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

Faculty Reading List (updated 2018)

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. All lecturers are encouraged to put their handouts on the site. It is vital to use this Reading List in conjunction with the Course Guide.

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 (Dr Paul Cavill: pc504@cam.ac.uk) welcomes comments from supervisors and students concerning additions and amendments to these reading lists.

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 will need to 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 questions 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. You may wish to equip yourself with one or more documentary sourcebooks:

- Note also *English Historical Documents Online*, vols. IV, Va, Vb, VI (accessible online, see below).

Internet resources. There are many useful internet resources for early modern British history, available via the Newton Catalogue e-resources site. The most important are:

- JSTOR (journal articles).
- EEBO (Early English Books Online: for pre-1700 printed texts).
- ECCO (Eighteenth-Century Collections Online: for 1700-1800 printed texts).
- ESTC (English Short Title Catalogue: bibliography of pre-1800 printed books).
- Bibliography of British and Irish History (via Brepolis).
- BHO (British History Online).
- Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 ([www.rps.ac.uk](http://www.rps.ac.uk)).
- *English Historical Documents Online*, vols. IV, Va, Vb, VI, cover our period.
- Depositions relating to the 1641 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*

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 more:

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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

Cooper, J.P., ‘Henry VII’s last years reconsidered’, *Historical Journal*, 2 (1959) [see Elton].
*Cunningham, S., Henry VII (2007).*


**Key publications: James IV**


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


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

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).

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


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**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

Bernard, G.W., The Late Medieval English Church (2012).


*Rex, R.,* *Henry VIII and the English Reformation* (1993; 2006 edn. has new ch.).


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


*Jefferies, H.A.,* *The Irish Church and the Tudor Reformations* (2010), ch. 4.


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**


**Key publications: politics in an age of unconventional monarchs**


Levine, M., *Tudor Dynastic Problems, 1460-1571* (1973) [wt. primary sources].


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), esp. 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)
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.


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?

Why did the Elizabethan Church persecute its opponents so vigorously?

‘Catholicism in late sixteenth-century Britain did not die, it merely adapted to difficult circumstances.’ Discuss.

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)
*Heal, F., Reformation in Britain and Ireland (2003),
*Lake, P., Moderate Puritans and the Elizabethan Church (1982)
Lake, P., Bad Queen Bess? (2016)
Lake, P. and Questier, M., Conformity and Orthodoxy in the English Church, c.1560-1660 (2000), esp. chs by Freeman and Walsham
Walsham, A., 'Translating Trent: English Catholicism and the Counter Reformation', *Historical Research,* 78 (2005)

**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, '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)


**Ireland, c. 1600-1640**


*Bradshaw, B., ‘Sword, word and strategy in the Reformation in Ireland’, *Historical Journal* 21 (1978).*


*Canny, N., *From Reformation to Restoration: Ireland, 1534-1660* (1987).*


**Early Modern Scotland c. 1600-40**


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


Stevenson, D., 'The King's Scottish revenues and the Covenanters, 1625-1651', *Historical Journal* 17 (1974)


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)
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.
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)
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)
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, Revolt in the Provinces: The People of England and the Tragedies of War, 1630-1648 (1999)
Morrill, John (ed.), The Scottish National Covenant in its British Context (1990)
Ohlmeyer, Jane, Making Ireland English: The Irish Aristocracy in the Seventeenth Century (2012)
Ohlmeyer, Jane, and Ó Siochru, Micheal (eds.), *1641: Ireland in Context* (2013)
*Peacey, Jason, Print and Public Politics in the English Revolution* (2013)
*Peacey, Jason (ed.), The Regicides and the Execution of Charles I* (2001)
Stevenson, David, *The Scottish Revolution, 1637-1644* (1973)
*Stewart, L., Rethinking the Revolution: Covenanted Scotland, 1637–53* (2016)
*Woolrych, Austin, Britain in Revolution, 1625-1660* (2002)
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 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)
Gentles, Ian, *Oliver Cromwell: God’s Warrior and the English Revolution* (2011)
Holmes, Clive, *Why was Charles I executed?* (2006)
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).
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)
Sowerby, S, ’Pantomime History’, *Parliamentary History*, 30 (2011) [review of Pincus, 1688]
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).
Mclnness, A., ‘When was the English Revolution?’, *History* 67 (1982).
*Scottish Historical Review* special number (2008)
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

