# Unit Y306: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603

Note: Based on 3 x 50 minute lessons per week

Terms based on 6 term year.

This theme focuses on the causes, nature and extent of disorder in England and Ireland during this period. The following revolts and rebellions should be studied: Lovel, Simnel, Yorkshire, Warbeck, Cornish, Amicable Grant, Kildare, Pilgrimage of Grace, Western, Kett, local unrest 1549, Northumberland, Wyatt, Shane O’Neill, Northern Earls, Fitzgerald, Geraldine, Tyrone, O’Neill, Oxfordshire and Essex. The strands identified below are not to be studied in isolation to each other. Learners are not expected to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the specification content, except for the named in-depth studies, but are expected to know the main developments and turning points relevant to the theme.

| **Key Topic** | **Number of Lessons** | **Indicative Content** | **Extended Content** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction | 1 |  | Impact of the Wars of the Roses – religious change, social and economic changes.Chronological overview of key rebellions:Henry VII* Lovel – 1486
* Stafford – 1486
* Simnel 1486-7
* Yorkshire – 1489
* Cornish – 1497
* Warbeck – 1497

Henry VIII* Amicable Grant – 1525
* Silken Thomas – 1534-7
* Pilgramage of Grace – 1536-7

Edward VI* Western – 1549
* Kett – 1549
 | Nicholas Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2002)Barbara Mervyn, *Tudor Rebellions* 1485-1603Anthony Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch*, The Tudor Rebellions*, (Longman, Seminar Studies in History, 2008). John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, 1990)Tony Imperato and Martin D W Jones, *OCR A Level History: Protest and Rebellion in Tudor England 1489-1601* (Heinemann, 2008)Paul Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times*, 1485-1603, (CUP, Perspectives in History) |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction | 1 |  | Mary I* Northumberland – 1553
* Wyatt – 1554

Elizabeth I* Shane O’Neill – 1558-67
* Northern Earls – 1569-70
* Munster – 1569-73
* Geraldine – 1579-83
* Tyrone – 1595-1603
* Oxfordshire – 1596
* Essex - 1601
 | Roger Turvey and Nigel Heard, *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis*? (Hodder, Access to History, 2006)Geoff Woodward, *Rebellion and Disorder Under the Tudors 1485-1603*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2008)Angela Anderson and Andrew Pickering, *Historical Explanation and Using Evidence* (Heinemann, 2008) |
| **The main causes of rebellion and disorder**  | 3 | Political factions;  | Political Factions* Emergence of privy council
* Aragonese faction – Lincolnshire and Pilgrimage of Grace
* Factional politics during Elizabeth’s reign – Westmorland and Northumberland in 1569, Essex in 1601

Issues with Councillors* Bray and Morton – 1497
* Suffolk protesters complain of the Cardinal – 1525
* Cromwell, Cranmer, Audley and Rich – Ballads during the Pilgramige of Grace – 1536
* Wyatt claimed to seek better councel and councillors – 1554
* William Cecil blamed by northern earls – 1569
* Essex attempts to remove Robert Cecil – 1601

Government intervention* Increasing centralisation led to rebellion –
	+ Cornwall – 1497 and 1549
	+ north of England – Pilgramige of Grace – 1536, Northern Earls – 1569
	+ Ireland – growing rift between Earls of Kildare and Tudor monarchs led to Silken Thomas’s rebellion, Shane O’Neill’s rebellion, James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald’s first and second rebellion, Tyrone’s rebellion
 | Nicholas Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2002)Barbara Mervyn, *Tudor Rebellions* 1485-1603Anthony Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch*, The Tudor Rebellions*, (Longman, Seminar Studies in History, 2008). John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, 1990)Tony Imperato and Martin D W Jones, *OCR A Level History: Protest and Rebellion in Tudor England 1489-1601* (Heinemann, 2008)Paul Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times*, 1485-1603, (CUP, Perspectives in History)Roger Turvey and Nigel Heard, *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis*? (Hodder, Access to History, 2006)Geoff Woodward, *Rebellion and Disorder Under the Tudors 1485-1603*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2008)Angela Anderson and Andrew Pickering, *Historical Explanation and Using Evidence* (Heinemann, 2008) |
| 2 | the succession;  | Henry VII* Consequences of War of Roses and desire to remove the King:
	+ Lovel
	+ Simnel
	+ Warbeck

