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**England's Foreign Policy during the Reign of  
Elizabeth I**

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## **Dedications**

*I dedicate this humble work to my parents, brothers and sisters and  
the whole family.*

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encouraged me along this research.*

## **Abstract**

The English history offers us a perpetual succession of great figures, to whom Elizabeth is considered a historical actor of Tudor society, she is known for her exceptional vision towards her internal and mainly her foreign policy. She could balance power in an offensive or defensive strategy against her enemies to gain battles, and by the end wars. England's foreign policy during the reign of Elizabeth I had known the glory of English naval force.

This study sheds light on Elizabeth I's biography; childhood, education, succession, and marriage. After dealing with the internal factors that shaped the foreign policy, this research moves to study the external factors; the religious reformation and overseas explorations that shackled the European continent, particularly England during the 16<sup>th</sup> C.

This research also tackles the characteristics of England's foreign policy during the reign of Elizabeth I, as well as the wars she undertook, proving the sovereignty of her realm against the most powerful Spanish kingdom.

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Queen Elizabeth I is one of the famous monarchs that the British history has come to be proud of; she is considered as a great queen, and a land mark of greatness to the English people. She is regarded as one of the pillars that took high the culture and history of England. Her era witnessed victorious and glorious times thanks to her home and foreign policy. Her time came to be known as the Golden Age due to a flourished literature and poetry indeed; she is considered by modern historians as an ideal Renaissance monarch. She achieved a remarkable home stability by her led religious settlements, a historical glory in her foreign policy through her victory over the Spanish Armada. The time ruled by Elizabeth I witnessed a race of the super powers of 16<sup>th</sup> C Europe over territories, either in Europe or in the new discovered world. This era saw also religious wars between the Catholics and the Protestants. Furthermore, the Elizabethan period saw the emergence of many intellectual movements that eradicated the old European institutions.

As the title points out, our research work deals with England's foreign policy during the reign of the Tudor queen Elizabeth I. It is a discussion and analysis of her actions, reactions and interactions within the political, philosophical, religious and cultural spheres of the time. No one by Elizabeth's succession in 1558 would have predicted that despite the social tensions in England that was at the eve of a civil war, the English kingdom would stand again on the threshold of an extraordinary reign. Moreover, in the 16<sup>th</sup>C, Englishmen and Europeans believed that it was unholy and unnatural that a woman should have an empire above men, but Queen Elizabeth succeeded propose and impose her home and foreign policy in the most troubled times of European history. Her foreign policy achievements culminated in the defeat of the powerful Spanish Armada, which advanced English nationalism and increased England's power and influence.

Therefore, our objective in this research work is to explain how Elizabeth, a woman of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, who lacked a perfect, passionate childhood within a warring society, unstable political sphere and Machiavelli plotting scenes succeeded in her foreign policy. We will shed light on the queen's early life, education and experiences which helped to shape her strong personality, and foreground the influential cultural and political movements and events which determined the foreign policies of the time. Moreover we will highlight her main achievements in foreign policy. We are convinced that Elizabeth's personality and her vision towards the external affairs was the product of her early life, she succeeded to reverse the political culture of her time and impose her own.

Elizabeth I carried on her predecessor's Tudor policy, and faced the emerging power led by king Charles V, then Philip II of Spain, the monarch of France Henry III, and finally by Henry of Navarre (later on Henry IV). Moreover, she could deal with fundamental issues of 16<sup>th</sup>C England; for instance the issue of Dutch, Scots, and Irish conflict by the end of her reign, in a time she herself was threatened by internal and external warnings of death, even by the catholic pope in Italy 'the Pope Pius V'. The latter depicted her in the 1570's as the servant of the crime, where she put an end to the catholic conspiracies in the north which led to the execution of over than 750 catholic.

In addition to this, Elizabeth was more educated and well prepared then most women of the 16<sup>th</sup> C. Such great figures in Hegel's view are described in The Philosophy of History, as practical, political and thinking men while prosecuting their aims, and at the same time have an insight into the requirements of their era.<sup>1</sup> Queen Elizabeth had lived the circumstances and the palace revolutions of her half-brother Edward IV's reign, and experienced the Roman Catholicism of her sister. She was also the product of a fine Renaissance education; she was

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<sup>1</sup> G. W. F. Hegel, The Philosophy of History. By J. Sibree. M. A. Batoche Books. Kitchener. 2001. P. 19



taught how secularism is so important for leadership. Moreover, she reflected both her mother as well as her father foreign ambitions. These ingredients molded her personality and hence influenced her home and foreign policy.

To achieve the objectives of our research, we will organize our research paper into three chapters:

The first chapter will deal with the role of Elizabeth's early life and experiences in the shape of her personality. Emphasis will be put on the psychological and environmental factors that helped in the construction of her personality as a future queen of England. First we will focus on her birth, childhood, and adulthood till the age of twenty five. Then, we will explore the kind of education she received in order to reign over the English throne. After that, we will deal with the circumstances of her succession and finally, we'll emphasize on her royal marriage.

The second chapter will review the political, religious, and economic factors which shaped the standard and modal of reference for both the ruled and the ruling class of the European societies. Then we will analyze their influence on Elizabeth I's foreign policy. First, we will attempt to explain how Elizabeth I shaped her internal and foreign policy in the light of the Religious Reformation in Europe; we will see how the Religious Reformations centered the foreign policy of the queen. Then, we will tackle the Queen's interaction with the age of the overseas explorations in Europe with reference to English trading and overseas adventures.

The third chapter is concerned with Elizabeth's policy towards the Anglo-Continental conflicts and her military confrontations with her neighbors. It also attempts to explain the

geopolitical strategy that was followed by the queen of England to keep the balance of power in favor of England, and to highlight Elizabeth's main achievements in foreign policy.

This chapter begins with an introductory section that resumes the main principles and features of the Elizabeth I's foreign policy. Then, it will deal with the Anglo-Scottish conflict that cannot be ignored to secure the back of the English realm. After that we will tackle the Anglo-French wars and England's diplomatic relations with France. Then we will move to the Anglo-Spanish relations during the reign of the Tudors, mainly queen Elizabeth I. Finally, we will explain Elizabethan policy towards the Irish.

To conclude, a general conclusion of the whole period in which these great foreign policy achievements took place will help us to shed light on the results of the present study.

## **1- Introduction**

This chapter deals with queen Elizabeth's experiences - before and after her succession- which contributed to shape her strong personality, and hence influence her foreign policy. It serves to introduce the relation between the early life of Elizabeth I and her future personality as a queen of England. Moreover, it is the analysis of the internal and home factors that contributed to form the historical personality of the queen. The early twenty five years of the queen served as a basis for her foreign policy as a queen of England.

To cover the major events that influenced the personality of the queen, we will divide the first chapter into four sections. In the first section we will examine queen Elizabeth's childhood and adulthood experiences. In the second part we will shed light on the effects of her education on her vision towards the external world. Then, we will deal with her succession to the English throne. And finally, we will discuss the question of the queen's marriage. It is necessary to explore these events to understand Elizabeth's foreign policy.

## **2- Birth and Childhood**

Elizabeth Tudor was born on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1533 at Greenwich Palace, near London. She was named after her both grandmothers, Elizabeth of York and Elizabeth Howard. She was the second daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn; whose historical marriage was taken by Henry VIII as a pretext to defy the papacy and the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. Henry was spurred on by love and the need for a legitimate male heir that his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, couldn't afford to the English throne. The papacy in Italy did not accept the marriage for political reasons. As a result, Elizabeth's birth was one of the most exciting political events in 16<sup>th</sup> century European history.

Before Elizabeth's birth, an heir was desperately wanted, a document had already been prepared announcing the arrival of the new prince, but unfortunately for the royal couple, it was a female child, a second daughter with a second wife. And what was more disappointing, according to Kenneth O. Morgan, was that "Anne Boleyn was already pregnant when the king married her."<sup>1</sup>; a fact that made the child cursed, and illegitimate in the eyes of the Catholics.

Anne could convince Henry for another opportunity to afford him a male heir to the throne; an opportunity that allowed her to gain more time and influence, however the promise couldn't be kept and fulfilled. Anne Boleyn troubled the political affairs in England, mainly the foreign policy that led to the break down of the religious links, and by the way the diplomatic relations with Italy which stood as the mother church of Catholicism. This led to an internationally public view of hatefulness and malicious reactions from the believers of the ancient faith. That is why the public opinion in England was against the marriage of Henry to Anne Boleyn, and by extension to their believed cursed daughter.

Anne was badly seen because of the events she brought to the English; Henry attempted to legislate popular acceptance of his new queen, but by a way or another the various acts and oaths only cost the lives of several prominent Catholics, among them Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher. Not merely content of his marriage, Henry arrested Anne and convicted her for treason, including incest with her brother. She was charged with a variety of crimes which even her enemies discounted. She was disgraced, divorced and beheaded at the tower of London on 19 May 1536.

From that on, all of Europe and the majority of Englishmen considered Mary to be Henry's legitimate heir, despite legislation in contrary. No one believed Elizabeth to be more than the illegitimate daughter of Henry VIII. During her early years, Elizabeth witnessed the

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989. P .251.

death of her mother on charges of adultery and treason. Even though she was only three years old and too young to remember her mother, she knew what had happened to her. Throughout her reign, she never referred to her mother directly, but she often referred to what had happened to her. This event made such a dramatic impact on her life that she regretted sentencing anybody to death.

Henry issued an act of Parliament that declared his marriage with Anne Boleyn invalid from the beginning of his marriage, making their daughter Elizabeth illegitimate.<sup>2</sup> It was to Henry's credit that he always acknowledged Elizabeth as his own daughter; he was always affectionate with the little motherless child, and took care of her. He was all the time amazed and proud of her intellectual accomplishments. Actually, Elizabeth represented what Henry VIII considered the standard and perfect education that a king or queen should acquire. She stood for the ideal, a woman of reference for the females of her time and onward. As she grew older, the courtiers in the palace noted Elizabeth's resemblance to her father more than Mary did, both in her vision towards the encountered difficulties and her mannerism.

The events in Elizabeth's life went on remarkably influencing her personality. Henry married Jane Seymour just twelve days after Anne's execution. She offered him his long-awaited son, Prince Edward, in October, 1537, this led Elizabeth and her step-sister, Mary, to be declared illegitimate.

Jane died shortly after her birth because of childbed fever. Henry VIII then married Anne of Cleves on Twelfth Night (6 January) 1540. The marriage was a disaster and Henry quickly divorced Anne and married Catherine Howard; Catherine was a cousin of Anne Boleyn, she was thirty years younger than Henry and soon resumed an affair with a former lover. She was executed in February 1542 and buried beside Anne Boleyn in the Tower of London. For

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<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth I. Encyclopædia Britannica. 2009 Student and Home Edition. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.

Elizabeth, these changes in her father's marital fortunes, and successive decisions of execution did not pass unnoticed. Elizabeth didn't comment upon her father's various stepmothers, because she was an innocent child, politically and morally unconscious.

Works which analyzed the influence of Elizabeth's childhood experiences on her governance argue that once she became queen, her psychological effects were revealed, A. N. McLaren in his work 'Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I' shares Susan Duran's idea that all what Elizabeth I didn't react and oppose in her childhood, was well denied in her reign. And what she bore in her infancy was rejected, expressed verbally during her own governance.

It was Henry's sixth and last wife, Katharine Parr, who had the greatest impact and influence upon Elizabeth's life. Katherine believed passionately in education and religious reform; she was a devoted stepmother. Understandably, she had far more of an impact with the young Edward and Elizabeth than with Mary who was four years her junior.

Elizabeth was thirteen years old when her father died. They were never particularly close though he treated her with affection on her few visits to his court. Henry VIII treated all his children with what modern historians assimilated to affection. Before his death, he occasionally discussed the possibility of Elizabeth's marriage for political reasons. She was a tool in the confection of his foreign policy. In the 16th century, royal bastards were common and often used to great advantage in diplomacy. By the coming years, Parliament gave Henry the ability to determine his children's status, as well as the actual succession. Henry VIII had simply let both his daughters live as princesses, and gave them precedence over everyone at court. They had no real claim to the title of 'princess' and were known as 'the lady Elizabeth' and 'the lady Mary'. This was often followed by the explanatory 'the king's daughter.'

It was an awkward situation which the king saw no reason to resolve. His will did recognize his daughters' crucial place to the succession; if Edward died without heirs, Mary would inherit the throne, if Mary died without heirs, Elizabeth would become queen. He also left them the substantial income of 3000 pounds a year, the same amount for each daughter. Elizabeth was classified under her father's reign the third in line to the throne, and she was protected by his rough paternal affection.

After Henry VIII's death, Elizabeth had good cause to wish him alive again. Ten years old Edward was king in name only. The rule of England was actually in the hands of his uncle, the Lord Protector Edward Seymour, soon titled duke of Somerset. Elizabeth was now separated from her brother's household, moving to Katharine Parr's home in Chelsea, where it is said she have passed the happiest time of her adolescence.

The event of her father's death in 1547 was like a watershed that separated her life apart into two periods. The widowed queen Catherine Parr immediately married Thomas Seymour, one of her earlier keen favorite subjects and brother of one of the previous Henry VIII's wives, Jane Seymour. Thomas Seymour received minor employment at the court and some diplomatic missions abroad. He was appointed by his brother Edward Seymour as lord high admiral, and a member of the Privy Council.<sup>3</sup>

Thomas Seymour was only looking to serve his own interests. After ensuring his position as a close adviser to the king, he took profits from the king's institutions. He was in a personal relation with the pirates of the Channel that used to take control on the navigation in the English Water Channel. Moreover he nurtured some lustful ambitions that he would be crowned as the head of the English kingdom. He was looking for a possibility to reign under

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<sup>3</sup> "**Seymour (of Sudeley), Thomas Seymour, Baron.**" Encyclopædia Britannica. 2009 Student and Home Edition. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009

the pretext of the queen's right to rule. Unfortunately to him, Edward was proclaimed the king over the realm.

Thomas Seymour renewed his intentions by asking Elizabeth to marry him right after the death of his wife, Catherine Parr. He saw marriage to the king's sister, Elizabeth, as a means of gaining greater influence in the government. He hoped that one day he would take the leadership once his wife would be queen. The reaction of Elizabeth was that she kept herself out of sight of Thomas Seymour; in Susan Duran's words "she remained aloof from Seymour's advances, unlike her household servants Katherine Ashley and Thomas Parry, who foolishly encouraged him in his schemes to marry their charge."<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately for Thomas Seymour, he was caught under the orders of his brother, lord Somerset, for plotting to marry Elizabeth so that to inherit the English kingdom<sup>5</sup>. He was arrested and beheaded for his treason at the hands of his own brother, lord Somerset.

Then, the affair took another turn when repeated interrogations of Elizabeth and her servants led to the charge that even when his wife was alive, Seymour had several times behaved in flirtatious manners toward the young princess<sup>6</sup>. When Elizabeth heard about the execution of Thomas Seymour, she expressed graveness and at the same time kept herself under control, because she feared for her own life. As Susan Duran puts it "in fact she only suffered a temporary disgrace, as thanks to her cool headedness nothing treasonable could be proved against her."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Susan Duran Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, The Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. P. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth I, Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Student and Home Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, Seymour (of Sudeley), Thomas Seymour, Baron.

<sup>7</sup> Op. cit, p. 15.



Most studies assert that Elizabeth had experienced cruel adulthood; her experience with Thomas Seymour had influenced her personality. According to Susan Duran, “he frequently came into bedchamber in his night gown, and one morning he strave to have kissed hir in hir bed”<sup>8</sup>; this was the first sexual harassment from Elizabeth’s environment that would alter her vision towards the external world. Moreover, this affected her seriously and shaken her psychological feedback towards any sexual relation. Nowadays psychoanalytical theories have been used to bolster this view of the queen’s marriage, leading to the result that Elizabeth was greatly influenced by the experience she lived prior to her reign, and that this experience made her a damaged human being.<sup>9</sup>

We can deduce from the experience of queen Elizabeth I, and the environment she lived in, that her childhood and adulthood were really influential. She was an innocent child who was at the center of the Machiavelli plotting of her relatives and court’s members. She learned to protect for herself from the other’s malicious intentions. From her experience prior to her succession, she could understand the political atmosphere that reigned over the Tudor’s court, with an eye over the foreign policy.

