

Henry's Reformation



Dissolving the Monasteries

No Uncontested Account of Motives

Judge by Outcomes? Exercise Caution

Intended?

Unintended?

Outcomes

Enrichment of the Crown

Elimination of Monastic Communities

Smaller from 1536 (income less than £200)

Larger/All by 1539(-1541)

Legal/Fiscal? Theological/Ecclesiastical?

Henry's Reformation



Dissolving the Monasteries

Legal/Fiscal? Theological/Ecclesiastical?

Precedents in Repurposing Monastic Endowments

William Waynflete, Bp of Winchester:

Selborne Priory →

Magdalen College, Oxford (1484)

John Alcock, Bp of Ely:

Convent of St. Radegund →

Jesus College, Cambridge (1496)

Lady Margaret Beaufort (Bp. John Fisher):

Creake Abbey →

funds projects at Oxford and Cambridge (1506)

John Fisher, Bp of Rochester:

Convents of Bromhall and Higham →

to aid St John's College, Cambridge (1522)

Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, AbY:

St Frideswide's Priory (now Oxford Cathedral) →

Cardinal College / Christ Church, Oxford (1522)

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Dissolving the Monasteries

Valor Ecclesiasticus (1534)

No Clear Henrician Repudiation of:

Monastic Life

Clerical Celibacy

Vows of Chastity

Monastic Reforms:

Not Just Protestants

Catholics/Conservatives and Humanists

On the Other Hand?

Some Observants Resisted Royal Supremacy

Carthusians, Observant Franciscans, Bridgettines

Many Jailed

Henry's Reformation



Dissolving the Monasteries

Clearly Legal/Fiscal;

Less Clearly Theological/Ecclesiastical

(But Not Not Theological/Ecclesiastical!)

The Pilgrimage of Grace? (1536)

Varieties of Grievances and Fears:

Political:

Catherine, Anne, Cromwell

Economic:

new laws, low agricultural yield, higher prices

Religious:

Closed monasteries. Closed churches?

Not a Clearly or Centrally-Organized Uprising

Not *Singularly* Religious, Pro-Monastic, Catholic

Henry's Reformation



Dissolving the Monasteries

Relatively Little Resistance

No Simply Pro-Monastic/Pro-Catholic Uprisings

No Strong Opposition from Parliament

Purchasers of Monastic Lands from the Crown:

Protestant

Catholic

Monks & Nuns* Enter Secular Life Quietly

Visible Resisters

Elizabeth Barton

A few Franciscan preachers

Dr. Reynolds Syon Brigittines

The London Carthusians

John Fisher, Bp of Rochester

Sir Thomas More

Henry's Reformation



Governing the Church

Instruments of Reform:

Parliament

Support for Henry

Gave what he wanted, esp. Supremacy

Convocation

Loyal to Henry

Relatively few opponents of Supremacy

Unalarmed Conservatives:

Gardiner, Tuntall, Fox, Bonner

Rising Progressives:

Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley, Shaxton,

Rowland, Lee

Royal Appointments

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Articles & Injunctions

The Ten Articles (1536)

“it most chiefly belongeth to unto our said charge, diligently to forsee and cause, that not only the most holy word and commandments of God should be most sincerely believed, and most reverently observed and kept, of our subjects...”

“but also that unity and concord in opinions, namely, in such things as do concern our religion, may increase and go forward, and all occasion of dissent and discord touching the same be repressed and utterly extinguished.”

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Articles & Injunctions

The Ten Articles (1536)

Two types of matters:

Commanded by God (necessary to salvation)

Old ceremonies, rites & usages (good order)

Five 'Doctrinal'

Five 'Ceremonial'

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Articles & Injunctions

The Ten Articles (1536)

Five 'Doctrinal'

Holy Scripture, Three Creeds, Four Councils

Baptism

Penance

Eucharist: verily, substantially, and really

Justification

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Articles & Injunctions

The Ten Articles (1536)

Five 'Ceremonial'

Images:

Uses & Abuses

Teach & Reform

Praise Christ for his saints:

Exemplary

May Advance Our Prayers

Saints are charitable intercessors:

Form provided; avoiding superstition

Not more merciful than Christ

Not patrons

Vestments, etc.:

Good as aids to devotional memory

So long as abuses are avoided

Good to pray for the souls of the departed:

Masses, exequies, and alms

geography & economy of "Purgatory" are uncertain from Scripture

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Articles & Injunctions

First Henrician Injunctions (1536)

Clergy:

Abolition of Pope's pretended & usurped power

Preach against it, 13 Sundays (min. 2/quarter)

Explicate the Ten Articles in preaching

Implement anti-superstition reforms

Clergy see to it that parents catechize children

Paternoster

Apostles' Creed

Ten Commandments

In English!

