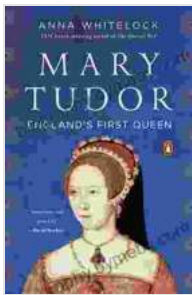


Mary Tudor: England's First Queen

Mary Tudor, the first female monarch of England, reigned during a tumultuous period in English history. Her life was marked by both triumphs and tragedies, and her legacy remains a subject of fascination and debate to this day.



Mary Tudor: England's First Queen by Anna Whitelock

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 18015 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 416 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Early Life



Mary Tudor was born on February 18, 1516, at Greenwich Palace. She was the only surviving child of King Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Mary's early life was marked by a series of personal tragedies. Her mother died when she was just four years old, and her father remarried twice more. Mary's relationship with her stepmother, Anne Boleyn, was particularly difficult. Anne was a Protestant and a strong advocate for the

English Reformation. Mary, on the other hand, was a devout Catholic. The two women clashed frequently, and Mary was often treated harshly by Anne's supporters.

Accession to the Throne

In 1533, Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church and declared himself supreme head of the Church of England. Mary refused to renounce her Catholicism, and she was stripped of her title as princess. She lived in relative obscurity for the rest of her father's reign.

When Henry VIII died in 1547, Mary's half-brother, Edward VI, succeeded to the throne. Edward was a Protestant, and he continued his father's policy of religious reform. Mary was once again forced to practice her religion in secret. In 1553, Edward VI died at the age of 15. Mary was the next in line for the throne, and she was proclaimed queen on July 19, 1553.

Reign

Mary Tudor's reign was a time of great religious upheaval. Mary was a devout Catholic, and she was determined to restore the Catholic Church to its former glory in England. One of the first acts of her reign was to repeal the religious reforms of her father and brother. She also re-established diplomatic relations with the pope.

Mary's religious policies were unpopular with many of her subjects. Protestants, who had been persecuted under Mary's father and brother, were now forced to practice their religion in secret or face imprisonment or execution. The most famous example of this was the burning of three Protestant bishops at the stake in 1555. Mary's actions earned her the nickname "Bloody Mary".

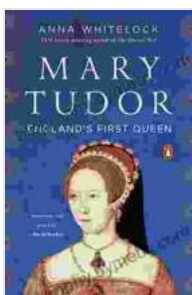
In addition to her religious policies, Mary Tudor also faced a number of political challenges during her reign. She was constantly under threat from Protestant rebels, and she was also engaged in a war with France. Despite these challenges, Mary managed to maintain her grip on the throne until her death in 1558.

Legacy

Mary Tudor's legacy is a complex one. She is remembered as a devout Catholic who persecuted Protestants, but she is also remembered for her strength and determination. Mary was the first female monarch of England, and she ruled during a time of great turmoil. Her reign was a turning point in English history, and it set the stage for the Elizabethan era.

Additional Resources

- [Mary I | Biography, Reign, & Facts | Britannica](#)
- [Mary I of England - HISTORY](#)
- [Mary I | The National Archives](#)

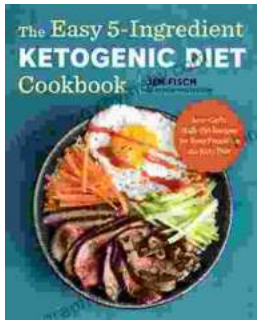


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