

The Northern Rebellion 1569

Why did the Northern Earls rebel and how significant was this rebellion?



By 1569, Elizabeth had refused to name an heir and to discuss marriage! A plot was hatched to solve this succession crisis. The plan was to marry the Duke of Norfolk to Mary, Queen of Scots. Norfolk claimed to be Protestant (but certainly had Catholic sympathies), as a result their children and heirs would be raised Protestant. Mary liked the plan!

Dudley, who like all other courtiers and subjects wanted a smooth succession and to avoid chaos if Elizabeth died, was in on the plot, but eventually told Elizabeth.

This made it very clear to Elizabeth that Mary was a threat to her!



What were Elizabeth's main threats?

Threat 1: English Catholics

Elizabeth grew more and more suspicious of English Catholics after the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569.

In 1570, the pope told England's Catholics that they didn't have to obey Elizabeth any more and said she should be overthrown.

From 1574, Catholic priests were smuggled into England from Europe to make sure English Catholics kept their faith.

Threat 3: Spain

Philip II of Spain was a strict Catholic who wanted to destroy Protestantism. Spain had a large and growing empire in the Americas, making it rich and powerful.

Threat 2: Mary, Queen of Scots

Mary had a strong claim to the English throne and was at the centre of several plots to overthrow Elizabeth.

Mary's French family, the Guise, was very powerful. They supported the plots against Elizabeth.

Threat 4: the Dutch Revolt

Dutch Protestants continued their rebellion against Spanish rule.

The large Spanish army in the Netherlands was seen as a major threat to Protestant England.

Elizabeth's support for the Dutch Protestant rebels made Anglo-Spanish relations worse.



How threatening?

Plots danger rating: Northern Rebellion 1569

As we go through each plot, work out on the danger rating scale how dangerous they were to Elizabeth

Were the leaders effective, powerful and dynamic?	Did they have a clear and realistic plan?	Was there a lot of support from the English people?	Was there strong foreign support?	Did the Queen make any mistakes in dealing with it
Not a real threat Possible / slight Significant Threat	Not a real threat Possible / slight Significant Threat	Not a real threat Possible / slight Significant Threat	Not a real threat Possible / slight Significant Threat	Not a real threat Possible / slight Significant Threat

How threatening?

As well as the 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

Northern Rebellion 1569

What can you remember?



CAUSES of the Northern Rebellion 1569

1. The Earls had political grievances against Elizabeth, as she had weakened their powers in the North. The Earl of Northumberland had lost an important position as Warden of the Middle March, defending the border against Scotland. Elizabeth extended central control from London by putting her cousin, Lord Hunsdon, in charge of Berwick, and she appointed the Earl of Sussex as President of the Council of the North.

2. The rebels wanted to re-establish Catholicism as the country's religion.

3. At the start of the revolt, the Earls stormed into Durham Cathedral and held a Catholic service.

4. Elizabeth had taken lands from these nobles, so their grievances were personal. Northumberland had lost copper mines, costing him money. Many northern nobles were facing financial hardship.

5. The Earls wanted to get rid of 'evil councillors', such as Cecil, who they blamed for religious changes and their loss of political power.

6. The rebels wore Catholic badges and emblems.

7. The Earls had already taken part in a plan to marry Mary, Queen of Scots to the Duke of Norfolk, the most powerful noble in England. They hoped this would help Mary to become Elizabeth's successor. However, nobles loyal to Elizabeth (such as the Earl of Leicester) had also been part of this plan, because they hoped this marriage would force Elizabeth to name a successor. These loyal nobles told Elizabeth about the plan.

8. After Elizabeth found out about the Norfolk plan, she summoned the Earls to court. They feared prison or execution. They may have thought their only option was to revolt.

9. After the failure of the Norfolk plot, their more hot-headed followers wanted the Earls to take action. Lady Westmorland encouraged her husband not to back down.

11. Government of the north of England was now carried out by the Council of the North, rather than by the traditional nobility.

10. The Catholic rulers, Philip II of Spain and the Pope, appeared willing to support the revolt.

12. The Earls wanted Mary to be recognised as Elizabeth's successor and for her imprisonment to end.

Create a key for



Political



Religious



Mary, Queen of Scots

Highlight each cause matching your key eg: No.2 Religious

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

Who were the key players in the Revolt of the Northern Earls?



