

Claire Ridgway23:58

If you haven't been to an informal live chat before, let me just explain that we don't have an expert speaker to "grill", we just all dive in sharing our views, posing questions, sharing book recommendations, sources etc. Tonight's topic is "Henry VIII: tyrant?". Was he simply a monarch of his time or was he a tyrant? If he was a tyrant: how? why? All views are welcome.

Claire Ridgway23:58

Go!

Charlotte Donovan23:58

I might not be able to stick around for long as I'm currently not very well 🤒 been ill since Thursday. But I wanted to pop in 😊

Shelley Varran23:58

ok

Claire Ridgway23:58

Oh no! That's a shame. Get well soon!

Shelley Varran23:58

Henry did not really like work....

Claire Ridgway23:58

Hi Libby!

Claire Ridgway23:58

Hi Dawn!

Elizabeth Goodman23:58

Hope you feel better soon!

Shelley Varran23:58

he wanted to allow others to do the work for him

Lorna Wanstall23:58

H8 is one of those marmite kings, you either love him or hate him.. I love marmite, but I love to hate H8

Charlotte Donovan23:59

I think in his head Henry was always a "young" king? So he didn't like to take on the heavy work

Claire Ridgway23:59

Who thinks Henry was a tyrant?

Dawn hatswell23:59

Hello everyone

Julie Lindner-Reid23:59

Hi everyone

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Julie!

Charlotte Donovan23:59

Not at first, but most definitely towards the end of his reign

Shelley Varran23:59

He was the one to make the decision of "get rid of them". He did this at least twice...with Ann Boleyn and Thomas Cromwell.

Dawn hatswell0:00

How do you define a tyrant..

Claire Ridgway0:00

Mind you, he did start his reign executing Empson and Dudley.

Elizabeth Goodman0:00

I think Henry's jousting accident really changed his whole personality

Shelley Varran0:00

Interesting that RIchard III was always accused of killing two children....Henry took out MANY people without reason.

Charlotte Donovan0:00

After his fall in 1536, he became much more of a "tyrant" you could say

Claire Ridgway0:00

Hi Doc!

Nathen Amin0:00

I think he's a tyrant in today's terms, as in we look back on his reign as a whole. But living through it, at the time, was he actively 'being' a tyrant? Perhaps that's the question. He certainly could have reacted a lot better to many things, thats for sure. My wife likes to say that Henry VIII was nothing but a rich spoiled brat, and she has a point.

Lorna Wanstall0:00

Yes I believe he was a tyrant from the outset

Charlotte Donovan0:01

Agreed!!!

Claire Ridgway0:01

Nathen, she does have a point.

Dawn hatswell0:01

Reading Ms Krama book there were a lot of heath issues

Shelley Varran0:01

It would have been interesting to see what kind of religious he would have made...had his brother Arthur lived.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:01

Honestly I never did...not until recently. The distance of time, and the differing cultures lent him a degree of amnesty. But re-evaluating him now, I think he definitely was from the beginning.

Shelley Varran0:01

Okay...Tyrant

Charlotte Donovan0:01

Ruling and life back then was much different to today, so you could say that yes. But they will have seen it differently

Elizabeth Goodman0:01

My daughter says Henry was a man who reacted to circumstance!

Doc Clark0:01

Hi Claire! Started a new job, Really really busy.

Nathen Amin0:01

Reminds me of today's footballers. He became king at 18, they become millionaires at 18. Given the world so young, and become naturally predisposed to having it all their own way

Dawn hatswell0:02

Socdo l charlotte

Claire Ridgway0:02

He was obviously dealing with a lot of stress and pressure. The dynasty was so young, he was having trouble having a son, he had to make sure the throne was secure, but... It is hard to judge him this far on and without truly understanding the context.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:02

Exactly, Nathen

Doc Clark0:02

I think the tendencies were already built into H8 but I believe it took the demise of

Charlotte Donovan0:02

Agreed, Claire

Doc Clark0:02

Wolsey to bring them out

Julie Lindner-Reid0:02

I see an incredible amount of insecurity in him.

Lorna Wanstall0:02

I believe he liked to get his own way and if that wasn't possible there was a way found that meant he could have his own way

Claire Ridgway0:02

The Carthusian monks, More, Fisher, Margaret Pole, Anne Boleyn, so many truly low points and atrocities.

Shelley Varran0:02

It was interesting that the people he had executed without reason said that Henry was just "the best" and that to pray for Englands great king...go figure.

Charlotte Donovan0:03

I think he took on a lot of traits from Henry VII. The whole "fear of losing his crown" given how the Tudors got it.. he was paranoid like his father for sure

Claire Ridgway0:03

Hi Roland!

Shelley Varran0:03

What do you think drove him to marry so often....was he just horny?

Julie Lindner-Reid0:03

An heir

Claire Ridgway0:03

Just desperate for an heir and then a spare.

Lorna Wanstall0:03

Margaret Pole death was horrific, and I also think Catherine Howards death was simply brutal beyond belief

Elizabeth Goodman0:03

Desperate for an heir!

Nathen Amin0:04

I think the son issue, people often just think 'oh he wanted an heir, so went mad'. They sometimes forget the context about WHY he so desperately wanted a son. It wasn't just an heir to pass the throne onto as all kings want, but the Wars of the Roses were still so raw. That's some pressure, even if some may have been self-inflicted. Perhaps his Dad had put it into his head that he HAD to be successful in passing on the throne safely no matter what.

Shelley Varran0:04

He seems to have had something for youngish girls...like number five.

