

## **Essays in Tudor History**

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### Contents:

1. To what extent, and why, had Henry VII succeeded in securing his position as king by 1499?
2. Why was the Yorkist dynasty overthrown with such apparent ease in 1485?
3. How serious a threat to Henry VII were the pretenders to the throne?
4. What were the aims of the first two Tudors in their policies towards Scotland, and how far were they successful in achieving them?
5. Assess the effects of continental influences on English intellectual life and culture in the first half of the sixteenth century.
6. Discuss the reasons for, and extent of, anti-clericalism in England in the first half of the sixteenth century.
7. In what ways, and for what reasons, was the period 1475 to 1550 a period of growing prosperity for the merchant classes?
8. Assess the importance of the personal influence of Henry VIII in foreign and domestic policy, 1509-1529.
9. How significant were changes in government in the 1530s?
10. How far did Thomas Cromwell succeed in creating a unified nation state in 1530s?
11. In what ways, and for what reasons, did the status and authority of parliament increase, 1509-1558?
12. 'Wolsey's main concern was to retain power for himself, and therefore he achieved little of lasting significance'. How valid is this assessment?
13. To what extent did Protestantism obtain a hold in England between 1529 and 1547?
14. Discuss the causes and consequences (to 1547) of the dissolution of the monasteries.
15. Why was resistance to religious change between 1533 and 1547 largely ineffective?
16. Assess the importance of Thomas Cranmer to the development of Protestantism in England.
17. 'The rule of Northumberland was no improvement on that of Somerset, for neither of them governed England well'. Discuss this judgement.
18. How significant were the popular uprisings of 1549?
19. 'All was not failure in the reign of Mary I'. Discuss this judgement.
20. Discuss the impact of English foreign policy on domestic affairs during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I.
21. 'Mary I's religious policies were more realistic, more popular, and more successful than those of Somerset and Northumberland'. Examine the validity of this view.

22. 'Her unpopularity was more the result of her marriage than of her religion'. Discuss this verdict on Mary I.
23. Discuss the effects (to 1558) of the introduction of printing for the religious and intellectual life of England.
24. How far was Elizabeth I successful both in establishing and in maintaining a religious settlement which accorded with her own wishes?
25. 'Elizabethan England lived in terror of the tramp'. How serious was the problem of vagabondage, and how successfully had it been tackled before 1603?
26. Why did Elizabeth become involved in war with Spain in 1585, and why did the war last so long?
27. How successful was Elizabeth I in imposing English rule of Ireland?
28. How far, and why, did parliament become more difficult to manage in the reign of Elizabeth I?
29. What problems faced Elizabeth in foreign relations before 1572, and how successfully did she handle them?
30. To what extent, and in what ways, did the role of the nobility in English government change during the sixteenth century?