Historical Tripos – Part I – Paper 4
British Political History 1485–1714
The Tudor and Stuart Age

Faculty Reading List (last updated May 2020)

Moodle. This document can be found on the Paper 4 Moodle website.

Course Guide. The Moodle site includes the Course Guide and background information about the Tudor-Stuart age. The Course Guide lists the lectures and classes provided for this paper in 2020–1.

Asterisk / debates / essays. In the reading lists below, key items are marked with asterisks. Please note that the reading lists contain more items for each topic that you can realistically cover in a week, but these bibliographies are provided as a resource to enable you to pursue your own interests within the paper and to offer alternatives should you be unable to obtain particular items for a given supervision. Each list is preceded by a note of some of the main debates and questions for discussion.

Convenor. The current course convenor (Paul Cavill: pc504@cam.ac.uk) welcomes suggestions for additions and amendments to this reading list.

Two sections. The paper is divided into two sections. Section A (Chronological) comprises 15 topics covering the whole period sequentially and in a British context. Section B (Themes in Early Modern British History, comprises 8 topics that encompass the whole period. Candidates taking this paper should engage with the history of all three kingdoms, though it will also be possible for them to develop a special knowledge of one or more of these. In the examination, candidates should not feel constrained by the boundaries between Sections A and B, but they should avoid undue repetition.

Exam paper. The exam paper is divided into the same two sections, and candidates are required to answer three questions, including at least one from each section. The exam paper will include a question on each of the 23 topics.

Basic books. If you have never studied the period before, some beginners' items are:


Textbooks. Some excellent textbooks:


**Primary sources.**

The largest collection is the multi-volume *English Historical Documents*, which can be accessed as an electronic resource via the link to the University Library’s database.

You may also wish to consult the following documentary sourcebooks:


**Internet resources.** There are many useful internet resources for early modern British history, most available via the UL databases webpage (http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/az.php). The most important are:

- ODNB (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography): lives of political actors & others
- EEBO (Early English Books Online): texts printed before 1700
- ECCO (Eighteenth-Century Collections Online): texts printed between 1700 and 1800
- ESTC (English Short Title Catalogue): bibliography of pre-1800 printed books
- Bibliography of British and Irish History: finds secondary reading by topic
- BHO (British History Online): a range of primary sources and references work
- *English Historical Documents Online*: the largest online collection of set sources
- Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707: [www.rps.ac.uk](http://www.rps.ac.uk)
- Depositions relating to the 1641 Irish Rebellion: [http://1641.tcd.ie/](http://1641.tcd.ie/)

**Journals.** The journals which contain most key articles on early modern British history are:

- *English Historical Review*
- *Historical Journal*
- *Historical Research*
- *Journal of British Studies*
- *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*
- *Journal of Modern History*
- *Past and Present*
- *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*
- *Historical Society*

**More primary sources.** Although not part of the formal Reading Lists, do try to inform your understanding of the Tudor-Stuart age by reading primary sources. Here are some others:
Table of Contents

Section A (Chronological): Early Modern Britain and Ireland 1485-1714

1. Kingship at the turn of the sixteenth century: Henry VII and James IV 1485-1513
2. Politics and government in the British Isles, c.1509-1547
3. The Henrician Reformation and its repercussions 1521-1547
4. Crisis and Conflict in the British Isles 1542-1561
5. Securing Regimes and Eliminating Rivals: Governance in the British Isles 1558-1587
6. War and succession politics in the British Isles, 1585-1603
7. Reformation and state religion c. 1559-1603
8. Politics and government, 1603-1640
9. Religion and the church, 1603-1640
10. The Civil Wars, regicide, and the radicals, 1637-1649
11. The Interregnum, Oliver Cromwell, and the republicans, 1649-1660
12. Politics in the reign of Charles II, 1660-1685
13. James VII and II and the Revolution, 1685-1690
14. Parliament, parties, and political culture, 1689-1714
15. The restored church and religious dissent, 1660-1714