Dawn hatswell0:04

You mention any monarch with absolute rule who didn't like their own way

Roland Hui0:04

Happy New Year - slightly belated - to all! 🍷

Charlotte Donovan0:04

I believe, because back then they blamed the sex of a child in a woman, he kept changing his mind on his bride due to an heir

Julie Lindner-Reid0:04

And to you!

Charlotte Donovan0:04

And you Roland!

Claire Ridgway0:04

Happy New Year to you, Roland!

Shelley Varran0:04

Seriously, do you think that his father, Henry VII drilled it into HenryVIII head?

Charlotte Donovan0:05

Since this was all Henry really saw from his father as he grew up, I'd say so yes

Claire Ridgway0:05

With being a spare himself, even having Edward wasn't enough.

Charlotte Donovan0:05

Without meaning too :/

Julie Lindner-Reid0:05

Yep. He needed at least one spare...more, considering child mortality rates then.

Lorna Wanstall0:05

If you think about the stupid prat may well have had a grandson to succeed him if had married mary to someone

Nathen Amin0:05

If not overtly, as in literally telling him, certainly by behaviour. Henry VII last years were not happy ones - wife dead, two sons dead (people always forget Edmund) and threats incoming, like a child from a divorced family - you grow up remember the bad days as a child

Charlotte Donovan0:06

I think H8 fascination with Catherine Howard was because she showed such a huge interest in him, simply to get what she wanted. He mistakened her love for money, as love for him

Claire Ridgway0:06

@Shelley, I think the Catherine Howard relationship could be said to be Henry being horny though!

Dawn hatswell0:06

we mention all the horrific acts of violence under H8..and there where many..in the whole of our history and abroad why is it him that stands at the front or the queue?

Charlotte Donovan0:06

He was a silly old man the older he got

Julie Lindner-Reid0:06

Nathen--do you suppose his grandma did, too? She was quite a, ahem, character

Shelley Varran0:06

If Mary had married young and had children...boys...there well could have been boys to take the throne on...if her chosen husband had been a weak pawn.

Nathen Amin0:07

@dawn - i tihnk just the number of wives makes him more memorable to the lay person

Claire Ridgway0:07

And to have all the grief and disappointments of those lost babies with Catherine. That has got to have a major impact.

Nathen Amin0:07

@Julie perhaps, but she didn't last long into the reign.

Charlotte Donovan0:07

Especially so early on in their marriage

Roland Hui0:07

Hard to believe, but if Henry's son by Katherine of Aragon, born on New Years Day in 1511, survived, history will be very different.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:07

Dawn--I think because so many of his horrific acts were against those very close to him. It takes a special kind of arse to behead two wives and treat his girls the way he did.

Nathen Amin0:07

That's some pressure - Henry, make sure you have sons or the entire dynasty collapses and its all your fault

Lorna Wanstall0:07

Charlotte I also feel that H8 was looking at the bigger picture as well Catherine howard was young she had polenty of baby making years in front of her.

Claire Ridgway0:08

Yes, I think the fact that he had six wives and executed two of them is why. It was for me as a child. It was like "he did what??"

Nathen Amin0:08

And the Holbein picture, of course

Charlotte Donovan0:08

Lorna - exactly, he saw an opportunity and he took it

Julie Lindner-Reid0:08

@Nathan--I was thinking more of hi growing up with grandma's fanaticism. Tbh, I don't really know how much time they spent together, if any.

Nathen Amin0:08

I couldnt really tell you which of the Stuart kings is which, much less the Hanoverians.

Charlotte Donovan0:08

The Holbein picture is what made me love learning about H8 at school

Shelley Varran0:08

DO you think he really cared about those infants that were lost in death with Katherine?....he always seemed to be looking at the next girl in his present queens gals.....he was like some rich old dude today who gets sick of the old lady and wants a young thing to play with...sorry to be so blatant but well.....

Doc Clark0:08

he spent a lot of time in grandmother's company

Nathen Amin0:08

But everyone knows Henry VIII. And Elizabeth I, for that matter

Julie Lindner-Reid0:09

Thanks, Doc.

Dawn hatswell0:09

It does, and the fact 2 were executed..but is that any worse that 2 innocent young boys being murdered in the Tower because someone else wanted the throne!

Charlotte Donovan0:09

I think that's how he dealt with the babies deaths, by looking for a new lady to have

Lorna Wanstall0:09

so one of the hotly debated things is what killed him? Diabetes has been mentioned and yes I agree

Nathen Amin0:09

Well, I wouldn't consider Margaret Beaufort to posses ANY fanaticism, so I'm not sure how much influence she truly had on him that was negative

Shelley Varran0:09

He could have cared less about Katherine after getting rid of her...to him she seemed like an "IT" to get rid of....happens allot these days when the older husband sees a young thing and goes after what he wants....the old wife becomes something in the way...an "IT"...

Doc Clark0:09

The biography to read on Margaret Beaufort is The King's Mother

Claire Ridgway0:10

I think he did grieve and I think he did love Catherine. I think they had many years of love.

Shelley Varran0:10

Im happily attached butseems he was quite a character...

Julie Lindner-Reid0:10

Maybe I used the wrong word--more determined than fanatic

Charlotte Donovan0:10

Claire - I agree he loved Catherine

Julie Lindner-Reid0:10

I think he did too, at the beginning

Charlotte Donovan0:11

Yes especially at the beginning

Dawn hatswell0:11

@julie their has been a lot of close family members removed by other monarchs though

Doc Clark0:11

I think he was more in love with the romanticized Spanish princess than he was with Catherine of Aragon herself. It was always about image with H8

Lorna Wanstall0:11

But Diabetes is but one of his illnesses and the illness which I believe he may well have had does seem more common in diabetics

Charlotte Donovan0:11

Doc - it was when he first became king, to say he let himself go is an understatement

Shelley Varran0:11

I agree with you Claire about his love for Katherine for some years...but then this young thing came along with a great deal of ambition, brains and looks...and well ..she took what she wanted....and in the end Henry rejoiced at her death....so whatever love he DID have...was long gone....she was MUCH too good for him

Julie Lindner-Reid0:11

About his health in his later years--I can attest that chronic pain can put you in a very bad mood.

