

Edward's Ascent

Reformation (1547-1553)

Edward VI, King of England & Ireland
January 28, 1547 (Nine years old)
Son of Henry VIII & Jane Seymour

Never Reaches Maturity

Regency Council

Edward Seymour, Somerset (1547-49)

John Dudley, Northumberland (1550-53)

Dies July 6, 1553 (Fifteen years old)

Successor: cousin, Lady Jane Grey (9 days)

Trying to avoid sisters: Mary & Elizabeth



Edward's Protestant Education

Reformation

(1547-1553)



Tutors

Richard Cox:

Bp of Ely

Catholic; Protestant upon Edward's accession

John Cheke:

Regius Professor of Greek, Cambridge

Protestant 1529; St. John's College, Cambridge

Roger Askham & Jean Belmain

Language tutors for Edward & Elizabeth

A covert Protestant (Askham)

A more outspoken Huguenot (Belmain)

Anti-Papal Treatise (1549, age 11)

Edward's Accession

Reformation

(1547-1553)

Protestant Ceremonial?

Some Catholic Ceremonial Omitted

Cranmer:

Affirmation of royal supremacy

Edward as a 'second Josiah'

Urged continued reformation of church

"tyranny of the Bishops of Rome
banished from your subjects, and
images removed"



Edward's Somerset's Regime

Reformation
(1547-1553)



Henry's Intent:

a Regency Council of 16 executors

collective rule

majority decisions

“like and equal charge”

Edward Seymour

Edward's uncle

Days after Henry's death

Almost regal power by decision of 13/16

Almost all receive perks or hand-outs

Edward's Somerset's Regime

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Opposition to Edward Seymour
Chancellor Thomas Wriothesley:

conservative, dismissed

Thomas Seymour:

marries Catherine Parr; romances Elizabeth
aspiring usurper; felled by Privy Council
(Act of Attainder and beheading)

Somerset at War

Scotland:

initial success, dwindling returns

Rebellions:

Prayer Book Rebellion (1548):

Cornish protests; Cranmer: Prefer Latin?

Needed to be forcibly put down

Kett's Rebellion (1549):

Protest over enclosures; Misunderstandings

Violent suppression; Failure of government

Edward's Somerset's Fall

Reformation

(1547-1553)



Perceived Threats and Retreat

Oct. 1, 1549: Edward taken to Windsor Castle
Edward VI: “Methinks I am in prison.”

No Confidence

Somerset owed position to Council not Henry
Edward VI's *Chronicle*

“ambition, vainglory, entering into rash wars in mine youth, negligent looking on Newhaven, enriching himself of my treasure, following his own opinion, and doing all by his own authority, etc.”

Imprisonment and Release

Executed for felony (1552)

Tries to oust Dudley, Duke of Northumberland
Edward VI's *Chronicle*

“the duke of Somerset had his head cut off upon Tower Hill between eight and nine o'clock in the morning”

Edward's Northumberland's Regime

Reformation

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Lord President of the Council

Not "Protector" as Somerset had been

Similar in practical affairs of governance

Reverse Somerset's Religious Policies?

No

Edward's Protestant sensibilities lead the way

Administrative Control

Not a blood relative of Edward VI (*cf.* Somerset)

Affirmed Edward's full sovereignty

Utilized bureaucracy of Privy Council

Used to achieve his goals

Legitimate his authority

Edward's Northumberland's Regime

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War and Taxes

Curtailed Foreign Wars

France

Scotland

Policing English Society

Lords lieutenant

Armed forces

Dealing with Finances

Mess caused by Somerset's Wars

Initial Mistake: Debasing Coinage

Eventual Recovery

Thomas Gresham

Coinage Restored (1552)

Abuses Detected:

Embezzlement

Review of Revenue Collection

Edward's Northumberland's Regime

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Succession and End

Edward VI Falls Ill

1553, 15 years old

Names cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as successor

Daughter-in-law of Northumberland

Rules 9 days

Whose Idea?

Northumberland's? A Bid to Maintain Control?

Edward's?

Desire to Circumvent Mary and Elizabeth?

Secure Protestant Monarch?