Section B: Themes in Early Modern British History

16. The three kingdoms and the ‘British problem’
17. Centre and locality: state formation and patterns of governance
18. The culture of power and the power of culture
19. Political ideas: sovereignty, common law, counsel, and constitution
20. Rebellion, Resistance and Revolt
21. Media and opinion: pulpits and pamphlets, news and censorship
22. Britain, Europe, and Christendom
23. The emergence of the Atlantic Empire
SECTION A: CHRONOLOGICAL – EARLY MODERN BRITAIN AND IRELAND 1485-1714

1. Kingship at the turn of the sixteenth century: Henry VII and James IV, 1485-1513

Key debates

Impact of the Wars of the Roses
Centralisation of government
Crown finance, the royal demesne, and lordship
A ‘new monarchy’ – the end of the Middle Ages?

Questions for discussion

Did Henry VII ever escape the insecurity of the Wars of the Roses?
Might he have done so if he had pursued different policies?
Did Henry VII and/or James IV significantly alter the conduct or principles of government?
Why was crown finance so prominent a feature of either/both reigns?
Why were relations between the crown and the nobility so different under these two kings?
Does the term ‘new monarchy’ have any value in understanding either/both reigns?

Key publications: Henry VII

Chrimes, S.B., Henry VII (1972; 1999 edn. has new intro. only).
Cooper, J.P., ‘Henry VII’s last years reconsidered’, Historical Journal, 2 (1959) [see Elton].

**Key publications: James IV**


**Key publications: Ireland, Wales and Henry VII’s international relations**

*Ellis, S.G., Ireland in the Age of the Tudors* (1998), intro., chs. 1-5.
2. Politics and government in the British Isles, c.1509-1547

Key debates

The rise of the court – the decline of the nobility?
Kings, ministers, and factions: agency in a personal monarchy
State formation and a ‘Tudor revolution in government’

Questions for discussion

Did the pre-eminence of the royal court transform the practice of politics?
Were monarchs more or less beholden to their subjects as a result?
Was there any substance behind the competitive glamour of Renaissance kingship?
How coherent and effective were efforts at governmental reform? What motivated them?

Key publications: Henry VIII

Coleman, C., and D. Starkey, eds., Revolution Reassessed (1986), esp. Starkey #2^c, Guy^b.
Guy, J., ‘The king’s council and political participation’, in A. Fox and Guy, Reassessing the Henrician Age (1986).^b
Harris, I., ‘Some origins of a Tudor revolution’, English Historical Review, 126 (2011).
Miller, H., Henry VIII and the English Nobility (1986).
Richardson, G., Renaissance Monarchy (2002).

**Key publications: Henrician government in Ireland and Wales**


**Key publications: James V**

3. The Henrician Reformation and its repercussions, 1521-1547

Key debates

Cause: more complex and deep-rooted than the King’s ‘Great Matter’?
Agency: ‘the king’s reformation’ vs. a process of elite political manoeuvring
Character: Catholic (without the pope), Erasmian humanist, international evangelical
Reception: support, co-operation, collaboration, resistance, and indifference
Effect: creative and destructive influences on popular piety and religious identities

Questions for discussion

Is the condition of the Church before 1529 relevant in explaining the Henrician Reformation?
Was the Henrician Reformation simply an idiosyncratic melange of royal prejudices?
Why did a king who hated Luther end up heading a Church that was influenced by his ideas?
How popular was the Henrician Reformation in England and/or Wales and/or Ireland?

Key publications: Henrician Reformation


**Key publications: transnational and cross-cultural reformations**


4. Crisis and conflict in the British Isles, 1542-1561

Key debates

The impact of absentee, female, and underage monarchs
The Tudor succession controversy in its international context
Religious radicalism – in government and against it
Religious reform – within the regime and outside it

Questions for discussion

How well did the Tudor and Stewart polities cope with the lack of adult male monarchs?
How effective were proxies – protectors, regents, presidents – as substitute rulers?
Why did risings and rebellions cluster in this period?
Did religious policies entrench minorities, rather than convert majorities?
Were Catholic regimes as innovative as Protestant ones?
Could the Scottish Reformers have succeeded without English backing?