Nathen Amin0:12

chronic pain without medication

Claire Ridgway0:12

There were such high hopes for him at the beginning. He was seen as this Renaissance prince who would bring justice and joy to England, he would ease suffering etc. Hmmm...

Charlotte Donovan0:12

Chronic pain even with medication is awful 🙄 so imagine without

Julie Lindner-Reid0:12

Yep. Whilst trying to present an image of the 'glorious young prince'

Shelley Varran0:13

I mean Henry rejoiced at Katherine's death....major cruelty...cant really excuse that...Katherine was a real woman with great knowledge, character and faith...and he threw it away...

Lorna Wanstall0:13

Yes indeed Julie thank whatever for medicines that help to alleivate cronic pain

Claire Ridgway0:13

Yes, chronic pain and being ill but also trying to put on a show of strength as well.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:13

Exactly---he couldn't (wouldn't) be seen as 'weak'

Shelley Varran0:13

Can one imagine what might have happened had he reclaimed Katherine and put away Boleyn?
Amazing to consider.

Elizabeth Goodman0:13

Me too, Julie, I have a leg ulcer which took a year to heal with countless antibiotics, H8 must have been in so much pain and so miserable!

Charlotte Donovan0:14

That's got to be draining also, trying to show a hard exterior when inside you're just in constant pain

Lorna Wanstall0:14

I think that CoA knew Henry better than any other queen.

Charlotte Donovan0:14

History would be so different had he not been remembered for his 6 wives

Shelley Varran0:14

What do you think was Henry's final plan....i mean what do you think he was aiming at had he lived in any kind of good health for perhaps five more years?

Charlotte Donovan0:14

Lorna - I agree!

Nathen Amin0:14

@lorna, well she did meet him when he was but a child!

Charlotte Donovan0:14

Shelley - to be remembered, he wanted to be remembered

Julie Lindner-Reid0:15

@Elizabeth--I'm so sorry. 😞 And yes, it must have been awful

Shelley Varran0:15

Please know i am not an expert on Henry whatsoever...just expressing opinion, etc.....here to learn and make friends with like minded. 😊

Dawn hatswell0:15

If he did have diabetes his kidneys would fail, bloating, developing sores sepsis migraine so many side effects of this illness.

Claire Ridgway0:15

@Shelley, if he'd been able to then he would have been aiming to get Catherine Parr pregnant.

Charlotte Donovan0:15

Shelley - completely agree 😊 love sharing opinions and learning

Doc Clark0:15

yes, Charlotte, I think you are dead on the money: he wanted to be remembered - and remembered as a great king too.

Charlotte Donovan0:16

Completely Doc! 😊

Lorna Wanstall0:16

I wonder how different history had been if Anne had died of the sweating sickness. Would H8 still press ahead with the divorce

Claire Ridgway0:16

@Shelley, of course, don't worry! We all have different views and it's good to discuss them. We can never know a lot of things for sure.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:16

And yet he's remembered for "Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived"

Claire Ridgway0:17

Wouldn't he be cross knowing that he's more remembered for the women in his life?!

Dawn hatswell0:17

Henry wanted to be the next Henry V... A fighting monarch a winning monarch..

Julie Lindner-Reid0:17

Yes, he would haha

Elizabeth Goodman0:17

He would Claire!

Charlotte Donovan0:17

It would of maybe heald things for for a while I think @Lorna but I think there would have always been someone

Shelley Varran0:17

SO thedespot

Doc Clark0:17

The wife soap opera is one of the great narrative tales of popular history. H8 will never escape that legacy. Without the soap opera, I do think he would be remembered quite differently

Claire Ridgway0:18

If only Henry, Duke of Cornwall, had lived...

Claire Ridgway0:18

Or Arthur for that matter, so many what ifs

Elizabeth Goodman0:18

Catherine Parr was married 4 times!

Dawn hatswell0:18

It's a great shame that he is remembered for the bad to where the good is swept away.

Shelley Varran0:19

OKAY, what outstanding "good" did this kind really do?.....what long lasting legacy did he leave?

Julie Lindner-Reid0:19

Slightly off-topic--but what do you guys think about Katherine and Arthur? Did they really not consummate the marriage?

Claire Ridgway0:19

He gets brownie points for keeping the throne and passing it on to his son.

Roland Hui0:20

Good - he gave his country the English Bible.

Claire Ridgway0:20

@Julie, I used to believe Catherine, that they didn't, but then I can't stop thinking that they would have known their duty and that consummation was so vital for a marriage to be valid. So hard to know though.

Lorna Wanstall0:20

Julie Katherine stoutly denied she had had sex with arthur. but Dona Elvira I believe said they had.

Charlotte Donovan0:20

@roland that's true!

Nathen Amin0:20

Could we say the Protestant Reformation played a role in America's story? Looking to the new world for new opportunities?

Shelley Varran0:20

He left a nation in religious shambles, little in the coffers, kids which did not think all that highly of each other....Just think about how he was buried....little real legacy

Charlotte Donovan0:20

I agree @julie, I think they did.. they had a service to their country, so they would have

Charlotte Donovan0:21

My personal opinion

Julie Lindner-Reid0:21

Yeah. I want to believe Katherine's story, but it just doesn't really make sense to me.