Mary, Queen of Scots

- She wanted to be queen of England.
- Agreed to marry the Duke of Norfolk.
- If they had children, her children would be heirs to the English throne.



Duke of Norfolk

- Said he was Protestant but had close links with the northern Catholic families.
- Coming from an ancient family, he particularly hated Elizabeth's new ministers, such as William Cecil.
- If he married Mary, Queen of Scots, and she became queen, he would rule England and their children would become heirs to the throne.



Earl of Northumberland

- Was Catholic and had lost the power he once had at court.
- Elizabeth had also taken away his rights to a copper mine on his land.



Earl of Westmorland

- Was Catholic and had lost the power he once had at court.



Protestant courtiers

- Wanted an heir to the throne to avoid a possible civil war* when Elizabeth died.
- Supported the possible marriage between Mary, Queen of Scots, and the Duke of Norfolk. Norfolk was Protestant, so they expected children from the marriage would be Protestants too.



Ordinary northerners

- Strongly Roman Catholic so wanted the return of Catholicism.
- They hated the new, Protestant archbishop of Durham, who was trying to force the North to become Protestant.

One of the main parts of the Revolt of the Northern Earls was the plan to marry Mary to the Duke of Norfolk. The plan was not treason, but there were problems with it.

- Marriage between members of the nobility needed the queen's approval.
- Elizabeth had made it clear that she alone would decide her successor.
- The Duke of Norfolk had Catholic sympathies, so England might end up with a Catholic monarch.

Source A

A letter to Philip II written by Guerau de Spes, Spain's ambassador to Elizabeth's court, on 8 January 1569.

The Queen of Scotland told my servant to convey [say] to me the following words: – 'Tell the ambassador that, if his master will help me, I shall be Queen of England in three months and mass shall be said all over the country'.

What does Source A suggest about Mary's motives in this plot?

Who else, at Court, was clearly involved in the Plot?

What does this source suggest in terms of this plot being supported?

Northern Rebellion Causes summary



Political Reasons

Removal of evil councillors such as Cecil who they blamed for the changes

Northern nobles felt they were losing power and influence eg: Northumberland lost his role as Warden of the Middle March and defending the border

Elizabeth set up the Council of the North to govern the north under the Earl of Sussex, further limiting the northern Noble's power

Elizabeth had taken land from the northern Nobles eg: Northumberland lost his copper mines leading to financial loss

Religious Reasons

Rebels wanted to re-establish Catholicism in the north. This can be seen by the public Catholic Mass held at Durham Cathedral. The rebels also wore Catholic badges and emblems

Philip II of Spain and The Pope appeared to support the plot

Elizabeth summoned the Earls involved to court, fearing imprisonment or execution, they may have panicked and thought rebellion was the only way out. This was encouraged by Lady Westmoreland who told her husband not to back down to Elizabeth

Mary, Queen of Scots

Wanted to marry Norfolk to Mary, Queen of Scots.

They would also name her Elizabeth's successor.

Wanted Mary named as successor and released from prison

Explain why the Northern Nobles rebelled in 1569 [12]

Political reasons were the main reasons for the Northern Nobles rebelling in 1569, How far do you agree? [16]

Political Paragraph

One reason why the Northern Nobles rebelled against Elizabeth in 1569 was due to them being upset politically. Firstly the Northern Nobles hated Elizabeth's advisors, they blamed them for Elizabeth making some of the decisions she has so far in her reign; They referred to them as 'evil councillors'. Furthermore, the Northern Nobles felt that they were losing their power and influence not only in their own county but also at court and in the Privy Council. Traditionally the Northern Nobles had been left alone to govern the north as they saw fit, especially by Elizabeth's sister Mary. An example of them losing power would be Northumberland losing his role as Warden of the Middle March and borders, a longstanding position he'd held. As well as this, Elizabeth set up the 'Council of the North' to govern the North under the Earl of Sussex, a southerner which further limited the power of the Northern Nobles. Finally, Elizabeth had confiscated land from the Northern earls for example she took away Northumberland copper mines, leading him to financial losses. It is these reasons that had caused the Northern Nobles to become upset and as a result rebel in 1569.