Henry VIII* Fewer dynastic challenges until Pilgrimage of Grace – concerns over who would inherit the throne owing to disinheritance of Mary

Edward and Mary* Edward’s Devise and Northumberland’s rebellion
* Wyatt sought to influence sucession

Elizabeth I* Important cause of the Northern Earls’ rebellion
* Mary Queen of Scots
* Earl of Essex wanted to make himself favoured by James VI
 |
| 3 | religion;  | Impact of religion on societyPilgrimage of Grace * Closing of the monasteries
* Heresy
* Government intervention

Western rebellion* Reaction to the Edwardian Reformation

Kett’s rebellion* In part a protest about slow rate of progress of Protestantism in the East.

Wyatt’s rebellion* Some religious undertones and concerns over a potential return to Catholicism

Northern Earls’ rebellion* Defence of the Catholic faith formed a part of the motives
 |
| 3 | taxation; . | * Important cause of popular protest
* Yorkshire rebellion – protest against tax for war in France
* Cornish rebellion – tax for war with Scotland
* Amicable Grant – non-parliamentary tax – widespread objections and at a time of worsening economic conditions.
* Pilgrimage of Grace – Item 14 of the Pontefract Articles discussed taxation
* Western rebellion – Duke of Somerset’s Subsidy Act
 |
| 2 | famine; | * 1 in 4 harvests failed. Most serious in 1555-6, 1596-7 – also in 1519-21, 1527-9, 1549-51, 1586-7
* Outbreak of disease across period
 |
| 1 | inflation;  | * Impact of price inflation
* Price inflation in the 1536 rebellion
 |
| 2 | enclosures;  | * Pilgrimage of Grace – Item 13 of the Pontefract Articles
* Kett’s rebellion – articles 1,3 and 29
* 1549 – numerous rebellions where peasants felt they could not get justice over enclosures
* Oxfordshire rebellion
 |
| 2 | social issues;  | * Pilgrimage of Grace – numerous social issues including right to hunt, rack renting, statute of uses
* Kett’s – right to hunt, concerns over welfare, bond men to be made free
* Western – narrowing the gap
 |
| 2 | mono and multi causal rebellions; causes of rebellion as reflected in the demands of the rebels and in their actions; the motives of the rebels; long and short-term causes of unrest; main and subsidiary causes of rebellions | * Monocausal or multicausal rebellions?
* Role of rumour
* Issues when deciding on motive
* Determining short or long term causes
 |
|  | 3 | Depth Studies | Causes of Pilgrimage of Grace* Elton’s view on factionalism
* Contrary views to Elton’s – multicausal, economic factors, social factors, religious factors

Causes of Western Rebellion* Primary view on it being religious
* Alternative views – social and economic or combination of religious / social.

Causes of Tyrone’s rebellion* Government interference
* Neglect
* Factionalism
* Achieve independence
 |
| **The frequency and nature of disturbances**  | 2 | Location and regional variations including the importance of the peripheral regions and major towns and cities;  | * Most major rebellions occurred in distant parts
* Pro-Yorkist areas
* South West England
* Using historic places to highlight heritage
* Influence of local magnates
* Political rebellions wanted to reach London – remained loyal throughout
* Principal towns and cities – alternative to London as local seat of powers
 | Nicholas Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2002)Barbara Mervyn, *Tudor Rebellions* 1485-1603Anthony Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch*, The Tudor Rebellions*, (Longman, Seminar Studies in History, 2008). John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, 1990)Tony Imperato and Martin D W Jones, *OCR A Level History: Protest and Rebellion in Tudor England 1489-1601* (Heinemann, 2008)Paul Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times*, 1485-1603, (CUP, Perspectives in History)Roger Turvey and Nigel Heard, *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis*? (Hodder, Access to History, 2006)Geoff Woodward, *Rebellion and Disorder Under the Tudors 1485-1603*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2008)Angela Anderson and Andrew Pickering, *Historical Explanation and Using Evidence* (Heinemann, 2008) |
| 2 | objectives including the removal of the monarch, change to policies and removal of English rule from Ireland;  | * Dynastic rebellions aiming to overthrow the monarch
* Demonstrations against government policies
* Irish rebellions seeking independence
 |
| 3 | size, frequency and duration of the rebellions; the support of the nobility, gentry, yeomen, clergy, commoners and foreign support for rebellions; decline in support for rebellion; | Duration* Varying across the period
* Commonality is the greater the distance from power base – the longer it lasted – e.g. Ireland was lengthy, Essex lasted 12 hours.