### **3- Education:**

Elizabeth I received an education that would help her in her next years of reigning over the English realm. Her education influenced her personality and vision, and at the same time, the confection of England’s foreign policy. She received the ideal education of her era. Though her childhood became tremulous after the execution of her mother in 1536, she could overcome the harshness of her early years. Catherine Parr was devoted to the reformed faith and had great impact upon Elizabeth’s life. She arranged for 10 years old Elizabeth to have

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<sup>8</sup> Duran Susan “Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, The Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. p. 15.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 15.

the most distinguished tutors in England. Children from noble families at that time were quickly introduced to the formalities of the adult world around them. Erickson Carolly writes that children “seemed to be born wise, and have gray hairs in their youth.”<sup>10</sup>

Elizabeth displayed a genuine love and aptitude for her studies. She was educated as any legitimate prince among aristocratic families of England. It was a commonplace to provide daughters with the same level of education as sons, and Elizabeth was fortunate to receive schooling on the same caliber as that of her half-brother, Edward. A series of admired tutors were called upon to help in the process of her education. Great minds from Cambridge University laid the foundations for an intellectual gifted future queen. She was under the care of Blanche Herbert, Lady Troy, who remained her Lady Mistress until her retirement in late 1545.

Much credit can be given to Elizabeth's first tutor and governess, Katherine Champernowne, called ‘Kat’ by the little princess. She was appointed as Elizabeth's governess from the beginning of 1537, and remained Elizabeth's governess until her death in 1565. She taught Elizabeth I in the areas of language, grammar, rhetoric, logic, philosophy, literature, geography, history, mathematics and astronomy. It was the standard curriculum for children born of royalty.

Elizabeth studied also theology and supported the Protestant cause; she had been raised to do so and knew only the Protestants who recognized her parents' marriage. But she was never openly passionate about religion, recognizing its divisive role in English politics. The religious side of her education was just to learn and understand the most existing followed religions and the way to manipulate the spirit of the believers.

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<sup>10</sup> Erickson, Carolly. The First Elizabeth. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1983. P. 42

Erickson Carrolly describes the nature of the education that Elizabeth received in the following words: “the texts chosen were of those best adapted to supply her tongue with the purest diction, her mind with the most excellent precepts, and her exalted station with a defense against the utmost power of fortune.”<sup>11</sup> These texts would have an influence on the development of Elizabeth’s religious concepts.

With quick wit and determination, Elizabeth progressed in her studies rapidly. By the age of five or six, she had a confident grasp of reading and writing far beyond her age. Most people viewed the adolescent Elizabeth as a serious young woman who always carried a book with her. Her teacher Ascham reported that “Elizabeth responded to three ambassadors in Italian, French, and Latin respectively.”<sup>12</sup> The little talented princess rapidly improved in the skills of reading and writing. It was at this time that she began her studies in Latin. Erickson Carolly asserts that a “quick intelligence, and a good memory required for a humanist education was cultivated in Elizabeth from an early age.”<sup>13</sup>

In 1544, the clergyman Richard Cox, the provost of Eton, was appointed private tutor to Edward. Cox taught Edward the conjugation of verbs and parts of speech in Greek and Latin. He was challenged by both Edward and Elizabeth in conquering the fields of study.<sup>14</sup> Cox’s method added a touch of historical relevance to language instruction, turning it into a game for the children under his charge. In July of that year, John Cheke was assigned to replace Richard Cox. The former known as a skilled classical linguist, emphasized first on the reading of Holy Scriptures, followed by readings of Cicero, Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Isocrates, and Demosthenes.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Erickson, Carolly. The First Elizabeth. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1983. p. 76.

<sup>12</sup> Ascham, Roger. The Scholemaster. Ed. by John E.B. Mayor. New York: AMS Press, Inc., 1967. P. 221

<sup>13</sup>Op.cit , p. 47.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 55.

<sup>15</sup> Op. cit. p. 154.

The rate at which Elizabeth mastered her lessons began challenging Kat's level of instruction. Edward's tutors were quick to respond to Elizabeth's lively requests for assistance. The assistance to William Grindal's lessons were so successful and instructive to the future queen. By his death in 1548, Elizabeth was under Roger Ascham's assignment.<sup>16</sup> He was opinionated but not assertive, he lacked originality and creativity. His three proposed goals for his teaching were: to instill moral principles, to provide an intellectual guard against adversity, and to set an example for style.<sup>17</sup>

Elizabeth was all the time assisting the courses of the young heir to the throne. Elizabeth's Hatfield, the place where she was educated, was considered by some scholars to be a satellite of Cambridge University; in Erickson's words:

*The tight web of relatively young tutors at Cambridge, some of the sharpest minds in England, were devoted to promoting a purity of life for Tudor children through long hours of sermons, periods of private meditation, and volumes of improved reading in order that they might "fortify" themselves against the troubles of the outside world<sup>18</sup>*

Under Ascham's direction, Elizabeth was educated using the texts of Cicero, Isocrates and Sophocles. Ascham was renowned for using an educational method called "double translation." This methodology fostered Elizabeth's overwhelming command of both written and spoken Latin, beginning with the first three concordances of *De Oratore* and the Epistles of Cicero. The child is instructed to turn these works into English by logging the translation in Notebook A; the child then studies the translation until he/ she is firm in his/ her understanding of the text; the notebook is set aside for an hour (at the least) to avoid memorization (and to hinder true translation), after which time, the learner is instructed to render the English back into Latin and log the translation in Notebook B.

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<sup>16</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, England. Penguin Books,. 1991. P. 189

<sup>17</sup> Starkey, David. Elizabeth: The Struggle for the Throne. New York: HarperCollins Publishers Inc., 2000. P. 81.

<sup>18</sup> Erickson, Carolly. The First Elizabeth. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1983. p. 56.

In the last decades of Elizabeth's life, she was credited for masterfully translating Boethius' *De Consolatione Philosophiae* into perfect English in twenty four hours. A framework that was written by Boethius; a Roman scholar, Christian philosopher and statesman. His work reflected the Neoplatonic period in which the pursuit of wisdom and the love of God are described as the true sources of human happiness.<sup>19</sup> The impeccable translation is testament to her superior education and training; it is also a proof of the depth of her intellectual capacity, and her interest in the intellectual endeavors. From the observations made above on the queen's early humanistic education, it is apparent that her majesty was not making a new acquaintance in her endeavor to translate the work of Boethius. The text deals with treason, uses and abuses of the law, imprisonment, and deeply felt responses by a person of considerable intellect to the forces of fate that act upon him.

The opening passages of Book 1 of the *Consolatio* come to us in the queen's own hand. This might indicate particular interest in those lines that convey the political circumstances that precipitated the subsequent philosophical consideration of the work. The queen rarely articulated philosophical or theological ideas. We can deduce the importance of Elizabeth's education in relation to her external vision. Elizabeth's early instruction went on to form the serve her well later in her years of reign. It was up to her education that her future foreign policy would be shaped and took such a grandiose and exceptional nature in the history of the English kingdom as well as that of the whole continent.

#### **4- Succession:**

The fate of the dynastic rulers' ascendants in the 16<sup>th</sup> C was to be crowned as kings and queens. Despite several attempts by the government to remove Elizabeth by a parliament act, she was defended by her father, and her destiny was to rule over the English realm. It was

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<sup>19</sup> "Boethius, Anicius Manlius Severinus." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Student and Home Edition. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.

confirmed and came into realization in 1544 by a parliament act; she was declared third in line to the throne.

Elizabeth suffered greatly under the governance of her half-sister. This started by their coming hand in hand leading their army to regain the usurped crown by Jane Grey. After regaining the throne, Jane Grey was executed under Mary's order. In the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Kenneth O. Morgan argues that Mary triumphed because she lied to the court, by persuading the Norfolk gentry of her Tudor legitimacy, despite her father's divorce to her mother denying her succession. Moreover, Mary's reign engendered the death of 274 persons after February 1555 for their heretic protestant beliefs. The leaders of the Edwardian Protestantism era were primarily the victims of straightforward political vengeance in her reign.<sup>20</sup> Elizabeth from that on understood that she was kept alive just in order to secure the continuity of the Tudor dynasty, as well as to maintain the stability of the realm.

The peril was intensified to both sides, Elizabeth and the English protestants, because of the royal marriage of the Catholic queen Mary and the Spanish prince, Henry. Whenever the royal couple would engender an heir to the throne, Elizabeth's reason of existence would be in no need, on the other hand, it would end the Protestant's hope of recovering from the oppression under the staunch Catholic Queen Mary.

In an attempt to dethrone Mary, the Protestants led a rebellion under the leadership of Thomas Wyatt.<sup>21</sup> In this affair, the protestant Elizabeth was the only accused to fuel the war to dethrone her sister Mary. As a result, Elizabeth was imprisoned in the tower of London, after escaping execution. Then, she eventually let out of the tower and was put in a distant castle, where most of her five years under the reign of the queen Mary were passed.

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<sup>20</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989, p. 261.

<sup>21</sup> [http://departments.kings.edu/womens\\_history/elizabeth.html](http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/elizabeth.html)

It is worth mentioning that Mary made two mistakes during her reign that would even challenge Elizabeth in her future reign. The first was to permit to some 800 English Protestants to emigrate and settle in Frankfurt, Zurich, and Geneva, where they became staunch Protestants who looked back thirstfully to England. They launched a relentless crusade of anti-Catholic propaganda and subversive literature against the Catholic reign in England.<sup>22</sup> This led to the contact of the English new faith leaders with the apostles of the reformer “Martin Luther”, and led to external attacks on England. Then, by the succession of Elizabeth, the chased protestants during the reign of Marry Tudor came back home to help the Protestant ‘Deborah’, who would save them from the persecutions and the oppression they underwent under the Catholic Marian regime. This became a moral challenge for Elizabeth’s religious settlement that would be established to end the religious quarrels and feuds.

Mary’s second mistake was her Spanish marriage. This was a politically dangerous act that would by a way or another threat the position of the English throne in the continent, and weaken the sovereignty of the kingdom abroad. Mary’s marriage to Philip of Spain was one of the errors that led the country to a bloody counter-reformation against the Protestants of England. Queen Mary died in November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1558 and Elizabeth was welcomed as a queen. Mary’s reign though short in time, was barbaric; this earned her a new title, “The Bloody Mary”, after her failure to reconvert the English people’s faith into Catholicism.

By the death of Mary, Elizabeth was allowed to ease herself into her new role. Mary was buried on 14 December 1558. The date chosen for Elizabeth’s coronation was 15 January 1559, In Westminster Abbey<sup>23</sup>. The coronation process was punctuated with a series of five

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<sup>22</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989, p. 263.

<sup>23</sup> Elizabeths-coronation “[18](http://www.rmg.co.uk/explore/sea-and-ships/in-depth/elizabeth/elizabeth%27s-england/elizabeths-coronation.”</a>”</p></div><div data-bbox=)

pageants staged by various London bodies in honor of the new queen. These gathered the traditional Catholic and the new Protestant ways. Elizabeth was crowned first in Latin by a Catholic bishop. Then, parts of the service that followed were read twice – in Latin and English, a symbolic alteration to the new political and religious perspectives that will be set in the future plans, and political life under the reign of the newly crowned Elizabeth.<sup>24</sup>

Elizabeth was the new unique queen to inherit the governance; she was unmarried, neither father, nor mother, nor relatives to re-comfort and sustain her. Moreover she was seen by the royal courts and kings of Europe as bad, illegitimate, bastard and servant of crime, and a Heretic Protestant by the Catholics over the European continent.

Elizabeth had encountered the problem with her council in relation to her female rule, a phenomenon that needs to be borne in mind. According to John Foxe, women of that time were seen spiritually deficient and lacking of the capacity for political virtue. This taboo was sustained by the religious morality on the inferiority of women. This is why there was recourse to providentialism; this concept means that Elizabeth was a Godly ordained ruler which constituted a powerful means of legitimizing a female holder of the imperial crown.<sup>25</sup>

The new way of guiding and controlling the believers' mind was to be rooted in the population under the myth of the Jewish religious queen "Deborah", whose rule was providential, and ordained directly by God guiding his Israelites.<sup>26</sup> This figure took further dimensions in the English political culture and religion. This was used to contribute to the obeisance of the English people who, though differed in faith, would be kept under control. This strategy was followed from the coronation rituals in which the pageant series which were

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid,

<sup>25</sup> John Foxe, Acts and Monuments of these latter and perilous days , ed. George Townsend, 8 vols. (London, 1843-9), vol. VI, pp.568-71, esp. pp.570-1

<sup>26</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I , Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 23



presented on the day of her coronation, by the City of London to Elizabeth, coincided with a tableau in which a figure representing simultaneously Deborah and Elizabeth attended to good counsel proffered to her estate.<sup>27</sup>

The politically destabilized society that Mary left was on the eve of a religious civil war. Although Elizabeth encountered social and religious tensions that were a difficult responsibility for a woman of the time, she could defy the internal upheavals of the English society, as well as the external dalliances. Once in reign her political vision was to reassure the Englishmen, and to re-establish the credibility and the weight of the Tudor monarchy at home and abroad, in the other hand, she had to encounter the religious tension, to restore the Reformation, and to build a Church of England.<sup>28</sup>

What interested Elizabeth in the religious matter was conformity to the laws and the book of Common Prayers, and not really the Anglican Church. Her personal point of view was at the beginning purely protestant; she was convinced of the changes brought by Renaissance, Humanism, Reformation and overseas explorations, that shaped the continent of Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> C. Elizabeth by her succession planned to remedy her realm, to give up the bad, racial actions that were initiated in Bloody Mary's reign. Susan Duran writes that Elizabeth was determined "to reverse the policies of her sister and restore the fortunes of those who had suffered in the previous reign."<sup>29</sup>

Moreover, there was conflict over the new wave of religious reformation, the effects of decentralization of the church within the new growing governments over the European continent. Consequently nationalism centered the foreign policy of European kingdoms

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<sup>27</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 24

<sup>28</sup> Elizabeths-coronation "http://www.rmg.co.uk/explore/sea-and-ships/in-depth/elizabeth/elizabeth%27s-england/elizabeths-coronation."

<sup>29</sup> Duran Susan "Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, The Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. p. 41.

mainly England's foreign policy. Though England was weak by Elizabeth's succession when comparing it to the great powers of the time, there was a dynamic policy that reflected the new Elizabethan personality, her past and future vision. As A.N. McLaren asserts: "Reassessing Elizabeth's reign by attending to its dynamics thus takes us to the heart of early modern English political culture."<sup>30</sup> Elizabeth came with a new, unprecedented political project to the English society; she imposed the religious settlement that denied the papal authority over her realm<sup>31</sup>. Elizabeth restored England to Protestantism after her sister's reconversion of the state's religion into Catholicism. The Act of Supremacy was passed by Parliament and approved in 1559 that served to revive her father's antipapal statutes. She was declared the queen supreme governor of the church, while for the second Edwardian prayer book, it was officialized as an order of worship under the Act of Uniformity.<sup>32</sup>

By the Religious Settlement, Elizabeth aimed to restore the royal supremacy over the Church of England. Her foreign policy through the religious settlement was to revive Henry VIII's religious legislation; that is to re-establish her royal supremacy and to break with Rome.<sup>33</sup> The ideological, religious and political confection of the foreign affairs led by the queen Elizabeth I were the fruit of a hard work that the queen professionally crafted, and amazingly governed. A. N. McLaren writes on her foreign policy that " it seems unexceptionably to conclude that she was like her father in her reading of the relationship

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<sup>30</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I. Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 6.