Key publications: British reformations

Williams, G., Recovery, Reorientation and Reformation in Wales, c. 1415-1642 (1987)

Key publications: politics in an age of unconventional monarchs

Fletcher, A., and D. MacCulloch, Tudor Rebellions (rev. 5th edn., 2008) [wt. primary sources].
Levine, M., Tudor Dynamic Problems, 1460-1571 (1973) [wt. primary sources].
Loades, D.M, Two Tudor Conspiracies (1965; reprinted 1992) [Wyatt and Dudley],
5. Securing Regimes & Eliminating Rivals: Governance in the British Isles 1558-1587

Key debates
Stability
Court and factions
A monarchical republic?
Loyalty, rebellion, and resistance
Conquest

Questions for discussion
What were the political principles of Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots?
How did Elizabethan queenship differ from Tudor kingship?
In what sense, if any, were the three kingdoms of the British Isles ‘states’ in this period?
How was the political significance of the issues surrounding succession to the crown?
How politically significant were the courts of Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots?
How useful is ‘faction’ as a means of understanding sixteenth-century court politics?
Why was Mary Queen of Scots so great a threat to England and why was she executed in 1587?
How was the Elizabethan conquest of Ireland achieved?

Key publications
*Collinson, P., Elizabethan essays* (1994), chs. 1–3
Dawson, J., *The politics of religion in the age of Mary, Queen of Scots* (2002)
*Guy, J., ed., The Tudor monarchy* (1997), nos. 3–5, 9–10, 15
Sharpe, K., *Selling the Tudor monarchy* (2009), pt. 7
Strong, R., *The cult of Elizabeth* (1977)
Williams, P., *The later Tudors* (1995), chs. 5, 7–8
Younger, N., ‘Securing the monarchical republic: the remaking of the lord lieutenancies’, *Historical Research*, 84 (2011)
*Younger, N., ‘How Protestant was the Elizabethan regime?’*, *English Historical Review*, 133 (2018)
6. War and succession politics in the British Isles, 1585-1603

Key debates

The contested succession to the English throne in its international context
The reorientation of Tudor foreign policy
The extent of fiscal-military mobilisation
The ‘second reign’ of Elizabeth I against the majority of James VI
Political and cultural fatigue at the Tudor fin de siècle

Question for discussion

How far did James VI subordinate other considerations to his pursuit of the English throne?
Who wanted James VI to succeed Elizabeth I?
Did these years demonstrate the limits of militarisation?
What distinguished Elizabeth’s ‘second reign’ from her first?
Was the earl of Essex chiefly responsible for destabilising politics in the 1590s?
How do literature and art enhance our understanding of late sixteenth-century politics?
Why was English policy in sixteenth-century Ireland such a consistent failure?

Key publications

Croft, P., King James (2003), chs. 1-2.
Dickinson, J., and N. Younger, ‘Just how nasty were the 1590s?’, History Today, 64/7 (July 2014).
*Doran, S., and P. Kewes, eds., Doubtful and Dangerous: The Question of Succession in Late Elizabethan England (2014).
Ellis, S., Ireland in the Age of the Tudors (1997), ch. 12.
Goodare, J., and A.A. MacDonald, eds., Sixteenth-Century Scotland (2008), Grant, Yellowlees, Goodare.
Goodare, J., State and society in early modern Scotland (1999)
Lake, P., and M. Questier, *All Hail to the Archpriest* (2019)

Questier, M., *Dyastic Politics and the British Reformations, 1558–1630* (2019), chs. 3–4
7. Reformation and state religion, 1558-1603

Key debates

The Elizabethan settlement: England and Wales
Resistance to the Reformation in Ireland
The Scottish Reformation
The Catholic threat
Continental influences
Spiritual and temporal loyalties and treason
Puritan influence and non-conformity

Questions for discussion

Why, and with what consequences, was Elizabeth I's government so reluctant to enforce the Elizabethan settlement of religion?
Was outward religious conformity all that the late sixteenth-century church and state sought?
To what extent did political loyalty to the crown demand a commitment to the established Church in England and Ireland by the late sixteenth century?
How was the Reformation enforced and received in the 'dark corners of the land'?
How distinctive was the Reformation in Scotland and what roles were played in it by evangelical preachers, aristocracy, and the populace?
How vigorously did the Elizabethan Church persecute its opponents?
What happened to Catholicism?
When and why did the Reformation in Ireland fail?
How influential was Europe in the British Reformations between 1558 and 1603?

