This course is intended to provide an up-to-date introduction to the development of English society between the late fifteenth and the early eighteenth centuries. Particular issues addressed in the lectures will include: the changing social structure; households; local communities; gender roles; economic development; urbanization; religious change from the Reformation to the Act of Toleration; the Tudor and Stuart monarchies;
rebellion, popular protest and civil war; witchcraft; education, literacy and print culture; crime and the law; poverty and social welfare; the changing structures and dynamics of political participation and the emergence of parliamentary government.

This Yale College course, taught on campus twice per week for 50 minutes, was recorded for Open Yale Courses in Fall Canny, Nicholas, English Reformations: Religion. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Haigh, Christopher. English Reformations. Religion, Politics and Society under the Tudors. Stack, Paul.

Milton Keynes: Open University Press, Wrightson, Keith. English Society, About the Course This course is intended to provide an up-to-date introduction to the development of English society between the late fifteenth and the early eighteenth centuries. Course Materials Download all course pages [zip - 10MB]. Description This course is intended to provide an up-to-date introduction to the development of English Reformations: Religion society between the late fifteenth and the early eighteenth centuries.


Requirements One five-page paper, one ten-page paper, and a final examination. Survey Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts about this course through the survey linked below. We also invite you to provide general feedback about Open Yale Courses by visiting the Feedback area of the site. English Reformations: Religion the survey. A portion of Politics and Society Under the Tudors proceeds from your purchases will be donated for the ongoing support and development of the Open Yale Courses program.


Christopher Haigh - Wikipedia

The Tudor period occurred between and in England and Wales and includes the Elizabethan period during the reign of Elizabeth I until Historian John Guy argued that "England was economically healthier, more expansive, and more optimistic under the Tudors” than at any Politics and Society Under the Tudors in a hundred years.

Following the Black Death and the agricultural depression of the late 15th century, the population began to increase. It was less than 2 million in The growing population stimulated economic growth, accelerated the commercialisation of agriculture, increased the production and export of wool, encouraged trade, and promoted the growth of London.

English Reformations: Religion high wages and abundance of available land seen in the late 15th century and early 16th century were replaced with low wages and a land shortage. Politics and Society Under the Tudors inflationary pressures, perhaps due to an influx of New World gold and a rising population, set the stage for social upheaval with the gap between the rich and poor widening.

This was a period of significant change for the majority of the rural population, with manorial lords beginning the process of enclosure of village lands that previously had been open to everyone. The Reformation transformed English religion during the Tudor period. Historians agreed that the great theme of Tudor history was the Reformation, the Politics and Society Under the Tudors of England from Catholicism to Protestantism.

The main events, constitutional changes, and players at the Politics and Society Under the Tudors level have long been known, and the major controversies about them largely resolved.

Historians until the late 20th century thought that the causes were: a widespread dissatisfaction or even disgust with the evils, corruptions, failures, and English Reformations: Religion of the established religion, setting up an undertone of anti-clericalism that indicated a rightness for reform. The interpretation by Geoffrey Elton in is representative of the orthodox interpretation. He argued that: Social historians after investigated English religion at the local level, and discovered the dissatisfaction had not been so widespread.

The Lollardy movement had largely expired, and the pamphleteering of continental reformers hardly reached Politics and Society Under the Tudors a few scholars at the University of Cambridge — King Henry VIII had vigorously and publicly denounced Luther's heresies. More important, the Catholic Church was in a strong condition in England was devoutly Catholic, it was loyal to the pope, local parishes attracted strong local financial support, religious services were quite popular both at Sunday Mass and at family devotions.

Complaints about the monasteries and the bishops were uncommon. Politics and Society Under the Tudors kings backed the popes and by the time Luther appeared on the scene, England was among the strongest supporters of orthodox Catholicism, and seemed a most unlikely place for a religious revolution. Henry engaged in a number of administrative, economic and diplomatic initiatives. He paid very close attention to detail and,
Henry VIII, flamboyant, energetic, militaristic, and headstrong, remains one of the most visible kings of England, primarily because of his six marriages, all of which were designed to produce a male heir, and his heavy retribution in executing many top officials and aristocrats. In Politics and Society Under the Tudors, he focused on fighting France—with minimal success—and had to deal with Scotland, Spain, and the Holy Roman Empire, often with military mobilisation or actual highly expensive warfare that led Politics and Society Under the Tudors high taxes.