<sup>31</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, England. Penguin Books. 1991, p. 189.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, Elizabeth I. Encyclopædia Britannica.

<sup>33</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989, p. 265.

between theology and monarchical authority, ...to be a Deborah ... with an eye always to expediency, or realpolitik.’’<sup>34</sup>

Elizabethan government had a great impact on her foreign policy. A. N. McLaren describes her council and those of the high court of parliament like godly messengers who must be obeyed.<sup>35</sup> Any minister of her time was highly respected. John Strype asserts that’’ [T]he minister is but the mouth of God, in whose person Christ himself is either refused or received [...] seeing all men are subject before the minister, even as himself also is subject to the words of is mouth, what power, what authority you will give unto him?’’<sup>36</sup>

Elizabeth experienced the reign of her half-brother, the king Edward, as well as the authority under her half-sister. This led her to avoid the mistakes of her predecessors. By her succession, the obstacles she encountered in her internal policy to remedy the torn English society were really decisive as they took effects on both internal and foreign policy; a co-lateral policy that would save and make the history of the English society.

## **5- Marriage:**

Elizabeth’s early harsh experience as a girl rejected by her parents for her gender, made her sensibly weak. As we have already mentioned, she was declared illegitimate by a parliament act for adultery of her mother. In addition, Sir Thomas Seymour’s affair pushed back her sexual desires as an adult being treated as an easily seduced girl. Furthermore, she knew that she was a political tool in the hands of her father’s foreign policy. All these factors made the queen’s position towards marriage exceptional, and for some a mystery all along her life .

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<sup>34</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989,. p. 31

<sup>35</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 43.

<sup>36</sup> 46 John Strype, Annals, vol. II.i, p. 404-5.

The European kings intensified their marriage vision by the 1540's towards Elizabeth, mainly after declaring her third to the throne. From that on, she was seen by the European kings as an eternal victory by integrating the English throne to their realm, and then attacking other enemies, an end that would be justified by whatever the means would be. Though the kings of Europe were great and glorious, with a belittled image on Elizabeth as a bastard, they bowed for the queen's hand for marriage, and the still she refused, the more her marriage was demanded. This was an important political tool in her foreign policy, Susan Duran advances that Elizabeth's early years were even full of political dalliance, and diplomatic games which had no chance of success, but all the suitors couldn't achieve any referential aim.<sup>37</sup>

Elizabeth was suspected from the time of her father to be married within a political well planned alliance; in Susan Duran words "Henry shown an early readiness to treat Elizabeth as a tool to further his diplomacy."<sup>38</sup>This was one of Henry VIII's strategies to ally with Spain through Elizabeth's marriage to Charles's son against France, and through his son Edward's marriage to Mary queen of Scots, he would ensure the Scottish realm.

In the preface of his book The Philosophy of History, Hegel says that "history of the world is not intelligible apart from the government of the world."<sup>39</sup> Hegel's Historicism insists that to understand any person we must integrate him within the society, and to understand that society we must understand the history of that society. In our case of study, we must look for a specific side of Elizabeth's adulthood to environmental factors to understand her vision towards marriage.

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<sup>37</sup>Duran Susan 'Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 1.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid, p. 13.

<sup>39</sup>G. W. F. Hegel, The Philosophy of History. Translated to Eng by J. Sibree, M. A. Batoche Books. Kitchener. 2001.

Susan Duran, a writer on the history of the Tudors, dedicated a work to Elizabeth's marital question entitled Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, in which she analyzed Elizabeth's experience in relation to marriage, concluding that:

*It is easy to find in Elizabeth's childhood experiences, a ready explanation for an irrational and pathological aversion to marriage, after all, her mother; Anne Boleyn was executed by her father on a charge of adultery when Elizabeth was not yet three years old, Anne's supplanter, Jane Seymour died from puerperal fever soon after giving birth to prince Edward in 1538, and in 1542 a third step mother; Catherine Howard was also executed for adultery, no wonder that soon, that these early traumas naturally led the young Elizabeth to associate sexual relation to the death, and develop a historical reaction against marriage<sup>40</sup>*

By Elizabeth's succession to the throne, the question of her marriage centered her foreign affairs both for a political alliance and for an heir to the English throne. Elizabeth was demanded to achieve success and peace by avoiding political, social as well as religious tensions within the bleeding torn English society. Any fault would affect the political and religious stability of the realm, even the neighbors' relationship abroad. This affected passively the Queen's marital situation.

Right after her succession to the throne, and along her life as a queen, Elizabeth was intended to marry several times within the hard circumstances in the English society, and the changing political scene in the continent. She had to deal with the political games of the sovereigns that aimed to rule Europe under one political and religious leader either by matrimonial links, religious beliefs, or by a power and force exertion.

Elizabeth wholly understood the game of thrones and she played her role. She expressed readiness for a future marital life. This policy was to calm down and gain one of her rivals

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<sup>40</sup>Duran Susan "Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 4.

against another. For Susan Duran “Elizabeth used matrimony simply as a diplomatic tool.”<sup>41</sup> She gained time and peace with the great powers of the time; a scene she always played successfully in her favor till the end of her reign. Allison Plowden shares Susan Duran’s argument when she writes in her book Marriage with my kingdom: the Courtship of Elizabeth, that “there existed the inexorable correlation between sexual intercourse and violent death had taken root in her [Elizabeth’s] sub-conscious decision to remain unwed either because of her implacable hostility to matrimony, or her determination to rule alone.”<sup>42</sup> We can deduce from Plowden’s arguments that Elizabeth’s preference for a single life in her adulthood may be for a political purpose, since for her, it was wiser to rule out marriage in general terms than offending individual suitors.<sup>43</sup>

From our readings, we found that Elizabethan royal court included a member that all the Queen’s subjects agree on his stature in Elizabeth’s private and emotional life. This figure was Robert Dudley.<sup>44</sup> Susan Duran sustains that Elizabeth’s spent “most of her leisure time with Dudley, hunting with him “dayly from morning tyll nyght” and showing evident delight in his company “<sup>45</sup> were signs of her secret love for him.

Rumors went further saying that Elizabeth used to visit him in his chamber day and night and used to show him so many signs of affection. The way she behaved in his presence made all the court believed that she would marry him, in Duran’s words’ “Dudley was the only man Elizabeth would wed.”<sup>46</sup> They were all the time under suspicion. Rumors spread telling about

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<sup>41</sup> Duran Susan “Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 130.

<sup>42</sup> A. Plowden, Marriage with my kingdom: the Courtship of Elizabeth (1977). p. 160

<sup>43</sup> Op. cit, p. 20.

<sup>44</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, England. Penguin Books. 1991, p. 206.

<sup>45</sup> Op. cit, p .42.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid, p. 78.

the supposed pregnancy of the queen from her lover Dudley. After the death of Dudley's wife, rumors spread on the plan of murdering his wife to marry the queen, than followed by the rumors on the nobility that would oppose if the marriage would take place.<sup>47</sup>

Though Dudley was Elizabeth's secret love, he was a danger for the queen. He was politically ambitious for the crown, pushed by personal aims once in power. Elizabeth feared any vengeance for his imprisonment, and for his father's murderers. According to K. Bartlett, it was proved that Dudley planned to sacrifice his political and religious position and connections with the Catholic Counter-reformers abroad, this was to secure Elizabeth as his wife and the crown once his plan proved successful<sup>48</sup>. Dudley's plan proved to be helped by the Spanish or the pope in Italy at the price that Catholicism would be restored once the plan would succeed. This plot urged the court to react towards the queen's question of marriage; petitions were signed as an official call from the court's members to influence the queen's decision to secure an heir to the throne.<sup>49</sup>

Elizabeth I's marital status was an important tool in the foreign affairs of 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Any marital alliance would not be welcomed by the other kings as it is a strengthening of the allied king on the account of the other powers. Elizabeth's court insisted again on her marital situation with a focal theme on the religious uniqueness of the queen and her future husband, in order to ensure the stability of the realm.<sup>50</sup>

By the middle of the 1560's, those following the Renaissance movement within the English elite, called and discussed the relative merits of Elizabeth staying single, whose interpretation in Susan Duran's words "appeal to xenophobic instincts and national pride

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<sup>47</sup> Cal. S.P. Ven. 1557, p1558; M. J. Rodriguez-Salgado and S. Adams (eds), 'The Count of Feria's dispatch to Philip II of November 1558', Camden Miscellany, 28, Camden society 4TH Series 29 (1984), p. 334.

<sup>48</sup> K. Bartlett, 'papal policy and the English Crown 1563-1565: The Bertano correspondence', The Sixteenth-Century Journal 23 (1992), p. 651.

<sup>49</sup>Duran Susan 'Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 3.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid, p. 84.

particularly the natural superiority of the Englishmen in their attitudes to marriage,[...] I pray you, what nation is there, where Matrimony is so indifferently of each, and so Godly of both kept, as England.”<sup>51</sup> On the other hand Elizabeth’s marriage was highly supported in the 1560’s and 1570’s even by artists, and diplomats like Sir Thomas Chaloner in his words addressing her:”to bestow the bonds of your modesty on a husband, ...for then a little Henry will play in the palace for us.”<sup>52</sup>, all these endeavors by the government and her subjects are summed up in Elizabeth’s words addressing the parliament in 1559:

*But now that the publick Care of governing the kingdom is laid upon me, to draw pon me also the Cares of Marriage may seem a point of inconsiderate Folly. Yea, to satisfie you, I have already joynd my self in marriage to an husband, namely, the kingdom of England. And behold the Pledge of this my wedlock and marriage with my kingdom.*<sup>53</sup>

Elizabeth would never accept a marriage with a king that would be invincible by the alliance. Even the English people would never agree because they knew that they would suffer from a civil and religious war, as it was the case in the time of the ‘Bloody Mary’. So Elizabeth learned from her half-sister’s errors and opted for the rational plan to do not marry. On the 5 June 1559, she addressed the Spanish Emperor in a vein response to marriage “we have no wish to give up solitude and our lonely life, but prefer with God’s help to abide therein of our free determination.”<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Duran Susan “Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 52.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid, p.3.

<sup>53</sup> 64 W. Camden, ‘The History of the most Renowned and Victorious Princess Elizabeth, late Queen of England (1688), p. 27.

<sup>54</sup> 5 June 1559, AGS E 650 fol 6; ‘Inquiries to be made by Mundt’, 2 June 1559 Cal S.P.For.1558-9 pp 299-300.



The European Foreign policies worsened by the 1560's and 1570's in relation to open Religious wars. In the beginning, Elizabeth encouraged an Anglo-Spanish marriage against the power of France and Scotland. However by the late 1570's, when her earlier enemies were weak, she encouraged an Anglo-French marriage against the growing power of Spain. Elizabeth's Machiavelli foreign policy was to reckon her Spanish strongest ally as her strongest enemy that must be weakened by the alliance with the feeble powers that is to support all the time the winner. This is one of features of the foreign policy led by Queen Elizabeth I within the game of thrones of that époque.

Through the queen's lived experiences we can understand her position towards marriage, a theme that was treated and discussed whenever a tension from internal or external affairs was encountered. She bore all her life a marital oppressed royal solitude, but nothing was done to end her solitude and loneliness as noted by the duke of Parma:

*“the marriage of the queen Elizabeth seems to me like weaving of Penelope, undoing every night what was done the day before and then reweaving it a new the next, advancing in these negotiations neither more nor less than has been done and undone countless times without reaching a conclusion one way or the other.”<sup>55</sup>*

For most of the historians, Elizabeth political reasons behind her solitude were rational. Susan Duran argues that the queen had no wish to link herself to any of the men who were offered to her as suitors because they can give her neither security nor political advantage.<sup>56</sup> By her solitude, Elizabeth gained her subjects' respect as well as her government appeal. Indeed, she could make the kings and princes of all Europe, regardless their marriage offers,

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<sup>55</sup>The duke of Parma, 3 October 1580, quoted in Charles Wilson “queen Elizabeth and the revolt of the Netherlands (1970),p 75.

<sup>56</sup> Duran Susan “Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, The Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 20.

and political, economic advantages, come to honor the Elizabethan court and bow in respect, and hope of being accepted as husband. S.T. Bindoff asserts that Elizabeth's fame; "rests upon three things, her longevity, her long-preserved virginity, and her political genius."<sup>57</sup> Though Queen Elizabeth was considered by the European royal families, sometimes as their ally, their enemy, and sometimes illegitimate and a bastard queen of England, she defied them all, she was really the ungovernable queen of her time. From what is said above, we can say that Elizabeth was a figure shaped by internal and mainly external forces. She was a figure which represents and embodies the spirit of her time. Elizabeth followed a rational, well thought policy in order to keep her marital situation the more demanded. Her objective was to gain more privilege and favor, to preserve peace for her nation, and to keep up the balance of power within the contending super powers in the continent.

## **6- Conclusion**

Through this chapter, we have explored the main aspects of Elizabeth's life before being uncrowned as a head above the English realm: her childhood and education, as well as the circumstances of her succession and marriage. We have shown that Elizabeth's early life served as a ground on which her life as a queen would be established and take its roots. One can conclude that the queen's early twenty five years prior to her reign, served as a fundamental home phase which played an important role in developing her foreign policy.

This influential ground, from her birth till her succession and the question of marriage, would be reflected in her internal and external policy. These events were a turning point in Elizabeth's personality and by the way had influence over her foreign policy towards the super powers of the time.

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<sup>57</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, England. Penguin Books. 1991, p. 183.



## **1- Introduction:**

History has shown us how civilizations evolve through time. All the history of the human society is a permanent succession of periods of changes. In this chapter, we will review the movements that made the 16<sup>th</sup> Century an exceptional change in Europe, namely and mainly religious reformation and overseas explorations. We will explore Elizabeth I's foreign policy under the influence of the movements that blew out the middle age and gave birth to the early modern age. We will start with a historical background, their effects on the continent mainly on the English society headed by the queen Elizabeth, and how she reacted towards the social, religious, political and maritime demands of her era.

The religious reformation and overseas explorations are the main factors which balanced the foreign power and reputation of the European nations in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century; the more kingdoms were capable of enduring and performing a suitable foreign policy towards these factors, the more they controlled the other kingdoms and territories

## **2- Religious Reformations in Europe:**

Renaissance was the watershed that separated the dark ages and the new life, Renaissance was discovered by the contacts of the European crusaders with the prosperous Muslims vast Empire. Some changes had already been rooted by the twelfth century Renaissance. There was a 'Rebirth' of the classical works and scriptures of the old time. These works were translated by the Muslims, who established some intellectual and knowledge centers in the European lands.

Within the context of the supposed twelfth and fifteenth century Renaissance, the contacts of the European merchants with the Muslims' great cities led to defy the Catholic Pope's authority over the spirits of the subjects. Moreover, new ideas inserted the subject's ability to

read and interpret the holy books as the Pope himself did. Many practices that the Pope called for and proclaimed under the divine guidance and order were proved to be false.

The sixteenth century saw not only Renaissance as a cultural movement, Renaissance Europe was the trunk that held the different movements, the case of Humanism that led to a radical new vision, and new trend in the political culture that would influence the royal reign. Humanism was part of the Renaissance intellectual movement that dealt with the life's stances and the secular matters of the individual's life. It was a movement known mainly for its social dimension. It called for reason, ethics, and social justice.

Intellectuals did not reject Christianity as a religion, but the excessive authority of the Popes on the secular matters of life. This was the subtle shift that took place in the way that intellectuals approached religion. This constituted fertile scene helped the Christian intellectuals to follow and interpret consciously this new religion of Protestantism. It was up to this time that the Christian theology progressed, and new concepts and notions reflecting the new wave of thinking that called to reform the ideas towards the practice of religion, and would attribute new values to the religious spirit in the subjects' faith.