Religion Paragraph

Another reason for the Northern Rebellion was religion. In 1566 The Pope had told the English Catholics to stop going to Elizabeth's 'Church of England'. This was part of his 'counter reformation'; to remove all heretics and Protestants from Europe and turn England back to a Catholic country. The Northern Nobles were Catholic and wanted to turn the North (at least), back Catholic. One third of the Nobility were recusants, refusing to accept Elizabeth's new Religious Settlement. One of the ways the Nobles made this a religious rebellion was by holding the Catholic Mass in Durham Cathedral, a very public defiance of Elizabeth's Settlement. Their rebellion also saw them and their rebels wearing Catholic badges and emblems. Further to this, Philip II and The Pope both supported this plot clearly showing it had at least some Religious causes as they are promoting the 'Counter Reformation' and encouraging the Northern earls to rebel. It is clear therefore that the Northern Rebellion had religious causes as they held a Catholic Mass en route to England and had Catholic badges.

Mary, Queen of Scots Paragraph

A final reason for the Northern Rebellion was Mary, Queen of Scots. Firstly, the rebellion took place just one year after Mary arrived in England and a significant part of the plot was to marry Mary to the Duke of Norfolk, also demanding that Mary be named as Elizabeth's heir. This is clearly a motivating factor for the rebellion to force Elizabeth to do this or lose the rebellion. As well as this, they wanted to free Mary from her imprisonment at the hands of Elizabeth. They felt that Mary was innocent and should not be being held against her will. This therefore shows that Mary was a pivotal reason for this rebellion. Whether Mary was in on the plot or not doesn't really matter, it is clear she is the figure head for the rebellion because they are planning on freeing her and marrying her to the Duke of Norfolk, forming a formidable and legitimate alliance against Elizabeth.

Political reasons were the main reasons for the Northern Nobles rebelling in 1569, How far do you agree? [16]

If it was a 16 marker, these 3 paragraphs remain the core of your answer, you're just arguing why one is more important a cause than the other two!

- Fill in your info box on the Northern Rebellion.

Name & Date:

Aims:

The plan:

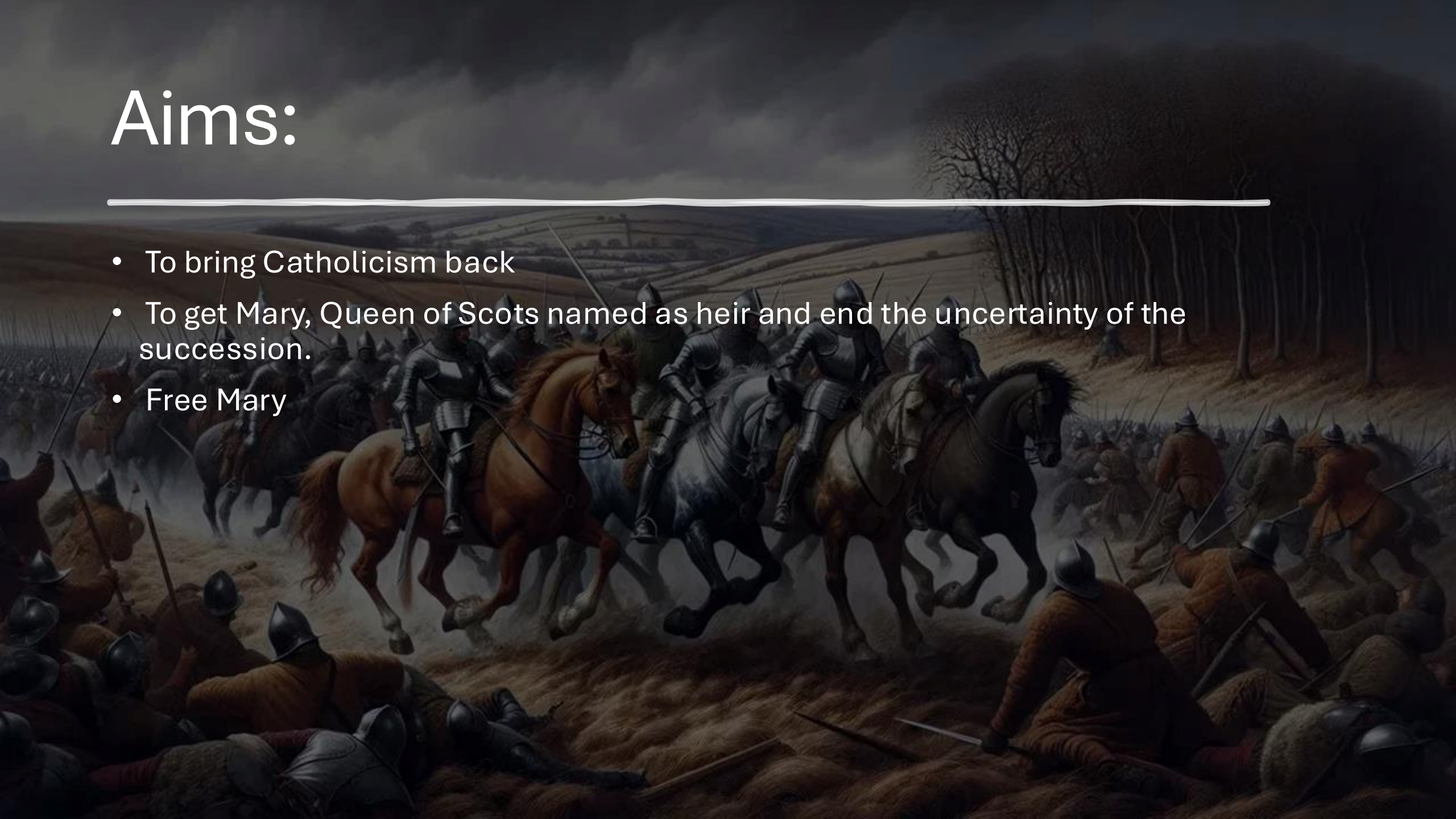
Key people:

Key events:

Foreign support?:

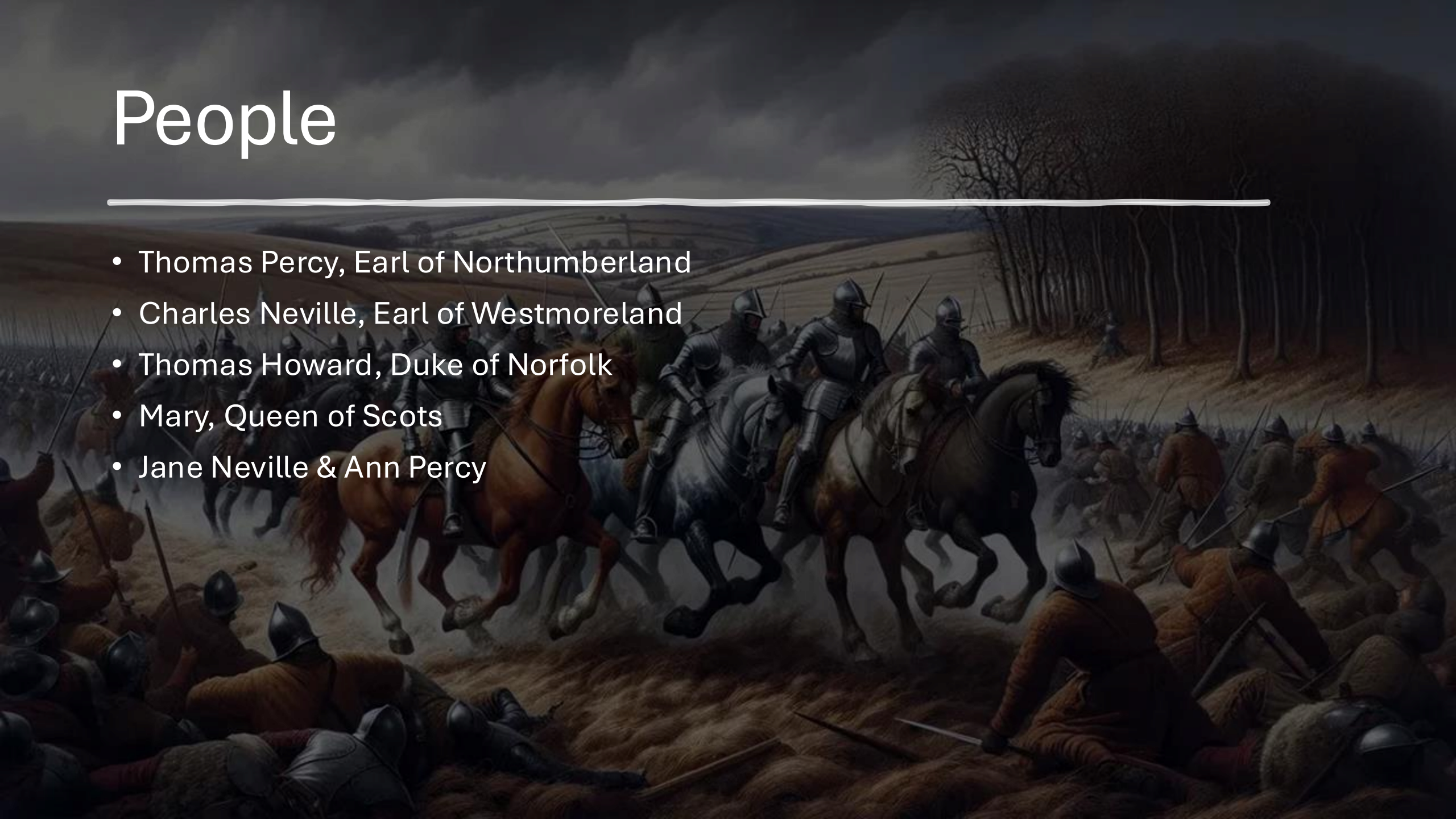
Aims:

- To bring Catholicism back
- To get Mary, Queen of Scots named as heir and end the uncertainty of the succession.
- Free Mary



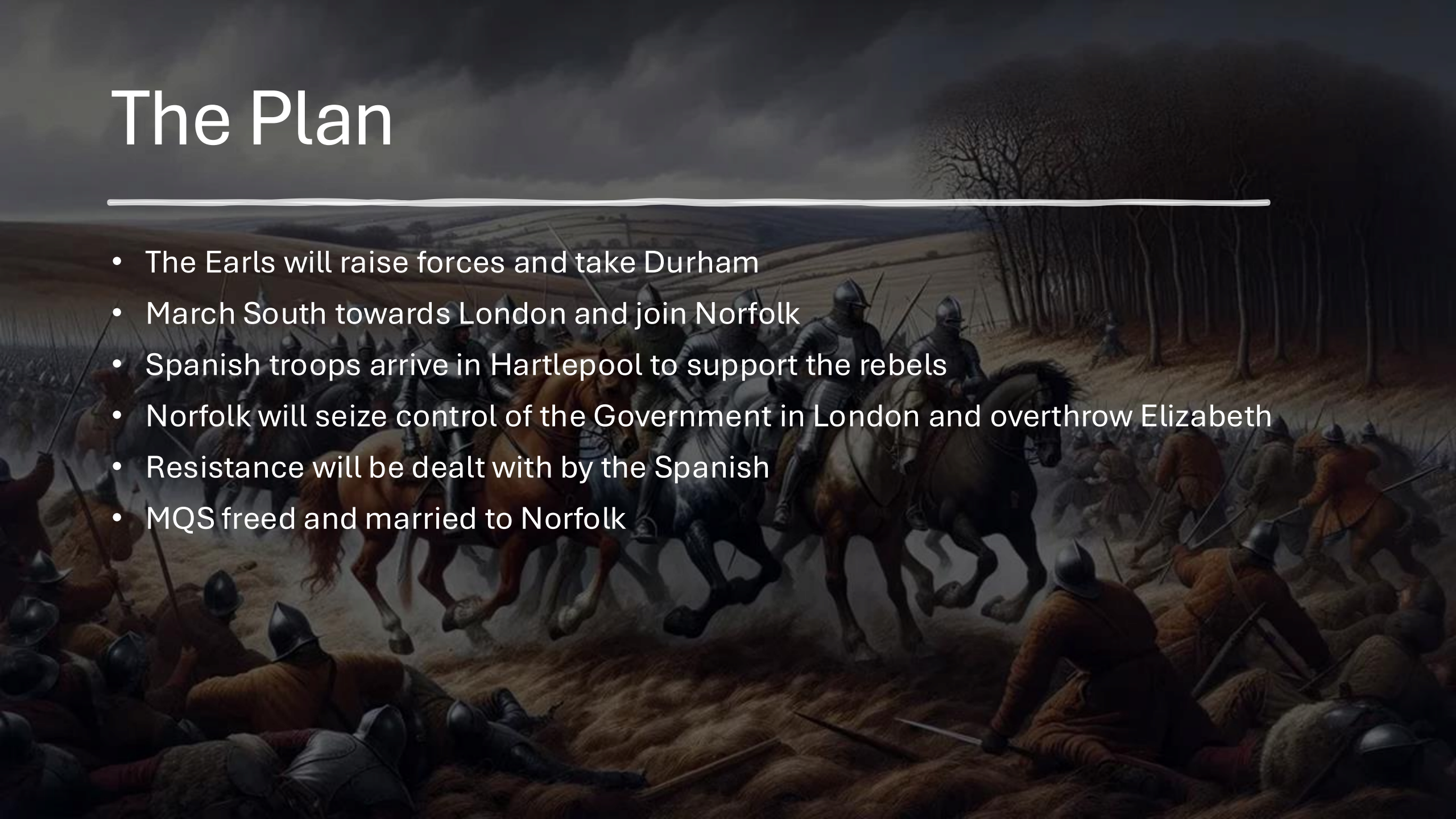
People

- Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland
- Charles Neville, Earl of Westmoreland
- Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk
- Mary, Queen of Scots
- Jane Neville & Ann Percy



The Plan

- The Earls will raise forces and take Durham
- March South towards London and join Norfolk
- Spanish troops arrive in Hartlepool to support the rebels
- Norfolk will seize control of the Government in London and overthrow Elizabeth
- Resistance will be dealt with by the Spanish
- MQS freed and married to Norfolk



The key events of the revolt

- Elizabeth's courtiers develop a plot to marry Mary, Queen of Scots, to the Duke of Norfolk. Their children could be heirs to the English throne.

- As the plot develops, the Earl of Leicester gets cold feet. Leicester decides to tell Elizabeth about the plot.

- Elizabeth has the Duke of Norfolk arrested.
- The earls of Northumberland and Westmorland panic but decide to go ahead with the rebellion.

The plot goes ahead. Durham is taken by the rebels and they celebrate mass in Durham Cathedral. The northern earls now control much of the North of England.

