

Elizabeth's religious settlement

- Huge tensions between Catholics and Protestants, especially after Reformation
- Elizabeth's religious settlement tried to take the 'middle way' between both
- **Act of Supremacy** made Elizabeth **Supreme Governor** of Church of England, clergy loyal to her (not Pope)
- **Act of Uniformity** made Protestantism England's official religion, but new prayer book allowed for Catholic or Protestant definition of communion
- Most ordinary people accepted, 8,000 out of 10,000 priests took **Oath of Supremacy**, but only 1 bishop - did face challenges

Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569-70

- **Catholicism** strong in **North**, **Earls** resented loss of power in court
- Wanted to make **Mary** queen, rebels marched South but support from **Spain** didn't arrive - Elizabeth retained landowner support and moved Mary away to Coventry
- Showed Mary couldn't be trusted, led to Elizabeth's **excommunication** (now Catholic duty to overthrow her)



Puritans = extreme Protestants, wanted to rid the Church of England of Catholic practices

Ridolfi Plot (1571) → **Roberto Ridolfi** (spy for **Pope**) convinced pain to raise troops for invasion to crown Mary and marry Duke of Norfolk - discovered by **William Cecil**, Norfolk executed but Spain and Catholicism still major threats to Elizabeth

Throckmorton Plot (1583) → **French Duke of Guise** plotted to invade with **Spanish** and **Papal** support, **Throckmorton** passed letters between plotters and **Mary** but was discovered by **Francis Walsingham**, 11,000 Catholic sympathisers imprisoned

Babington Plot (1586) → **Walsingham** intercepted letters from **Babington** to **Mary** about Duke of Guise invasion, Mary sentenced to **death** (Oct 1586), Catholic persecution increased



3. TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD



Armada leaders (**Duke of Parma** & **Duke of Medina Sidonia**) unable to communicate

Spanish low on food and cannon **supplies**

English **ships** faster and cannons fired more quickly

Reasons for defeat of Armada

Superior **tactics** used by more experienced English leaders - chased into familiar territory (English Channel)

Battle of Gravelines (8th Aug 1588) - Drake's **fireships** destroyed Spanish ships and forced many to drift into North Sea

- **Catholic** Queen of Scotland
- Elizabeth's cousin - **legitimate claim to throne**
- Fled to England after implicated in husband's murder
- Execution destroyed hopes for Catholic plots against Elizabeth



Reasons for conflict with Spain

- **Treaty of Nonsuch** (1585) - England financed an army of **7,000** troops led by **Robert Dudley** for the **Dutch Protestant rebels** - England and Spain now at war in Netherlands
- Their Catholic alliance ended when England became Protestant
- Commercial rivalry in the **New World** - **privateers** raided Spanish colonies and ships
- April 1587 - Elizabeth ordered Drake to attack Spanish navy port at Cadiz, destroyed 30 ships - 'singeing of the King of Spain's beard'