Many Greek works were brought from Byzantium to Western Europe, including the Greek New Testament. It led the Western scholars to engage for the first time with Greek Christian works, particularly to return to the original Greek New Testament promoted by the humanist Lorenzo Valla and Erasmus. They would help pave the way for the Protestant Reformation. Some of the Renaissance's greatest works were devoted to the Christian faith and encouraged it. This led to the patronization of many works of Renaissance art by the Church itself.

By the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> C, the west of the Roman Empire became the first authority in the occidental world. Rome recovered its authority and this time not under her armed forces and oppression, but by another powerful tool which is faith and beliefs under the prestige of

the mother Catholic Church of the western sphere. This tool was dangerously effective that made even kings, and princes over the continent bow to the Pope in Italy; any decision, governance policy consultation, title or kingship rituals must be blessed by the divine and Godly ordained proper hands of the Pope in Italy.

Kings used to send fines and taxes to Rome. Moreover, any declared wars and crusades by the Pope must be financed and equipped by all the kings of Europe against any considered intruder, or against one of the same catholic league's members. In a word, the Pope's authority was the authority of God over his creatures that have not to be opposed and refuted on earth.

By the rebirth of the antique works, a new trend of Religious Reformation movement started to impose some reforms against the divine political institution. The ideas aimed to end the heretical practices of the divine ruler, the Supreme Pope in Italy. The opposition had grown up within the same Catholic Church, led by the theologians, Popes, and religious men that served once a time the old religious regime. In England, the early reformers called for the early church teachings, they were staunch supporters of the English monarchy.<sup>1</sup>

The Religious Reformation movement was not safe from the Catholic believers. All the political Catholic institutions raised arms against those leaders' interpretations. A. N. McLaren, in his work the Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, says that "more seriously the danger of political disturbance over religion could be seen all over Europe."<sup>2</sup> And as a response to the reformation movement, there were a Catholic Revival or The Counter-Reformation. It is the counter-action to nearly everything produced by early Protestants of the era, as well as the Papal prophesies against the newly interpretations of the leaders' heretical movement.

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher, Hill. The Pelican Economic History of Britain . vol. 2, 1530-1780, 1980. P. 36

<sup>2</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 92

The Counter-Reformation shadowed the Protestant Reformation. The Catholic reformation was a set of major alterations, interpretations of the principals that the old faith stood on. The Counter Reformation was a reaction which aimed to resist the new wave of Religious Reformation. It was led by conservative powers; their aim was to reform the church and to secure the traditions against the Protestant interpretations, and the liberalizing effects of Renaissance.<sup>3</sup>

The Religious Reformation movement was a reaction and an up rise against the medieval theology. This movement was against the growing economic and political power of the Church over the kingship, as well as all the other values that the society stood for., in The Oxford Companion to English Literature, Margaret Drabble defined the movement as “the great religious movement of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, aiming to reform the doctrines and practices of the Church of Rome, and ending in the establishment of the various Reformed or Protestant churches of central and north-western Europe”<sup>4</sup>

The church had already confronted these revolutionary ideas. The major confrontations are known as ‘The Great Schism’ in the 10<sup>th</sup> C, as well as the Schism of 1378 to 1417. Between the rival popes of Rome and Avignon in France, later on, even a third pope on the headship and location of the mother church of Catholicism. The greatest of the Christian schisms was that involving the Protestant Reformation and the division from Rome.<sup>5</sup>

The Reformation movement also opposed the representation order in the Great Chain of Human Being. A. N. McLaren states that “Reformation ideology carried a universal promise: of a new relationship between God and man that would redeem every individual – man and

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<sup>3</sup> counter-reformation “<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/society/counter-reformation.html>”

<sup>4</sup> Margaret Drabble. The Oxford Companion To English Literature. Oxford University Press Inc. New York. 2000, p. 243

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. schism, Encyclopædia Britannica.

woman, high and low”<sup>6</sup>, a new religious vision that was sustained by the great leaders of the time as Martin Luther.

Luther is known for his Ninety-Five thesis. His propositions debated the question of indulgences and the acts of forgiveness that the Popes granted either in a total or a partial indulgence to the sinners. These ideas emerged by the time of edifying the St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City in Italy. Luther questioned the church wealth, and considered it as a tyrant that must be financed otherwise whole kingdoms would be punished by the Popes' army. Much money was spent on the Pope's comfort, and all Catholic Churches were full of expensive things brought from all the kingdoms' corners.

Martin Luther imposed the church's superstitions. He opposed too the paintings of the relics. By his time, most of the religious men were found drunk, using the public gathered money for religious sake. Luther's thesis too imposed the sexual intercourses between the nuns and the monks who both swore and vowed Chastity. He also encouraged the interpreted versions of the Bible into all the vernacular languages so that people would interpret religion for themselves; they should be also able to hear the God's words, and that it is up to them to decide, not the Pope, if and how they should believe in God. The developed printing techniques made the copies rapidly circulated in Germany, creating a religious crisis believed to be the first in nature in the western Christian world. This event came to be considered the beginning of the Protestant Reformation

One of the movement's pillars who reversed the political and religious realm of the superpowers of Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> C was 'John Calvin', a theologian and ecclesiastical statesman. He was one of the leading French Protestant Reformer, and he was the most important figure in the second generation of the Protestant Reformation. The Calvinist form

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<sup>6</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, Cambridge university press, 2004, p. 1



of Protestantism is widely thought to have had a major impact on the shape of the modern world.<sup>7</sup> Calvinism influenced negatively the political and religious policies towards the minorities that followed the movement because, in a short time, it became dangerously diverting the public opinion<sup>8</sup>. Calvinists influence and tensions bothered the ruling classes who opposed the new way of worshipping. In Susan Duran words “The Calvinists were the trouble-makers of Europe”<sup>9</sup>

Jan Hus was one of the earlier Czech precursors of the Religious Reformation in the continent. His work is considered as a transition between the medieval and the Reformation period. He was embroiled in the bitter controversy of the Western Schism of 1378 to 1417 for his entire career, and by the end, he was accused of heresy at the Council of Constance and burned at the stake.<sup>10</sup>

John Wycliffe, is another medieval leader who addressed aspects in the life of the church in the centuries before 1517. He criticized the popes’ practices and led the movement against the popular superstitions. He called for the total and complete imitation of the life of Christ as a model, and as a supreme moral teacher. The politico-ecclesiastical theories that Wycliffe developed required from the church to give up its worldly possessions as a political institution. Then in 1378, Wycliffe began an open systematic attack on the beliefs and practices of the church<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid. Calvin, John, Encyclopædia Britannica.

<sup>8</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, England. Penguin Books. 1991, p. 225.

<sup>9</sup> Susan Duran Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 89.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Hus, Jan. Encyclopædia Britannica.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Wycliffe, John. Encyclopædia Britannica.

### 3- The Religious Reformation in England:

England was the first kingdom to impose officially the Pope in Italy, and encourage Protestantism. The succession of the named 'Deborah' would save the movement and the believers after being chased by the reign of the queen, 'Bloody Marry'. Elizabeth initiated the Religious Settlement declaring herself the Supreme Governor of the English church.<sup>12</sup>

In England the establishment of the Anglican Church was at the hands of the king, Henry VIII who broke from the mother church of Italy. As John Cannon and Anne Hargreaves write in their book The Kings and Queens of Britain: "The traditional of his [Henry VIII] reign saw a great strengthening of the crown, the Papacy routed, clergy cowed, nobility brought to heel, administration reformed, the wealth of the monasteries acquired."<sup>13</sup> This was made and assured officially under some successful parliament acts.

The Anglican Reformation became one of the most powerful motor of the Tudor domestic and foreign policy.<sup>14</sup> This led to the rise of nationalism and patriotism, as Christopher Hill puts it "The patriotic aspects of the Reformation must have struck contemporaries far more forcibly than any doctrinal change. The king became in theory as well as in practice head of church and state: the concept of national sovereignty arose as an incident of foreign policy."<sup>15</sup> For Christopher Hill, English Reformation must be seen against this background as an assertion of English nationalism, and a refusal of an outside authority.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> A. N. McLaren. Political Culture in the Reign of Elizabeth I, Cambridge university press, 2004, pp. 29-31

<sup>13</sup> John. Cannon, Anne. Hargreaves. The Kings and Queens of Britain. Oxford University Press Inc, New York. 2001. P. 260

<sup>14</sup> Kenneth O. Morgan, the Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989, p .266.

<sup>15</sup> Christopher, Hill. The Pelican Economic History of Britain. vol. 2, 1530-178. Reformation to Industrial Revolution, Great Britain, 1980. P. 34-35.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 25.

#### **4- The Elizabethan Religious Settlement:**

By the succession of the Virgin Queen, a new policy was launched by her government which was known under the name of the 'Religious Settlement', an act that made the historical policy of her father Henry VIII revived once again. Elizabeth shared the political and religious emphasis on the independence of the English realm from the foreign control, Christopher Hill commented on the Religious Settlement saying that they "nationalized the church of which all the Englishmen were members, it prohibited any appeal outside England, and forbade any foreigner to intervene in the English affairs on pretext of religion."<sup>17</sup>

Therefore, Elizabethan Religious Settlement was the queen's reaction to control the religious conflicts in England, and recover the bleeding realm; an intervention within the well understood Political Theology she mastered thanks to her education. Her policy consisted in the intervention of the state in the beliefs of her subjects in order to ensure the stability of the realm on the basis of religion. This event has been described by historians as the Revolution of 1559. The newly crowned queen was forced to accept the title of Supreme Governor of the Church of England rather than the more contentious title of Supreme Head, while the Act of Uniformity of 1559 outlined what form the English Church should take, including the re-establishment of the Book of Common Prayer.

Once Elizabeth uncrowned, the chased Protestants came back home in a hope of establishing radical reforms to the Anglican Church, after being reconverted to Catholicism by the 'Bloody Mary'. The radicalized English Protestants who took the purely new form of religion from the apostles of 'Luther' and 'Calvin', constituted a moral obstacle to Elizabeth's religious settlements. Her home policy towards the religious conflicts was not welcomed by these radicalized Protestants, who were deceived by the declared Religious Reforms. Thus

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<sup>17</sup> Christopher, Hill. The Pelican Economic History of Britain. vol. 2, 1530-178. Reformation to Industrial Revolution, Great Britain, 1980. P. 35-36

they opposed the 'Book of Common Prayer' and some of the directives of the 'Religious Settlements' of 1559. This radical group called for a purer life assimilated to that of the early times of Christ. It led the foundation of the 'Puritanism Movement' in England, despite the queen's endeavor to protect Protestantism in the European continent, the Puritans didn't approve it, they called for a purer life based on the service of the almighty God, they were against using religion for a specific political aims. The puritans would influence the foreign policy of the Queen Elizabeth, either towards her neighbors and English overseas explorations.

One should note that this newly formed group of Puritans was not against the Religious Settlement for the same reasons the Catholics refuted Elizabeth's policy. The Catholics imposed the Religious Settlement on the basis of heresy of the new wave of Protestants, while this indoctrinated Puritan group hoped for more radical establishment towards the heretical Catholics. This did not went ahead with the queen's Religious Settlement who mediated between the two extremists. For this reason, the Puritans gathered to form a movement that is neither Catholic as an old faith, nor Protestant against the heretical practices of the Catholics, but it was a call for a purer faith inspired from Christ modal of life.

Concerning the external affairs, the Catholics over the continent opposed Elizabeth's religious settlement that imposed the pope's authority over the English realm. Patrick, Collinson argues that "English Catholics, the Papacy, Spain, and France were the natural enemies of the settlement; the real danger was the threat of a Catholic league against England."<sup>18</sup> Foreign policies in Europe were damaged by the ravages of the Religious Reformation influence, governments were undertaking a radical evolution that would alter the older relationships between the kingdoms, and would alter the political, economic, cultural and social life of the individuals. As a result of the destabilization of the balance of power in

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<sup>18</sup> Kenneth O, Morgan. The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain. Oxford New York, Oxford University Press. 1989. P .266

the foreign affairs; new positions and features emerged in the religious and political scene; they would fuse and shape a radically a new balance of power;

*The church had long been a source of power, patronage and wealth to rulers of major powers like France and Spain. Those governments which broke with Rome in the early sixteenth century were on the fringes of Catholic civilization, secondary powers whose rulers had not been strong enough to drive so hard a bargain with the Papacy-like England, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and Scotland. An American historian has called the Act of supremacy of 1534 'Henry VIII's declaration of independence.'<sup>19</sup>*

Elizabeth sought a Protestant solution that would not offend Catholics too greatly while addressing the desires of English Protestants. Consequently, the parliament of 1559 started to set rules for a new church based on the respect of the others's beliefs. The Queen restored Anglicanism as the state religion, instead; she still believed that faith was a personal matter and should not be dictated by the crown.<sup>20</sup>

With the new Act of Supremacy, public officials had to swear an oath of loyalty to the monarch as the supreme governor, or risk disqualification from the office, new Act of Uniformity was passed, which made attendance at church and the use of an adapted version of the 1552 Book of Common Prayer compulsory.

Understanding the political foreign policies games, gave Elizabeth I the ability to detect, manipulate and win by the end of the game. That's why she could deal with the most intensive period of disturbance, and most tensional political theology the Christian world ever experienced. The policy of by Elizabeth in the 1570's led to the execution of more than seven hundred Catholics in the North, this resulted from her appeasing policy towards the plot of

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<sup>19</sup> Christopher, Hill. The Pelican Economic History of Britain , vol. 2, 1530-1780, Great Britain, 1980. P. 34

<sup>20</sup> european-history-16th-century-queen-elizabeth/'' <http://www.education.com/study-help/article/european-history-16th-century-queen-elizabeth/#Back To Study Help Overview> “

dethroning her in favor of Mary Queen of Scots; an act by which the pretext was afforded to the Pope, Pius V, in Italy to excommunicate her<sup>21</sup>, the Pope launched prophesies that the queen is heretic and the one who can depose, or kill her will be forgiven from all his sins, and promised paradise by the almighty God.

The state was taking control of the new movements that would enlighten the population. Moreover, this Protestants' movement created unprecedented religious conflicts within the Christian world, wars that would enhance the disagreement and hater within the same community. Reformation was one of the key events that marked the era, and to contribute in the shapng of the Elizabethan Foreign policy.

The foreign policy led by the Queen, from the Religious Reformation movement angle, was to support and finance the rebellions wherever they were found. Elizabeth I opted for an indirect intervention in the religious dramatic effects that weakened the kingdoms' foreign power in favor of an English foreign dominance. This policy will be explained in the next chapter that examines the Queen's wars in the continent.

## **5- The Age of Exploration in Europe :**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Century had known some exceptional foreign affairs. The diplomatic relations were the product of the balance of power that took new aspects from the West to the Far East of the ancient world. The fall of the Mongol's Empire, the growing power of the Muslims at the expense of the Byzantium Empire, were factors that meant the fall of the protector of the European merchants to the Eastern Asian market, where these latter used to satisfy their needs. The Europeans contacted first with the Arab merchants, then with the original sellers to the Arabs, or the middle men, from the southern and eastern populations of the Asian continent.

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<sup>21</sup> John. Cannon, Anne. Hargreaves, The Kings and Queens of Britain. Oxford University Press Inc, New York. 2001. P. 271

The Muslim's extending foreign policy severed the relations with the European merchants after the fall of the Byzantium and Mongol Empires. The two Empires were under tribal bloody conflicts; this situation bothered trading conditions over their territories. The European merchants were forced to look for other peaceful routes leading to the Far East, since the land routes leading from Europe to Southern Asia were under the mercy of the Ottoman Empire. This situation led the European kings to venture in financing private companies to explore the seas seeking to replace the old challenged land ways to the Far East.

Another factor, that shaped the foreign policies of the Europeans towards the overseas explorations, was that the kings of the time wanted to destroy the growing force of the Ottoman Empire. They tried to attack from different parts the vast Empire, so many were the southern voyages that were undertaken by the kingly financed assaults to weaken the still growing Empire. Though the assaults proved to be failed, but the southern circumnavigation paced forward the geographical explorations of the overseas.

