Time Line of the Sixteenth Century
1509  Henry VIII's accession & marriage to Katherine of Aragon
1517  Martin Luther publishes the 95 Theses and starts the Reformation
1531  Henry VIII setting aside Katherine of Aragon for Anne Boleyn
1533  Jan - Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn
      June - Anne Boleyn's coronation
      Sept 7 - birth of Princess Elizabeth
1536  dissolution of the monasteries begins
      May - execution of Anne Boleyn for adultery
      May - Henry VIII's marriage to Jane Seymour 11 days later
      Oct - Pilgrimage of Grace (rebellion)
1537  birth of Prince Edward and death of Jane Seymour
1540  Jan - Henry VIII's marriage to Anne of Cleves
      July - annulment of Henry & Anne's marriage on a technicality
      July - 3 weeks later, Henry VIII's marriage to Katherine Howard
1542  execution of Katherine Howard for adultery
1543  marriage to Katherine Parr
1547  Jan 28 - death of Henry VIII and accession of Edward VI
      takeover of Edward Seymour; he becomes Lord Protector & Duke of Somerset
      Katherine Parr marries Thomas, Baron Seymour of Sudeley
1548  death of Katherine Parr in childbirth
1549  Mar - Lord Admiral Thomas Seymour's trial and execution for treason
      Jun - Prayer Book Rebellion - in the West Country, against protestant reforms
1551  fall of the Duke of Somerset
      Duke of Northumberland moves in to fill power vacuum
1553  Edward VI's health is failing
      May - marriage of Jane Grey & Guildford Dudley
      July 6 - death of King Edward, age 15
      Jane Grey's nine days' reign, engineered by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland
      July 19 - accession of Queen Mary
      Aug - execution of Northumberland
1554  many Protestants leave England (though not in response to persecution, which has not started yet)
      Jan - Wyatt's Rebellion - against the Spanish marriage
      July - Mary marries Philip of Spain, son of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor
1555  first Protestant burnings
      Mary's "pregnancy"
1558  Jan - loss of Calais
      Nov 17 - death of Queen Mary and accession of Queen Elizabeth
      no radical changes in religion or policy at first
1559  Act of Supremacy and Act of Uniformity
1560  Treaty of Edinburgh - non-interference; excludes Mary Queen of Scots from English succession (she never ratifies this)
      death of Amy Robsart causes a major scandal
1565  marriage of Mary Queen of Scots and Lord Darnley
1566  birth of James VI of Scotland
1567  Feb - assassination of Darnley at Kirk O'Field
      May - Mary Queen of Scots marries Earl of Bothwell
1568  Mary Queen of Scots flees to England
1569  rebellion of the Catholic Northern Earls
1570  Papal bull "Regnans in excelsis" excommunicating Queen Elizabeth
1571  round of negotiations for a marriage between Her Grace and Henri, Duke of Anjou
1572  first round of negotiations for a marriage between Her Grace and François, Duke of Alençon
      Aug 23 - St. Bartholomew's Day massacre in France - lasted more than 4 days, thousands dead
1575  second round of Alençon marriage negotiations begins
1576  £20,000 given to the Dutch to resist the Spanish; from this time increasing involvement in affairs of the Low Countries
1579  Jan - Simier comes to England
      Aug - François, Duke of Anjou (formerly Alençon) visits England
      treaty with Dutch; from here on out, supporting them with troops, supplies and money
1580  return of Drake from voyage around the world
1581  Duke of Anjou's second visit
1581-87 lots of plots
1585  project to settle Virginia
      Drake raids Vigo
1586  project to settle Munster
      Babington plot, leads to Mary Queen of Scots' downfall
prophecies of Regiomontanus much discussed at this time; predict that 1588 will be a year of the downfall of princes or the destruction of realms
1587  Feb - execution of Mary Queen of Scots
      Spanish Armada being prepared; Mary has bequeathed her right to the English crown to Philip II of Spain
      Drake's raid on Cadiz and Cape St. Vincent
1588  May - Armada sets sail
      July 29 - Armada first sighted off the Scilly Isles
      July 31-Aug 8 - engagements along southern English coast almost every day, ending off French coast opposite Gravelines; English fleet chases Spanish north - end of Spanish invasion attempt
      Sept - death of Earl of Leicester
1590  deaths of Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Christopher Hatton
1596  Earl of Essex' attack on Cadiz
1598  death of Lord Burghley
1599  Mar - Essex made Vice Regent of Ireland, to quash rebel Tyrone
      Sept - Essex' abrupt return from Ireland, without permission
1600  Essex' fall - loses offices & banned from Court
1601  Essex' rebellion, execution
1603  Mar 23 - death of Queen Elizabeth & accession of James I

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