Key publications: Elizabethan religion

Collinson, P., Richard Bancroft and Elizabethan Anti-Puritanism (2013)
Haigh, C., The plain man's pathways to heaven (2007)
*Lake, P., Moderate Puritans and the Elizabethan Church (1982)
Lake, P., Bad Queen Bess? (2016)
Lake, P., and M. Questier, All Hail to the Archpriest (2019)
Lake, P. and Questier, M., eds., Conformity and Orthodoxy in the English Church, c.1560-1660 (2000), esp. chs by Freeman and Walsham.


Questier, M., *Dynastic Politics and the British Reformations, 1558–1630* (2019), chs. 1–2


Walsham, A., 'Translating Trent: English Catholicism and the Counter Reformation', *Historical Research*, 78 (2005); reprinted in her *Catholic Reformation in Protestant Britain* (2014)


Scotland


Dawson, J, *The politics of religion in the age of Mary, Queen of Scots* (2002)


Wales


Ireland


The British Reformations


8. Politics and government, 1603-1640

Key debates

'Britain'
Multiple kingdoms
The road to civil war
Court faction and 'favourites'
Foreign policy; war and its cost
The nature of parliaments

Questions for discussion

How did the ‘British question’ affect James I’s domestic policies?
What was the effect of the ‘Spanish Match’ on early Stuart government and politics?
Is ‘faction’ a useful way of understanding early Stuart court politics?
To what extent was Charles I’s absolutism drawn from continental models?
To what extent were Charles I’s religious policies responsible for the Wars of the Three Kingdoms?

Key publications

Christianson, P., 'Politics, patronage and conceptions of governance: the duke of Buckingham and his supporters in the Parliament of 1628', *Huntington Library Quarterly* 60 (1998)
Cogswell, Thomas, 'John Felton, popular political culture, and the assassination of the duke of Buckingham', *Historical Journal* 49 (2006)
Cogswell, Thomas, 'The people’s love: the duke of Buckingham and popularity' in T. Cogswell, R. Cust and P. Lake (eds.), *Politics and popularity in early Stuart Britain* (2002)
*Cust, R., and A. Hughes, eds., The English Civil War* (1997)


**Ireland, c. 1600-1640**


Early Modern Scotland c. 1600-40


Scottish Historical Review special number (2013), esp. essays by Mason, Brown and Stewart.


*Stewart, L., *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1637-51* (2016)


Wormald, J., (ed.), *Scotland revisited* (1991) - ch. by Stevenson
9. Religion and the Church, 1603-1640

Key debates

Laudianism
Puritanism
Anti-popery and foreign relations

Questions for discussion

To what extent was Laudianism a popular policy?
To what extent did Charles I’s religious policies lead to the civil wars of 1637-1660?
Can James VI and I’s religious policies be considered a success, and why?
To what extent did religion influence the early Stuarts’ foreign policies?

Key publications

*Coffey, J., and P. Lim, eds., The Cambridge companion to Puritanism* (2008), esp. chs. by Collinson, Webster, Craig, Morrill, Walsham.
Patterson, W. B., *King James VI & I and the reunion of Christendom* (2000).
*Stevenson, D., The Scottish Revolution, 1637-1644* (1973)
Stewart, L., *Rethinking the Scottish Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1637-51* (2016)
Walsham, A., "The Fatall Vesper": Providentialism and Anti-Popery in Late Jacobean London*, *Past and Present* (1994)
10. The Civil Wars, regicide, and the radicals, 1637-1649

Key debates

Royalism and parliamentarianism
Religious debate: episcopacy, Presbyterianism, and the rise of the sects
The Three Kingdoms
The New Model Army
Regicide

Questions for discussion

To what extent were the Wars of the Three Kingdoms fought over religion?
What were the effects of the wars in Scotland and Ireland on England?
'The Civil Wars of the 1640s were wars between and within three kingdoms.' Discuss.
What role did the 'British Problem' play in Scotland's civil wars, 1637-1651?
Account for the military and political success of the New Model Army.
Why was Charles I executed?