Green, I., The Re-establishment of the Church of England 1660-1663 (1978)
Keeble, N, ed., 'Settling the Peace of the Church': 1662 Revisited (2014)
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
Nicholas Canny has accused ‘British historians’ of writing ‘enriched English history’. Is this a fair and accurate statement?
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
Wormald, J., ‘James VI and I: two kings or one?’, History 68 (1983).
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

*Coffman, D’Manis, Excise taxation and the origins of public debt (2013)
Collinson, Patrick, Elizabethan essays (1994)
Duffy, Eamon, The voices of Morebath: reformation and rebellion in an English village (2001)
Ellis, Steven G., Tudor frontiers and noble power: the making of the British state (1995)
*Fletcher, Anthony, Reform in the provinces: the government of Stuart England (1986)
Glassey, Lionel K. J., Politics and the appointment of justices of the peace, 1675-1720 (1979)
Goodare, Julian, State and society in early modern Scotland (1999)
Groundwater, Anna, The Scottish Middle March, 1573-1625: power, kinship, allegiance (2010)
*Hughes, Ann, ‘The king, the parliament and the localities during the English Civil War’, Journal of British Studies 24 (1985)
*Stewart, Laura, ‘Fiscal revolution and state formation in mid seventeenth-century Scotland’, *Historical Research*, 84 (2011)
Williams, Penry, *The Tudor regime* (1979)
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

Anglo, S., Images of Tudor kingship (1992)
Harris, J., Orgel, S, Strong, R., eds., The King's Arcadia: Inigo Jones and the Stuart Court (1973)
Hart, V, Art and Magic in the Court of the Stuarts (1994)
Hill, T., Pageantry and power: a cultural history of the early modern Lord Mayor's show, 1585-1639 (2010).
Jenkinson, M., Culture and politics at the court of Charles II, 1660-1685 (2010).
Lake, P., How Shakespeare Put Politics on the Stage (2016)
Orgel, S., The Illusion of Power (1975)
Sharpe, K., Selling the Tudor monarchy (2009).
Smuts, R. M., Court culture and the origins of a royalist tradition in early Stuart England (1987).
Smith, D. L., Strier, R., and Bevington, D, eds., The Theatrical City: Culture, Theatre and
Sowerby, T., ‘A Memorial and a Pledge of Faith’: Portraiture and Early Modern Diplomatic
Culture’, English Historical Review (2014)
*Tittler, R., The face of the city: civic portraiture and civic identity in early modern England
(2007).
Williams, A., Poetry and the creation of a Whig literary culture, 1681-1714 (2005).
19. Political ideas: sovereignty, common law, counsel, and constitution

**Key debates**

A monarchical republic?
Godly kingship
Counsel, patronage, and favourites
Rebellion and 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

Resistance and resistance theory
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

Bush, M. L., The pilgrims’ complaint: a study of popular thought in the early Tudor north (Farnham, 2009)
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)


*Kesselring, Krista J., The Northern Rebellion of 1569: faith, politics, and protest in Elizabethan England (Basingstoke, 2007)


Morgan, H., Tyrone’s rebellion: the outbreak of the Nine Years War in Tudor Ireland (1993).


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

O Siochru, Michael, 'Foreign involvement in the revolt of Silken Thomas, 1534-5' Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy (1996), pp. 49-66

Pollitt, Ronald, 'The Defeat of the Northern Rebellion and the Shaping of Anglo-Scottish Relations', Scottish Historical Review 64 (1985), pp. 1-21.

Pincus, S., 1688: the first modern revolution (London, 2009)


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*

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]
Dunthorne, H., Britain and the Dutch Revolt (2013)
Malcolm, N., Reason of State and the Thirty Years War (2007)


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


Thompson, A., Britain, Hanover and the Protestant interest (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
Canny, N., 'Fashioning “British” worlds in the seventeenth century', in N. Canny et al., eds., *Empire, society, and labor* (1997; supplement to *Pennsylvania History*).


Pincus, S., 'Rethinking mercantilism: political economy, the British Empire, and the Atlantic world in the seventeenth & eighteenth centuries', *William & Mary Quarterly* 69 (2012).