Shelley Varran0:22

Maybe Arthur rather fumbled around but really did not get to it.....

Lorna Wanstall0:22

There were 2 dispensations for the marriage of Henry and Catherine I believe

Claire Ridgway0:22

Also his building programme: forts on the southern coast, his palaces...

Charlotte Donovan0:22

If she was as abiding to god as she said.. surely she would of done her godly duty and consummated the marriage? It's one of the harder stories to believe they didnt

Dawn hatswell0:23

His out look was so different, as Claire said a renaissance king, learning, building, the navy, defence many things.but Mary left the country bankrupt and in a religious mess too

Lorna Wanstall0:23

I believe that Katherine and arthur tried, but were simply too nervous to actually do what was needed

Doc Clark0:23

So make a list of H8's great accomplishments: the navy, the coastal defenses, the reformation of the church (I do put that as a positive - it's a complex though), the final dismantling of the feudal land system/abolishingment of "uses" in enfeoffment under common law/simplification of land deeds - this one is huge actually and never even talked about, the establish ment of a formal privy

council,...sorry to answer a 10 minute ago question so slowly - have a deep cut on a finger and it's hard to type

Claire Ridgway0:23

Ouch!, Poor you, Doc!

Lorna Wanstall0:24

But I find it equally strange that H8 got through the vast fortune his father accumulated in little over 5 years

Shelley Varran0:24

Well what really mattered was what HenryVIII wanted twenty years later.....he wanted to bed Anne Boleyn and Anne wanted to be queen...and SHE led the King like a puppy dog on a nose chain....she said JUMP and he said how HIGH?.....she said she wanted to be queen...and he made sure it happened to sate his wildly enflamed passions.

Charlotte Donovan0:24

Hope it gets well soon @doc

Nathen Amin0:24

Bottom line, king's who live long rarely retain popularity. It just doesn't seem to happen.

Claire Ridgway0:24

Hi Colleen!

Doc Clark0:24

thanks y'all

Charlotte Donovan0:24

Hi Colleen!

Colleen MacDonald0:25

hello! Better late than never!

Dawn hatswell0:25

No I don't agree there a reign should be judged from the minute it starts until it ends it's the complete Reign that matters

Shelley Varran0:25

SO does it matter all that much if Arthur and Katherine consumated their union or not.....ANNE was the reason Henry wanted out of the marriage....and he did what it took to make that happen.

Claire Ridgway0:25

I don't think Anne B wanted Henry or to be queen at the start, but just my view. She left court to get away from him.

Elizabeth Goodman0:25

Hi Colleen!

Doc Clark0:25

I have to note that all of the H8's best work as a king came in the second half of his reign.

Doc Clark0:26

but this isn't to say I like the guy much. I think he was a monster

Shelley Varran0:26

OK what did Henry accomplish?

Charlotte Donovan0:26

I personally believe Anne was pushed into putting herself in the Kings way

Lorna Wanstall0:26

I believe H8 was having doubts about his marriage as early as 1512/1513 but for some reason he put these doubts to the back of his brain but they were still there and with each child Son that died they defestered.

Claire Ridgway0:26

Anne wasn't the reason. Henry had started investigating how to get out of the marriage before he met Anne, when he knew that Catherine was not going to get pregnant again.

Shelley Varran0:26

Do you mean her father might have pushed Anne into it?

Julie Lindner-Reid0:26

^^What Claire said

Charlotte Donovan0:26

I think her father and uncle weee huge influences

Charlotte Donovan0:27

Were*

Colleen MacDonald0:27

Claire, so if not Anne, some other excuse might have sufficed.

Claire Ridgway0:27

Yes, I think so, Colleen.

Shelley Varran0:27

That father of Anne's was a real piece of work that is for sure...he would have sold his own mother for anything to gain anything.

Charlotte Donovan0:27

They were disappointed that Mary hadn't succeeded and were hungry to have a huge input to the throne

Doc Clark0:27

Shelley: here's the short form of the list: navy, coastal defenses, abolishment of the feudal land system, reform of the church with minor violence compared to the rest of Europe

Elizabeth Goodman0:27

Henry had to produce a male heir for the good of the country - so much pressure though

Lorna Wanstall0:27

Anne really told the H8 to buzz off, if anything H8 was the one who chased her tirelessly,

Shelley Varran0:28

Okay agreed on the Navy

Colleen MacDonald0:28

wonder what he would have done if Anne hadn't come along, who else would have been picked.

Charlotte Donovan0:28

Yeah she really wasn't interested to begin with so some help was put in there from "someone"

Claire Ridgway0:28

@Shelley, evidence actually points to Thomas B being unhappy about the relationship. He was ambitious, but he wasn't the man that's so often portrayed. Just my opinion from my research on the Boleyns though.

Dawn hatswell0:28

What makes you say that Shelley

Lorna Wanstall0:28

Wolsey was feeling around for a french marriage I believe

Julie Lindner-Reid0:29

My favorite quote about Henry: "If I had two heads, one should be at the King of England's disposal." --Christina of Milan Love that so much.

Claire Ridgway0:29

Colleen, I think Anne was just in the right place at the right time, or perhaps wrong place.

Claire Ridgway0:29

@Julie, yes! Love that one!

Doc Clark0:29

don't discount the land reform - without it, the middle class would not have flourished the way it did under Elizabeth I. It had a huge impact on England because it fostered a change in the basis of wealth

Charlotte Donovan0:29

Right guys I'm off! Been awesome having a chat, sorry I couldn't stay long but I will next time 😊
have a good week all!!

Claire Ridgway0:29

Hi Phil!

