Theme: SUCCESSION

STABILITY?
- “By 1576 […] the queen’s marriage had become her chosen weapon in diplomatic intrigue, rather than her chosen solution to the succession problem” – Haigh
- “Elizabeth risked instability after her death for the sake of stability in her own lifetime” – Haigh
- “If she had died before Mary Queen of Scots in 1587, there would surely have been civil war” – Collinson

1540s
- 1547
  • Death of Henry VIII
    o Regency Council appointed to support Edward VI, the 9 year-old boy-king
    o Feb: Edward Seymour took over as Duke of Somerset/Lord Protector

1550s
- 1553
  • July 6th: Edward died
    o Northumberland had persuaded him to disinherit Mary, nominal successor in Henry VIII’s will
    o May: married his son to Lady Jane Grey
    o He had bullied PCs into endorsing the new will which proclaimed LJG as queen
    o July 10th: LJG declared queen; little support for her as everyone knew unpopular Northumberland would really have control
  • Mary’s rebellion
    o Around the time of Edward’s death, she began to rally support at Framlingham, Suffolk before Northumberland could imprison her
    o Mary managed to raise a total of 30,000 troops; Northumberland’s 3,000
    o Aug 1st: entered London as queen
  • Question of Mary’s marriage
    o Cardinal Reginald Pole and Earl of Devon, Edward Courtenay, were possible suitors – alternatives to Habsburg alliance
    o Oct: Mary decided to marry Philip II of Spain, without consulting PC
    o Both PC and public were hostile to this arrangement
- 1554
  • Feb 12th: LJG and Northumberland’s son beheaded
- 1558
  • Question of Elizabeth’s marriage
    o Suitors included Earl of Arundel, Sir William Pickering, Philip II of Spain, Prince Erik of Sweden, and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester
    o He was arguably closest to success: Adams writes that she had an “emotional dependency” on him
- 1559
  • Parliament raised the issue of Elizabeth’s marriage for the first time

1560s
- 1562
  • Elizabeth fell seriously, life-threateningly ill with smallpox