Clergy present and leading worship

Clergy not to haunt taverns or alehouses

Clergy are to relieve the poor

Clergy are to provide scholarships

Clergy are to keep up their buildings

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Articles & Injunctions

*The Institutes of A Christian Man, or
The Bishops' Book (1537)*

Committee Labor

Overseen by Cranmer; 46 bps and other clergy

Included conservatives: Tunstall, Gardiner

Purpose: Instructing the Clergy What to Teach

Following From the Injunctions of 1536

Exposition of

The Apostles' Creed

The Seven Sacraments

The Ten Commandments

The Pater Noster

The Ave Maria

Justification (Ten Articles)

Purgatory (Ten Articles)

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Articles & Injunctions

Second Henrician Injunctions (1538)

Keep All the King's Previous Injunctions

Provide a Great Bible before Easter (4/6/1539)

Active encouragement to read; no arguments!

Teach memorization of Paternoster & Creed

Examine everyone during Lent (Pn & Creed)

One sermon per quarter; Scripture not superstition

No abused images

Appoint curates to your non-residential benefices

Recant pilgrimages, relics, images

Detect & denounce

Hinderers of Scripture

Proponents of the Papacy

Parish Register: weddings, baptisms, burials

Read both sets of Injunctions once per quarter

Everyone tithes

No alterations in liturgical observances

No knelling of the Aves

Omit *Ora pro nobis* for *Parce nobis, Domine*

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Articles & Injunctions

The Thirteen Articles (1538)

One of Cranmer's pet projects

No official status

Attempt to relate to Lutheranism

Influence from Wittenberg Articles

Influence from Augsburg Confession

Not Slavishly Lutheran

Omits part of AC (6 on New Obedience)

Long Articles on

Penance

Rites and Ceremonies

Civil Affairs

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Articles & Injunctions

The Six Articles (1539)

Inspired by Henry's religious conservatism

'An Act Abolishing Diversity of Opinions'

Cranmer opposed it; submitted nevertheless

Shaxton & Latimer opposed it; resigned sees

Protestants: "bloody whip of six cords"

- Real Presence in substance language
- Communion in both kinds is not necessary
- clerical celibacy
- observance of vows of chastity
- meet & necessary: private masses continue
- confession expedient & necessary:
retained, continued, used, frequented

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Articles & Injunctions

*A Necessary Doctrine and Erudition for
Any Christian Man, or
The King's Book* (1543)

Henry's answer to *The Bishop's Book*

Instruction in implementing The Six Articles

Reformers silenced or put to death

Reactionary conservatism

Some movement toward further dissolutions:

Hospitals and chantries (passed Parliament)

Universities?

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Summing Up

“Henry’s reign, therefore, ended amid fear and doubt and distress. During the twenty years since the question of the ‘divorce’ had been raised many great changes had taken place. England had repudiated her allegiance to Rome, which had been unquestioned since the Synod of Whitby in 604. The monasteries, which since the time of Augustine had been so familiar an aspect of the English scene, were now deserted and mouldering. A new ecclesiastical figure had arisen, the king as ‘Supreme Head in earth of the Church of England’ with powers so great as even to include the definition of dogma. Yet in spite of all these fundamental changes, the religious life of the country remained much as it had always been. The parish churches looked just as they had always looked; the services remained what they had always been; the clergy behaved as their predecessors had behaved for centuries. To the ordinary villager the great changes of Henry’s reign meant little. Constitutionally the Church in England had been revolutionized, but the changes which affected the daily lives of the people were yet to come.”

Moorman, *A History of the Church in England*, 178-179