- He refused to allow anyone to be tortured or burned
- He attempted to end enclosures
- He criticised the wealthy, self-seeking men

The 'Evil Duke' – Similar historians classed Northumberland as ‘evil’ due to; “he was the most evil statesman to govern England during the 16th Century”

- He masterminded the coup in 1549 and then purged the people who helped him with the coup
- He arbitrarily ordered Somerset’s arrest and fabricated evidence that led to his execution
- He was two-faced on religion – converted to Catholicism on the scaffold
- He attempted to alter the succession so that he could retain his grip on power

Revised Interpretations:

- Loach revised the opinion about Somerset stating that he had failed in Scotland and France, mishandled relationships, and he was both corrupt and greedy. Also his social policies mostly failed
- Hoak attempted to rehabilitate the opinions of the Duke of Northumberland stating that he effectively controlled the council, and he was instead ‘the most remarkably able governors of any European state during the sixteenth century.’

The Reign of Queen Mary

Mary’s Accession

On the whole, Queen Mary’s accession was greeted favourably by the people. Haigh has suggested this was due to the widespread Catholic numbers and their hopes for a re-catholicisation. This was clearly shown by the enthusiasm of Melton Mowbray and in other parts of the country.

However, it may have also been due to the lack of parliamentary approval for the Devyse and Mary Tudor’s legitimate right to the throne of England.

Mary’s Problems

- She was not brought up to rule and her advisors/supporters were politically inexperienced. Therefore Mary was forced to use some of her brother’s Protestant advisors like Gardiner.
- Mary appointed around 50 councillors during her brief reign – led to factional rivalry and inefficiency. However, others argue that she did have a smaller group of advisers like Gardiner, Winchester and Paget and used councillor’s positions as patronage.
- Mary relied on foreigners (like Charles V and Renard) and therefore she was subject to biased advice.
- The Spanish Marriage: parliament tried to dissuade Mary – forced her to draft treaty giving Phillip limited rights. Loades ‘The marriage was as unpopular in Spain as it was in England.’ The marriage caused widespread xenophobia – 1555 mob attacked worshipping Spaniards. Provoked Wyatt’s Rebellion
- Wyatt Rebellion handling: 4000 rebels came close to London, but it was eventually quelled by Mary.

Mary’s Successes

- Loss of Calais – contemporaries and historians like Pollards have over exaggerated the loss of Calais – humiliation – encirclement – saw England as Spanish puppet and economic problems. However, Tittler has argued that the econ blow was limited. It was expensive to keep Calais and its loss was a long-term success.
**The Crisis of 1562:**

Elizabeth – had smallpox and it seemed unlikely that she would survive – threat of a full-scale succession crisis? The privy councillors were forced to address the issue of the succession and they were aware of the disasters that may ensue should the Queen die such as civil war, foreign invasion, and religious strife as seen after the death of Edward VI.

In 1566 parliament once again pressed Elizabeth to marry, this time with more urgency than 1563. Clearly, some MPs were being prompted by members of the council like Cecil and Leicester. Elizabeth reacted furiously, banishing Leicester from the presence Chamber, publicly rebuking other members of the Council and viciously attacking many MPs. Elizabeth was attempting to reassert the view that marriage and the succession were matters of royal prerogative and that parliament had no right to discuss these without permission.

Haigh argued that Elizabeth took a political decision not to marry. Doran, on the other hand, has argued that Elizabeth was conscious of the pressure to produce an undisputed heir. There was never a consensus within the Council for a candidate and Elizabeth probably came to the conclusion that the negatives outweighed the benefits. The issue of marriage and succession thus remain unresolved and Cecil thought this was clearly unsatisfactory.

**The Northern Rebellion 1569**

took place in Durham and Yorkshire. Westmorland and Northumberland. Haigh called it 'botched'.

**Motives:**

- Westmorland and Northumberland were angry that they had no influence at court. They did not have a place on the Council of the North.
- **Religious Factors** – Both were ardent Protestants
- **Courtly Conspiracy** – They supported Norfolk’s conspiracy involving Mary QoS
- **Elizabeth’s Demands** – Elizabeth may have triggered the rebellion due to

**Why did the rebellion fail?**

- The rebellion was disorganised
- There was a lack of clarity in the objectives of the leaders
- Neither of the earls possessed any political astuteness
- Haigh called it ‘botched’
- The authorities acted decisively. Queen Mary was quickly removed to a place of security. Leicester raised a royal force in the Midlands. Sussex was useful.
- The rebellion was geographically limited – no support from the nobles outside of Durham and Yorkshire

**Defending against Internal and External Enemies 1571-88**

MacCaffrey argued that ‘major deficiencies in the crown’s fiscal admin went unchecked or grew worse’ with declining revenues from customs, Crown lands and wardships. This caused issues later in the reign during the wars with Spain.

**The Problem of the Succession:**