Shelley Varran0:30

As to church reformation...weeeeeel.....what if he had stayed with Katherine?...there was nothing wrong with the church system in England...yes it was catholic...and it needed certain reforms...but did it need to be completely abolished...torn asunder...I think not...Henry destroyed the church in England and left a shell of a hulk which saw tireless abuse and horriic executions....

Doc Clark0:30

get better Charlotte

Claire Ridgway0:30

Night, Charlotte, and lots of get well wishes!

Dawn hatswell0:30

Thomas B was an educated diplomat who was well up the ladder of success before his girls went to court he didn't need the girls help

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Julie Marie de guise retort was good too. I may be big in person, but I have a little neck.

Charlotte Donovan0:30

Thanks guys 😊 x

Philip Roberts0:30

Hi Claire. I'm meeting Rachel McNeil at Hampton Court tomorrow. Looking forward to that

Julie Lindner-Reid0:30

@Shelley--Henry's reforms actually left the CofE very Catholic-like

Claire Ridgway0:30

Say hi to Rachel for me, Phil, and have a great day!

Julie Lindner-Reid0:31

Lorna: Yes--I'd forgotten that one!

Claire Ridgway0:31

@Dawn, I agree, Thomas Boleyn was an amazing man.

Elizabeth Goodman0:31

Hope you feel better soon Charlotte

Philip Roberts0:31

Will do and thanks

Lorna Wanstall0:31

Yes indeed dawn and he was training Geeorge up as well to serve as a diplomat.

Shelley Varran0:31

Henry left a bereft legacy, his castles pretty all but gone, his money poof, gone, his reputation as a decent ruler? ...HA....he was a joke, a cheap shadow of what he could have been..a player, a shister, a destroyer....of church, of lives, of England.

Nathen Amin0:31

Nonsuch Palace was supposedly awesome though!

Lorna Wanstall0:31

Hi Philip.. plenty of pics please

Shelley Varran0:32

Only good he left was Elizabeth.

Colleen MacDonald0:32

But did they think of Henry as a joke at the time, or is that just our interpretation now?

Philip Roberts0:32

Hi Lorna. Will do x

Claire Ridgway0:32

The dissolution of the monasteries certainly had a major impact on England, taking away charity, education, medical care, a place for the elderly... A real social problem.

Roland Hui0:32

Who is your favorite tv/film actor to have portrayed H8? My fave is Keith Michell. Worst was Jonathan Rhys Meyers (gimme a break!).

Dawn hatswell0:32

What did his daughter Mary do Shelley when she wanted Catholic faith back?

Philip Roberts0:32

I would have loved to have seen Nonsuch Nathen

Shelley Varran0:32

Well, he was suppose to be buried in a bigger setup than his father...and he ended up so much less.

Lorna Wanstall0:32

shelley I have a string of names I call H8 and that slimy git Norfolk.

Claire Ridgway0:32

Hi Laurie!

Laurie Duerr0:33

Hi Claire and everyone! Sorry for being late!

Julie Lindner-Reid0:33

Claire--Yes, agreed. But the actual doctrine stayed pretty close to Catholic.

Philip Roberts0:33

Hi Laurie

Claire Ridgway0:34

@Julie, yes, I don't think Henry was in any way a reformist or Protestant.

Nathen Amin0:34

I believe Henry VIII was remembered with respect during the reign of Elizabeth. No real evidence she hated him, or the English people did.

Shelley Varran0:34

In my poor opinion, and it just my opinion, I have a lot to learn....Mary seemed weak....she did not have the iron her sister did....she did not have the iron of her mother Katherine of Aragon....she was weak...BUT she HAD lived through so much...perhaps all the games and problems thrown at her in youth rather drained her.....she gave her power to loveless spanish jerk who never cared for her...

Lorna Wanstall0:34

Sheely H8 even designed a magnificent tomb for himself as well.. it got used , but not by h8 but by Lord Nelson instead

Dawn hatswell0:34

So it was alright for Richard the Lionheart to go one crusade bankrupt the country murder millions of foreigners in the name of the church and what did that achieve Absolutely Nothing

Colleen MacDonald0:34

Roland - I liked Keith Mitchell....gave you a sense of the terror and fear you might have felt around him.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:34

Exactly. He just wanted the Church of Henry (*his* money, *his* authority)

Nathen Amin0:35

Its a weird thing of the medieval world that you could rise up against the king...but not actually be against the king. Seen time and time again through the 15th and 16th centuries.

Dawn hatswell0:35

Mine too Roland

Claire Ridgway0:35

Hi Kine! Welcome to the chat! We're discussing Henry VIII and just all diving in.

Doc Clark0:35

there are many reasons to think the church reform did much good but the biggest reason was

economic. The Church was the largest land owner in the country but the revenue of that land supported less than 3% of the population. The abolition of the monasteries put that land back into the economy by spreading control to over 15%. For the era, that was a major shift. It made it possible for the middle class to get into the land - and that really started the shift of wealth we see in the later Tudor period. But economic history is rarely interesting so people don't get to hear about it. The 6 wife soap opera sells TV series, not land reform...

Lorna Wanstall0:35

Keith Michell was a brilliant Henry

Shelley Varran0:36

Henry was human...but it is hard to balance his actions....to what purpose.....he swayed this was and that...he acclaimed a high and might catholic church yet at the first problem he chucks it away...the first time his marriage is a problem he chucks it away....every woman he chucks away...

Doc Clark0:36

Yes he was

Doc Clark0:36

he's my favorite.. along with Robert Burns

Colleen MacDonald0:36

Church reform might have been good for land reform but what about the effect on the poor - loss of hospitals, health care, sanctuary

Laurie Duerr0:36

Yes at the time then, it was quite a new and strange concept that the monarch would be head of the Church of England, but now, it is normal to us!

