestant. Elected to parliament and helped Elizabeth control the MPs. In charge of judges, law courts. Died 1591.   **Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex**   * Son of Elizabeth’s cousin, Lettice Knollys, step-son of Robert Dudley. Good looking and a favourite of Elizabeth. Military hero who fought in the Netherlands, France and Spain. Joined Privy Council in 1593. Hated the Cecil’s. Given the monopoly for sweet wine but became desperate when it was taken away. Disrespectful of Elizabeth, led a rebellion and executed in 1601.   *Elizabeth successfully used patronage to divide and rule in her Council in her early years (eg. Walsingham and Dudley clashed with William Cecil and Hatton) In the later years of her reign, however, her use of patronage was problematic. Robert Cecil and Essex developed a dangerous rivalry. The Essex Rebellion was a sign of problems within her Government***.** |
| Marriage | **Reasons for marriage**   * Without a clear successor and son, the country could descend into civil war when Elizabeth died. This is what had happened in the past with the War of the Roses * Women were considered weak and not capable of ruling a nation * Marriage would forge an alliance with strategic partner from abroad or the English nobility * A child would ensure that Protestantism would continue after Elizabeth’s death. Elizabeth had almost died of smallpox in 1562   **Possible suitors**   1. **King Philip II of Spain:** Catholic king of Spain. Had been married to Elizabeth’s half-sister Mary I. Spain was a powerful enemy or ally. 2. **Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester:** Handsome and intelligent .A childhood friend of Elizabeth from a powerful English noble family. 3. **Francis, Duke of Anjou and Alencon:** younger brother of the King of France. France was a powerful enemy or ally. Not attractive   **Problems with marriage**   * Marriage would limit personal freedom * Most suitable husbands were Catholic * A foreign marriage might upset other countries * Mary I’s marriage had caused a rebellion in England * An English husband would unbalance the court * Henry VIII had killed two of his wives including Elizabeth’s mother * Philip of Spain had treated Mary badly * Robert Dudley’s wife had died in mysterious circumstances and this was surrounded by rumour * The Bartholomew Day Massacre meant the French were unpopular and the Duke of Alencon and Anjou less suitable * Elizabeth claimed she was ‘married to her country’ and refused to name a successor – to name a successor could have put her life in danger |
| Decline and the Essex Rebellion | * Economic problems: War, and repeated harvest failures led to economic problems and increased poverty * Political problems: Death of trusted advisors – Dudley, Walsingham, Hatton and Cecil all died between 1588-1598; Divide and rule in Court in the 1590s was not as effective as Elizabeth did not have as tight a grip over the loyalty of her Courtiers * Personal problems: After their deaths, Elizabeth became increasingly angry and depressed- people started to sense she had reigned for too long and wanted reform * Rebellion: Essex, who had been one of her favourites in the 1590s (he was a Privy Councillor and she had rewarded him with a monopoly on sweet wines) organised a rebellion against her and Robert Cecil in 1601 after a clash over Ireland, amongst other things. The rebellion failed but it was a sign of Elizabeth’s weakening political grip. * Essex inherited the title of Earl of Essex when in 1573 when his father died * He was made a Privy Councillor in 1595 and his power grew even further when the Queen gave him a monopoly of sweet wines (anyone who wished to bring in sweet wine from abroad had to pay him a tax!) * A rivalry developed at Court between him and Robert Cecil * He had military success against the Spanish in 1596 * He argued with the Queen about Ireland – he turned his back on the Queen and she hit him on his head! He almost drew his sword on her but was stopped. He was placed under house arrest but then returned to Court * Despite the argument, the Queen appointed Essex Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. However, he made a truce with the Irish in 1599 against the Queen’s orders * After this failure in Ireland, he burst into the Queens bedchamber before she was robed and wigged – a sign of disrespect * The Queen removed his monopoly on sweet wine – he lost his power and wealth * He was determined to remove Robert Cecil from power so marched to London with 200 followers, he took 4 of her Privy Councillors hostage * Robert Cecil labelled Essex as a traitor and many of the rebels dropped out of the march; Essex returned to his house to find the hostages had been released * Elizabeth’s government arrested Essex and his remaining supporters * In 1601 Essex was beheaded – several other rebels were executed too although some escaped with a fine |
| Poverty in Elizabethan England | **Why was there an increase in poverty in the Elizabethan era?**   * Long term: * Henry VIII’s policies and actions e.g. Dissolution of the monasteries e.g. Henry VIII’s wars led to high taxes; Dearth conditions even before Elizabeth became Queen * Short term: * Population growth between 1550-1600 (central cause);Changes in farming – enclosures meant less common land; Collapse of Antwerp markets   **Why was poverty important in the Elizabethan England?**   * Beliefs about the ‘idle poor’- belief that this class of dishonest and lazy ‘vagrants’ was getting out of hand – new methods being used to trick people; Considered a threat to the social order; Puritans in particular disapproved of vagrancy; Vagrancy also blamed for spread of disease from town to town   **How successful were Elizabethan policies on poverty?**   * Successes: Poor Law brought together previous government and local measures – national system * Principle of government taking responsibility was established. Poor Rate (perhaps more important than how much it was used – see interpretation) * Lasted until 1834! * Prevented rebellion caused by poverty * Limits: Did not challenge attitudes towards poverty – still focussed on punishment rather than support * Some argue extent of poverty has been exaggerated and that the Poor Law was not actually used much. * Poverty continued to increase |