

Early Elizabethan England UNIT 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at Home and Abroad, 1569–1588

Term	Definition
1. The Revolt of the Northern Earls	In this plot the Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland tried to march south to free Mary after holding a Catholic Mass at Durham Cathedral.
2. The Ridolfi Plot	This plot centered on an Italian banker Roberto Ridolfi. Some sources suggest Ridolfi may have been a double-agent. He carried letters back and forth to the Duke of Alva and the Duke of Norfolk.
3. The Throckmorton Plot	Throckmorton was a young Catholic. He came to the attention of the Spymaster, Francis Walsingham and was put under surveillance. When his house was searched the details of harbour sites for a foreign invasion were found.
4. The Babington Plot	Babington was carrying letters for Mary, Queen of Scots and hiding them in beer barrels. Walsingham knew about it and intercepted the letters. When Mary signed one next to 'dispatch the usurper' she was found guilty of treason.
5. Francis Walsingham	Walsingham was known as the 'Spymaster'. He was at the head of Elizabeth's Government and its response in uncovering and punishing both real and potential enemies of the Queen.
6. Mary's execution	Having signed her name next to plans to remove Elizabeth, Mary was sentenced to be killed in 1587. Elizabeth later claimed to have been forced into the decision by her Privy Council.
7. Privateering	People such as Francis Drake and John Hawkins were attacking Spanish ships in the New World. This piracy became known as privateering.
8. The Treaty of Nonsuch	To protect Protestants in the Spanish Netherlands, Elizabeth signed the Treaty of Nonsuch. This involved sending 7,000 troops to the Spanish Netherlands under the command of Robert Dudley.
9. The raid on Cadiz	To delay the Spanish attack on England, Francis Drake travelled to Cadiz, waiving a white flag. He made his way into the mouth of the harbour and laid siege to as many ships as possible before looting up the Spanish and Portuguese coasts.
10. The Spanish Armada	In 1588 the Spanish launched an armada against the English. However, the ships were surprised whilst awaiting for troops to walk to Calais. They were outmaneuvered by the more mobile English ships and chased away.