The chief military success came over Scotland. This followed from his break from Rome, which English Reformation: Religion caused by the refusal of the Pope to annul his original marriage. Henry thereby introduced a very mild variation of the Protestant Reformation.

There were two main aspects. First Henry rejected the Pope as the head of the Church in England, insisting English Reformation: Religion national sovereignty required the Absolute supremacy of the king. Henry worked closely with English Reformation: Religion in Politics and Society Under the Tudors a series of laws that implemented the break. Englishmen could no longer appeal to Rome. All the decisions were to be made in England, ultimately by the King himself, and in practice by top aides such as Cardinal Wolsey and Politics and Society Under the Tudors Cromwell.

Parliament proved highly supportive, with little dissent. The decisive moves came with the Act of Supremacy in that made the king the protector and only supreme head of the church and clergy of England.

After Henry imposed a heavy fine on the bishops, they nearly all complied. The laws of treason were greatly strengthened so that verbal dissent alone was treasonous. There were some short-lived popular rebellions that were quickly suppressed. The league level in terms of the aristocracy and the Church was supportive. The highly visible main refusals came from Bishop Fisher and Chancellor Thomas More; they were both executed.

Among the senior aristocrats, trouble came from the Pole family, which supported Reginald Pole who was in exile in Europe. Henry destroyed the rest of the family, executing its leaders, and seizing all its property. The second stage involved the seizure of the monasteries.

The monasteries operating religious and charitable institutions were closed, the monks and nuns were pensioned off, and the valuable lands were sold to friends of the King, thereby producing a large, wealthy, gentry class that supported Henry.

In terms of theology and ritual there was little change, as Henry wanted to keep most elements of Catholicism and detested the "heresies" of Martin Luther and the other reformers. Biographer J. Scarisbrick says that Henry deserved his traditional title of "Father of the English navy. He inherited seven small warships from his father, and added two dozen more by In addition to those built in English Reformation: Religion, he bought up Italian and Hanseatic warships.

It was the most powerful naval force to date in English history: 24 ships led by the ton "Henry Imperial"; the fleet carried combat marines and sailors.

It forced the outnumbered French fleet back to its ports, took control of English Reformation: Religion English Channel, and blockaded Brest. Henry was the first king to organise the navy as a permanent force, with a permanent administrative and logistical structure, Politics and Society Under the Tudors by tax revenue. His personal attention was concentrated Politics and Society Under the Tudors land, where he founded the royal dockyards, planted trees for shipbuilding, enacted laws for in land navigation, guarded the coastline with fortifications, set up a school for navigation and designated the roles of officers and sailors.

He closely supervised the construction of all his warships and their guns, knowing their designs, speed, tonnage, armaments and battle tactics. He encouraged his naval architects, who perfected the Italian technique of mounting guns in the waist of the ship, thus lowering the centre of gravity and making it a better platform.

He supervised the smallest details and enjoyed nothing more than presiding over the launching of a new ship. Elton argues that Henry indeed build up the organisation and infrastructure of the Navy, but it was not a useful weapon for his style of warfare.

It lacked a useful strategy. It did serve for defence against invasion, and for enhancing England’s international prestige. Professor Sara Nair James says that in — Cardinal Thomas Wolsey would English Reformation: Religion the most powerful man in England except, possibly, for the king.

Operating with the firm support of the king, and with special powers over the church given by the Pope, Wolsey dominated civic affairs, administration, the law, the church, and foreign-policy. He was amazingly energetic and far-reaching. In terms of achievements, he built a great fortune for himself, and was a major benefactor of arts, humanities and education.

He projected numerous reforms, but in the end England government had not changed much. For all the promise, there was very little achievement of note. From the king’s perspective, his greatest failure was an inability to get a divorce when Henry VIII needed a new wife to give him a son who would be the undisputed heir to the throne. Historians agree that Wolsey was a disappointment. In the end, he conspired with Henry’s enemies, and died of natural causes before he could be beheaded.

Historian Geoffrey Elton argued that Thomas Cromwell who was Henry VIII’s chief minister from tonot only removed control of the Church of England from the hands of the Pope, but transformed England with an unprecedented modern, bureaucratic government.

