

# ***The Elizabethan Settlement***

## *Sources*

- J. I. Packer, *The Heritage of Anglican Theology* (2021)  
Patrick Collinson, *The Elizabethan Puritan Movement* (1990)  
Paul Johnson, *Elizabeth I* (1974)  
Garrett Mattingly, *The Armada* (1959)  
E. J. Poole-Connor, *Evangelicalism in England* (1951)  
Philip Schaff, *Creeeds of Christendom*, 1:592-668

## I. Religion and Elizabeth's Reign

### A. Elizabeth and the Reformation

1. Protestant to an extent, but how thoroughly is anyone's guess
2. Religious Question: Would the Reformation continue?
3. Key event: Defeat of Spanish Armada & salvation of England (1588)

### B. John Foxe and the Elizabethan church

1. Work: *Acts and Monuments* ("Foxe's Book of Martyrs")
  - a. First major history of the English Reformation
  - b. Only as good as his sources
  - c. Not just a martyrology but more a history of the church
2. Effects
  - a. Created the accepted view of the English Reformation & Church of Rome among English-speaking Christians
  - b. Established idea of Wycliffe & Lollards as forerunners
  - c. Preserved the story of William Tyndale
  - d. Gave Mary Tudor the reputation of "Bloody Mary"
  - e. Popularized Elizabeth as "Good Queen Bess," agent Protestant deliverance

## II. Elizabeth's Settlement

### A. Elizabeth's motives

1. Desired a *comprehensive* church → Use church to create national unity
2. Wanted a Protestant church
3. Maintain royal dignity

### B. Acts

1. Act of Uniformity (How the church is run)
  - a. Mandated the *Book of Common Prayer*
  - b. Kept numerous ceremonies and trappings
2. Act of Supremacy (Who's in charge)
  - a. Names Elizabeth as the "supreme governor" of the Church of England
  - b. Enabled queen to replace Mary's hierarchy

### C. Thirty-nine Articles

1. Statement of faith for Church of England issued under Elizabeth
2. 39 Articles were *not* simply the 42 Articles w/ some strongly Protestant parts tossed out
3. Strongly Protestant, Reformed, with a Lutheran emphasis

## III. Reactions to the Settlement

### A. Spectrum

1. Catholics: Rejected anything short of reunion with Rome

2. Low church party: Believed the ceremonies were of indifferent importance as long as the creed was good
  3. High church party: Believe the government (by bishops), ceremonies, and traditions divinely necessitated for a true church
  4. Puritans
    - a. Wanted to “purify” the church of Roman elements
    - b. Strengthened by return of the “Marian exiles,” especially those in Geneva
  5. Separatists
    - a. First separatist congregations emerged, desiring no connection to the state
    - b. Robert Browne: *Reformation Without Tarrying for Any*
    - c. Later the Pilgrims, the Baptists
- B. Controversial Elements
1. Episcopacy
    - a. Rule by bishops
    - b. Viewpoints
      - 1) Low church party: an indifferent matter
      - 2) Rejected by Puritans
      - 3) High church (Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox): episcopacy is an absolute necessity, the mark of a true church
  2. Vestments: Heated battles throughout history over wearing various garments
  3. Crucifixes and images
  4. Elevating the host → So congregation could “adore” it as in the Catholic mass
- C. Aftermath of Settlement
1. Brought relative peace in Elizabeth’s day
  2. Contributed to conflict w/ Stuarts and English Civil War
  3. The settlement did not “settle” what it was supposed to
  4. Basis for Church of England even today