

The images for this class may be found at

http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/cdonahue/courses/ELH/elhfas/lecture/121_images.pdf and
http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/cdonahue/courses/ELH/elhlaw/lecture/121_images.pdf

THE ENGLISH REFORMATION

1. What does the Reformation have to do with our story?
2. Problems with discussing the Reformation
 - a. We have done little with religion as such.
 - b. The bias of the historians, including the one speaking to you.
 - c. A. G. Dickens, *The English Reformation*; Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars*
3. Henry VIII, the Reformation Parliament and the Six Articles (*Mats.*, pp. VIII–10 thru VIII–11.
 - a. transubstantiation, the doctrine that the eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ
 - b. the lack of necessity of reception of the eucharist in the form of both bread and wine
 - c. priests may not marry
 - d. vows of chastity should be observed
 - e. private masses are agreeable to God's law
 - f. auricular confession is expedient and necessary
4. The Henrician church as a schismatic church.
 - a. The position of Desiderius Erasmus (c.1469–1536).
 - b. The position of Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556).
 - c. The position of Thomas Cromwell (c.1485–1540).
 - d. The position of Thomas More (1478–1535)/
5. The Reformation Parliament.
 - a. The Commons' Supplication Against the Ordinaries.
 - b. The Ecclesiastical Appeals Act (1533) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–2)--its basis in Marsilius of Padua.

“An act that the appeals in such cases as have been used to be pursued to the see of Rome shall not be from henceforth had nor used but within this realm. Where, by divers sundry old authentic histories and chronicles, it is manifestly declared and expressed that this realm of England is an empire, and so hath been accepted in the world, governed by one supreme head and king having the dignity and royal estate of the imperial crown of the same, unto whom a body politic, compact of all sorts and degrees of people divided in terms and by names of spirituality and temporality be bounden and owe to bear next to God a natural and humble obedience (he being also institute and furnished by the goodness and sufferance of Almighty God with plenary, whole, and entire power, pre-eminence, authority, prerogative, and jurisdiction to render and yield justice and final determination to all manner of folk residents or subjects within this his realm, in all causes, matters, debates, and contentions happening to occur, insurge, or begin within the limits thereof, without restraint or provocation to any foreign princes or potentates of the world ...)--and whereas the king his most noble progenitors, and the nobility and commons of this said realm, at divers and sundry parliaments as well in the time of King Edward I, Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, and other

noble kings of this realm, made sundry ordinances, laws, statutes, and provisions for the entire and sure conservation of the prerogatives, liberties, and pre-eminences of the said imperial crown of this realm, and of the jurisdictions spiritual and temporal of the same, to keep it from the annoyance as well of the see of Rome as from the authority of other foreign potentates attempting the diminution or violation thereof, as often and from time to time as any such annoyance or attempt might be known or espied; and [whereas,] notwithstanding the said good statutes and ordinances ... , divers and sundry inconveniences and dangers not provided for plainly by the said former acts ... have risen and sprung by reason of appeals sued out of this realm to the see of Rome, in causes testamentary, causes of matrimony and divorces, right of tithes, oblations, and obventions ... : in consideration whereof, the king's highness, his nobles, and commons, considering the great enormities, dangers, long delays, and hurts that as well to his highness as to his said nobles, subjects, commons, and residents of this his realm in the said causes ... do daily ensue, doth therefore by his royal assent, and by the assent of the lords spiritual and temporal and the commons in this present parliament assembled and by authority of the same, enact, establish, and ordain that all causes testamentary, causes of matrimony and divorces, rights of tithes, oblations, and obventions ..., whether they concern the king our sovereign lord, his heirs, or successors, or any other subjects or residents within the same of what degree soever they be, shall be from henceforth heard ... and definitively adjudged and determined within the king's jurisdiction and authority and not elsewhere. ..."

- c. The Submission of the Clergy (1534) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–3).
 - d. Ecclesiastical Appointments (1534) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–4).
 - e. Peter's Pence (1534) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–5).
 - f. First Act of Succession (1534) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–6).
 - g. Supremacy (1534) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–7).
 - h. Dissolution of the Monasteries (various dates, most important, 1539) (*Mats.*, p. VIII–9).
6. Schism and Erastianism (Thomas Erastus, 1524–1583).
 7. The Tudor revolution in government. The late Professor Sir Geoffrey Elton in a famous book published now more than fifty years ago made the claim that Thomas Cromwell in addition to having engineered the reformation also created a revolution in ordinary governance. We have already adumbrated the basic theses: Cromwell according to Elton had a vision of government that was more public than medieval government had been. One of a number of ways in Elton expressed his thesis was that Cromwell introduced a transition from household to bureaucratic government. This did not mean that government was necessarily accountable to anyone other than the king. Indeed, the whole notion is that government should be able to do the king's will. The vision, however, was one in which the control over finance and the control over writing would be united in a small group of ministers occupying a public position but totally dependent on the king's will. Such a group of ministers did emerge in the reign of Elizabeth; it may have emerged in the reign of Mary Tudor. We call it the privy council, and it has a continuous history from the reign of Elizabeth to today. The question is whether we can trace its history back through the turbulent years of Mary's reign into those of Edward VI and finally into the middle years of Henry VIII. In his later years Elton never maintained that Cromwell had actually achieved a privy council that united control over finance and writing. He did maintain until the day he died that this was where Cromwell was heading. The following items I think can be taken as demonstrated: as the king's secretary Cromwell had access to if not control over

the signet. Thus, in medieval terms he was able to control the writing departments and he did this in accordance with the king's will and that of a relatively small group of councilors. Further, Cromwell made use of the techniques of chamber finance that had been used so successfully by Henry VII, and he proposed a reform of the Exchequer that he was never able to carry out but which was carried out by Sir William Paulet who was Cromwell's protégé after Cromwell's fall. Finally, and I've never been sure quite how this cuts, Cromwell created a body of courts independent of the Exchequer to supervise the collection and administration of extraordinary revenues. The most important of these were the court of Augmentations that dealt with lands acquired from the dissolved monasteries, the court of First Fruits and Tenths that dealt with ecclesiastical revenue, and the court of Wards and Liveries that dealt with revenues arising from the statute of uses. Paulet was to subordinate these courts to the Exchequer but to reform the Exchequer in the process. The key element in Elton's story that I'm not at all sure that we can see in Cromwell's time is the privy council. That really does seem to be a development of the second half of the century.

8. Edward VI (1547–1553)--Somerset and Northumberland.

9. Mary (1553–1558) and Philip II of Spain.

10. Elizabeth (1558–1603). Calvinism becomes the official religion. The 39 articles.

Article XI. Of the Justification of Man. We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deservings.

Wherefore, that we are justified by Faith only, is a most wholesome Doctrine, and very full of comfort, as more largely expressed in the Homily of Justification.

Article XVII. Of Predestination and Election. Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour.

Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God, be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity. ...

XXVIII. Of the Lord's Supper.

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather it is a Sacrament of our Redemption by Christ's death: insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith, receive the same, the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation (or the change of the substance of Bread and Wine) in the Supper of the Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ; but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The Body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten, in the Supper, only after an heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the Body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper, is Faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.

