

D. Henry VIII of England Breaks with the Pope

1. Henry VIII (king of England as of 1509) was married to Catherine of Aragon. The marriage had not produced an heir, only a daughter, Mary. Henry was worried that his family would lose the throne. He was also worried that God disapproved of his marriage because Catherine had been married before to his own brother Arthur, who had died.
2. Henry asked the pope for an annulment (cancelation of marriage) from Catherine.
3. The pope refused to grant the annulment, in part because Catherine was the aunt of then Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, to whom the pope owed much for his support against Martin Luther.
4. Because the pope refused to grant what he considered necessary to his dynasty, Henry opted for a radical course of action. He decided to declare the independence of the Church of England from the pope.
5. In 1534, Henry insisted that the parliament of England pass a law known as the “Act of Supremacy.” This law made the *king* the head of the Church of England, a.k.a. “Anglicanism.”
6. Henry was thus able to end his marriage to Catherine, and marry another woman he had fallen in love with, Anne Boleyn, with whom he then had another child, Elizabeth (also a girl, of course).
7. Only through his third marriage was Henry able to get the heir he sought, Edward.
8. His third wife, Jane Seymour died giving birth, however. Henry would marry again three more times. He had six wives in all!



By the “Act of Supremacy” passed by the English parliament in 1534, king Henry VIII became the head of the *Church of England*.

E. Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth

1. When Henry VIII died in 1547, he was succeeded by his son Edward, who became Edward VI.
2. When Edward died after only six years, his sister Mary succeeded him, however, and as the loyal daughter of Catherine of Aragon, she wished to return England to Catholicism.
3. Mary's violent persecutions of Anglicans earned her the nickname “Bloody Mary,” but her brief reign of only five years prevented her from completing her plan.
4. Mary was succeeded by Elizabeth, the daughter of Anne Boleyn, who decided to resume Anglicanism. (Indeed she had to. As the daughter of Henry VIII’s second wife, her legitimacy as a queen rested on the validity of her father’s actions.)
5. In 1559, Elizabeth created a compromise with the Catholics known as the “Elizabethan Settlement.” She confirmed the “Act of Supremacy” of her father, but she made sure that Anglican church practices would almost mirror those of the Catholic church.
6. In 1588, the Spanish Hapsburgs sent a massive fleet, called the “Spanish Armada,” to invade England and put an end to Catholicism, but Elizabeth's sailors achieved a victory over the Armada, thus securing the fate of Anglicanism.
7. Elizabeth would rule over England from 1558 until 1603 – forty-five years – thus cementing the position of Anglicanism as the official religion of England.



Henry VIII’s daughter *Elizabeth I* secured the success of Anglicanism.