Size, support and frequency* Size – ranging in size and changed as circumstances developed – e.g. Cornish rebels began with a few thousand, swelled to 15000. After 1536, tended to be smaller, the most being 16000 in Norfolk, though usually less than 6000.
* Support – noble and foreign support – more threatening with these to the authority. Usually dynastic threats e.g. Lovel, Simnel, Warbeck, Northumberland, Essex, Irish revolts. Commoners – revolts against policies often attracted them, e.g. Amicable Grant and Oxfordshire. Other social groups, such as clergy, gentry, lawyers e.g. Pilgrimage of Grace.
* Frequency – most English rebellions occurred at beginning of Tudor period, dynastic claims died down as Tudors became more secure. Reaction to religious and economic policies plagued Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.
* Reasons for decline in frequency.
 |
| 3 | leadership and the abilities of leaders;  | Leadership* Dynastic revolts needed to be led by a royal claimant
* Nobility and gentry were natural leaders
* Clergy rarely led a revolt, though did on some occasions
* Lawyers became, in some areas, champions of the people
* Commoners – fewer rebellions, but some notable e.g. Kett

Qualities* No single quality
* Age was a factor – Simnel too young for example
* Legitimacy and social standing
* Physically strong and intimidating – e.g. Cornish rebels – Michael Joseph
* Charisma e.g. Wyatt
 |
| 2 | organisation;  | * Poorly organised – Northern Earls, Simnel, Western, Oxfordshire, Essex
* Well organised – Pilgrimage of Grace, Kett
* Main organisation aims – unite disparate groups, enlist and pay troops, requisition food / equipment, maintain discipline, hold councils and keep people informed.
 |
| 2 | strategy and tactics of the rebels;  | * Dynastic rebellions – needed a claimant, needed to take London, needed noble support and foreign and military aid e.g.Simnel, Warbeck, Wyatt, Essex.
* Protests against policies – needed popular support, backing of nobles, pressure authorities to respond, present grievances.
* Fear and intimidation – numerous examples, Lincolnshire Rising, Pilgrimage of Grace, Western, Kett, Oxfordshire
* Siege of County towns – standard tactic in most uprisings
* Raising rebel support – ringing church bells, lighting beacons, posting notices, holding council meetings (Kett), Aske issued badges.
* Irish rebellions – version of guerrilla warfare
 |
| 2 | differences between rebellions in England and Ireland;  | * Some differences with English rebellions – often lasted several years and happened one after the other, scale of fighting increased, truces rarely lasted. Henry VIII destabilised relations severely by becoming King of Ireland and introduction of Protestantism.
 |
| 2 | reasons for limited success and/or failure of rebellion | * Length of rebellion
* Degree of support
* Extent of provincialism
* Military backing
* Financial backing
* Quality of leadership / organisation
* Determination to resist or supress
* Location
 |
|  | 3 | Depth Studies | Pilgrimage of Grace* Debate over who led it, Gentry, popular protest with gentry coerced into it

Western * How violent was it?

