

His 3100, Fall 2009

Sources and Debates, 1450-1603, Essay (5 pages, 15% of your grade) **Due Oct. 15**

Contextualize one or two documents from your group's chapter (*Sources and Debates*, ch. 2, 3, or 4) by (a) comparing/contrasting it/them with at least four other documents in the chapter, and (b) using relevant detail from at least two secondary works/databases (for example, Bucholz and Key, *Early Modern England*, or Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online, or bibliographic detail from EEBO, or OED). You should make a coherent essay (that is, it should have an argument) and to help the essay cohere you might organize it around the chapter issues. Thus:

- a. Did government centralization and use of institutions like Parliament develop under Edward IV/Richard III or under Henry VII/VIII (or not at all)?
 - i. How do your documents "fit" one side of that argument?
- b. Did the Reformation develop from above or below? Did it happen quickly or slowly over several reigns? did the English have a full-blown idea of the Reformation, or just partial reformations?
 - i. How do your documents "fit" one side of that argument?
- c. Was the Elizabethan empire—as evidenced by its relations with Atlantic colonies, Ireland, and Scotland—planned and coherent or fitful and episodic? Did Elizabeth control her government or did factions and events control her?
 - i. How do your documents "fit" one side of that argument?



Related questions (and related secondary works) are at the end of each chapter. Be sure to devote much of the essay to comparing and contrasting the documents themselves (showing how what they state does or does not fit an argument historians have made about the period) and explaining the text/context of the 1-2 central ones.

[I am happy to respond to email queries regarding the paper but will place suggestions in response on <http://earlymodernengland.blogspot.com> so that all might benefit.]

