

Appendix B, Timeline

Timeline of English History, 1500-1700

1509-1547	Henry's VIII's reign; conflicts over his marriages; religious tensions were high as reformers challenged policies and practices established by the Church of Rome.
1532	Niccolo Machiavelli wrote <i>The Prince</i> in which the prince was one who exercised power with both reason and vitality: something Machiavelli called "virtuè."
1538	Henry VIII was excommunicated for divorcing Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn. His excommunication eventually led to England's break from the Church of Rome.
1547-1553	Edward VI became king, and his ill health fated him to die a young king, the victim of tuberculosis. Edward sought to secure a Protestant successor to his throne by blocking the succession of his Catholic half-sister, Mary Tudor. He named his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, the next monarch. Her reign lasted only nine days; Mary's supporters ousted the new queen, who was imprisoned and later executed.
1553-1558	Mary I, the first female head of state in England, did what she could to close the rift between England and Rome that had split open during her father's reign. As part of her efforts, she revived laws that made religious dissent cause for execution.
1558-1603	Elizabeth I's long reign is remembered as a time when religious controversies in England diminished, when the arts and literature flourished, and when voyages of discovery began an era of empire-building.
1572	St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre: The massacre of thousands of French Protestants, known as Huguenots; helps illustrate how religious tensions in Europe still ran high
1588	The defeat of the Spanish Armada, one of the most significant military victories in English history
1598	James I wrote <i>The True Law of Free Monarchies</i> ; sets out a philosophy of royal absolutism justified by divine right: the king is the representative of God on earth, and thus warrants complete obedience and loyalty
1603-1625	James I was King of Scotland when he inherited the throne from Elizabeth, and he ruled over both kingdoms until his death.
1606	Gunpowder Treason: a group of young Catholics devised a plot to blow up the English government by igniting kegs of gunpowder during a session of Parliament; sheds light on the ways in which religious differences had remained a source of conflict in England
1607	The first American colony, Jamestown, was founded by a group of Londoners who had formed the Virginia Company, and who would soon find that the task of creating a colony in an untamed land was a difficult one indeed.
1618-1648	The 30 Years War began in 1618 when the Bohemians revolted against the Habsburgs, the Thirty Years War pitted the Habsburgs and the Spanish against the French, Swedish, and Dutch.
1625-1649	Charles I's reign; rocky start that, unfortunately, set the tone for the years to come; became embroiled in wars with the Spanish and with the French, who themselves were fighting on opposite sides in the Thirty Years' War
1642-1651	The English Civil Wars involved several different armed conflicts, first between the King and those loyal to him (the Royalists) and Parliament.
1651	Thomas Hobbes published the <i>Leviathan</i> . He the members of a society must consent to being ruled by a sovereign who is obligated to maintain order. Without this order, "the life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."
1660-1685	Charles II's restoration to the throne in 1660 did not mark the end of conflicts between the monarchy and Parliament.