

# 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ENGLAND

Early Modern Britain: THE TUDOR DYNASTY  
(1485-1603)





# HENRY VII'S ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

Henry VII (1485-1509) made use of the situation after the end of the Wars of the Roses to establish an absolute monarchy. He created a new nobility from the upper middle class: the new noblemen were entrusted with state offices, especially in the Privy Council, the predecessor of the modern Cabinet, and in the prerogative courts Henry had set up. He avoided military conflicts, but protected trade and manufacturing and encouraged overseas expeditions. That is why Tudor absolutism was supported by practically the whole nation.





## HENRY VIII'S REFORMATION (THE 1530S)

Under **Henry VIII** (1509-47), the Church was subjected to the state power, as a result of the king's quarrel with the Pope over divorcing his first wife (the English Reformation, the 1530s). This act removed the last power of the feudal period that hampered the development of parliamentary government. Though Henry was acknowledged Head of the Church of England, he remained Catholic. Protestantism penetrated into England after his death. **Mary Tudor** (1553-58) unsuccessfully tried to recatholicise the country, but the religious struggles were ended under **Elizabeth I** (1558-1603); the Elizabethan Settlement): the English Church became the official Church of England and its doctrine was clearly formulated





# ELIZABETH I



**Elizabeth I** (born September 7, 1533, Greenwich, near London, England—died March 24, 1603, Richmond, Surrey), queen of England (1558–1603) during a period, often called the **Elizabethan Age**, when England asserted itself vigorously as a major European power in politics, commerce, and the arts.





# DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA (1588)

In 1588, England defeated its greatest rival, Spain: a huge fleet called the **"Armada"** was crushed by the English navy and the adverse weather. This meant the end of Spanish maritime supremacy.



