

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

SPOTLIGHT ON

State Papers

Key Stage 5 | Early modern 1485-1750

Video resource



Spotlight On: State Papers

We hope you enjoyed watching our Education Service video with collections expert Sean Cunningham looking at records from our State Papers collection. This video focusses on a ballad relating to the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536-7 from SP1, our series of State Papers relating to Henry VIII.

Watch the video then try and answer the following questions:

- SP1 covers the reign of which English King?
- What time period is covered by the entire State Papers collection?
- What type of information can we find within the State Papers?
- Why does the document box seen in the video have a code?
- Why are the documents found in the box bound into a volume?

Document: SP 1/118

- What is the date of the document discussed in the video?
- What is unusual about the form of the document?
- Why is this particular document in the collection of State Papers?
- The document is titled as an 'Exhortation'. How does this explain the purpose of the document? Check out the meaning of this term.

Suitable for:

KS 5

Time period:

Early modern
1485-1750

Connections to Curriculum:

Key stage 5:

AQA: GCE History:
The Tudors: England,
1485-1603

Edexcel GCE History:
Rebellion and disorder
under the Tudors,
1485-1603

OCR GCE History:
Rebellion and Disorder
under the Tudors,
1485-1603

Spotlight On: State Papers

- Who wrote this document?
- Who did the writer criticise in this document?
- Why do you think that Henry VIII is not criticised directly?
- Why is this document significant in understanding the causes of the Pilgrimage of Grace?
- Can you find out more about how the government responded to this rebellion and others in different parts of the country?
- Why is it important to look at other sources within the State Papers collection concerning this and other Tudor rebellions?
- How does the ballad suggest there is a division between people of the north and the south?
- What does the reference in the ballad to 'all abbeys suppressed' mean?
- How does the ballad suggest there is a division between people of the north and the south?
- What does the reference in the ballad to 'all abbeys suppressed' mean?



XII. 1021(5).

In exhortacion to the nobyll and comons
of the north

O fairefull pepull of the soveralle region
 of god his electe: to maake reformatione
 off grete mystrye and horrible offence
 do ye forward walyently: in yo^r peccacion
 yt is christe plesur. and to your saluacion
 The northorne pepull: in tyme longe past
 hartylytyn beyn becardyde: of the distrustable nacion
 But now I do trust. chyn at the last
 venourne we shall wryue: to oure halle congregacion
 off thes detourne heresyke. devode of all verite
 And then our thourne: ther faithe is outed
 desist not of your purpose: with godde and comendable
 flequunt your tudent. wth power and mayne
 Inspryde of gode: by mooyon celycate
 thes heresyke to suppress: and tyranny restrayne
 It is wrytyn in the machabees. Take heed the storie
 deuteronomii. potentes qz estote filij
 Forsoth ye it better. in battyll for to dye
 and of our mortall lyde. to maake a cōfession
 O gen heresyke extremity: to tyme wth tyranny
 the nobilitie off the beame. brought to confusion
 O hyst^{er} charge very hyl. yo spoilyd to be
 and all alway suppressit. is it more petye
 Iobba to suppress. we have hyst^{er} uode
 the wyche off charite. gode men dyd forwode
 to them yt wait tynowt. it wait great mende
 But soldey now downe: freght to the grownde
 many ar lesse tgem to decay
 and them profanety. non dar say nay
 Yff powerte gaide beyn. these cause off tyn
 tgen gode the lesse. we shalde offence
 But theis fallb heresyke. procuryt tyn myse
 they beine to longe. gode sende and ende
 off all the mystryes. I we may se
 thes northorne heresyke. prebate of I d^o d^o d^o
 to set. enourment to be dore. now lette vt tynk payne
 tynowt amysse to be dore. we ovr self must be dore enforce
 All tyn in battyll. many shalde be stayne
 regard now the plesure of our mortall corse
 But call to our memore: wth gode sayt tyn
 Cōfortaminu in bello. nā vobiscū doming

Transcript

An exhortation to the nobles and commons of the north

O faithfull people of the boreal region,
Chief bellicose champions, by divine providence,
Of God *hic electo* to make reformation
Of great mischief and horrible offence,
Go ye forward valiantly in your peregrination,
It is Christ's pleasure and to your salvation.
The northern people in time long past
Hath little been regarded of the austral nation;
But now I do trust, even at the last,
Renown we shall win to our whole congregation
Of these southern heretics, devoid of all virtue,
And them overthrow: their faith is untrue.
Desist not of your purpose, both good and commendable,
Prosecute your intent with power and main
Inspired of God, by motion celestial,
These heretics to suppress and tyranny restrain
It is written in the Maccabees – look well the story –
Accingemini potentes qui estote filii.
For as it is better in battle for to die
And of our mortal life to make a conclusion
Than heresies extremely to join with tyranny,
The nobility of the realm brought to confusion,
Christ's church very like is spoiled to be,
And all abbeys suppressed: it is more pity
Abbeys to suppress we have little need,
The which of charity good men did found,
To them it was thought it was great need;
But boldly now down, straight to the ground.

