

# Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-40: Wolsey

## What was England like in 1509?

- Rural kingdom
- Everyone was Roman Catholic
- **Hierarchical** Society: this meant you were ranked by wealth and social status. There were very few opportunities to move up the social ladder.

Henry VIII was a popular king but had no interest in day-to-day running of the country

## Henry's government

Privy Chamber	King's closest friends. Headed by Groom of the Stool
Royal Council	A group of advisors from powerful people and the church
Court	Key servants, advisors and friends
Parliament	Main job was to pass laws requested by the king and approve new taxes

## Why did Wolsey rise to power?

1. **Organisation:** Wolsey organised a well equipped and well supplied army for the war with France in 1513. He demonstrated skills that Henry later relied on, increasing his power and influence.
2. **Administration:** Henry disliked his father's advisors who he saw as too cautious. This eased Wolsey's path to power. Henry also did not involve himself in the running of government and these tasks were left to Wolsey
3. Wolsey was appointed **Royal Almoner** which made him a member of the Royal Council, giving him access to the King. This gave him opportunities to exert influence and dominate government by 1515



**Cardinal**

A senior Leader in the Roman Catholic church

**Papal Legate**

Represented the Pope

**Hierarchy**

The structure of society

**Royal Almoner**

In charge of distributing money to the poor

**Subsidy**

Tax on what people earned

**Papal dispensation**

Permission from the Pope for Catherine and Henry to marry in 1509

## How successful was his domestic policy?

- **Enclosure:** Wolsey targeted landowners who were fencing off fields and took them to court. It achieved little as enclosures continued to take place
- **Justice:** Wolsey strengthened the **Court of the Star Chamber**, and encouraged the poor to bring cases to court. This angered landowners
- **The Eltham Ordinances:** Wolsey compiled a list of rules 79 chapters long to improve management of the palaces. Also used it as an excuse to reduce the Privy Chamber for 12 to six. They were mainly unsuccessful because Wolsey lost interest after reducing the size of the Privy Chamber
- **Finance:** Wolsey needed for war. He introduced a **subsidy** tax which was based on what people earned. He also forced landowners to lend the government money in 1522 and 1523.

## How successful was his foreign policy?

### Aims:

To have a better relationship with France and Spain; to play Spain and France off against each other; to win wars; to be seen as a European peacemaker

### Successes:

**1514 Battle of the Spurs:** Final victory in the first French War

**1518 The Treaty of London:** 20 European leaders promised Universal Peace

**1520: The Field of the Cloth of Gold:** Francis I and Henry met. Impressive display of power and wealth, putting Henry at the centre of European diplomacy.

### Failures:

**1522-25 French alliance:** Based on the idea that Spain would help England seize the French throne. Charles gave little military support; it cost £430,000 and achieved little

**1525-9: Alliance with France:** The French were defeated by Charles and received little help from England

**1529: Treaty of Cambrai:** France and Spain negotiated peace and left England out

# Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-40: Wolsey's fall from Power and Cromwell

## The Amicable Grant 1525

- Used to raise money for a war with France.
- Did not go through parliament
- Priests 1/3 and ordinary people 1/6
- People only had 10 weeks to pay the tax. Many people refused.
- A rebellion broke out in Suffolk.
- The tax was abandoned
- Henry lost faith in Wolsey

## Why did Henry want an annulment from Catherine of Aragon?

### 1. Henry did not have a son.

This was important as a son was needed to avoid threats from Spain and France. Catherine was getting older.

### 2. He was in love with Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn was younger than Catherine and could give him a son but would not be his mistress

**3. Leviticus:** The Bible said that a man should not marry his brother's wife. Catherine has previously been married to Henry's brother, Arthur.

## Why could Wolsey not get an annulment?

- 1. Leviticus:** Another passage in the Bible, from Deuteronomy, was produced contradicting Leviticus
- 2. Papal Dispensation was incorrectly worded:** Catherine's supporters found a correctly worded Spanish one
- 3. The Blackfriars Trail:** The Pope sent a representative to England to hear the case. He arrived late and refused to make a decision.

## Why did Wolsey fall from power?

- 1. The Amicable Grant:** Henry lost trust in Wolsey
- 2. The Boleyn Faction:** Anne Boleyn and enemies of Wolsey started spreading rumours
- 3. Foreign Policy Failures:** The Treaty of Cambrai was a total disaster
- 4. Domestic Policy Failure:** Wolsey had made a lot of enemies through his domestic policy.



## Why did Cromwell rise to power?

**Loyalty:** Cromwell remained loyal to Wolsey and this impressed Henry

**Ruthlessness:** Cromwell could manage violent and controversial acts. He could also be witty and charming

**Efficiency:** Cromwell could carry out the King's orders quickly and efficiently

## The Annulment

Cromwell changed tactic, arguing that the power to grant an annulment should be taken from the Pope and given to Henry.

Henry and Anne were secretly married in January 1533. In March, parliament passed **the Act in Restraint of Appeals** making Henry the head of the Church. In May 1533 it was ruled that Henry had never been married to Catherine of Aragon and was legally married to Anne.

## Statute Law

A law that has been written down by parliament

## Annulment

The marriage was never legal

## Cardinal Campeggio

Sent by Pope Clement to hear Henry's case for annulment

## Blackfriars Trial

The hearing in London about Henry and Catherine's marriage

## How did Cromwell change government and parliament?

- 1. The Privy Council:** The Royal Council had been 100 men advising the King. This was reduced to 100 men and people chosen for how well they did their job
- 2. The Council of the North and Wales** Cromwell strengthened the Council of the North by making it permanent. They looked after law and order. The Act of Union meant Wales had to follow English law
- 3. Money:** Cromwell set up two new departments to deal with property and income from the monasteries and each department was carefully trained and checked.
- 4. Parliament:** Cromwell used parliament regularly. **Statute Law** was used to make key changes to church and state.

# Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-40: The Reformation



## How did Henry change the church?

- The sacraments were reduced from seven to three
- The Number of Holy Days was reduced
- English Bibles were put in churches
- There were no pilgrimages, statues or relics

By 1538 Henry decided things had gone too far and decided to return to Catholic Ideas. In were published. In 1539 the **Six Articles** were published bringing back some Catholic ideas.

## Why did Henry close down the monasteries in 1536?

1. **Cromwell's commissions:** These investigations aimed to prove that the church was corrupt
2. **New religious ideas:** Protestants did not believe in purgatory therefore paying nuns and monks to pray was pointless
3. **Loyalty** – who were the monks and nuns loyal to?
4. **Money:** Monasteries owned 1/3 of English land and had a income x3 of Henry's.

## Winners

- Protestants
- The King
- Wealthy people

## Losers

- Monks and nuns lost homes and work
- Poor people lost charity
- Rents rose

## Opposition to the Reformation

Elizabeth Barton	Barton claimed to have had visions of Henry dying 'a villain's death'. She criticised the marriage to Anne Boleyn and in 1533 published the 'Nun's book'. She was arrested and executed on the same day as the Oath of succession
John Fisher	John Fisher had links to Elizabeth Barton and was fined £300 for associating with her. He refused to take the Oath of Succession and he was executed in June 1535.
Sir Thomas More	Thomas More had been chancellor but believed Protestantism was a threat and burnt many Protestants. He could not support the annulment and refused to take the Oath of succession. Executed.

<b>Act in Restraint of Appeals</b>	Declared that England could not be ruled by a foreign powers and the King was the final authority
<b>Act of Supremacy</b>	This formerly made the King the head of the church
<b>Act of Succession</b>	Only children of Anne Boleyn and Henry could inherit the throne
<b>Treason Act</b>	Anyone denying the King as head of the church would be executed
<b>The Reformation</b>	Change in England from Catholic to Church of England
<b>Sacrament</b>	Special church ceremonies
<b>Transubstantiation</b>	The belief that the bread and wine is transformed into the body and blood of Jesus
<b>Valor Ecclesiasticus</b>	The survey into the wealth of the church
<b>Monastery</b>	Building where monks live

# Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-40: Cromwell's fall from power

## Why did the Pilgrimage of Grace take place in 1536?

The Pilgrimage of Grace was an uprising in the North of England in 1536-7

1. The North was mostly Catholic and people were worried churches would be targeted next
2. The monasteries provided medicine or the sick, help for the poor and refuge for travellers
3. Poor harvests in 1535 and 1536 made times even harder. People were suffering enclosure and rising rents
4. The Northern nobles thought Henry was too much under Cromwell's influence and disliked him for his low birth and religious views



**Pilgrimage**

A religious journey

**Adultery**

Cheating on a husband or wife

**Anne Boleyn**

Henry's second wife

**Jane Seymour**

Henry's third wife

**Anne of Cleves**

Henry's fourth wife

**Catherine Howard**

Henry's fifth wife

## What happened in the Pilgrimage of Grace?

**Lincolnshire:** 10,000 rebels marched to Lincoln with a set of complaints. The Duke of Suffolk was sent North with 3,000 men. The nobles backed down and the rebels went home

**Yorkshire:** 40,000 rebels assembled into nine groups led by Robert Aske. The Duke of Norfolk was sent North with 8,000. He met Aske at Doncaster Bridge and heard the pilgrims' demands; the pilgrims were sent home. In January 1537 Henry executed 178 leaders.

## Why did it fail?

- They showed faith in the king. The army went home, removing the threat. If they had fought, it is likely they would have won
- Henry never intended to keep his agreement
- Henry could not accept rebels demands as it would have made him weak.

## Why did Anne Boleyn fall as Henry's queen?

1. **Failed to give Henry a son.** Anne had failed to give Henry a son. The pope said England would be given to anyone who took it.
2. **Jane Seymour** (Anne's personality was irritating Henry)
3. **Cromwell and the rumours about adultery.** Cromwell built an adultery case against Anne. She was charged with five counts of adultery and treason

## Why did Henry marry Anne of Cleves?

1. **Alliances:** England needed friends against France and Spain
2. **Needed an heir:** Henry still needed another heir in case Edward died
3. **Religion:** Cleves had split with Rome but was not yet Protestant

Anne did not fit into the court life of England, Henry had fallen in love with Catherine Howard and the alliance was no longer needed.

## The Seymour family

Henry married Jane Seymour in 1536. She had a son in 1537, Edward but died nine days later.

The Seymour family had high status at court as a result of the marriage. Edward was appointed to the privy council. After Jane's death her brothers continued to be important at court and Edward became Earl of Hertford and the Duke of Somerset

## Why did Cromwell fall from power?

1. **Duke of Norfolk:** Norfolk hated Cromwell. Norfolk was a Catholic and hated that Cromwell was of low birth. Norfolk spread rumours.
2. **Anne of Cleves:** Henry disliked Anne of Cleves and Cromwell forced him to go through with the marriage. Henry blamed Cromwell for forcing this.
3. **Religion:** Cromwell had many enemies due to his changes to the church. Cromwell wanted England to be Protestant. Removing him would reduce the risk of invasion.