The kings of Portugal, Spain, and England were thirsty and eager to strengthen their power and to extend their frontiers to gain more territories. They encouraged the adventurers to look for other ways reaching the Far East markets, meanwhile seeking for a way to attack the Ottoman Empire. This royal vision found a response from the growing and numerous adventurers who experienced the seas and promised Far East sea ways finding.

It was a race for the leaders to finance heavily the companies that circumnavigated the coasts of Africa and Asia. Most historians often refer to this era by "the Age of Discovery", or "the Age of Explorations". The Portuguese companies and the Spanish early navigators were the pioneers who explored the seas in a long-distance maritime travels. There are several reasons behind the implication of the super powers in the process of the geographical explorations.

## 6- English Naval Force and Overseas Colonies

By the reign of the Tudors, there were some geographical discoveries that marked the history of the nation. The event that marked the year of 1497 was when John Cabot discovered Newfoundland, and then his son, Sebastian, made another attempt to find the Northwest Passage in 1509.<sup>22</sup> Sir Hugh Willoughby took three ships and navigated Northeast Passage looking to find a new sea route reaching the Far East. He circumnavigated the coasts of China, Philippines, and East Indies. When the fleet came back, it was only one ship that succeeded to reach the Archangel. It was headed by the captain Richard Chancellor. while In the 1570's, Sir Martin Frobisher attempted to find a way to the Far East. Blown by the wind, he landed in Greenland, and by his way north west, he could reach Canada.

John Davies was another explorer who circumnavigated the Atlantic Ocean in 1585-87. He made three more voyages to discover the land of Greenland. He intended to explore the Northwestern sphere for a non-discovered land or passages beyond the ocean, and the discovered lands by the early explorers of the sphere.

Sir Francis Drake was the sailor who amazed the queen by his adventures, S.T. Bindoff in his work, Tudor England, commented that “she was also mightily pleased with Drake. She summoned him to court, spent hours listening to his stories of the voyage.”<sup>23</sup> Drake marked the history of England's navigational explorations; from 1577 till 1580, he circumnavigated the globe, passing from the newly discovered lands of America, then the Ocean of Atlanta. He reached the Philippines and southern Asia, and then moved to the southern east of Africa. Through the Cape of Good Hope, he traced his paths home. He lost most of his ships and men.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/361/361-19.htm>

<sup>23</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 251



Francis Drake was one of the precursors of the English overseas traders. He initiated slave trade; a phenomenon that came hand in hand with the geographical discoveries. Most traders and privateering companies sustained the commerce, seeing the population of the discovered lands mainly in Africa as a mere goods to be sold. The Africans were transported to America by the adventurers and later on the companies to work in the Plantations. Then American land owners by their turn sell the fruits of the slave hard work in terms of agricultural products to the adventurers and the companies. The latter transported the products to their kingdoms in Europe to sell them, and the adventurers bought the European products in terms of clothes and arms to sell them in Africa again in order to load their ships with slaves to America. This process was known the Triadic Transatlantic Slavery Trade.

Slave Trade in England was held by these adventurers of the overseas explorations, Drake initiated the activity that became a company and then an institution protected by laws. S.T. Bindoff commented on Drake's role stating that the "starting-point of his schemes was the provision of negro slave-labor from West Africa to the West Indies."<sup>24</sup> Slave trade was a response to the increased demand of the colonies settlers for a working class to maintain the supplies for the European market.

The English settlements remarkably increased during the reign of the Virgin queen. By the 1580's, the English maritime forces, the companies, the Privatized Pirates as well as the Elizabethan navy to recovered from the weakness of the 1560's. The politico-navigational aims were initiated by the early Tudors and intensified by the Elizabethan reign.

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<sup>24</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England.The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 252

Frobisher, a Yorkshireman, spent fifteen years in fruitless endeavors to raise an expedition to accomplish his objectives of exploring the sea for the Far East.<sup>25</sup> He was one of the early English navigators who tried to find a way leading to the Far East along with Sir Humphrey Gilbert. They tried to find together a colony in the Newfoundland in 1583, but historians argued that their ship was lost on its return from the voyage. Sir Humphrey Gilbert's step-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh decided to try again to find a colony south Roanoke Island (now in North Carolina).<sup>26</sup>

## 7- English Naval Force

Though the age of geographical discoveries started early in Europe, its effects in England were mainly felt during the reign of queen Elizabeth I. It was up to this period that the adventurers and the pirates of yesterday, in the English Channel, became the queen's supporters. They would afford her security in the troubled times of the foreign contending policies towards the queen's Island. Elizabeth I made her kingdom anti-pirates to stop piracy., in the other hand, she strengthened and fitted the weakness of the British naval army.

Elizabeth's policy consisted of allying all the scattered Dutch pirates over the English Sea Channel<sup>27</sup>. The latter were to choose either to ally to the English naval force to gain English titles and flag, and at the same time accept the control of the English government or they will be considered as law breakers who must be punished severely. Elizabeth reinforced laws against the Pirates exercises in the English Channel, as well as on those who helped the

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<sup>25</sup> This article is an excerpt from volume I of *Our Country*, published in the late 1800's, this series chronicles American history from the viking explorations in the 10<sup>th</sup> C through the French and Indian wars. " [http://www.publicbookshelf.com/public\\_html/Our\\_Country\\_Vol\\_1/whoismar\\_cj.html](http://www.publicbookshelf.com/public_html/Our_Country_Vol_1/whoismar_cj.html)"

<sup>26</sup> Sommerville. "http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/ /361/361-19.htm"

<sup>27</sup> S.T. Bindoff. *Tudor England. The Pelican History of England*, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 251

Pirates. This led to the insertion of these ‘sea beggars’ into the English naval force, like Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins.

The Elizabethan policy towards these Pirates was the creation and strengthening of the fleets of the Privateers. The latter were gathered into formal and official companies that would obey the English queen, obey when ordered and stop when denied. The privateers shared the gains which were gathered in the sea with the crown. They would engage in the wars that the queen would declare. The ocean’s pirates of yesterday were gathered, governed, and would be used to reach the English interest as the purely English naval force was used for the national cause.

On the counterpart, the government would afford official protection, as well as the English governmental title for their exercised activities. Privateering was authorized by national authorities, a legitimate form of war-like activity by non-state actors. Privateering was considered commerce raiding<sup>28</sup>, and these Privateering companies were highly known for their naval force. They controlled all the naval routes from the continent to Africa as well as from the newly discovered lands of America to Europe Mainly after they gained official and governmental reputation. A privateer or corsair used to act while in possession of a commission or letter of marque from a government or monarch authorizing the capture of merchant ships belonging to an enemy nation. The letter of marque was recognized by international convention and meant that a privateer could not technically be charged with piracy while attacking the targets named in his commission.<sup>29</sup>

The Privateers were used to fulfill the Elizabethan foreign policy. They assumed harsh actions towards the treasures loaded Spanish ships that circumnavigated the Atlantic Ocean.

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<sup>28</sup> Piracy ”<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy> ”

<sup>29</sup> Piracy. “ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy> ”

Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins were the pioneers to follow the Elizabethan Privateering policy. They used to interrupt and compete with the Spanish naval force mainly in the 1580's; in S.T. Bindoff words "That was the point at which the toreros of Tudor England prodded the Spanish Bull."<sup>30</sup>

By the time of Elizabeth, trade flourished in the Southern part of the continent. The European Mediterranean countries used to trade with the Muslim Turks Empire. There were those who crossed the Empire till the Mongol and the Chinese Empire, trading with the oriental products that gave new flavor to the European mode of consumption. As for the English Far East trade, it was by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> C that the trade companies were granted by Queen Elizabeth to trade with the Far East.

Trade during the reign of Elizabeth was based on trading mainly with the European continent in the early years, but in the next decades of Elizabethan reign, there was an adoption of a policy aimed to extend trade with the Northern Africa through 'the Barbary Company' in 1585, with the Ottoman Turk Empire through the 'Levant Company' created in 1592, then with East India by promoting the East India Company in 1600. This system of companies promoted the economic and commerce dominance of the English products over the rest of the world.

Elizabeth's foreign policy was largely defensive.<sup>31</sup> She responded pacifically to the troubles that were left by her predecessor's wars in the continent. Her policy was imposed by the lived circumstances of the foreign and internal tensions of her army because of the low and poor economic conditions. This situation resulted from the continental wars failure during

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<sup>30</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 251

<sup>31</sup> Elizabeth I of Englnd. " [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_I\\_of\\_England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_I_of_England) "

her predecessors, mainly the naval force that still demanded a rapid and heavy materials, weapons, and ships. Since England is an island, the first army to reinforce was the naval one.

A civil, and religious war was launched in France by the beginning of the 1560's, assistance was afforded by Elizabeth to secure the recovery of the port of Calais<sup>32</sup> whenever the Huguenots would win the civil war, a geo-strategic port that faces the island of England and stood for the national security. The exception in Elizabeth's defensive policy was the English occupation of Le Havre from October 1562 till June 1563. Some historians criticized her policy, judging it as a bad one that England's foreign policy ever known, because it was the only period that England loose and became a country with out colonies accept Ireland. Her intervention in France ended in failure when Elizabeth allied with the Huguenots.

The reign of the queen Elizabeth was a great age of English discovery and overseas exploration; an expansionist policy that led eventually to the foundation of the future British Empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, in the other hand this led also to major conflicts with the European expansionist powers in the overseas colonies.

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<sup>32</sup> The Port of Calais was lost during the wars undertaken by the Bloody Mary against the French; Elizabeth was obliged to sign the treaty that ended last English overseas colonies in 1559.

## 8- Conclusion

Through out this chapter, we have analyzed the movements and wave of events that altered dramatically the European foreign policies during the 16<sup>th</sup> C. We have attempted to prove that the English foreign policy was only Queen Elizabeth's reaction and response to the led movements in the European continent.

These transformational and revolutionary movements were raised against the old middle aged institutions. Though these movements started in a specific corner of the European continent, they spread all over the kingdoms, altering their modal of life mainly the social, cultural, religious as well as the Geographical territorial expansionism, and contributing highly in the shape of the feign policies of the kingdoms, mainly England.

The Religious Reformation as well as the Over Seas Explorations were the main criterion that shaped and balanced the relations between England and the rest of her neighbors, Elizabeth proved to be one of the ideal monarchs that reflected the 16<sup>th</sup> C movements, she is seen by modern historians as a good Renaissance monarch.

## **1- Introduction**

This chapter deals with the relations Elizabeth I maintained with the superpowers of the time, and how she managed to solve the inevitable militarily confrontations of the English army. In other words how Elizabeth I's strong personality culminated in a victorious policy towards the neighboring kingdoms.

We will shed light on Elizabeth's foreign policy towards Scotland, France, Spain, and Ireland, and how these relationships are interrelated and affect each other. We will try to explain how all the militarily interventions and the open wars led by the 'Victoriana' succeeded and culminated in the queen's victory over the Spanish Armada that the oceans never held, yet, it is worth to present first the main features of her foreign policy.

## **2- The main principles of Elizabeth's foreign policy:**

To study the major guide lines of Elizabeth foreign policy, one should explore first the internal and home events which shaped this great personality, then the external factors that were imposed by the European movements, mainly the age of explorations and the Religious Reformation in the shape of the early modern times societies, governments and foreign policies. One of the major concepts that reigned the foreign policies of the European superpowers in the 16<sup>th</sup> C was the Balance of Power.

The Balance of Power theory is the idea that national security is enhanced when military forces are distributed between the nations, so that no one nation is strong enough to dominate all others. If one state gains inordinate power, the theory predicts that it will take advantage of its strength and attack weaker neighbors. Therefore it is up to the threatened nations to gather

in a defensive coalition to avoid any external attack from the strong nation. When analyzing Elizabeth's foreign policy, we find that she mirrored this theory all along her reign.

We can say that Elizabeth Machiavelli foreign policy consisted of an indirect intervention through the nutrition of the rebel minorities in each kingdom's corner of her enemies. This policy aimed to weaken the king's power and control over their realm, and by the same token, they will never invest in a harmful foreign policy against their neighbors. She avoided any open war with her neighbors, and aimed to keep the regularity of the balance of power the more stable it is, the more the wars are kept away and avoided.

From the study of the Spanish relationship with the Elizabethan England, we conclude that this policy can be divided into two chronological periods. First Elizabeth took profit from the quest of Philip II for a marriage union of the two kingdoms. Being sure of Philip's protection abroad, she established the religious settlement at home, and took profit from his influence and prestige, as her future husband, to compete with the power of France and Scotland in encouraging the religious tensions within these kingdoms.

After Elizabeth succeeded in launching the political and religious tensions against the French and the Scottish, and ensuring these two powers' weakness, she played the same game of marriage towards the other kings mainly the French. She wanted to ally with France, Scotland and the Netherlands in order to make an end to the Spanish influence over the continent. The English interventions in Ireland were held within the wider wary foreign policy against the Spanish influence in the continent. This would reverse the European diplomatic relations. Active Machiavellic foreign policies were undertaken by both sides towards the sovereignty over the European continent, and by extension the colonies of the new discovered world of America.



Elizabeth did not only neutralize the Scottish and the French, but she could defeat the great Spanish Armada. She was the queen that counter balanced the European powers; she succeeded to play them one against another and defeat the last superpower of Spain in order to remain the head of her kingdom, above the monarchs of Europe, and the sovereign of the Oceans, in other words, the glorious and the ungovernable monarch of her time.

### **3- Relations with Ireland**

Elizabeth I foreign policy towards the Scottish was a culmination of her predecessor's foreign policy. She aimed to take control of the Scottish kingdom for two reasons. The first was to secure the back of the English empire from any northern invasion, the second was that of expansionism and sovereignty of the English over the Scots. To deal with the Anglo-Scottish diplomatic relations, it is better to start with the wary political relations that reigned between the two kingdoms.

The Anglo-Scottish wary relations were a series of successive wars fought between England and Scotland during the 16th century. Most of the relations between England and Scotland were stories of heroic wars from the first settlers. After the Wars of Independence, England and Scotland had fought several times during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. In most cases, each country had attempted to take advantage of the weakness, or the instability of the other. By the time of the Tudors, Henry VII kept a peaceful diplomatic relation between the two kingdoms as a political solution to the Anglo-Scottish conflicts that ended with bloody open wars between the two nations. Henry VII of England proposed his elder daughter 'Margaret' to marry the king of Scotland, James IV, as he did with his other descendants in making their marriage a purely political affair.

The most important figure that made the history of the Tudor dynasty, was Henry VIII.<sup>1</sup> His policy towards the Anglo-Scottish conflicts was primarily based on weakening the external and foreign powers that used to supply the Scottish army against England. Those military supporters who used to help the Scottish were also direct enemies that the English often enter within open wars, mainly the French, the Irish and the Spanish.

After the end of the declared war by James IV, Peaceful relations were restored between England and Scotland; and a new trend in the Anglo-Scottish relations was initiated at least between 1514 till 1523, the time of the succession of the little son under the name of James V. When the king came to an age of eleven, he was crowned under the title of James V of Scotland. One of the most important changes in the foreign affairs towards the English monarchy is that the latter would renew the Scottish old Alliance with France. He would restart the wars between the two nations over the borders. The king now was at his full control of the realm, and would take profit of any opportunity to launch the war against the old enemy, England.

The first action for James V's foreign policy was to marry Mary of Guise, this led to the tensions between England and Scotland to increase once again. Henry had already broken with the Roman Catholic Church, whereas James held to Rome and gave authority to powerful prelates. As a result, this led to the Battle of Solway Moss in 1541 in which James died. Once again, Scotland's monarch was an infant; Mary Queen of Scots. Henry VIII made a pressure on the divided Scotland into an alliance to secure the marriage of Mary to his son; in Paul E.J. Hammer's words: "the accession of Mary also offered Henry an utterly unexpected and unique opportunity to solve England's problems with Scotland permanently, by marrying

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<sup>1</sup> Jocelyn Hunt. The Renaissance. Published by Routledge London and New York. London. 2005. p. 40.

the infant queen to his young son Edward.”<sup>2</sup> But this end was not reached, thus Henry reacted in 1544 in devastating throughout southern Scotland as a means of inducing a radical change. It was a symbolic and historical victory that confirmed the English military strength over the Scottish forces. The divided Scottish groups allied to face one enemy, this union led to the victory at the Battle of Ancrum Moor which temporarily halted English attacks and supremacy over the Scottish army.

