PLOTS & REVOLTS AT HOME

1569-1588
Thinking about what you know so far, rank these threats in order of danger.
Walsingham became Elizabeth’s Secretary of State in 1573

He created a spy network both in England and abroad and played a crucial role in uncovering the plots against Elizabeth

He had spies in every county and major town turning ordinary people to spy on their neighbours for money

By 1580, he had agents in 12 towns in France, 9 in Germany, 4 in Spain, 3 in Italy

He mastered writing in code (ciphering)

He also used captured Catholic priests to inform

He didn’t use torture were possible believing it would make people sympathetic to the “criminal”

Describe the key features of Walsingham’s spy network 4marks
No instructions – work it out!

Intercepting coded letters and messages
The plotters developed increasingly sophisticated ways of communicating; some of Mary's letters were smuggled out in the heels of her ladies' shoes. Elizabeth's government kept on top of this, often by placing informers in suspects' households. Walsingham employed a man skilled at re-sealing letters so the plotters did not know they had been intercepted, and a leading code breaker who deciphered Mary's letters.

Employing a network of spies and agents
Agents with codenames were based overseas in major towns and cities, including France, Italy and Spain. Some were double agents, taking parts in plots against Elizabeth and sending information to Walsingham. Spies were deployed to root out information as events arose.

Francis Walsingham started his long career in government as an MP, and then worked for Sir William Cecil from 1568. He took over Cecil's framework of agents and reorganised it into an effective spy network. Walsingham was a ruthless and driven man, a workaholic in today's terms, who ran his spy network on top of his business as Secretary of State.

Searching and registers
Town councils were authorised to search foreigners' houses. The owners of taverns and inns had to report any foreigners staying with them. Customs officials also stopped and questioned travellers from overseas and could search them for papers, including messages and letters.

Using informers in England
The Lord Lieutenants of each county and the bishops officially reported any threats to Walsingham and everyone was encouraged to report suspicions of dangers to the Queen.

Interrogation and torture
Captured priests, such as Edmund Campion, and plotters like Francis Throckmorton, were tortured on the rack to extract information about their intentions and other threats to Elizabeth. Then they were executed as a warning.

Act of Parliament
Walsingham was influential in Parliament, which passed Acts throughout the 1570s and 1580s, increasing penalties against Catholics, including the execution of priests. The 1584 Bond of Association pledged that in the event of Elizabeth's life being threatened, Mary, Queen of Scots was to be executed.

Capturing Catholic priests and recusants
After the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570, her government believed Elizabeth's life was in danger from Catholic fanatics. From 1574, the Pope started sending missionary priests to England. Walsingham's spies were particularly effective at seizing priests on the streets of London, with one Jesuit complaining: 'the spies so many and diligent as every hour almost we heard of some (priests) taken'.
HOW THREATENING?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat level</th>
<th>Were the leaders effective, powerful and dynamic?</th>
<th>Did they have a clear and realistic plan for overthrowing Elizabeth?</th>
<th>Was there a lot of support from the English people?</th>
<th>Was there strong foreign support?</th>
<th>Did the Queen make mistakes in dealing with the threat?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes – a significant threat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibly – a slight threat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No – not threatening at all</td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
<td>Northern Rebellion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You have a sheet with the above table on, as we go through each of the following plots, place them in the categories above.

As well as this table, for each plot we’ll consider the danger ratings / levels (1-5)

1. The revolt had no chance of success
2. This revolt raised a slight concern for Elizabeth
3. This revolt had some chance of success
4. This revolt caused serious concern
5. This revolt had a high chance of success
Create 3 columns: **Causes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Politics</th>
<th>Mary, Queen of Scots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cut your cards and place them in the appropriate column

Which of these statements do you agree with and why?

- Religion was **definitely** the main cause
- Religion was **probably** the main cause
- Religion was **possibly** the main cause
- Religion was **definitely NOT** the main cause
NORTHERN REBELLION 1569

- Westmoreland and Northumberland’s **AIMS:**
  - Restore the Catholic faith
  - Restore the political power of the Northern nobility (nobles)
  - Remove evil councillors influencing the Queen away from the true faith (Catholicism)

- There was no mention of Mary, Queen of Scots or removing Elizabeth

- They weren't sure if they were to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots or just free Mary and have her named as heir, Elizabeth just moved Mary to a new prison!

- Westmoreland and Northumberland were not effective, brave or decisive leaders. As soon as they heard Sussex was moving toward them with a large royal army, they panicked and fled

- Most support for Westmoreland and Northumberland came from their own tenants, who had no choice to fight for them.

- Most English Catholics did not support the revolt

- Neither did the French, Spanish or Pope! Philip II didn’t want Mary Queen because of her ties with France

- Elizabeth’s government didn't panic, her officials in the north prevented key towns being taken and Elizabeth could easily raise a big army

- 700 people were executed for taking part – Perhaps suggesting she had been frightened?
On A3 paper, you need to produce a detailed newspaper report on the rebellion.

