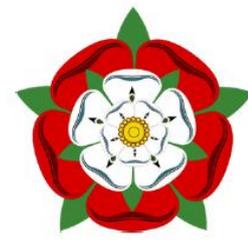


The Tudors



The Tudors ruled England and Wales between 1485 and 1603. Henry Tudor claimed the throne after defeating Richard III in battle. This victory, at the Battle of Bosworth Field, ended the civil war known as the War of the Roses. Henry Tudor took the title Henry VII and was the first of five Tudor monarchs. Some of the most famous kings and queens in English history came from the Tudor family, and the period of their rule saw significant changes in daily life, politics and religious beliefs throughout Britain. It was also a time of global exploration and popular entertainment. Famous explorers returned with unusual gifts from the New World and writers, such as Shakespeare, were filling theatres with their famous plays.



Main events

1485: Battle of Bosworth Field; Henry Tudor became Henry VII

1534: Henry VIII made supreme head of the Church in England

1588: England defeated the Spanish Armada

1603: Elizabeth I died and James Stuart became king

1485-1509: Henry VII's reign

1509-1547: Henry VIII's reign

1534: Henry VIII formed the Church of England

1547-1553: Edward VI's reign

1553-1558: Mary I's reign

1558-1603: Elizabeth I's reign



Beliefs

A significant legacy of the Tudor dynasty was Henry VIII's decision to break with the Catholic Church in Rome. In 1534 the Pope had refused to allow Henry to remarry. Henry remarried anyway (to the second of his six wives) and named himself the head of the Protestant Church of England. This started the English Reformation, during which the enormous power of the Roman Catholic Church was challenged. The consequences of this were far reaching and divided Catholics and Protestants even further, in Britain and Europe.



There were five Tudor monarchs (six if you count Lady Jane Grey who ruled for only nine days). Two of England's most famous monarchs were Tudors: Henry VIII, who married six times in his quest to have a male heir, and Elizabeth I who ruled for 45 years before dying without an heir. For more than a century, the Tudors faced significant challenges and threats to their rule, including rebellion, religious violence and the risk of invasion. By the end of their dynasty, England had separated from the Roman Catholic Church, beaten the Spanish Armada and started to explore the world. The Tudor dynasty helped lay the foundations for the exploration and colonisation that were to make England a powerful global force.

monarch: the king or queen of a country

medieval: something in European history between 476 CE and 1500 CE

legacy: something left behind after death

Reformation: changes to the Catholic Church that led to the setting up of the Protestant Church

alliance: groups working together



Vocabulary

heir: someone who will inherit a title or property

rebellion: violent action to change a country's political system

parliament: a group of people who make or change laws

military: armed forces of a country

devout: with deep religious beliefs