Dawn hatswell0:36

Everyone lived through so much not just Mary the ordinary folk all had mental and physical hardships but without money

Julie Lindner-Reid0:36

Ok, don't hate me. I liked Rhys-Myers. I hated him at first---obviously he wasn't ginger (or big at the end!). But I did feel he brought Henry's character quite well.

Kine Grana0:37

Hi, Claire and everyone. I'll try to dive in as well.

Lorna Wanstall0:37

Robin Maxwell was a brilliant H7 in the shadow of the tower series too

Shelley Varran0:37

It is my opinion if he REALLY wanted to reform land he could have chosen a much different way of doing it.....

Claire Ridgway0:37

I think he'd say that he chucked away the authority of Rome rather than the church.

Doc Clark0:37

I agree Claire

Dawn hatswell0:37

Spot on Doc

Claire Ridgway0:37

The break was obviously great for those reformers trying to bring about change though.

Shelley Varran0:38

He NEVER had to persecute people the way he did...all the executions, all the tearing asunder, all the torture, unrest...double dealings....

Lorna Wanstall0:38

Shelly H8 wanted absolute power, one the lion knew his strength he would always use it.

Elizabeth Goodman0:39

I liked him too Julie!

Shelley Varran0:39

Here is a question: WHO can be reckoned with, to be compared to, with Henry VIII in history...is there anyone like Henry VIII...would in history would have been a good comparison?

Doc Clark0:39

Shelley, the abolition of the monasteries was NOT the only land reform he did. He did away with Enfeoffment and Uses. It was a complete reform of common law and it was HUGE because it affected the power base of the Crown, the landed nobles and the rising middle class.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:39

Yay-I'm not alone lol

Doc Clark0:39

Peter the Great

Lorna Wanstall0:40

I do believe though it wasn't just Tindale's book that opened the Pandora's box.. Because he would have had to have read Luther's argument in order to argue with him so to speak

Shelley Varran0:40

If Henry VIII might have had a brother comrad in history...WHO might it have been?

Dawn hatswell0:40

Life was disposable in those times and before..worth nothing at the top one minute stabbed in the back another. Look how Wolsey and Cromwell fell not just Henry his minions have to take some responsibility in the destruction of their peers

Doc Clark0:40

His reforms of Russian serfdom and land law were parallel with H8 - though he was a much better war king

Nathen Amin0:40

I don't think the Reformation and dissolution in themselves were a bad thing, but the way it was handled thereafter was obviously a problem. Selling land at cut-down rates to friends, etc rather than establishing schools or hospitals etc.

Claire Ridgway0:40

Julie, I agree. It was so good to have a young, charming and arrogant Henry, someone you could understand these men and women loving.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:40

Good point, Doc

Philip Roberts0:40

H8 is unique and that's partly why the Tudors are so popular

Shelley Varran0:41

Would Bismark have made a good friend of Henry VIII?

Roland Hui0:41

Shelly - Historically, H8 was said to be closest to Charles Brandon.

Shelley Varran0:41

Napoleon?

Dawn hatswell0:41

With Hind Sight Shelley everything wou be done differently

Lorna Wanstall0:41

H8 always had scapegoats, but I also think he enjoyed playing people off against each other.

Doc Clark0:41

Bismark and H8? Bismark was too proud...

Shelley Varran0:42

I mean not friends personally in his life at his time....i mean in history

Shelley Varran0:42

WHO in history could Henry VII be compared to?....Bismark, Napoleon?

Lorna Wanstall0:42

Strangely Elizabeth used to play the play one side off against the other as well

Nathen Amin0:42

I've heard a rumour that Henry VIII's codpiece is no longer on show at the Tower of London...

Shelley Varran0:42

Henry VIII was certainly a better man than Hitler.

Dawn hatswell0:42

The politicians have scapegoats..all powerful people have fall guys then and now

Julie Lindner-Reid0:43

@Nathen---what have they done with it?

Claire Ridgway0:43

@Nathen, the suit of armour? I wonder why. Perhaps Royal Armouries are using it at Leeds or in an exhibition.

Nathen Amin0:43

Sorry, Windsor castle

Lorna Wanstall0:43

I would say Vlad the impaler, he was awful

Shelley Varran0:43

Elizabeth was a smart woman who used her womanly wiles....but she had a huge heart...she really did not even want to execute Mary of Scots

Dawn hatswell0:44

All those in high positions at court played the same game...it was the way of court life

Shelley Varran0:44

I forgot Vlad the Impaler...he was a real piece of work.

Nathen Amin0:44

My source tells me that it had been loaned to Russia and never came back. This wasn't the authentic codpiece but a fake for display.

Claire Ridgway0:44

Interesting!

Doc Clark0:44

but Vlad did keep the Turks during his time from getting into Transylvania - I place I've been to by the way. His castle rocks! Not sinister at all

Colleen MacDonald0:44

but Elizabeth, she "let" other people do things for her...like execute Mary. She would put on a good front, but got what she wanted

Lorna Wanstall0:44

No and I think she regreted Mary QoS death for the rest of her life as well

Julie Lindner-Reid0:44

Huh---wonder what Vlad wanted it for? 🤔

Shelley Varran0:44

Old Vlad was a hostage of the enemy side with his brother and picked up the wonder torture techniques from them during his time with them...

Julie Lindner-Reid0:45

(Putin, not the impaler!)

Nathen Amin0:45

Favourite Henry VIII-related location you've all visited?

Nathen Amin0:45

Or want to visit

Colleen MacDonald0:45

Hampton court

Laurie Duerr0:45

I always think it is interesting to consider what if Arthur had lived, and became King, etc.? who Henry would have married, etc., and what, if any, legacy he would have had as Duke of York?