Key publications

Adamson, John (ed.), The English Civil War (2009)
*Canny, N., Making Ireland British (2001), esp. chs. 3-5 and 8.
Como, David R., Radical Parliamentarians and the English Civil War (2018)
Cust, Richard, Charles I: A Political Life (2005)
Cust, Richard, Charles I and the Aristocracy, 1625-1642 (2013)
Dow, F.D., Radicalism in the English Revolution, 1640-60 (1985)
Fitzgibbons, Jonathan, 'Rethinking the English Revolution of 1649', Historical Journal, 60 (2017)
Fletcher, Anthony, The Outbreak of the English Civil War (1981)
*Harris, Tim, Rebellion: Britain's First Stuart Kings, 1567-1642 (2013)
*Holmes, Clive, Why was Charles I executed? (2006)
Hopper, Andrew, Turncoats and Renegades: Changing Sides during the English Civil Wars (2012)
Kishlansky, Mark, Charles I: An Abbreviated Life (2014)
Kishlansky, Mark A., 'Charles I: a case of mistaken identity', in Past and Present 189 (November 2005), and the debate in Past and Present 205 (November 2009)
Morrill, John (ed.), *The Scottish National Covenant in its British Context* (1990)
Ohlmeyer, Jane, and Ó Siochrú, Micheal (eds.), *1641: Ireland in Context* (2013)
*Peacey, Jason (ed.), *The Regicides and the Execution of Charles I* (2001)
Stevenson, David, *The Scottish Revolution, 1637-1644* (1973)
11. The Interregnum, Oliver Cromwell, and the republicans, 1649-1660

Key debates

War in Scotland and Ireland
Parliament(s)
Republicanism
Religious policy
Foreign policy
Cromwell's character and aims

Questions for discussion

Why was monarchy abolished in 1649?
How successful were Oliver Cromwell's attempts at 'healing and settling' during the Interregnum?
How republican were the 1650s?
What was the legacy of the Interregnum in the Three Kingdoms?
Did the religious radicals have any permanent achievements?

Key publications

Barnard, Toby, Cromwellian Ireland (1975)
Coward, Barry, Oliver Cromwell (1991)
Davis, J.C., Oliver Cromwell (2001)
Dow, Frances, Cromwellian Scotland, 1651-1660 (1979)
Dow, F.D., Radicalism in the English Revolution, 1640-60 (1985)
Fitzgibbons, J., ‘Reassessing the nomination of Richard Cromwell’, Historical Research, 83 (2010)
Gaunt, Peter, Oliver Cromwell (1996)
*Gentles, Ian, Oliver Cromwell: God’s Warrior and the English Revolution (2011)
Kelsey, Sean, Inventing a republic: the political culture of the English Commonwealth, 1649-1653 (1997)
Little, Patrick, and Smith, David L., Parliaments and Politics during the Cromwellian Protectorate (2007)
Little, Patrick (ed.), The Cromwellian Protectorate (2007)
Little, Patrick (ed.), *Oliver Cromwell: New Perspectives* (2009)
Mills, Jane A. (ed.), *Cromwell’s Legacy* (2012)
*Morrill, John, *Oliver Cromwell* (2007)
*Morrill, John (ed.), *Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution* (1990)
Woolrych, Austin, *Commonwealth to Protectorate* (1982)
12. Politics in the reign of Charles II, 1660-1685

Key debates

What was restored?
Succession and exclusion
The rise of party politics
Anti-popery
Parliaments and the cost of government

Questions for discussion

To what extent was the Exclusion Crisis characteristic of Charles II's reign?
Why did political parties emerge for the first time in the reign of Charles II?
What was the political significance of parliament between 1660 and 1685?
How far did the Restoration settlement of 1660-2 seek to conciliate the Crown's enemies rather than reward its friends?
Why was Charles II able to defeat Exclusion?
'The natural authoritarianism of the later Stuarts is most clearly seen in their government of … Ireland.' Discuss.

