HISTORY TUDORS – HENRY VIII

AUTHORITY, NATION AND RELIGION 1509 – 1520

SECTION 1 – FOREIGN POLICY

Henry's foreign policy aims;
- More adventurous than cautious father
- Imperial ideas (desire for conquest) such as re-conquest of lands, particularly France + making England a major power in Europe

Reasons;
- England had governed much of France during Middle Ages, thus wanted to win back French territories lost
- Henry was young and virile, he wanted to be a hero such as King Arthur, court to be associated with Camelot
- Wanted England politically at the heart of Europe

European context

Europe dominated by = Spain, France and Holy Roman Empire

Pope Julius II - “Holy League” to expel France from Italy. England and Spain joined the league and Henry prepared to attack France

First French War 1511 – 12

Henry believed King Ferdinand of Spain would help England win back Aquitaine

1512 – 12,000 troops attacked Aquitaine BUT Henry was betrayed by Ferdinand and the expedition failed

Ferdinand used the English invasion as a diversion while he conquered Navarre Thus without supplies Dorest’s troops began to die of dysentery etc SO England had to retreat

Ferdinand made peace with France = Henry felt betrayed

Second intervention in France

1513 – April NAVAL DEFEAT AT BREST
  Admiral Howard unsuccessfully attacked the French harbor + was killed fighting and the English withdrew

1513 Henry personally led an army of 30,000 troops into France, seeking for glory = BATTLE OF SPURS
French fled the battlefield
Captured Therouanne and Tournai
Henry handed Therouanne = Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian
SECTION 2 - WOLSEY'S DOMESTIC POLICY

STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Wolsey born in Ipswich son of a butcher

1497 – Ordained a priest = later becoming Chaplain to Henry

1509 – Wolsey become Royal Almoner (office responsible for distributing alms to the poor) responsible for organizing charitable giving

Wolsey was;
- Brilliant organizer eg. Supplies and equipment for organized for Henry's wars against France
- Excellent eye for detail, little escaped him
- Cultured and excellent company for Henry – boosted his ego etc

Wolsey’s wealth = served for his political power

LOW BIRTH
Wolsey’s court was magnificent ‘quasi royal’ – Starkey
Wolsey had the largest disposable income in England x10 richer than any of his political rivals

Church preferment

High honors in the Church
- After war in France 1513 rewarded as Bishop (rewarded for 12,000 livres)
- 1514 made Archbishop of York
- 1515 made Cardinal
- 1518 became a Papal Legate (most powerful churchman, effectively Head of the Church in England)

Role in government

- 1515 Wolsey became Lord Chancellor
  ^ effectively control of government

Wolsey was the most powerful churchman at the time when anti-clericalism was growing in England

THE LAW

SUCCESSES

- Number of cases heard in the Star Chamber increased from 12 a year in Henry VII’s reign to 120 a year in Henry VIII’s reign
- Some nobles were punished for abusing their power,
  1515 Earl of Northumberland sent to Fleet Prison
  1516 Lord Burgavenny accused of illegal retaining
- 260 cases of violating the enclosure laws were brought to court
- Wolsey's use of Chancery and Star Chamber did make justice more available to ordinary people

FAILURES

- Sometimes abused his power for personal reasons – Amyas Paulet ordered to attend his court every day for 5 years
- Courts overwhelmed by the numbers of cases brought
- No structural changes made – Wolsey reforms died with him
- Wolsey had to abandon the Enclosure Enquiry in return for parliamentary tax in 1523

FINANCE

SUCCESSES

- Wolsey created the Subsidy which more accurately reflected the wealth of tax-payers
- Between 1513 – 1516 raised £170,000 from the Subsidy
  Only £90,000 from the fifteenth and the tenth
- 1513 – 29 Wolsey raised £693,000 in taxes and loans

FAILURES

- Couldn’t raise enough to finance Henry’s wars
- 1523 demanded £800,000 from Parliament but only got £200,000
- 1525 attempted to collect FORCED loan from the Amicable Grant (had to be cancelled after uprisings in East Anglia and Suffolk)

THE CHURCH

SUCCESSES

- 1518 Ecclesiastical Council at York discussed ways of improving the conduct of the clergy
- Ordered visitations of monastic houses to check they were living properly
- Some abbots were replaced, new statutes for Benedictines and Augustinians drawn up
- Proposed creating 13 new Bishops by closing some monasteries
- Dissolved 30 monasteries to build Cardinal College + Ipswich School

FAILURES

- Wolsey embodied the abuses of the medieval church
- Pluralism – by 1529 he was Archbishop of York, Bishop of Winchester and Abbot of St Albans
• Monasteries used to give alms to the poor, acted as places of refuge and shelter for travellers and pilgrims + cared for sick and needy
• Valor Ecclesiasticus = average proportion of house’s income dispensed to the poor was 2%
• Humanitarian note:
• Fate of monks + nuns were unceremoniously turned out of their abodes
  - 1,500 of (8,000) monks who were dispossessed managed to find alternative paid employment
  - The Crown awarded most monks pensions proportionate = although undeniable that some ex-monks had hard times
  - Difficult to estimate how many monastic servants joined the ranks of the unemployed

• Social change = the rise in the number of landowners as a consequence of dissolution

Impact on the Crown

- Entirely financial
- Did little to consolidate the break with Rome as already achieved by the time the process began

Actual achievements made:
• Six new dioceses established upon the remains of monastic buildings and cathedral churches were established
• New cathedral schools were established
• Grammar schools were endowed
• Trinity College, Cambridge was founded

ALTHOUGH

Some of the land went to Cromwell + was not properly distributed (only until after his death = land sold off)

FACTIONS + POLITICAL INFLICTING

Fall of Anne Boleyn 1536

Anne promoted key evangelical figures such as Latimer, Shaxton, Skip

All 10 Bishops appointed between 1533-6 were evangelical

Gave Henry – Tyndale’s book (many of convinced him to authorize an English Bible)

Only produced a girl in 1533 and in 1536 had a miscarriage to a deformed foetus ^ this helped Henry believe it was a cursed marriage