As a minimum it should include:

- Reasons for the rebellion focusing on RELIGION & POLITICS
- An interview with all key members saying why they have rebelled
- A summary of Mary Queen of Scots story and importance
- The plan for the rebellion
- Key events of the rebellion
- The papal bull
- Significance (outcome) of the rebellion

You can use laptops for pics to add to your newspaper
HOW **SIGNIFICANT WAS THE NORTHERN REBELLION?**

- The first serious rebellion by English Catholics
- Treason laws became harsher and definition of treason refined
- Prompted harsher treatment of Catholics in England
- Majority of Catholics remained loyal
- Pope Pius VI excommunicated Elizabeth, his Papal Bull marked a turning point for English Catholics, their loyalty to the Queen would now always be in doubt - Loyalty to both was not possible and this was a direct order from The Pope

On your sheet, circle where the Northern Rebellion should be as a danger, in your books justify your decision.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The revolt had no chance of success</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>This revolt raised a slight concern for Elizabeth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Does the Northern Rebellion help explain why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed in 1587?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes it can</th>
<th>No it can’t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It showed that as long as Mary was held in captivity in England there will always be Catholics who will rebel in order to free Mary &amp; restore Catholicism</td>
<td>The rebels did not come close to achieving their aims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth must have been frightened to order the execution of so many people who were involved</td>
<td>It was another 18 years before Mary was executed, so it can’t have been that important?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Plot 2: Ridolfi Plot 1571**

- Roberto Ridolfi was a spy for the pope, living in England

- **AIMS:**
  - Murder Elizabeth I
  - Launch a Spanish invasion
  - Put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne of England
  - Again, marry Duke of Norfolk to Mary

- Ridolfi left England to meet with the pope, Philip II and Alva with a letter from Norfolk saying he would lead the rebellion if Philip would support it. Philip agreed to send 10,000 men!

- Cecil & Walsingham uncovered the coded plot and proved that Norfolk was guilty again of treason

- Parliament was called in 1572, it demanded that Norfolk and Mary be executed, Elizabeth signed Norfolk’s death warrant, but again refused to sign Mary’s.
HOW **SIGNIFICANT** WAS RIDOLFI PLOT?

- Coming so soon after the 1570 Papal Bull excommunicating Elizabeth, it reinforced the threat posed to Elizabeth from all Catholic sides.

- It also reminded Elizabeth of the threat from Spain, as well as adding to the tension already building with the persecution of the Protestants in the Netherlands.

- It led to Elizabeth trying to improve relations with France as a buffer to Spain’s threat.

- Pressure was put on Elizabeth to be harsher to Catholics in England, but a French massacre of Protestants in 1572 led to fear of a similar Catholic attack in England.

What is the danger level of the Ridolfi Plot? 1-5

Explain (in your books) your reasoning for the level you have given.
The pope smuggled priests into England from 1574 to try and strengthen the Catholic resistance to Protestantism. They stayed with Noble Catholic families. This was dangerous and Elizabeth began keeping these Nobles under surveillance.

Government agents, under Walsingham (Elizabeth’s spymaster) began raiding Catholic homes, any priests discovered risked being hanged, drawn and quartered. Priests hid in ‘Priest holes’ well hidden in these homes.

Source B:
A raid on a Catholic house in Northamptonshire, described by a Catholic priest, John Gerard, who was staying there. He managed to hide in the priest hole without being caught. There they were, straining and shouting to get through and search the house, yet they halted in an unlocked room just long enough to allow us to reach the hiding-place and shut ourselves safely in. Then they... burst into the lady’s apartment while others raged round the remaining rooms.

‘Priest hole’ in Oxburgh Hall
In 1581, Parliament passed 2 laws against Catholics…

- Recusants would now be fined £20 – bankrupting most families
- Attempting to convert people to Catholicism was now treason

What do these laws, added to the priest raids, suggest about Elizabeth’s state of mind? Or do you think these responses were still quite weak?
1583

**Plot 3: Throckmorton Plot**

- Francis Throckmorton, a young Englishman planned for
  - The French Duke of Guise, Mary’s cousin, to invade England
  - Overthrow Elizabeth
  - Restore Catholicism

- Philip II would provide financial support
- The Pope also knew about the plot, and approved!
- Walsingham again, uncovered the plot, finding papers in Throckmorton’s house. Mary’s involvement was never proven
- Throckmorton was tortured and executed in 1584

The plotters and their aims:

- Mary, Queen of Scots
- English Catholic nobles
- French Army
- Spanish Ambassador
- French Ambassador
- Money from Spain
- Free Mary, Queen of Scots as rightful Queen of England
- Restore Catholicism and a Catholic monarchy
Again, it emphasised the threat from abroad

Dutch leader William of Orange was executed, adding to Elizabeth’s fears

It also showed the potential threat if France & Spain joined forces

Throckmorton’s papers included a list of Catholic sympathisers suggesting that the government’s fears of a ‘threat within’ was true and real

Life became very hard for Catholics, they were treated with great suspicion. Many fled, 11,000 were imprisoned in the Tower, or kept under house arrest

Concrete evidence against Mary was now priority

Another law passed in Parliament in 1585 said - Helping or sheltering Catholic priests would be punishable with death

What is the danger level of the Throckmorton Plot (1-5)

Explain (in your books) your reasoning for the level you have given
Anthony Babington was an English Catholic with links to France

The plot:
- Murder Elizabeth I
- Encouraged English Catholics to rebel
- Again, Duke of Guise would invade with 60,000 troops putting Mary on the throne
- Philip II & The Pope supported this plot

Babington wrote to Mary about the plot, but she was very closely watched by 1586, her letters were intercepted by Walsingham’s team from the beer barrels they were hidden in, and the codes had been cracked.