Key publications

Harris, T., *Politics under the later Stuarts, 1660-1715* (1993).
*Harris, T., Restoration: Charles II and his Kingdoms, 1660-1685* (2006).
Jackson, C., *Charles II: The Star King* (2016)
13. James VII and II and the Revolution, 1685-1690

Key debates

Popery and arbitrary government
Religious toleration / Catholic restoration
Allegiance and revolution
Anglo-European relations
Dutch invasion, English coup, popular rising?

Questions for discussion

Was James VII and II a tyrant?
Why was James VII and II so popular in 1685 but so unpopular by 1688?
‘Glorious Revolution’ or ‘Dutch invasion’?
Was there an ‘Anglican Revolution’ in 1688?
In what ways were the events of 1688-89 ‘revolutionary’?

Key publications

Harris, T., Politics under the Later Stuarts (1993)
Schwoerer, L. G., The Declaration of Rights (1981)
14. Parliament, parties, and political culture, 1689-1714

Key debates
Glorious Revolution?
Elections and electioneering
Whig and Tory
Jacobitism
Court culture
War, finance and the state
Constitutional impact of the Revolution

Questions for discussion
What effect, if any, did William III’s continental experience have on his rule in England?
How did the relationship between monarchy and parliament change after 1688?
What was the impact of near-constant war on politics between 1688 and 1714?
Why did the Tories cease to be the natural party of government and the Whigs become the natural party of government after 1688?
For what reasons did Parliament after 1689 become ‘an institution rather than an event’?
Why was party conflict so intense in the period 1689 to 1714?

Key publications
*Harris, T., Politics under the later Stuarts, 1660-1715 (1993).
*Knights, M., Representation and misrepresentation in later Stuart Britain: partisanship and political culture (2004).
Mclnnnes, A., ‘When was the English Revolution?’ , History 67 (1982).
Scottish Historical Review, 87 (2008), supplementary issue: ‘Union of 1707’
Speck, W., Tory and Whig (1970).
15. The restored church and religious dissent, 1660-1714

Key debates

The impact of toleration
Dissent and denominationalism
The nature of persecution
Toleration, latitudinarianism, and Protestant union
The ‘Church in Danger’
Secularisation?

Questions for discussion?

Was fear of popery more important than fear of Dissent in Restoration politics and religion?
What was not restored to the restored Church in 1662?
How far and why did pre-Civil War Puritanism transform itself into post-Civil War Dissent?
In what ways was the Established Church in danger after 1689?
How politically disadvantaged were Protestant Dissenters in the decades after the passage of the Toleration Act of 1689?
What was the politics of Presbyterianism in late seventeenth-century Scotland?
How did the religious politics evolve in late Stuart Ireland?

Key publications

Corens, L., Confessional Mobility and English Catholicism in Counter-Reformation Europe (2019).
Keeble, N, ed., ‘Settling the Peace of the Church’: 1662 Revisited (2014)
Stevens, R., Protestant Pluralism: The Reception of the Toleration Act, 1689-1720 (2019)
Watts, M. R., The Dissenters from the Reformation to the French Revolution (1978), chs 3-4
SECTION B: EARLY MODERN THEMES

16. The three kingdoms and the ‘British problem’

Key debates
The ‘billiard balls’ theory
Multiple monarchy
‘Enriched English history’?
The European dimension
Religion and ethnicity

Sample questions
Do ‘British historians’ merely write ‘enriched English history’?
Does a British approach neglect the impact of continental Europe on the British Isles?
Is ‘British history’ useful only for understanding the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, 1637-1660?

Key publications
Hirst, D., Dominion: England and its Island Neighbours, 1500-1707 (2012)
Scottish Historical Review, 87 (2009), supplementary issue: ‘Union of 1707’
17. Centre and locality: state formation and patterns of governance

**Key debates**

Office-holding  
Reform of government  
Decline of nobility  
Political consciousness  
Court and country?  
The ‘fiscal-military state’

**Questions for discussion**

Why was local office-holding so highly sought after in early modern Britain?  
Were local or national politics of greater importance at the level of a town or village?  
Was society becoming more or less hierarchical between c.1500 and c.1700?  
In what ways did the period 1689-1714 see the development of a ‘fiscal-military state’?