Cromwell introduced reforms into the administration that delineated the King’s household from the state and created a modern administration. He injected Tudor power into the darker corners of the realm and radically altered the role of the Parliament of England.

This transition happened in the s, Elton argued, and must be regarded as part of a planned revolution. Elton’s point was that before Cromwell the
realm could be viewed as the King's private estate writ large, where most administration was done by the King's household servants rather than separate state offices.

By masterminding these reforms, Cromwell laid the foundations of England's future stability and success. Cromwell's luck ran out when he picked the wrong bride for the King; he was beheaded for treason. More recently historians have emphasised that the king and others played powerful roles as well.

Meanwhile, customs revenue was slipping. To get even larger sums it was proposed to seize the lands owned by monasteries, some of which the monks farmed and most of which was leased to local gentry. Taking ownership meant the rents went to the king. He created a new department of state and a new official to collect the proceeds of the dissolution and the Politics and Society Under the Tudors Fruits and Tenths.

The Court of Augmentations and number of departments meant a growing number of officials, which made the management of revenue a major activity. Its drawback was English Reformations: Religion multiplication of departments whose sole unifying agent was Cromwell; his fall caused confusion and uncertainty, the solution was even greater reliance on bureaucratic institutions and the new Privy Council. In dramatic contrast to his father, Henry VIII spent heavily, in terms of military operations in Britain and in France, and in building a great network of palaces.

How to pay for it remained a serious issue. The growing number of departments meant many new salaried bureaucrats.

There were further financial and administrative difficulties in —58, aggravated by war, debasement, corruption and inefficiency, which were mainly caused by Somerset.

After Cromwell's fall, William Paulet, 1st Marquess of Winchester the Lord Treasurer produced further reforms to simplify the arrangements, reforms which united most of the crown's finance under the exchequer. The courts of general surveyors and augmentations were fused into a new Court of Augmentations, and this was later absorbed into the exchequer along with the First Fruits and Tenths.

There was little debt, and he left his son a large treasury. Henry VIII spent heavily on luxuries, such as tapestries and palaces, but his peacetime budget was generally satisfactory. The heavy strain came from warfare, including building defences, building a Navy, Suppressing insurrections, warring with Scotland, and engaging in very expensive continental warfare.

Henry's Continental wars won him little glory or diplomatic influence, and no territory. After the Privy Coffers were responsible for 'secret affairs', in particular for the financing of war.

However, under the direction of regent Northumberland, Edward's wars were brought to an end. The mint no longer generated extra revenue after debasement was stopped in. Although Henry was only in his mids, his health deteriorated rapidly in At the time the conservative faction, led by Bishop Stephen Gardiner and Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, that was opposed to religious reformation seemed to be in power, and was poised to take control of the regency of the nine-year-old boy who was heir to the throne.

However, when the king died, the pro-reformation factions suddenly seized control of the new king, and of the Regency Council, under the leadership of Edward Seymour. Bishop Gardiner was discredited, and the Duke of Norfolk was imprisoned for all of the new king's reign. When the boy Politics and Society Under the Tudors was crowned, Somerset became Lord Protector of the realm and in effect ruled England from to Seymour led expensive, inconclusive wars with Scotland.

**Tudor period - Wikipedia**

Christopher Haigh's book, English Reformations, begins by showing that before there was no strong undercurrent for the Protestant Reformation in England Politics and Society Under the Tudors fact the exact opposite was true as English Reformations takes a refreshing new approach to the study of the Reformation in England. English Reformations: Religion Haigh's lively and readable study disproves any facile assumption that the triumph of Protestantism was inevitable, and goes beyond the surface of official political policy to explore the religious views and practices of ordinary English people.

With the benefit of hindsight, other historians have traced the course of the Reformation as a series of events inescapably culminating in the creation of the English Protestant establishment. Haigh sets out to recreate the sixteenth century as a time of excitement and insecurity, with each new policy or ruler causing the reversal of earlier religious changes. This is a scholarly and stimulating book, which challenges traditional ideas about the Reformation and offers a powerful and convincing alternative analysis.


Bibliographical Survey. The Religious World of Roger Martyn.