When Henry died in 1547, Edward’s uncle Duke of Somerset assumed responsibility, It He renewed the attempt to enforce an alliance of Mary with the king Edward, as Henry VIII wished<sup>3</sup> and impose an Anglican Reformation on Scotland. He won a great victory at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, but it was not an event that would prevent the alliance of Scotland with France. Mary was married to France, to the Dauphin Francis. Without lasting peace, Somerset's regime could not stand the expense of the war. He was overthrown and eventually executed.

For the later part of the 16th century, peace was ensured by the 1580’s and on, on the probability that James VI of Scotland, who was raised as a Protestant would become King of England too on the death of the queen Elizabeth. He well behaved in the conduct of his internal conflicts, as well as in the confection of his foreign policy mainly towards the English, as David Mc Dowall confirms;

*He rebuilt the authority of the Scottish Crown after the disasters which had happened to his mother, grandfather an great grandfather, he brought the Catholic*

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<sup>2</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. *Elizabeth’ s Wars, 1544, 1604* . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 14

<sup>3</sup> Kenneth O, Morgan. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*. Oxford New York , Oxford University Press. 1989. P .257

*and the Protestant nobles and also the Kirk more or less under royal control. These were the successes of an extremely clever diplomat.<sup>4</sup>*

By the coming of the Elizabethan era, the Scottish conflict was less sharp than her early predecessors. For Elizabeth, it was a matter of diplomacy rather than open wars. The question of Scotland was a question of martial foreign support that used to be afforded by the French army, an alliance that endangered the stability of the English realm. The most threatening issue of the time was the invasion of England by the alliance of the Scots and the French because both of them believed in their unique objective in the English throne.

The old alliance of the French and the Scottish led to the marriage union of the two royal families of the French and the Scottish. By the death of Francis I, Mary was still regarded at the beginning as the heiress of the French throne. Moreover, regarding her ancestral origins, she had a right to the English throne, and at the same time she was the Queen of Scots. This led to the belief and assistance from the Catholics over the continent that it was their duty to sustain their Catholic heiress to the three thrones, and by the way stand against the considered heretic Queen of England, Elizabeth I.

France knew some troubled times in the 1550's leading the nation into a civil and religious war between the Catholics and the Protestants on the French soil. For Elizabeth I, the idea of a foreign attack from the staunch Catholics of French and Scottish kingdoms was looming far. Elizabeth I's foreign policy aimed to eradicate the presence of the French on the Scot's land. She was persuaded to send an army into Scotland to help the Protestant rebels. Moreover, she introduced the fiery Protestant preacher, John Knox as an Anti-Catholic and anti-French leader. A tension soon erupted by the Pro-Catholic and French alliance; Knox and

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<sup>4</sup> David Mc Dowall. An Illustrated History of Britain. British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. China. P78

the Protestant rebels declared that they established the "Great Council" of Scotland, and that they set about a thorough reformation of the Scottish Church as well as the creation of parliament. They elected to end papal jurisdiction and to abolish the Mass.<sup>5</sup>

The resulting Treaty of Edinburgh of July 1560 removed the French threat in the north. In February 1560, Elizabeth signed the Treaty of Berwick with the Scottish nobles to oppose the French. By the next March, she sent troops and for the first time in history, Englishmen and Scotsmen fought side by side rather than against one another.<sup>6</sup> Mary of Guise died in June 1560, a fact that followed soon by the treaty of Edinburgh (July 1560). The latter led to the full withdrawal of the French troops from the kingdom.

Mary was rejected by the French court, considering her a cursed wife that brought malediction to her husband, who died after some months from his marriage. After a nearly one year of his death, she came back to Scotland in 1561 to take up the reins of power, but once in Scotland, she found the kingdom had an established Protestant church and was run by a council of Protestant nobles supported by Elizabeth. The queen couldn't accept, so she started regaining her authority over her realm, but the way she managed was not at the nobles' waited reaction.

Though Mary had accepted the Protestant coup in exchange of being recognized as the ruler and being allowed the private exercise of her faith, she wanted to restore the Old Catholic system, and at the same time, kept a close eye on the circumstances that surrounded the English throne. Mary's marriage took place in July 1565 to Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley. The marriage was the first of a series of errors of judgment by Mary that handed the victory to the Scottish Protestants and Elizabeth. Though the marriage was soon blessed with a son,

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<sup>5</sup> <http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/123/123%20255%20elizabeth%20%20scotland.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/123/123%20255%20elizabeth%20%20scotland.htm>

James, but all the other aspects of the union failed. Darnley conspired with the Protestant lords to murder the Catholic Rizzio (March 1566). This act led to Darnley's quick unpopularity in Scotland for presiding over the murder of Mary's Italian secretary David Rizzio. This situation led Queen Mary to react negatively by conspiring against her own husband and killing him in February 1567.

The next error that Mary committed was her immediate marriage with the chief conspirator of her husband, James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell in 15 May 1567. By Mary's marriage, suspicions were raised confirming her implicitly in the death of her own husband. Elizabeth wrote to her:

*How could a worse choice be made for your honor than in such haste to marry such a subject, who besides other and notorious lacks, public fame has charged with the murder of your late husband, besides the touching of yourself also in some part, though we trust in that behalf falsely.<sup>7</sup>*

These events led a group of Scottish nobles - known as the "Confederate Lords", to free Mary from Bothwell, at Carberry (June 1567), but Mary's feeble force was dissolved and she was captured. These events led rapidly to Mary's defeat and imprisonment in Loch Leven Castle. The Scottish lords forced her for a long time to abdicate her throne in favor of her son James. She could gather an army to retake her throne, but the army she rallied on was soon defeated, and Mary fled in panic into England on 15 May 1568.

When the queen Mary arrived to England, she was received by Elizabeth, but at the political scale, her arrival posed a horrible political problem for Elizabeth. According to Susan Duran, Mary's presence in England intensified the question of Mary's succession, and

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<sup>7</sup> Letter to Mary, Queen of Scots, 23 June 1567." Quoted by Loades, 69–70.

destabilized political life in the kingdom.<sup>8</sup> Marry was a staunch Catholic candidate of Elizabeth over the reign of the English realm. At the beginning, the queen was advised by her court to execute Mary in fear of any plot of assassination or any political coup.<sup>9</sup> Yet, the question of Mary became a snare in the English foreign policy that other kings might take profit of. Mary's presence in England was a real danger because she was the central task of Catholic hopes to overturn Elizabeth's Protestant regime.<sup>10</sup> This is why Elizabeth opted for the restoration of her follower to the crown and keep a close eye on her rather than risk returning her either to Scottish or the French Catholics.

In 1569 there was a major Catholic rising in the North; a rebellion in order to free Mary, marrying her to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and then uncrowning her as the head of the English kingdom. Howard was imprisoned after the failure of the Rebellion, but this did not prevent Howard from taking part in the Ridolfi Plot (1570).<sup>11</sup> But unfortunately for the rebels, they were defeated because Elizabeth was at the head of their extermination. She was influenced by the movements that took place in the continent mainly Machiavellianism, a movement that resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of Catholics; man, woman, old and child. This movement also on Elizabeth's orders took the souls of more than 750 of Protestant rebels, who were against the reign of the queen Elizabeth; they called for the Marian reign.

This event led the Pope Pius V to issue a bull and an act in 1570, titled 'Regnans in Excelsis' that declared Elizabeth, the pretended Queen of England and the servant of crime, a heretic that must be excommunicated. Moreover, the consequences of this bull were to be applied on all the subjects that swore allegiance and service to the pretended queen of

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<sup>8</sup> Duran Susan 'Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, p. 103.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.* p. 133

<sup>10</sup> <http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/123/123%20255%20elizabeth%20&%20scotland.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 86

England. Even later on, the papal bull provoked legislative initiatives that took form of parliamentary bills. This led many Protestants to suffer from execution, engendering a cult of martyrdom in the sake of their faith and religion.<sup>12</sup>

Mary was beheaded one week after the failure of the Ridolfi plan, on 8 February 1587 at Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire.<sup>13</sup> Though Elizabeth claimed not to have ordered it, all the Monarchical documents and resources of the time prove that the order was signed by her own hand, and that it was her secretary Davidson who brought her the warrant to be signed. The sincerity of Elizabeth's remorse, and her motives for telling Davidson not to execute the warrant has been called into question both by her contemporaries and later historians.

In Scotland, right after the proclamation of the kingship of James VI in 29 July 1567, at an age of thirteen months; this tender age necessitated a regency, and it was the first Earl of Moray who was the nearest to the little king to take the regency, this former was the illegitimate son of James V. He was a well educated, clever person, and a convinced Protestant, but his firm rule ended when he was assassinated in January 1570. This event led to a civil war that broke out within the population, a hard and difficult situation that pushed Elizabeth to send English troops to support the Protestants groups, because any Catholic dominance over the kingdom would endanger the situation of the Elizabethan England.

England and Scotland were effectively close allies from the 1580s onwards. James opted for the best political technique that David Mc Dowall asserts that the king knew that a

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<sup>12</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 84.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. p. 84



Catholic alliance between Spain and France might lead to an invasion of England, so understood that he had to remain friendly with them too, he managed to face both of them, while remaining publically the protestant ally of England.<sup>14</sup> James aimed the succession to the English throne on hereditary principles, he formed a secret association with Robert Cecil - Elizabeth's principal minister, and when Elizabeth died in 1603, Robert Cecil and other members of the Privy Council ensured that his succession was not disputed.

### **Relations with France:**

In order to study the Anglo-French diplomatic relations, we will provide a historical background to the relations between these countries. From the earlier settlers that followed William the Conqueror's conquest, many were the bloody conflicts that resulted from the conflicting royal and noble families over the conquered island of England. This is only a pretty watered-down and basic description of this rivalry, but these two nations, the English and the French have fought many, and William's conquest of England was the starting point for many of those wars.

The Anglo-French wars were a series of permanent and constant wars fought between the two kingdoms. They took place mainly during the reign of the king Henry VIII. His wars according to most historians were the open Anglo-French War of 1510 till 1513, also known as the War of the Holy League; a war in which England joined the Pope, several Italian states, Swiss cantons and Spain against France. King Henry VIII of England won a favorable peace from France after winning the Battle of the Spurs on August 16, 1513. The rest of the Holy League continued fighting France until the Pope Julius II's death, which led to the dissolution of the League.

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<sup>14</sup> David Mc Dowall. An Illustrated History of Britain. British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. China. P 78

There was another war that was led between 1521 and 1526; a war in which Henry VIII joined the Hapsburgs, the French protestant minority that demanded religious freedom. The war proved both unpopular in England and financially expensive. The war started again by the last years of the Henrician reign, the open war was declared between the two kingdoms in 1542 till 1546, in which Henry VIII once again joined the Hapsburg Empire in a war against France. This war was initiated after the secret negotiations of the king of Spain and England to attack the French by the end of the 1542, because for Henry VIII, the time that preceded the war against France was held to continue the open declared war against the Scottish.<sup>15</sup>

Then, by the 1549 till 1550, another open Anglo-French War was declared by the French King Henry II, mainly for political and foreign demands. The war was declared on the pretext of retaking the port of Boulogne, a strategic sea port which fell into the hands of the English during the last war of 1542 till 1546. The port of Boulogne was freed after the bloody wars that were held in 1550. This war was a reaction from the French king towards the led Anglo-Scottish policy, because at time, Somerset was obsessed by the Henry VIII's plan to unite the Scottish under the English emblem<sup>16</sup>, as Kenneth O, Morgan comments;

*When Somerset continued to threaten Scotland, Henry II of France declared war on England, Boulogne was blockaded; French forces in Scotland were strengthened. The Scots then agreed that Mary should eventually marry the Dauphin, heir to the French throne. That provision hammered the last nail into Somerset's coffin.<sup>17</sup>*

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<sup>15</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. *Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604*. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 12

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. P. 42

<sup>17</sup> Kenneth O, Morgan. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*. Oxford New York , Oxford University Press. 1989. P .257

By the reign of the queen Mary Tudor, there was another Anglo-French War from 1557 to 1560, a war in which England was drawn into a war alliance with Spain against France. This was the first in the series of the errors that were committed by the queen Mary. This act was very unpopular because it led directly to an open war with the French people; a war in which England lost her possession of Calais on the French mainland.

When Queen Elizabeth assumed the English, her foreign policy was dictated by the religious, political and economic disagreement that would make England and Spain bitter enemies. Elizabeth's foreign policy aimed to keep the balance of power, and to stop the growing of the Spanish influence. Her policy consisted of strengthening the Anglo-French relations that were though bad during the reign of Henry VIII, Edward, and Marry, but Elizabeth vision was the opposition.

The French presence in the continent was all the time a barrier to the followed foreign policy of the queen Elizabeth. It was like a permanent thorn in Elizabeth's side, because by the beginning of her reign, Calais was lost as the last major English territory, it served as a defensive band against the foreign continental attacks on the English Island. As a result of the territory's loss, this protective and band of security became a front line of the French army and forces towards the English.

Elizabeth's succession coincided with the issue of the French involvement in the treatment of Mary Stuart's cause. The success of the Franco-Scottish negotiations led to the marriage of the king Francis with Mary, queen of Scots; this would proclaim Mary already queen of Scotland, the queen of England by inheritance, and the queen of France too by the marriage of both the king and queen of both realms.

This situation of allying nations against the realm of the Gloriana was a real danger to the stability of England. By the 1560's England was so weak and vulnerable to any foreign attacks. Though England was in such a feeble situation, but the other superpowers were too busy of their internal conflicts and could never invest in a colonial company. They couldn't direct their arms against England, because the latter were directed against their ruled populations. Meanwhile Elizabeth counter action of this marriage alliance was the strengthening of the discussions about an Anglo-Spanish marriage alliance.

Mary's mother, Mary of Guise, was the regent of Scotland in Mary's absence in the kingdom. This former faced considerable opposition to her regency from the Protestant lords of the land. The French kingdom also knew a religious war that did not allow them to invest the royal resources into an invasion of England. It experienced a troubled time during the reign of Elizabeth, though in 1559 it seemed that France was on the verge of rivaling Spain as the dominant power but, the rest of the whole second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> C was the division of the whole nation.

Once Mary was home in Scotland, after her husband death, she started an indirect counter-Reformation policy, and declared that she was the rightful heir to the English throne. She received support from France; a political vision that made Mary as a tool and instrument by which the three kingdoms would be unified under one king and queen, one rule and law<sup>18</sup>. But in the Elizabethan political vision, this also was an alliance that would proclaim the cession of the English kingship, and the starting of the French dominance over the English court, internal and foreign affairs.

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<sup>18</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003, p . 54

When the French announced their policy to help Mary Queen of Scots in her policy, they aimed to make an end to the revolt of the Protestants Lords of the Congregation, Elizabeth without waiting for any other incident, or rather than waiting for more French troops to land in Scotland. She sent troops into Scotland and forced the French forces at Leith to negotiate a settlement. In the Treaty of Edinburgh (July 6<sup>th</sup> 1560), it was agreed that all the English and French troops would withdraw from Scotland, and that Mary Stuart would renounce her use of the coat of arms against the English, as well as the title of England or whatever the title would be.<sup>19</sup>

By the end of the alliance between France and Scotland, Elizabeth turned against Spain, all the 1570's was a decay in which the Anglo-Spanish relations started to deteriorate, at the same time re-enforcing the English relations with the Scottish and the French after being weakened by the internal religious conflicts. Moreover she afforded militarily help against the Catholics in those kingdoms. From 1562 and on, the French enveloped in the Wars of Religion, this led to lesser pressure on the English as France had too many internal problems to deal with.