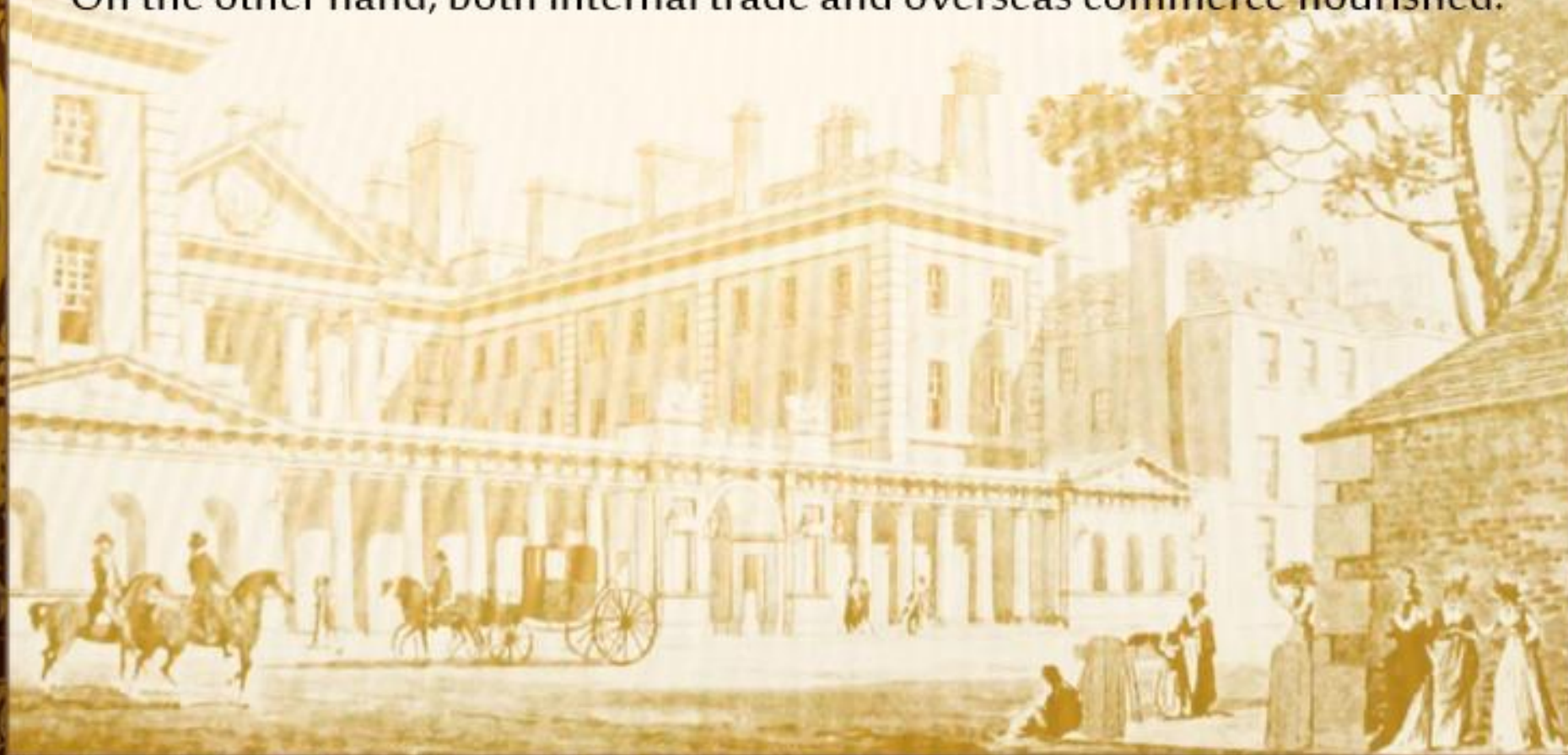


# ECONOMY

The Tudor economy was afflicted by:

- galloping inflation aggravated by a rise in population;
- vagrancy resulting from intensified enclosures.

On the other hand, both internal trade and overseas commerce flourished.



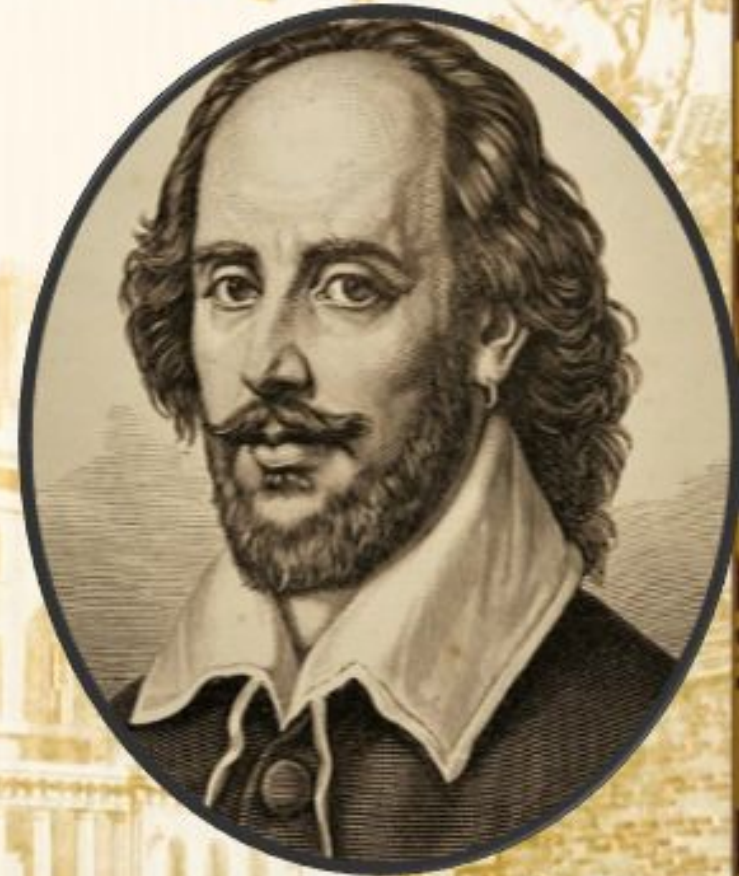


# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare was baptized on 26 April 1564.

In 1557 John Shakespeare married a woman from nearby Wilmcote called Mary Arden. The Shakespeares had 8 children. When he was 18 William Shakespeare married a woman named Anne Hathaway. They married in November 1582 and their daughter Susanna was baptized in May 1583. William Shakespeare probably went to Stratford Grammar School. 1587 he went to London. He became an actor and a playwright. By 1592 William Shakespeare was making a name for himself. In the 19th century Stratford upon Avon became famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Today William Shakespeare is remembered as one of the greatest English playwrights





# LIFE IN ENGLAND IN 16 CENTURY

## POPULATION

- In 1525, the population in England had rose to 3 million
- By 1600, the population increased to 4 million