Walsingham arrested 6 Catholics including Babington, who were all executed

This time, Mary was tried by the Privy Council as there had been too many plots in her name!
This was especially significant as by 1585, relations between England and Spain had totally broken down and the English were supporting the Protestants in The Netherlands, as a result, Spain’s support of it really could lead to success

- England was fully at war with Spain
- Elizabeth’s government were now determined to crush Catholicism
- 300 recusants were arrested in North London alone, 31 priests were executed
- Mary would be executed as a result of this plot and thus, the end of a Catholic monarch replacing Elizabeth
- Last straw perhaps in leading to the Spanish Armada

What is the danger level of the Babington (1-5)

Explain (in your books) your reasoning for the level you have given
Describe two features of the plots against Elizabeth I in the years 1571–86. 4 marks

Exam tip
This question is worth only 4 out of a possible 32 marks. Although 4 marks can make a difference to your overall result, you should only spend about 4–6 minutes on it. This means you must be very clear and concise.
Mary Queen of Scot’s death warrant
MARY’S JOURNEY: SUMMARY

Although Mary’s trial took place in October 1586, Elizabeth would not sign her death warrant until 1 February 1587, and even then she refused to send it, blaming her secretary for its eventual arrival at Fotheringhay.

The assassination of the Protestant ruler, William of Orange, in 1584, and the outbreak of war with Spain a year later, made Elizabeth’s government even more worried about Catholic attacks and the threat to Elizabeth’s life. Spain was now ...

Francis Walsingham finally secured written evidence showing that Mary approved Anthony Babington’s plot in 1586 to assassinate the Queen. She was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death.

The Throckmorton Plot planned for a French army to invade England and restore the Catholic religion. The plotters claimed Mary knew about the plan. This alarmed Elizabeth’s councillors because ...

The Revolt of the Northern Earls and the Ridolfi Plot provided evidence that Mary was a danger to Elizabeth even though they ...
MARY’S EXECUTION

A law passed in Parliament in 1585 (*The act for the preservation of the Queen’s safety*) said in the event of Elizabeth’s assassination, Mary was to be barred from the throne, therefore making it pointless killing Elizabeth! But also anyone involved in trying, would be executed Very clever! 😊

- Nothing could happen to Mary until her role had been investigated and a trial had found her guilty

- Walsingham’s evidence was enough and she was found guilty under the above act.

- Elizabeth **FINALLY** signed the death warrant in February 1587

- It was also clear that Philip II was planning a major attack on England, so it was important to get rid of the prize for that invasion

So why execute her now, after 20 years of plots and threats?
HOW **SIGNIFICANT** WAS MARY’S EXECUTION?

- The execution removed the target and prize of any future plot.
- Philip II had been planning to invade England since 1585, the execution of a Catholic queen gave him one final reason to remove Elizabeth.
- Mary left her claim to the English throne to Philip II on her death.
- Mary would be executed as a result of this plot and thus, the end of a Catholic monarch replacing Elizabeth.
- Last straw perhaps in leading to the Spanish Armada.

**Homework: Essay question**

Explain how significant the threats Elizabeth I faced between 1569-88 were.
Summary
- The Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 was a serious rebellion focused on overthrowing Elizabeth I and restoring Catholicism.
- Elizabeth I's excommunication in 1570 put English Catholics in a difficult position between loyalty to their political leader, Elizabeth I, or their spiritual leader, the pope.
- Plots against Elizabeth were encouraged by Spain and the pope.
- Three other plots aiming to replace Elizabeth I with Mary, Queen of Scots, were Ridolfi (1571); Throckmorton (1583); and Babington (1586).
- Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in 1587 after the Babington Plot.
- Plots against Elizabeth failed because Sir Francis Walsingham had an extensive network of spies and informers.
- Catholic priests were smuggled into England to support English Catholics.

Checkpoint
Strengthen
S1 Give two pieces of evidence of each of the following factors in the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569.
   a Political factors
   b Religious factors
S2 Give one important outcome for each of the plots against Elizabeth I: the Revolt of the Northern Earls; the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington plots.
S3 Give three reasons why Sir Francis Walsingham’s spy network was so effective.

Challenge
C1 Give three reasons why the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 was such a major threat to Elizabeth I.
C2 Compare the threats to Elizabeth I from 1571–86. Which was the most serious and why?
C3 Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in 1587 and not earlier.
If you are not confident about any of these questions, your teacher can give you some hints.