Claire Ridgway0:45

Tough one, Nathen!

Julie Lindner-Reid0:45

Has to be Hampton Court

Julie Lindner-Reid0:45

Hampton*

Doc Clark0:45

Yes, Hampton Court

Laurie Duerr0:46

I loved Leeds Castle

Shelley Varran0:46

Favorite place.....hhmmmm...the place he WANTED to be buried....

Doc Clark0:46

I want to work in that kitchen

Nathen Amin0:46

I got engaged at Hampton Court.

Dawn hatswell0:46

Vlad was a product of his time too...

Claire Ridgway0:46

I love Hampton Court Palace but St George's Chapel is amazing too.

Julie Lindner-Reid0:46

awww!

Shelley Varran0:46

He was....

Colleen MacDonald0:46

was Henry associated much with Ludlow castle?

Shelley Varran0:46

Lovely place to get engage...Hampten Court

Doc Clark0:46

color me yellow, Nathan

Elizabeth Goodman0:46

Tower of London

Claire Ridgway0:46

You romantic!

Julie Lindner-Reid0:47

Honestly, I've been thinking about doing a course with the RSN, just to work in Hampton Court for a while 😊

Claire Ridgway0:47

Do it!

Shelley Varran0:47

London...where the greatest of his palaces was built...along with all the empty land at the time...right there in London 😊

Lorna Wanstall0:47

After Jane's death he made it clear he wanted to be buried with her

Roland Hui0:47

I love the Tower of London - though H8's associations with the place are actually few.

Doc Clark0:47

oh you lucky bums who live in England...

Nathen Amin0:47

Henry with Ludlow not so much. His brother Arthur lived there for a while with Katherine of Aragon, and Henry sent his daughter Mary there in her capacity as Princess of Wales when she was a child

Shelley Varran0:48

I might respect him had he treated Katherine of Aragon better....but he was just a lusty old dog...

Dawn hatswell0:48

The state of the interior of that tomb of them is shameful

Colleen MacDonald0:48

thanks Nathen, yes I'd heard about Arthur, wasn't sure about Henry. Spent a bit of time there on a tour, would love to have had more time there

Nathen Amin0:48

Ludlow is tops!

Doc Clark0:49

it's not really a tomb - it's a vault under the floor of the chapel royal

Shelley Varran0:49

Well I hope Jane Seymours side of the tomb shines and gets better with age...may the other side be digested by metal eating bugs.

Lorna Wanstall0:49

I think H8 might have faired better if he had had a few smack bottoms with a piece of 4x2 as a child.

Dawn hatswell0:49

What would you say though if I said Katherine shouldn't have been so stubborn leaving her daughter at the hands of her enemies..

Shelley Varran0:49

oh and that old painting of him all big and mighty hahahahaha

Doc Clark0:50

I do agree that a new cover for H8's coffin would be a good thing

Colleen MacDonald0:50

when did they last check out the condition of his coffin?

Shelley Varran0:50

Hope when they open it up the old buggies have done their job...

Lorna Wanstall0:50

Mind you I like to whack H8 with a fair few pieces of 4x2 around his head.

Doc Clark0:50

mid 1800s

Claire Ridgway0:51

@Dawn, it's a tough one, isn't it? She could have taken the veil as the Pope did try and persuade her to do so, but she felt she was Henry's wife until death. I think Mary would have been a very different woman if she hadn't been treated so badly.

Shelley Varran0:51

Yes, it might have been a nice thing such as "character" been instilled in old HenryVIII

Doc Clark0:51

don't quote me on the date - I'd have to look it up. but 19th century for sure

Laurie Duerr0:51

I agree Claire. I think she knew that Mary's strong faith would get her through whatever she faced in life..

Colleen MacDonald0:51

@Shelley, do you put any credence in Henry having a head injury from jousting that changed him?

Doc Clark0:52

there used to be a good webpage on the chapel royal website on the vault but it's now gone and has not been replaced

Dawn hatswell0:52

Both bodies will have be reduced to skeletal condition. Henry was no better or no worse than any other King ...its the 6 wives thing and many people are not taught beyond that

Philip Roberts0:52



Shelley Varran0:52

Head injury...wow...hard to say....those head injury issues....dont know..

Lorna Wanstall0:52

H8 was his own worst enemy a bit like Mary QoS

Philip Roberts0:53

Mary Rose for me of course

Dawn hatswell0:53

Why was he lorna

Nathen Amin0:53

CTE, or chronic brain injury from concussions, is a big thing at the moment in sports like Football (UK and US), Rugby and Wrestling. I bet those Tudors were walking around with some knocks on their heads

Shelley Varran0:53

Thank goodness for Elizabeth...

Lorna Wanstall0:53

Well everything he did always seemed to come back on him tenfold

Shelley Varran0:54

SO, who thinks Elizabeth might have gotten her character from her GREAT grandmother...mother of Henry VII?

Nathen Amin0:54

5 years ago get a concussion in rugby, and you could be subbed off and subbed back on within 20 minutes. Today, it's a mandatory 1-month break from the game, and get a few and enforced retirement. So think in 5 years we've made that kind of progress. Imagine then, what injuries they must have been taking to the skull 500 years ago with jousting etc

Dawn hatswell0:54

The problem with Mary was she didn't know her country or people and was more French than Scottish

Doc Clark0:54

I think his rep would have been much better if he had been better at his wars

Claire Ridgway0:55

The 1524 accident when he forgot to put his visor down must have been a nasty one, although he downplayed it.

Shelley Varran0:55

How do we rate Henry VIII on the scale of despotism?