**Key publications**

Braddick, Michael J., ‘State formation and social change in early modern England’, *Social History* 16 (1991)  
*Fletcher, Anthony, Reform in the provinces: the government of Stuart England* (1986)  
*Hughes, Ann, ‘The king, the parliament and the localities during the English Civil War’, 
Journal of British Studies 24 (1985)
Jones, D. W., ‘Sequel to revolution: the economics of England’s emergence as a great 
Kent, Joan R., ‘The centre and the localities: state formation and parish government in 
O’Brien, Patrick, ‘The political economy of British taxation, 1660-1815’, Economic History 
Review 41 (1988)
Roberts, P., ‘The English Crown, the Principality of Wales and the Council in the Marches, 
Scott, David, Leviathan: The Rise of Britain as a World Power (2013)
MacDonald (eds.), Sixteenth-century Scotland (2008)
*Stewart, Laura, ‘Fiscal revolution and state formation in mid seventeenth-century Scotland’, 
Historical Research, 84 (2011)
Walter, John, “Abolishing superstition with sedition”?: the politics of popular iconoclasm in 
Walter, John, Covenanting Citizens: The Protestation Oath and Popular Political Culture in 
the English Revolution (2017)
*Williams, Penry, The Tudor regime (1979)
*Wrightson, Keith, ‘Two concepts of order: justices, constables and jurymen in seventeenth-
century England’, in John Brewer and John Styles (eds.), An ungovernable people?: 
the English and their law in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (1980)
Historical Research, 83 (2010).
18. The culture of power and the power of culture

*Key debates*

- Images and representations of monarchy
- Propaganda and/or criticism
- The role of poetry, drama, and other media

*Questions for discussion*

What can we learn about ideas of monarchy from either *(a)* portraits and other images or *(b)* drama? Illustrate from either the Tudors or the Stuarts or both.

Discuss the use of space or ritual or ceremonial in the projection of rulership. You may refer to one or more of these aspects, and you may illustrate from either the Tudor or Stuart period or both.

What were the uses of memory in politics and religion in the early modern period? You may illustrate from either the Tudor or Stuart period or both.

*Key publications*


Harris, J., Orgel, S., Strong, R., eds., *The King’s Arcadia: Inigo Jones and the Stuart Court* (1973)


Southcombe, G., and G. Tapsell, *Restoration politics, religion and culture* (2010), ch. 8
19. Political ideas: sovereignty, common law, counsel, and constitution

**Key debates**

A monarchical republic?
Godly kingship
Counsel, patronage, and favourites
Resistance theory
Role of parliament
The meaning of sovereignty
The nature of the common law

**Questions for discussion**

Why did Tudor rebels nearly always claim to be true and obedient subjects?
Explain the abject failure of rebels in sixteenth-century England.
In either the sixteenth century or the seventeenth century, to what extent might English government, central as well as local, be thought about in 'republican' terms?
How did the functions of an M.P. change in the course of either the sixteenth century or the seventeenth century?
Did the seventeenth century witness a crisis of monarchs or of parliaments?
Did royalist ideology remain unchanged throughout the seventeenth century?

**Key publications**

20. Rebellion, Resistance and Revolt

Key debates

Justifications for resistance
Obedience, loyalty and treason
Violence and its containment
Reactions to the Reformation
Responses to conquest
The intellectual origins of the civil wars
Popular agency and motivation

Questions for discussion

How did contemporaries distinguish between rebellion, resistance, revolution and revolt?
How were rebellions reported and news about them disseminated?
How did the crown and state respond to rebellions?
What were the roles of religious and financial factors in prompting resistance?
Did theories of resistance pre-date rebellion, or were they developed to justify it after the fact?
To what extent were ethnic and religious difference motives for violence in sixteenth-century Ireland?
What were the links between domestic dissent and foreign support – within and beyond the three kingdoms?