# GROUPS

**Nobility**- owned huge amounts of land

**Gentry & Rich merchants**- educated gentlemen, owned large amounts of land (important ones never did manual work)

**Yeomen & Craftsmen**- owned their own land, often knew how to read and write

**Tenant Farmers**- leased their land from the rich, wage laborers, often illiterate and very poor





# JOBS

❖ A type of Smith: Goldsmith, Blacksmith, or

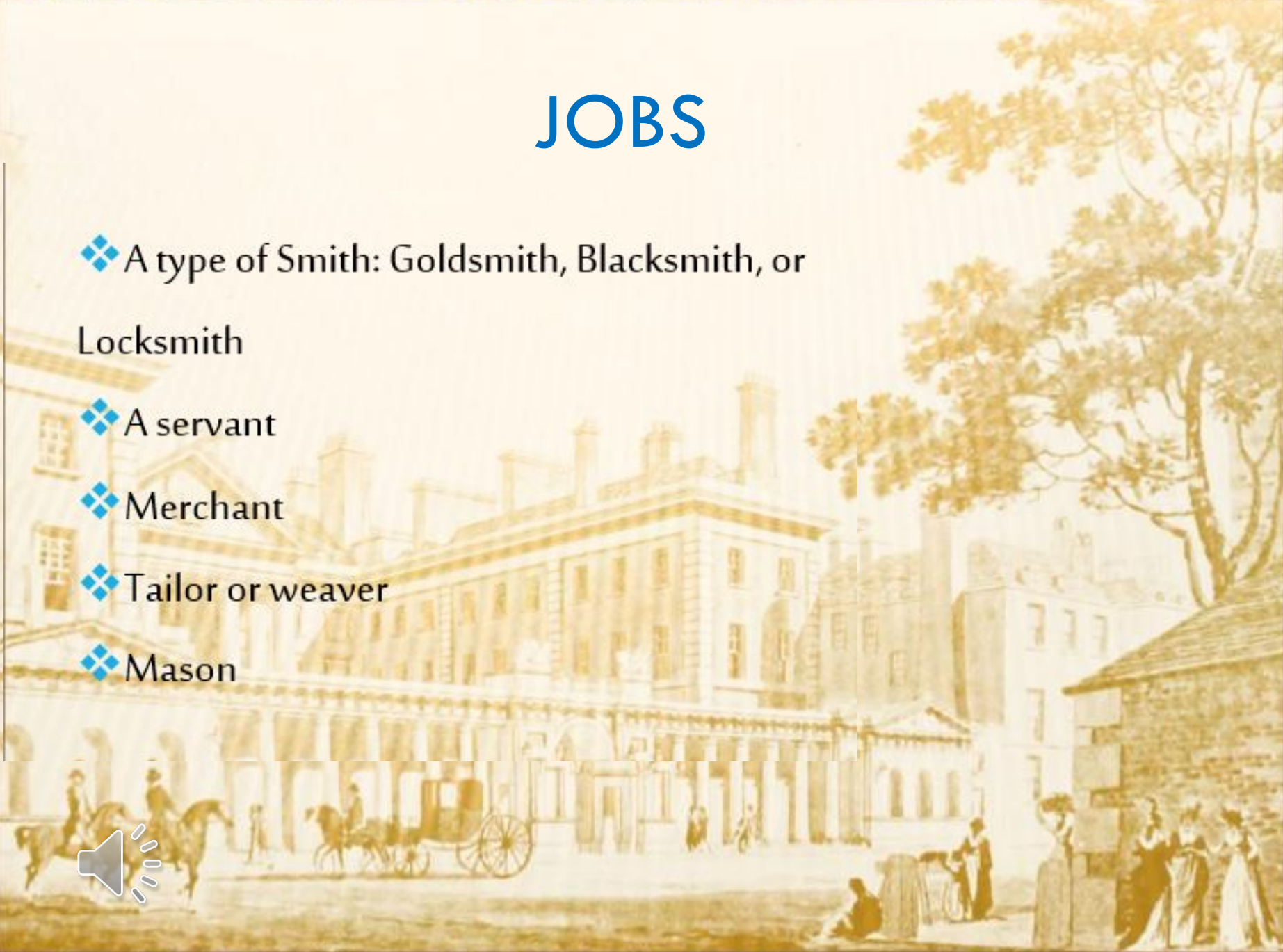
Locksmith

❖ A servant

❖ Merchant

❖ Tailor or weaver

❖ Mason





# ECONOMICS

- Carpets were only afforded by the rich so others used reeds and rushes to cover the floor
- Not many people could afford glass windows in the 15th century, however it became more popular and affordable in the 16th century
- The rich loved to light their houses with candles (beeswax), which was very expensive, if the poor wanted to light candles they had to use animal fat (tallow)



# Bibliography

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-I>
- <http://www.localhistories.org/shakespeare.html>
- <https://www.britishempire.co.uk/timeline/16century.htm>
- [http://www1.osu.cz/~valoskova/stud\\_opora\\_stella.pdf](http://www1.osu.cz/~valoskova/stud_opora_stella.pdf)
- <https://prezi.com/vixw25lidzar/timeline-life-in-england-16th-century/>