At this time, Elizabeth's political proven proficiency, in addition to the support of her Privy Council, used the turmoil in France to reassert an English presence there as the queen's ancestors did. In particular, Elizabeth wanted to reclaim Calais, but it was an unsuccessful venture as the various factions in France joined forces to repel a common enemy.

The French "wars of religion" plagued the country in the last half of the sixteenth century; the conflict resulted in a brutal massacre of the Huguenots in 1572, the Massacre of St Bartholomew's Eve<sup>20</sup>. It was said that six thousand or more men, women, and children, were butchered to death on the streets of Paris until the roads ran with their blood. This act of

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<sup>19</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 61-62

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. P. 106

brutality sent shock waves throughout Europe and Queen Elizabeth canceled negotiations for the hand of King Charles's brother, Francis, Duke of Alençon.<sup>21</sup>

To develop the newfound friendship between England and France<sup>22</sup>, it was agreed to end the French support of the queen Mary's right to the English throne, as well as the French military help against the English. Elizabeth began negotiations to marry the Duke of Alençon, though this came to nothing. It was not until 1578 that France was once again in a position to help the Dutch rebels when the Duke of Anjou agreed to send French troops to the Netherlands. To ensure that Anjou kept to his word, Elizabeth offered him her hand in marriage. This provoked furious reactions among certain sections of the English society, which in themselves provoked Elizabeth into vicious reprisals.

Although there was an internal opposition of the population and the intellectual class within the two countries, but both of them fostered the way to an alliance that would protect them from the might of the Spanish influence and dominance over the continent, The negotiations were again and again made for the only sake of Francis's hand to be accepted as a husband to the Virgin queen. When he became next in line to the French throne following the death of his brother Charles, who was followed by the accession of Henri III, the marriage became even more appealing. But for political reasons, the marriage never went ahead.

One area that Elizabeth and Cecil tried to exploit was to use the French against the Spanish in the Netherlands. This opportunity came when Catherine withdrew the French support for Mary Stuart, thus helping too Elizabeth with the 'Scottish problem'. By being freer of issues north of the border, Elizabeth and her advisors could concentrate more of their time on the pressing issue of what was happening in the Netherlands – the major issue being

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<sup>21</sup> Duran Susan "Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003, P. 137-138

<sup>22</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 108

that the Duke of Alva, who was just thirty miles across the English Channel with 50,000 soldiers at a time when relations between London and Madrid were deteriorating

France experienced more trouble with the death of Henri III. Francis was dead having fever, and there was no direct heir. Henri of Navarre was recognized by many to be the rightful King, but what bothered the French Catholics was that Henry of Navarre was a Protestant. French Catholics in the other hand set up a counter King, and it was only by becoming a Catholic, deeming "Paris to be worth a mass", that Henri was finally accepted as King Henri IV of France.

By the weakness that embodied the foreign military help of the English after the Anglo-Spanish wars, the French Protestant king Henry IV submitted to the Catholic's conditions that were his reconversion to the Old Catholic faith, so that his reign over the French realm would be guaranteed in 1589. Elizabeth in the other hand wanted to gain his confidence and ensure a good relation with the new uncrowned king. A new diplomatic policy would delay any misunderstanding or any historical old hate between the two king's courts and population.

However, there was some logic in what Elizabeth planned which the public probably did not realize. Philip of Spain was becoming increasingly more powerful, and Elizabeth believed that only by combining the power of France and England could this Spanish threat be countered. The prospective marriage between Elizabeth and Anjou never took place but Elizabeth still offered Anjou support for his expedition into the Netherlands. She was convinced that it is a French duty to stop Spain and not England, S.T. Bindoff writes: "she [Elizabeth I] held, should be the task of Spanish's great Continental rival, France, and she would cheerfully have fought Spain to the last drop of the French blood."<sup>23</sup> Anjou's campaign

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<sup>23</sup> S.T. Bindoff. Tudor England. The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 263

was a failure, but the developments in Anglo-French relations since 1558 showed the hostility that existed at the end of Mary's reign had ended.

These circumstances strengthened the position held by the Elizabethan government, that was to help and nurture the rebellions of the minorities and the sects against their kings and princes, in the other hand, the queen could play and turn her enemies one against another in battles the queen was the only winner and the highly safer, a policy by which she avoided open wars with her neighbors and at the same time weakening their force and control over their realm through the financial and material losses.

### **Relations with Spain:**

Through out the reign of the Tudor dynasty, different foreign policies were led towards the Spanish kingdom. By the succession of Henry VII who led an isolationist foreign policy, he wanted to secure peace with the neighboring nations. He followed a policy that consisted of marrying his descendents with the royal families of the other powerful nations. In order to secure peace with Spain, he married his Son Arthur, than later on the tenth years Henry with Catherine of Aragon; one of the nearest relatives of the Spanish king, Charles V.

Henry VIII had grandiose imperial ambitions. He made from Spain an ally to destroy the French to gain more territories in the continent. His daughter Mary united completely the English realm under the Spanish authority by her royal marriage to the king Philip. Though these precedents differed in the intensity of their foreign policy towards Spain, but we noted that the core diplomatic vision was to ally with Spain in order to secure England's foreign policy in the continent.



Elizabeth had more in common with her grandfather than her father. She revised her Grand Father's foreign policy with the demands of her time. She was very sensitive to the European situation. When we came through the study of the foreign policies led by the Tudor kings towards the Spanish, we found that Elizabeth was the only monarch who reversed the policy of her precedents Tudor monarchs.

With the rise of militant Calvinism in Europe, it took further dimension in the political sphere of the continent. They were according to Susan Duran the trouble makers of Europe.<sup>24</sup> In the other hand, the fire of the Catholic Reformation was at its height. This situation increased too the transformations at the level of political sphere that reigned the foreign policies over the continent. England by this time was secure in herself; most of the nations were not in a revolutionary situation, because any of them could afford neither militarily nor financial expenditure to lead a colonial company one against another.

The first of the king suitors of Elizabeth was the majesty of the Spanish king, Philip II, both courts of the kingdoms hoped for such a marriage that would unite the two realms. For the Spanish king; it will be an action within the followed expansionist foreign policy to gain more power and territories in the continent. Whereas at the English side; it will be an act and a measure of security from any Franco-Scottish alliance against the weak inherited kingdom of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth did delay her marriage response in order to gain more time, to avoid any future surprise, and to gain more favor within the royal courts of Europe. Following the Elizabethan religious settlement by her succession, it was only Philip's influence in the Catholic League in Italy that delayed Elizabeth from being excommunicated from the Catholic Church in 1559.

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<sup>24</sup>Duran Susan 'Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. P. 89.

This was followed by the Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis between England, Spain and France which ended the wars between the three nations.<sup>25</sup> A treaty that dictated the sacrifice of Calais in the side of the English, for this, it was a port that gained important financial resources, useful in controlling the Strait of Dover, through which Spanish shipping can be controlled when passing to the Netherlands, and the French to Scotland.

Elizabeth's policy in helping the Protestants minorities over the continent to rebel against their sovereign, bothered greatly the king Philip II. The latter was outraged by the intervention of Elizabeth in the French Religious Wars to help the Heretic Huguenots faction; In addition to the afforded military help of the queen towards the rise of the Scottish Protestant Lords, who rose against the regent of the Scottish queen in her absence. All these interventions in the favor of the factions that supported the heretic ideas only damaged the Anglo-Spanish relations.

The Spanish tried to press the queen Elizabeth to step back her policy towards the religious conflicts in the continents. Cardinal Granvelle, Philip II's regent in the Netherlands, provoked a brisk trade war in 1563-4; a trade war for the spread Protestant ideas in the Netherlands through the English merchants. He claimed that Elizabeth and her government sponsored the merchants to spread the new wave of heretic ideas of Protestantism. Granvelle imposed the goods (cloths) imported from the English merchants. Elizabeth reacted by banning the import of Dutch goods into England. The new state of trade affairs was mutually damaging to the point that things were restored to their former state in 1564.

Things turned worse for the Spanish in the Netherlands; by the late 1560's a civil war broke out against the Spanish rule led by Granvelle and Philip. The war took further

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<sup>25</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P, 55.

dimensions and the regent couldn't control the situation. This led Philip to send a great army under the control of the Duke of Alva to resolve the situation. By the army first affects on the situation, there were a developed reaction from the neighbors towards the presence of the Spanish army in the Netherlands. Both France and England were shaken by the event, fearing any extension by the army to their territories. The staunch Catholics called even for a more generalization of the company in order to eradicate Protestantism wherever these Heretical ideas are found.

The policy led by the Spanish in the Netherlands reflected thier policy towards the supporters of the new wave of the heretical ideas. This militarily counter-reformation destabilized the balance of power and challenged the old foreign policy sphere over the continent. A trend of a new alliances and new radical foreign policies were undertaken. Elizabeth fostered a new foreign policy to maintain the balance of power in Europe. Step by step Elizabeth encouraged the triadic alliance of England, France, Scotland, and at the same time severed the relations with the Spanish.<sup>26</sup>

The major event that did declare the new trend of European foreign policy occurred in 1567-8. It was known as the Affair of the Spanish Bullion; Elizabeth seized five Spanish ships leading their way to the Netherlands with the equivalent of £85,000 in gold bullion, in order to pay the Spanish Army already established its basis in the Netherlands<sup>27</sup>. Historians argue that this action was the response of the English towards what happened to Drake at San Juan de Ulua.

He was attacked by the Spanish after receiving them friendly. Through this act, Elizabeth intended to revolt the Spanish army against their masters and destabilize their financial and

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<sup>26</sup> Duran Susan 'Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. P. 155.

<sup>27</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 82;

provisionary aids. Regarding this act as an act of an enemy; the Duke of Alva led in December of 1567 a policy that seized all the English merchants in the Netherlands, and made an end to the commerce and trade between the two nations.<sup>28</sup>

Though endeavors from both sides to avoid an open war between the two nations, the relations went worse in the following years of the Elizabethan reign. Both parties started to prepare themselves for an open war. The Ridolfi Plot was aimed to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her by Mary, Queen of Scots; this plot was shared and encouraged by the Spanish. In addition to the Spanish ambassador in England Don Guerau de Spes who offered support to the Revolt of the Northern Earls by the 1570's, an act that was extremely damaging to the Anglo-Spanish relations.

All the two early decades of Elizabeth's reign saw a considerable call from the religious minorities for English intervention. Either in the side of the French Huguenots or the Dutch rebels so that the realm's security might be better served. Though the queen was reluctant, mainly for her foreign policy principles that dictated the non-intervention in the others' conflicts, mainly when success is not ensured of, that is to avoid any open warlike situation, Elizabeth did intervene in those conflicts by her court advisors pressure to ensure the interests of the English throne.

In the 1570s, the created naval force of the privatized companies navigated into the Netherlands and fought the Spanish. Even before this successful attack, she prepared several similar attacks before 1585, the instance of the Spanish Fury of 1576. Elizabeth's seriousness in holding the situation in the Netherlands was approved in 1585, when she signed the Treaty

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<sup>28</sup> Duran Susan "Monarchy & Matrimony, the Courtships of Elizabeth I, published in the Taylor & Francis e-library, 2003. P. 102.

of Nonsuch with the Dutch rebels, pledging 7000 troops and monetary support. The treaty was a reaction from Elizabeth for Philip's treaty with the French Catholics in Joinville; France, an act he promised help for the French Catholics, The treaty of Nonsuch's decisions and promises were the last straw for Philip's enterprise of England.

Elizabeth's foreign policy towards the Spanish before 1585 was carefully shaped<sup>29</sup>. Though she simultaneously sent ships to raid on the Spanish ports at their home, she was prudent in keeping the military resources available for the defense of her realm. Although there was a strong call for additional troops and money for the rebellion in the Netherlands, as well as for the religious wars in France, but she refused to send more troops following the initial 7000 promised at Nonsuch. In the Netherlands, her troops focused their forces in denying the Spanish from the access to any port which they could use to launch a raid against England.

To sum up the causes of the Anglo-Spanish open war, Philip longed for a long time to restore the Catholic faith in England. By the 1570's and on, English pirates used to steal the Spanish trade and possessions; this gave Philip II further provocation. The Treaty of Nonsuch (1585) by which England undertook to support the Dutch rebels against Spanish rule, as well as the English naval offences towards the Spanish fleets and ports, the Spanish king convinced that a direct invasion of England was necessary.<sup>30</sup>

Elizabeth's amazing naval exploits contributed to her legendary and mythical personality. When the war with the Spanish was inevitable, Elizabeth gathered home her forces to secure her realm; as a defensive strategy, she allowed Drake to attack the Spanish ports<sup>31</sup>, mainly

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<sup>29</sup>Paul E.J. Hammer. *Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604*. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 115-117

<sup>30</sup>"**Armada.**" Encyclopædia Britannica. *Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Student and Home Edition*. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.

<sup>31</sup>S.T. Bindoff. *Tudor England*. The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 269

Cadiz Harbor, in which the naval force of Philip was concentrated in a preparation to raid on the English ports.

The Elizabethan naval force is one of the reasons behind the Anglo-Spanish wars in the 1580's and on, we deduced from our readings on this issue, that the English naval power was one of the major achievements that England ever dreamed of, it became the myth of the oceans, the cyclone of the Spanish fleets and ports, it destroyed and scattered the Spanish fleets whenever and wherever these two superpowers are to encounter. Sir Francis Drake led the major voyage against the Spanish ports and ships; he navigated to the Caribbean in the new found land of America in 1585 and 1586<sup>32</sup>, as well as to the ports in the home land of Spain destroying the fleet of war ships intended for the *Enterprise of England*:

*" The Anglo-Spanish War broke out in 1585. In August, England joined the Eighty Years' War on the side of the Dutch Protestant United Provinces, who had declared their independence from Spain. Drake sailed for the West Indies and sacked Santo Domingo, captured Cartagena de Indias, and St. Augustine in Florida. Early in October the English landed in Galicia and sacked Vigo and Bayona. "*<sup>33</sup>

From there on, Philip II had decided to go ahead with the war against England.

On 12 July 1588, the Spanish Armada constituted of a great number of war ships, were to set sail for the English channel, it was planned to pile the army till the Netherlands in order to join the forces of the Duke of Parma that still on the coasts of the Netherlands. Once the two armies are unified, the Great Armada would set assail to reach the southern East of England.<sup>34</sup>

The sailed Spanish Armada didn't meet with the naval force of the Duke of Parma that left the Netherlands port six days later; a defect strategy that would prove decisively

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<sup>32</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 131

<sup>33</sup> Anglo-Spanish War (1585–1604) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.htm

<sup>34</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003..P. 148

disastrous at the side of the Spanish. The English waited till the midnight and launched an attack on the well organized and lined Spanish ships on August 7–8. The English scattered the Spanish fleets, by launching eight fired ships that were moved by the strong winds of that night forcing the Spanish ships to cut or slip their cables (thus losing their anchors) in order to escape fire, they found themselves away from the fleet, facing either the English canons or the rocky coast after being driven by the wind.

A decisive battle ensured the victory of the English over the Spanish who escaped home around the northern tip of Scotland. Moreover, the English fleet turned back after being refitted to follow behind the Spanish fleet. The long voyage home proved fatal to many of the Spanish ships. Either from battle damage, or bad weather, shortage of food and water, or navigational errors, a considerable number of ships foundered in the open sea, while the others were driven unto the west coast of Ireland and wrecked. Only 60 ships are known to have reached Spain, many of them too badly damaged to be repaired.