Northumberland's End

Goes to East Anglia to Arrest Princess Mary Tudor

Privy Council Has Endorsed Mary

Surrenders on Arrival; Convicted of Treason

Returns to Catholicism

Hated by All; Good Scapegoat

Executed (beheading) August 22, 1553

Edward's Religious Reforms

Reformation

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Promotion of Protestant Faith & Practice

First 'Lutheran' Wave Completed: No Visits

A Second Wave

John Calvin of Geneva

Johann Brenz of Württemberg

Martin Bucer of Strassbourg

Heinrich Bullinger of Zürich

Zürich Agreement, 1549 [Consensus Tigurinus]

Calvinist **spiritual** presence in the Eucharist

English Protestant Pamphlets, 1547-1549

Decline of Lutheran Influence

Increased Swiss Reformed Influence

(Esp. Zwinglian Eucharistic theology v. Mass)

Edward's Reformation

Edward's Religious Reforms

(1547-1553)



Promotion of Protestant Faith & Practice

John Calvin

Correspondence with

Edward VI

AbC Cranmer

Several of Edward's advisors and officers

John Cheke

Jean Belmain

M.P. Bartholomew Traheron

Edward's librarian

Visited Geneva

Calvin's influence on Edwardian divines

John Bradford (royal chaplain; canon, St. Paul's)

John Philpot (archdeacon of Winchester)

Calvin: a strong influence; *one* among many (Bucer)

Attraction to Geneva

England *not* Geneva: politically distinct; erastian

Somerset: bishops serve at crown's pleasure

Cranmer: divine right of kings

Edward's Religious Reforms

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Protestant Progress, Official & Popular
Official:

Summer 1547, Visitation and Inhibition of Bishops

Resisted by Bps Bonner & Gardiner

Imprisoned in Fleet prison

Bonner submits quickly

Gardiner stays in until general pardon in 1548

Paraphrases of Erasmus placed in churches

Book of Homilies placed in churches

Edward's Edward's Religious Reforms

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Protestant Progress, Official & Popular

Book of Homilies (1547):

Cranmerian oversight

Titles

- I. A fruitful exhortation to the reading of holy Scripture.
- II. Of the misery of all mankind.
- III. Of the salvation of all mankind.
- IV. Of the true and lively faith.
- V. Of good works.
- VI. Of Christian love and charity.
- VII. Against swearing and perjury.
- VIII. Of the declining from GOD.
- IX. An exhortation against the fear of death.
- X. An exhortation to obedience.
- XI. Against whoredom and adultery.
- XII. Against strife and contention.

Edward's Edward's Religious Reforms

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Protestant Progress, Official & Popular
Official:

Somerset Wars with Scotland; cartloads of Bibles
Reconfiguration of Henry's Anti-Heresy Laws

Removals:

strict additions to Henry III's anti-treason laws

De haeretico comburendo (1401)

Six Articles Act (1539)

Limited printing, reading, expounding Scripture

Act giving royal proclamations force of law

Conciliating Gesture?

Eucharistic Irreverence: Fines & prison

Communion in both kinds for laity

Not to be denied without lawful cause

Appointment of Bishops

Streamlined

Letters patent; bishops as 'state officials'

Edward's Religious Reforms

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Protestant Progress, Official & Popular
Official:

Edwardian Dissolution (Chantries Act, 1547)

All Religious endowments

Chantries,

Free chapels

Colleges

Hospitals

Fraternities

Guilds

Slated under Henry; suspended by his death

Henry: fund the war with Scotland & France

Edward: more religious (Protestant) reasons

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“... superstitious errors and ignorance of salvation through the death of Christ had been caused by ‘devising and phantasying vain opinions of purgatory and masses satisfactory, to be done for them which be departed’.”

Superstitious institutions better put to education

Social Effects

Closer to home/parish; (earlier: rural houses)

Now: chantries, guilds, chapels, stipendiaries

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Chantries

“While chantry priests did not officially have cure of souls, they were often more than singers of masses for the dead. They had commonly been placed by their founders under the direction of the parish incumbent, and helped him with some of the parochial duties.”
(Dickens, 234)

Close to hearts/patronage of founders' families
Status: belief in Purgatory & chantry expiation?

Can't quite tell

Fewer intercessory foundations after 1530

To the extent believed, devastating

Existing problems & Edwardian “brutality”

Decay of such foundations

Secular use, Patronal resumption, embezzling

Rising trend over 1527-1547

Motivated by rumors of seizure? Pragmatism?

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Chapels

Service to outlying portions of large parishes

Some chapels as big or bigger than parishes

Closures affect local populaces

Socially

Economically

Affect/Morale

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Protestant Progress, Official & Popular

Popular:

Iconoclasm

Printed propaganda

End of Henry's reign

An average of 69 books per year

Beginning of Somerset's Protectorate

An Average of 131 books per year

First Three Years

394 books printed

274 on religion

1 in 10 advocating Protestant reforms

Vernacular liturgy

Communion in both kinds

Pamphlets Disparaging the Mass