Claire Ridgway0:55

@Shelley, some strong women on both sides of the family.

Colleen MacDonald0:55

Agree Nathen, I have a friend whose son's personality has changed from concussions, so maybe Henry was really an old softy except for the jousting lol

Doc Clark0:55

Shelley, do you mean Margaret Beaufort or Elizabeth of York or Elizabeth Wydeville?

Dawn hatswell0:55

Yes but Lorna that happened Richard III, and other rulers too.

Philip Roberts0:55

Doc Clark He defended a French invasion fleet 3 x bigger than the Armada. A huge achievement that one

Shelley Varran0:55

Margaret Beaufort

Shelley Varran0:56

Sorry Beaufort

Lorna Wanstall0:56

His treatment of Catherine and Mary the people he killed his treatment of the Carthusians, all those were done because he was so obsessed with power, and when he got it what did he do with it.

Doc Clark0:56

he hired the right admiral

Shelley Varran0:56

Henry did ONE thing right!

Claire Ridgway0:56

Elizabeth was lucky to have a loyal preaccession household and some amazing advisors early in her reign.

Dawn hatswell0:57

Absolutely Monarchy, Despot, Tyrant they mean the same in my book because they can do what the hell they want in all cases

Philip Roberts0:57

Lol

Shelley Varran0:57

Boy did she have brains and did she have spirit!!!

Elizabeth Goodman0:57

Very true Claire!

Shelley Varran0:57

Okay how does HenryVIII rate on the Tyranic scale?

Doc Clark0:57

He did more right than he gets credit for. After all, he hired the brilliant Cromwell as well as Wolsey

Colleen MacDonald0:57

Yes, Elizabeth was in some tricky situations that could have backfired. She was smart enough to distance herself from stuff

Claire Ridgway0:58

Mary I had spirit too. To rally so many people who would have given their life for her in 1553. Amazing.

Shelley Varran0:58

one to ten....ten being total Tyrant

Dawn hatswell0:58

So was Richard the lion heart he caused mayhem but did it abroad is that okay then. He bankrupted the country and persecuted the Jews..

Shelley Varran0:58

How would you all rate him?

ADMIN Tim0:58

Ha! I think that Henry ranks ... 8 on the tyranic scale!

Shelley Varran0:58

I would rate a nine

Doc Clark0:58

He did pick good people for his government. I rate him as 6 on a tyranny scal of 1 through 10

Lorna Wanstall0:58

Elizabeth was the jewel of the Tudor crown.. I often wonder what Henry and Anne would have nmade of her

Claire Ridgway0:58

Ha! Like what you did there, Tim!

Julie Lindner-Reid0:59

haha

Shelley Varran0:59



Claire Ridgway0:59

On a scale of general tyranny or compared to other leaders?

Shelley Varran0:59

What do you think Claire?

Colleen MacDonald0:59

rate him an 8, but that's with hindsight and with the values of current day. How would he have rated at the time?

Shelley Varran0:59

General scale

Claire Ridgway0:59

7

Shelley Varran0:59

How about you Julie....

Julie Lindner-Reid0:59

I don't think he was much different than other rulers of the time. I wouldn't have wanted to live under any of them, tbh.

Claire Ridgway0:59

He did achieve much but he didn't need to do what he did to some people.

Shelley Varran1:00

Lorna?

Lorna Wanstall1:00

I would rate H8 as a 8, Purely because he gave us Elizabeth and was kind to Anne of Cleves, which I find very strange

Shelley Varran1:00

Ahhhh Doc Clark?

Doc Clark1:00

he was not pol pot, that's for sure

Shelley Varran1:00

(i kind of like how the series had Henry sleep with Anne of Cleves AFTER the annulment...that was a hoot!)

Doc Clark1:00

he's maybe an Ivan the Terrible

Julie Lindner-Reid1:00

@Lorna--I think Elizabeth learned much from Anne of Cleves

Lorna Wanstall1:01

Doc H8 was too fat to fit in a pot

Julie Lindner-Reid1:01

haha

Claire Ridgway1:01

Well, it's just coming up to the hour and my bed is calling (1am here) but if you want to carry on then please do, the chatroom will be open. Thank you all for joining. Tim is doing a transcript and I will publish it in a post with links to the Claire Chats talks I did on this topic.

Doc Clark1:01

Anne of Cleves is smarter than she gets credit for

Nathen Amin1:01

6. He did some bad things, but he was hardly a random genocidal maniac taking out entire populations of people like we still unfortunately witness in today's day and age.

Dawn hatswell1:01

Anne of Cleves would have been an ideal queen

Dawn hatswell1:01

Anne of Cleves would have been an ideal queen

Shelley Varran1:01

Roland, Philip..anyone else care to rate Henry VIII on a tyrant scale?

Colleen MacDonald1:01

and Anne of Cleves came from a fertile family, might have been interesting to see what actually happened

Lorna Wanstall1:02

Ivan was one of Elizabeth suitors

Doc Clark1:02

agreed Colleen

ADMIN Tim1:02

Thank you everyone! I hope to see you around on the website. Make sure you comment on anything you're interested in - we read them all!

Shelley Varran1:02

Yeah...Henry and anne of Cleves might have had TWELVE Henrys.....hahahahaahahahah

Julie Lindner-Reid1:02

@Doc--I wholeheartedly agree. She must have been incredibly savvy

Colleen MacDonald1:02

thanks Tim and Claire - have a good sleep!

Doc Clark1:02

Ah yes, good old Ivan, inventor of the great Russian tradition of secret police!

Shelley Varran1:02

Thank you everyone....this was neat....

Julie Lindner-Reid1:02

Thanks you both! Sweet dreams!