The Strenght of Elizabeth Policy

The sixteenth century was a time in which a flourishing popular culture was expressed through writers such as Shakespeare, and explorers like Drake and Raleigh sought to expand England's territory overseas. This sense of well-being was embodied by Queen Elizabeth who liked to wear sumptuous costumes and jewellery, and be entertained in style at her court. But life in Tudor England did not always reflect such splendour. The century was also a time when the poor became poorer, books and opinions were censored, and plots to overthrow the Queen were rife. In that background, after Bloody Mary’s death, Elizabeth I succeeded to the throne. Her reign lasted 45 years and was a period of large economic, political, social and military growth of the power of England.

She was Henry VIII and, his second wife, Anne Boleyn’s daughter. Even if her mother was beheaded for adultery on the orders of her father and she was exiled from court, Elizabeth was educated to the highest standards. She could speak French, Latin and Italian.

She also had to face a controversial religion situation, so she reacted helping the creation of a Church of England that, although Protestant, allowed some of the old Catholic traditions to continue, even if her main priority was to  return England to the Protestant faith.

So she adopted all these strategies, which led her to enjoy the popular consent, the agreement and the sympathy and to increase the power of England, also strengthening the naval component and encouraging trade, especially overseas.

She also learnt very early how to turn the tide of opinion in her favour, and this became one of her most effective weapons.

Indeed the queen was keen to be seen by her subjects. She went on 25 regional visits known as ‘progresses’ during her reign, often riding on horseback rather than traveling in a carriage.

Elizabeth's greatest achievement lay in the relationship she had forged with her people. She was ahead of her time in her grasp of public relations, and her popularity had remained undimmed. 'This I account the glory of my crown, that I have reigned with your loves,' she said in her Golden Speech of 1601.