The Earl of Leicester, as a commander upon the English naval forces, invited Elizabeth to inspect her troops in Essex on 8 August. She wore a silver breastplate over a white velvet dress; she addressed the soldiers in one of her most famous speeches:

*My loving people, we have been persuaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit ourself to armed multitudes for fear of treachery; but I assure you, I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people ... I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a King of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any Prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm.<sup>35</sup>*

The defeat of the Grand Armada was welcomed in England with a national thanksgiving service. A victory for both the protestant England and for the newly entitled queen ‘the GLORIANA Elizabeth’, this victory was hold as a symbol of God's favored protestant nation,

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<sup>35</sup> Somerset, Anne *Elizabeth I.* (1st Anchor Books ed.), London: Anchor Books, 2003. P. 297-98

and the inviolability of the Godly kingdom under a virgin queen. This defeat not only saved England from a catholic invasion, but also the Dutch Republic from a total extinction.

In the coming years of the 1590's there were some led counter-Armada from the Spanish to regain their prestige and honor, most of them were met with dismal failure. The sack of the port of Cadiz in 1596 was a spectacular achievement for the Spanish. The major Armadas of 1596, 1597 and 1599 were scattered by strong winds rather than English sea power.

Elizabeth and Philip interests were to meet again in the 1590's to exert their pressure on the Religious Wars in France, by the assassination of the king Henry III, Henry of Navarre had to impose his succession among the Catholic population. Elizabeth sent him 20,000 troops and £300,000 in the early of 1590s in his battles against the Catholic League which included Philip II. By the end, he accepted to reconvert to Catholicism to be accepted as a monarch over the French kingdom. But his Catholicism didn't hinder his collaboration with Elizabeth against the king Philip and the Spanish interests in France. The Anglo-Spanish wars were officially ended by the death of both its protagonists; Philip in 1598 and Elizabeth in 1603.

### **Relations with Ireland:**

England's foreign policy towards the Irish in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century was one of the most important issues in the continent. It was mostly known under the king Henry VIII and culminated by the foreign policy led by his daughter the queen Elizabeth I by the end of the century. Though there was an opposition from the land owners, the English were the victorious to incorporate the two realms into one unique kingdom ruled by the Tudors.

When dealing with the social background of the Irish society, history afford us the different settlers who populated the island. The first huge migration to the land was by the



Anglo-Norman barons, followed by the common population settlement on the behalf of the natives and land owners, the Gaelic. The latter populated the mountains and some southern counties that came to be known under the name of Pale. They maintained their own language, culture, law and social system opposing by this the newly introduced fashions by mainly the English major population.

Beyond the Pale, there was the central government authority of Dublin. The arrived settlers took for themselves vast lands, established their proper jurisdiction. As time went on, the English government lacked interests and control over the territories, as a result the territories controlled by those settled lords and common people achieved a high degree of independence from their central government. They organized themselves and known under The Butlers, Fitzgeralds and Burkes. They raised their own armed forces, imposed their own law, and adopted Gaelic-Irish language and culture.<sup>36</sup>

All the Northern part of the island was occupied by the English government<sup>37</sup>, but during the wars undertook by the English throne against the monarchs of Europe, this part of the Irish island was totally ignored. The resurgent Gaelic Irish took profit and annexed the lands. Among the most important clans that the realm incorporated were the O'Neills (Uí Néill) in central Ulster, the West by the O'Donnells, the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in County Wicklow, the Kavanaghs in County Wexford, the MacCarthys and O'Sullivans in County Cork and County Kerry and the Ó Briain lordship of Thomond in County Clare.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> "Ireland." *Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Student and Home Edition*. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.

<sup>37</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. *Elizabeth' s Wars, 1544, 1604* . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P . 70

<sup>38</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tudor\\_conquest\\_of\\_Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tudor_conquest_of_Ireland)

The famous Tudor conquest of the island of Ireland took place under the reign of the king Henry VIII. He declared himself King of Ireland in 1541<sup>39</sup>. He was also declared officially by the statute of the Irish parliament as the king over the Irish realm. By the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the English monarchs delegated the authority of the island to the most powerful dynasty of the Hiberno-Norman dynasties (the Fitzgeralds of Kildare) in order to keep the coasts and the land under the English order and authority.

The Kildare Fitzgeralds abused by scheming against the Henrician authority mainly after the Religious Reformation that the king Henry VIII initiated. The Kildare Fitzgeralds as a staunch catholic leader, made some secret links with the English Catholics, as well as the catholic mother church in Italy, in order to include the Irish realm under the authority of the Holy Catholic League. This plot was ended by the execution of the leader Silken Thomas Fitzgerald. The religious transformations were really a problem between the two divided nations; the Irish wanted to keep their Catholicism, whereas Henry VIII imposed the Religious Reformation under codified laws and bills.

Now that the ruling family in Ireland was exterminated for their treason of the English throne, the king had to find a dynasty that would protect the Pale and guarantee the safety of England's vulnerable western coasts from foreign invasions. Henry had replaced the Fitzgeralds dynasty with a policy called Surrender and Regrant; it consisted of confiscating and surrendering all the lands owned by the nobles to the English authorities, and they will be brought back and regrant to the landowners by royal charters. This policy was a response of Tudor king in 1541 to the statute passed by the Irish parliament. Kenneth O, Morgan writes that the Tudor Irish policy have started "with Henry VIII's decision that all laws made in

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<sup>39</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 70.

England were automatically to apply to Ireland, and that the Irish Parliament would only legislate with the king of England's prior consent.''<sup>40</sup>

Henry VIII intended to reinforce the loyalty of the Gaelic Irish population, he granted English titles for the first time admitted to the Irish parliament. He even granted earldom of Tyrone for the Ui Neill dynasty in 1542, that would replace the exertion of influence on the Irish realm; as the Fitzgeralds used to do in serving the English throne before their power abuse. Henry's Religious Reformation, despite being refused by the Irish, his Lord Deputy, Anthony St Leger, was largely able to buy off opposition by granting the lands that were confiscated from the monasteries to the Irish nobles.

By the death of the king Henry VIII, many deputies succeeded the authority over Ireland. Most of them faced the same faith of incapacity to solve the problems of the realm. a chain of successive rebellions followed one another by the 1550's, during the reign of the queen Mary Tudor. The clans used to fight each time, although the English laws were imposed on the Irish population, but these wary clans didn't respect them. Moreover the English authorities were interfered with these tribal wars.<sup>41</sup>

By the reign of the queen Elizabeth I, in addition to her early intervention in the Netherland and the Scottish Protestant cause in the early 1560s, she attempted to interfere in a succession dispute within the O'Neill clan to solve their problems, but she couldn't<sup>42</sup>. The Irish lordships were taking the arms in the private wars against each other; they ignored the government in Dublin and its laws. Two examples of these wars are the Battle of Affane in 1565, fought between the Ormonde and Desmond dynasties. The Battle of Farsetmore in 1567

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<sup>40</sup> Kenneth O, Morgan. The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain. Oxford New York , Oxford University Press. 1989. P.253

<sup>41</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth' s Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 72

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. P. 74-76

fought between the O'Donnells and O'Neills, as well as different other intertribal and clans wars between the populations of all the four coins of the Irish realm.

To conclude on the nature of the revolts, we can say that in addition to the intertribal wars of the Irish clans, the major revolt that was purely against the Elizabethan English influence over the religious and the secular matters of the Irish life was that of the 1560s, 1570s, and 1580s, when the Fitzgeralds of Desmond launched the Desmond Rebellions to prevent direct English influence into their territory. This war is reported to have resulted in dramatic consequences on both sides, a revolt that was ceased by the assassination of the Earl of Desmond in 1583.

In a quest to explain the main reasons behind the successive rebellions that dogged the central government in Ireland, we can deduce to two main causes; the first is up to the aggressive acts of the English administrators and soldiers who disregarded the costumes and the local Irish laws. Moreover, the soldiers killed local chiefs and lords.<sup>43</sup> It was up to the confiscation of the lands from the native owners who by their turn rose against this kind of treatment.

The second cause of the violence was that the laws, costumes and traditions of the Irish did not go ahead with the English imposed laws and modal of life, mainly the system of succession that the English wanted to impose. This law of succession and inheritance forced the English to take sides in the violent disputes within Irish lordships. Finally, the Irish naturally opposed the English presence and authority over their realm.

From the succession of Elizabeth, there was a strong English foreign policy that aimed to pacify the population and civilize them according to the mode of the English society, because

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<sup>43</sup>Paul E.J. Hammer. Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604 . PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 71

in her early years of succession, it was believed that the military interventions and force exertion on the population would be successful, Elizabeth initiated the martial laws which allowed execution without trial. But this policy did simply antagonised the native chieftains.

The Elizabethan policy aimed to come up with more long-term solutions to pacify and Anglicise Ireland. She initiated the composition; the policy of the queen that consisted of abolishing the private armed forces and the provinces that were occupied by the English troops under the command of governors, titled Lords President. In return, the pre-eminent clans and lords were exempted from taxation and had their entitlements to rents from subordinate families and their tenants put on a statutory basis.

The second long-term solution Elizabeth encouraged in her policy towards the Irish in the 1570's was that of Plantations<sup>44</sup>. It consisted of migrating Englishmen to settle the Irish populated areas in order to get contacts between these different models of thinking and living, a contact that would alter and civilize the Irish on the model of the English. We can understand also that from such action, the queen intended to eradicate the Irish identity.

When the Papacy in Italy declared Elizabeth illegitimate to the English throne in the 1570's, the Irish strong Catholicism welcomed the declaration of her illegitimacy through administrative acts of disobedience and strikes. Things worsened when the Catholic population denied her authority to rule and her officials were considered by observant Roman Catholics to be acting unlawfully<sup>45</sup>. In the 1580's there were rebellions which were assisted by hundreds of papal troops. Religion had become a new marker of loyalty to the Irish administration.

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<sup>44</sup> Paul E.J. Hammer. *Elizabeth's Wars, 1544, 1604*. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN. New York. 2003. P. 78

<sup>45</sup> S.T. Bindoff. *Tudor England*. The Pelican History of England, Penguin Books, England. 1991. P. 210

By the 1590's the Elizabethan foreign policy towards the Irish came to a fusion with demands of the political scene in Ireland. From the beginning of the decay, there was a rebellion in the southern parts of the land to impose the English presence in the island. This rebellion was mainly centered in Ulster; Elizabeth ordered her army to land and settle southern of the island then to move on northern towards Ulster in order to regain her authority from Hugh O'Neill.

In the beginning the army was led by Robert Devereux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, but his achievements were not highly regarded and estimated, because it was intended by the queen to make completely an end to the revolt. This made the queen replace him by Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, this latter took three years to eradicate the rebels from their roots.

O'Neill primarily served the Elizabethan foreign policy towards the natives of his mother land, Ireland, but by the 1590's he asked Elizabeth to grant him the title and the position his grand father held over the Irish by the time of Henry VIII. Elizabeth always delayed his ambitions, while the troops in the battlefield were facing their faiths. He was looking for positions and English titles. Elizabeth couldn't grant him any title because she knew that only the battlefields alone can impose the titles, and not the safe and secured kings to their nobles in their peaceful palaces. Elizabeth too feared from his political ambitions that one day after her death, O'Neill would claim the English throne.

By 1595, war in Ireland developed; O'Neill couldn't wait more and turned from the queen's vassal to a rebel. He joined the rebel side to help his rebelled clans, the O'Neills in Ulster in their declared war against the English throne known under the name of the Nine Years War. O'Neill sought for a decisive war that would end the English presence in his believed realm. He called for the direct support of the Spanish king Philip II, after being granting them munitions all the long term of the war.

Despite the direct support of Philip to O'Neill, Elizabeth remained the victorious of the battlefields. O'Neill's own army was defeated and by the early 1603 the war ended just a few days after Elizabeth's death. Soon afterwards, a peace treaty was signed between England and Spain by James I, the new king over the Elizabethan realm. By the death of Philip in 1598, and Elizabeth in 24 March 1603, the war and the tensions ended. The English authority over the Irish realm was confirmed and the order was gradually established.

O'Neill and the remaining alive leaders of the rebellion were granted freedom by the new King of the English Kingdom 'James I'; meanwhile, they were regranted their titles and most of their lands. They left Ireland in 1607 to seek for other Catholic powers that would help them to regain the Irish realm; this incident is known under the Flight of the Earls. Their lands in Ulster were confiscated, and thereafter great numbers from all over Britain were encouraged to move there in the Plantation of Ulster.

### **Conclusion:**

Through out this chapter, we have argued that Elizabeth I's policy towards the wars that broke out in Europe was to remain aloof and keep up the English realm far from the battlefields. Her policy was to keep the balance of power and play a diplomatic role at the European level. Moreover she could oppose and impose her foreign policy over the whole Europe.

Though Elizabeth's foreign policy was encountered by most of the superpowers of the time like Scotland, France, and mainly Spain and Ireland, they could not kneel the Gloriana Elizabeth's foreign policy. Indeed, they were defeated in their home land and abroad. Elizabeth could master the balance of power in her favor; defensive in time of weakness, and offensive in time of allies and full power of her naval force.

## General Conclusion

The reign period of the famous Tudor Queen of England and Ireland, Elizabeth I, was a turning point in the history of the English. She was the Deborah that saved England from a home bloody civil war. She was the ideal ruler of the time over her realm, as well as a strong contributor to the shape of the foreign policies. She was the Gloriana that broke the armies of the powerful kings of Europe and made them kings and princes of figs and oranges. She also remained by the end, 'the Virgin Queen' that the glorious and powerful kings of Europe bowed for her majesty to be annexed to her mythical and legendary personality.

In this research work we have dealt with the environment in which the queen had grown up, and shown how this influenced her glory years of reign. We have seen how much the 16<sup>th</sup> Century was a considerably revolutionary era, and how this period is embodied in the unique figure of Elizabeth I of England. Further more, we have shed light on the major events that shaped Elizabethan England and how they are reflected in the foreign policy led by the queen Elizabeth I.

Though she experienced harsh childhood and adulthood, she learned how monarchs ought to be strong and practical in their reign, and the education she had received served her as a future monarch. Despite the internal and foreign responsibility she assumed by her succession, she could unite her subjects' spirit; defy the Holy Roman Catholic League and the Pope himself by the Religious Settlement. The question of her marriage was a diplomatic tool that attracted the ambitious kings in a hope to strengthen and unite their realms.

When evaluating the influence of the 16<sup>th</sup> C movements on the continent and the English society, we found that they proposed and imposed a new way of thinking and living that the queen understood before many of people of her time. She underwent the Renaissance movement as a period of intellectual ferment that would prepare the ground for the thinkers



and scientists of the 17th century. She received a Humanistic education that would be reflected in her Foreign policy towards the continental superpowers.

The Religious Reformation was one of the major issues of 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Elizabeth avoided the troubles at home, and encouraged them in the other kingdoms to weaken them. The Over Seas Explorations were a race between the superpowers of the time over the territories in the new found land of America. Elizabeth could reinforce her naval force, and establish companies to trade and colonize the new world.

Though Elizabeth I secured home peace and good foreign relations with neighbors. Yet, it was not a long term peace; she was only delaying the wars that she had to undertake. After she neutralized the Franco-Scottish alliance to invade England, England and her yesterday enemies, France and Scotland, allied to face their common enemy which was the growing power of Spain. Elizabeth attacked each time the Spanish in order to weaken them; she had in many cases been acting in the belief that a good offence was the best defense.

Although the Spanish counter-attacked her proper policy in the Netherlands, as a model to be followed in Ireland; a foreign policy that asserts to help the minorities to rebel against their ruler, a crafty political tool to weaken the authority of the king over his realm as a preparation for a successful foreign intervention, this policy didn't succeed against Elizabeth herself once Philip of Spain countered her in Ireland, this policy have never betrayed his master. Elizabeth remained the victorious of the battlefields and the invincible monarch of her time. She acted, reacted and interacted with the demands of her foreign policy; she ensured victory within the recorded history of the English and the whole European continent.

A Golden Age was written in a gilded letters in the history of England and despite the burial of the GLORIANA's face and body in 1603, her foreign policy remained eternal and marked the history in the English diplomatic relations.

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