Key publications

Boardman, Steve, ‘Royal Finance and Regional Rebellion in the Reign of James IV’, in
Goodare, Julian & MacDonald, Alasdair A. (eds), Sixteenth-century Scotland: essays in honour of Michael Lynch (Leiden, 2008)
Bowie, Karin, ‘Popular resistance and the ratification of the Anglo-Scottish treaty of union’,
Burns, J., ‘Pro Me Si Mereor In Me: kingship and tyranny in Scotland, 1437-1587’, in
Friedeburg, Robert von (ed.), Murder and monarchy: regicide in European history, 1300-1800 (Basingstoke, 2004) – other essays in this vol. provide wider context
pp. 42-74.
Bush, M. L., The pilgrims’ complaint: a study of popular thought in the early Tudor north
(Farnham, 2009)
Cathcart, Alison, ‘The Forgotten ’45: Donald Dubh’s Rebellion in an Archipelagic Context’,
Scottish Historical Review, 91 (2002) pp. 239-264
Darcy, Eamon, The Irish rebellion of 1641 and the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (London, 2013)
*Fletcher, Anthony, and MacCulloch, Diarmaid (eds), Tudor Rebellions (various editions, 1968-2008) – note especially the selection of primary source material included as an appendix.
Gajda, Alexandra, The Earl of Essex and late Elizabethan political culture (Oxford, 2012)


Harris, Tim, (ed.), *The politics of the excluded, c.1500-1850* (Basingstoke, 2001)


*O Siochru, Micheal, & Ohlmeyer, Jane , (eds) Ireland, 1641: contexts and reactions* (Manchester, 2013)


21. Media and opinion: pulpits and pamphlets, news and censorship

Key debates
The growth of the public sphere
The print revolution
Censorship
Propaganda and polemic
Audience and agency
Pamphleteering, newspapers and petitions
Preaching as politics

Questions for discussion
How free was the early modern press?
How did the press impact on politics, if at all?
Can we meaningfully use the term ‘public opinion’ in the early modern period?
How important were non-printed forms of media, including oral communication?

Key publications
Gillespie, R., Reading Ireland: print, reading and social change in early modern Ireland (2005)
Hunt, A., The art of hearing (2011)
Hunter, R. J., Ulster transformed: essays on plantation and print culture, c.1590-1641 (2012).
King, J., Tudor books and readers (2010) – chapters by Clegg and Walshaw
*Knights, M., Representation and misrepresentation in later Stuart Britain: partisanship and political culture (2005).


*Peacey, J., Print and public politics in the English revolution* (2013)


*Raymond, J. (ed.), Cheap print in Britain and Ireland to 1660* (2011)


22. Britain, Europe, and Christendom

Key debates

The primacy of foreign policy
The Protestant international and anti-Catholicism
Spain and France as European super-powers
The impact of the Dutch golden age

Questions for discussion

Was Protestantism the sole driver of foreign policy after the Reformation?
'England was inconsequential in Europe.' Discuss.
Discuss relations with, and perceptions of, Spain or France or the Dutch Republic.
Did the idea of 'Christendom' survive the Reformation?

Key publications

Cunningham, B., ‘Early modern Ireland and Europe’, *Irish historical studies*, 36 (2009), 604-9 [review article]


*Patterson, W. B., King James VI & I and the reunion of Christendom (2000).


Thompson, A., Britain, Hanover and the Protestant interest, 1688–1756 (2006).
23. The emergence of the Atlantic empire

Key debates
From privateering to plantations
Migration and its motives
Transatlantic networks
The nature of ‘empire’
The rise of international commerce
The role of the West Indies

Questions for discussion
Is writing ‘Atlantic history’ a realistic goal for historians?
Account for British expansion in the New World between 1550 and 1700?
Was ‘Britishness’ a feature of empire rather than of ‘Britain’ itself?
What was the role of Ireland and Scotland in the creation of the Empire from 1600 onwards?

Key publications
*Armitage, D., and M. Braddick, eds., The British Atlantic World 1500-1800 (2nd edn. 2009)
Lenman, B, England’s Colonial Wars (2001)
Olwell, R., and A. Tully, eds., Cultures and identities in colonial British America (2006).
Pagden, A., European encounters with the New World (1993).