

Six Crowns challenge:



1) A marriage proposal – Your brother-in-law, King Philip II of Spain offers to marry you
Do you:

- a) Accept his proposal because friendship & alliance with Spain, the most powerful country in Europe, will be useful to you
- b) Reject his proposal politely, after all he is a Catholic and was married to Mary!

2) A Religious settlement – After the rollercoaster of religion over the last 25 years what will you do:

- a) Postpone a decision indefinitely to avoid offending any one group
- b) Retain a Catholic Church and it's laws
- c) End Catholic laws (doctrine) and return to a moderate (not aggressive) Protestantism
- d) Establish a radical / aggressive Protestant Church

3) Marriage, 1560 – You have developed a great affection for Robert Dudley, a lowly noble disliked by your council. His wife recently died having “fallen down the stairs”, do you:

- a) Marry Dudley
- b) Stay single
- c) Stay single but become Dudley's mistress

4) Parliament, 1566 – Members of the House of Commons ask you to marry in order to guarantee the succession. Some MPs also want to make the Church more Protestant, you need Parliament on your side to raise money when you need it. Do you:

- a) Agree to both demands, this will please MPs and vocal Puritans
- b) Agree to marry in order to secure the Tudor dynasty but refuse the religion question
- c) Refuse both demands

5) Mary, Queen of Scots, 1568 – Mary has fled from Scotland after nearly a decade as Queen. Her husband was murdered and she has upset most of her country. She has announced that she should be Queen of England and may have Catholic supporters in England. Do you:

- a) Help Mary, as a fellow-monarch, to regain her throne in Scotland
- b) Send her into exile abroad, perhaps to France
- c) Hand her over to the Scottish rebels
- d) Keep her in England, effectively imprisoned

6) War with Spain, 1568 – There have been clashes with Spain following their invasion of the Netherlands. Spanish gold has been seized in an English port. An English fleet in America has been attacked. Do you:

- a) Declare war on Spain, joining the Dutch Protestant rebels
- b) Apologise to Spain for the problems
- c) Wait on events, trying to avoid war without appearing weak

7) The Duke of Norfolk, 1569 – Your cousin, the Duke of Norfolk, has been arrested. He is accused of plotting to marry Mary, Queen of Scots and of Catholic plots against you. Do you:

- a) Refuse to execute Norfolk despite your council's urgings
- b) Order Norfolk's execution immediately

8) Marriage again, 1572 – Negotiations begin for a marriage the Duke of Alencon, brother of the French king. A child will resolve worries about your succession. The marriage will also form an Anglo-French alliance to help against the Spanish threat. Do you:

- a) Marry Alencon
- b) End the negotiations because you don't want to appear to be playing second fiddle to France
- c) Continue the negotiations in case a French alliance is needed urgently

9) Aid to the Netherlands, 1582 – Spanish troops are beginning to make effective progress in the Netherlands. Many of your councillors, including Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester), are urging you to send support to the Dutch rebels. Do you:

- a) Appoint Leicester to lead an army to resist the Spanish progress
- b) Allow 'unofficial' aid to reach the Dutch Protestants, but refuse 'direct' aid
- c) Refuse all aid because of the dangers of provoking Spain

10) Aid to the Netherlands, 1585 – Spanish troops have now made significant progress in the Netherlands. Spain has also reach an agreement with Catholics in France. Your councillors are once again urging you to send aid to the Dutch Protestants. Do you:

- a) Appoint Leicester to lead an army to resist the Spanish progress
- b) Allow 'unofficial' aid to reach the Dutch Protestants, but refuse 'direct' aid
- c) Refuse all aid because of the dangers of provoking Spain

11) Mary Queen of Scots, 1586 – Mary has been caught corresponding with Catholics plotting to free her and make her Queen of England. She has been tried and found guilty. Parliament is putting pressure on you to execute your cousin. Do you:

- a) Order her execution immediately
- b) Refuse her execution because it will provoke a Spanish invasion in retaliation
- c) Refuse to agree to Parliament's pressure

12) Your portrait – Paintings of you have been circulating that are not entirely flattering! They show an ageing monarch who is nothing like the image you have tried to create. Do you:

- a) Ban all such portraits and enforce a system of censorship, only 1 style of portrait is to be produced
- b) Accept that time catches up with everyone and your people love you anyway
- c) Order that more flattering pictures are circulated in greater numbers

Have you survived? How many crowns did you have left?