Elizabeth sends the Earl of Sussex to put down the rebellion. He has 14,000 troops. There are only about 5,400 rebels. Spanish help never arrives. The rebels flee.

- Elizabeth executes 450 rebels in towns and villages across the north.
- The Earl of Westmorland escapes but the Earl of Northumberland is captured and executed.
- The Duke of Norfolk is released from prison.
- Mary, Queen of Scots, is moved further south, to Coventry.

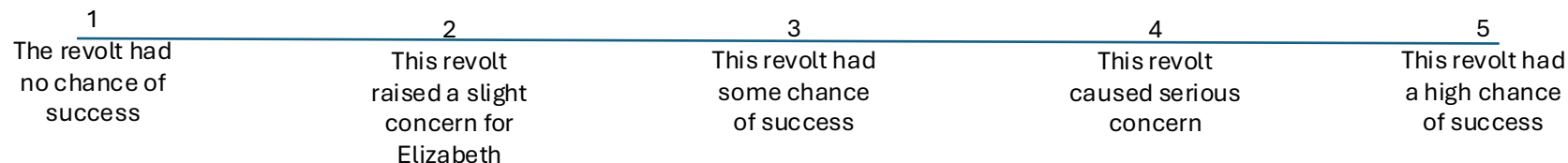
AFTERMATH

- c.700 rebels executed
- Northumberland executed - head was put on a spike.
- Privy council wanted Norfolk and MQS executed but Elizabeth refused and released Norfolk.
- 1570 - PAPAL BULL- excommunicated Elizabeth and called on loyal Catholics to depose her, hoping to encourage a further rebellion
- 1571- the definition of treason was widened. Calling Elizabeth a heretic was now considered treason, as was circulating or printing Papal Bulls.

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, although it was clear many wanted rid of Catholicism
- The Pope 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

Choose where the Northern Rebellion should be as a danger and then in your books justify your decision.



Revision Idea: Northern Rebellion 1569

- A nice revision exercise would be to create a newspaper reporting on the Northern 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