Tyrone’s* Why was it difficult to supress?
 |
| **The impact of the disturbances upon Tudor governments**  | 7 | Their response to the threat of disorder at the time and subsequently, including initial responses, pre-emptive measures, pardons, the raising of troops, military confrontation trials and retribution (e.g. changes in government strategy, policies, legislation, propaganda);  | How did Tudor governments deal with rebellions?Strategy* Consulting advisers
* Information gathering
* Role of the nobility, including role of Duke of Somerset, 1549
* Elizabeth’s privy council
* Henry VII personal responses
* Similarities and differences in Ireland

Tactics* Avoiding confrontation until ready – Pilgrimage of Grace, Western, amicable grant
* Use of propaganda
* Pro-active measures in undermining potential rebels
* Similarities and differences in Ireland
* Recruiting armies and associated difficulties
* Battles and conflict
* Trials and retribution
 | Nicholas Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2002)Barbara Mervyn, *Tudor Rebellions* 1485-1603Anthony Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch*, The Tudor Rebellions*, (Longman, Seminar Studies in History, 2008). John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, 1990)Tony Imperato and Martin D W Jones, *OCR A Level History: Protest and Rebellion in Tudor England 1489-1601* (Heinemann, 2008)Paul Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times*, 1485-1603, (CUP, Perspectives in History)Roger Turvey and Nigel Heard, *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis*? (Hodder, Access to History, 2006)Geoff Woodward, *Rebellion and Disorder Under the Tudors 1485-1603*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2008)Angela Anderson and Andrew Pickering, *Historical Explanation and Using Evidence* (Heinemann, 2008) |
| 5 | the extent to which rebellions presented a serious threat to the government; the impact of rebellion on government and society. | Effects of rebellions on government and society* Effect on crown servants
* Effect on religion
* Effect on domestic policy including social and economic reforms
* Attempts to strengthen royal authority
* Impact on foreign affairs
* Were the Tudors every seriously threatened?
 |
|  | 3 | Depth Studies | Pilgrimage of Grace* Did the pilgrimage slow down religious change?

Western Rebellion* Was it ever serious?

Tyrone* Was Elizabeth seriously threatened?
 |
| **The maintenance of political stability**  | 12 | The role of local and central authorities: the Crown, the Church, nobility, gentry, lieutenants, sheriffs, JPs, local officials; popular attitudes towards authority. | Institutional developments* Impact of the monarchy on popular perceptions of authority
* Use of propaganda
* Position of the church and the role of the clergy
* Position of parliament
* Position of royal councils – the privy council, the council of Wales, the council of the north
* Developments of the judiciary and the law – Common law courts, prerogative courts, martial law, sedition, treason, Royal commissions, justices of the peace, sheriffs, lords lieutenant, county militia

Tudor policies* Changing role of the nobility
* Methods the crown used to deal with nobles, including acts of attainder / land seizure, rewards, use of government.
* Dealing with changes in religion, including reformation and restoration (and reformation again)
* Economic changes including government finance, enclosures, food supplies, dealing with unemployment.
* Social reforms, including Cromwells, Edwardian and Elizabethan
* Policies (and difficulties) in Ireland
 | Nicholas Fellows, *Disorder and Rebellion in Tudor England*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2002)Barbara Mervyn, *Tudor Rebellions* 1485-1603Anthony Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch*, The Tudor Rebellions*, (Longman, Seminar Studies in History, 2008). John Guy, *Tudor England* (OUP, 1990)Tony Imperato and Martin D W Jones, *OCR A Level History: Protest and Rebellion in Tudor England 1489-1601* (Heinemann, 2008)Paul Thomas, *Authority and Disorder in Tudor Times*, 1485-1603, (CUP, Perspectives in History)Roger Turvey and Nigel Heard, *Edward VI and Mary: A Mid-Tudor Crisis*? (Hodder, Access to History, 2006)Geoff Woodward, *Rebellion and Disorder Under the Tudors 1485-1603*, (Hodder, Access to History, 2008)Angela Anderson and Andrew Pickering, *Historical Explanation and Using Evidence* (Heinemann, 2008) |
| 3 | Depth Studies | Pilgrimage of Grace* Why was it so concerning to the authorities?

Western Rebellion* Was it a response to political instability?

Tyrone’s Rebellion* Why was it such a threat to stability?
 |

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