Transcript (cont.)

Many are busy them to decay
And them profaneth, none dare say nay.
If poverty had been chief cause of this,
Then God the less we should offend;
But these false heretics procureth this amiss;
They reign too long: God send an end
Of all the mischiefs that we may see,
These naughty heretics deprived of their dignity.
These enormities to recover, now let us take pain,
Things amiss to redress we ourselves must enforce,
Although in battle many should be slain,
Regard not the pleasure of our mortal course,
But call to our memory where God saith that:
Confortamini in bello nam vobiscum domino.

Dure cause ye ys left. I dar well reporte
 more shortly our cunysse. we may assure
 noite downyng off them. to make grete moite
 or ellis very sore to beo of array
 To have helpe of hym. that byght may
 have frenght into fere. be first victoria
 The machabie being fere. in the copasoy
 of the cunys. y in number wer many mo
 It is found in gode. that had reborage
 and many of them they dyd over the
 matenyng y lawe. to byt manyfold
 and fawght byght many. as wylleat most sote
 we being therfor in the distresse
 that dothore the turly pertyng over lawe
 Spartyng eist cunysse. to ower grete genyest
 the wyllys of the bealme. not begadyng on strawe
 The for to feght. now any counsell byt ye
 may deub no deere. pugnabit nobis
 The anothor off all ill. to beget by name
 me toye ye no icide. many doth eham knowe
 for y counsell counsell. god sende y mythe same
 botte nowdary counsell. Cromwell and y chancell towe
 The hereticall byttopp. canyng our desolation
 crist enyng on them byght. Small havyng d. voyoy
 The popte to dystayre. me theynt byght necessary
 for the trouge our knowe. of y genecyone
 wylt more ys to abbore. y our syde copany
 of cromwell the captayne. and all the subyll besou
 the wte of a she mane. it was the begynnyng
 but lye of fanoure pmoide by our byght
 After amau he is. as ye maye mention
 in the boke of gert. ye doth y appere
 wyltme assure exalt. to the pmoion
 making hym choff. vuler of all ye empire
 The amay in mynd bepleit. as wyltme
 of eney man dyd covet. honowd to be
 they for to do. now drest ye beke
 bett ne worse theore all the coronie
 Danc only mdoce. wylt dyd bepluse
 hym for to honore in any degre

Transcript

Our cause it is lawful, I dare well report.
More sorely our enemies we may assay;
Not doubting them to make great mort,
Or else very soon to break their array,
Through help of him that lightly may
Give strength unto few. Ut fiat victoria.
The Maccabees being few in the comparison
Of their enemies, that in number were many more;
But trusting in God, they had corroboration,
And many of them they did overthrow;
Maintaining their law with rights manifold,
And fought right many, as where ours most bold.
We being therefore in like distress,
These Southern Turks perverting our law,
Spoiling Christ[’s] church to our great heaviness,
The wealth of the realm not regarding one straw.
Therefore to fight now my council it is.
Nam deus nom decrit pugnantibus nobis.
The authors of all ill to rehearse by name,
Me think it no need. Many doth them know
For their cursed council; God send them much shame,
Both naughty Cromwell and the Chancellors, too.
The heretical bishops causeth desolation;
Christ[’s] curse on them light. Small having devotion,
Their properties to describe, me think it right necessary,
For the truth once known of their generation
Will move us to abhor that cursed company
Of Cromwell, the captain, and all his subtle reason:

Transcript (cont.)

The art of a Sherman it was his beginning,
But late of favour promoted by our king.
Another Haman he is, as is made mention
In the book of Esther, it doth there appear
Whom Ahasuerus exalted to high promotion,
Making him chief ruler of all his empire.
This Haman in mind replete with vainglory
Of every man did covert honoured to be.
This for to do, none durst it recuse [show disobedience to]
Better ne worse through all the country,
Save only Mordecai who did refuse
Him for to honour in any degree.

Transcript

This known to Haman, replete with fury,
In mind did imagine how Mordecai should die.
And with that not content, his malice pure in urse
Against the true Jews, of his propagation,
Sent writing abroad with his busy cure,
All his people to be brought to great desolation;
But that notwithstanding, God did so provide
He missed of his purpose, God was their guide.
The chance fortun'd so (this is no fable)
The gallows upon, prepared for Mordecai,
Hanged he was as a thief notable,
Ahasuerus commanding that so it should be;
And his rooms royal, no further delay,
Were given unto Mordecai in that same day.
This story for to mark, who hath good affection,
Now truly verified in part may he see,
This cruel Haman by his false injunctions
In the north doth pursue the faithful commonty,
By his great expenses intending utterly
Us to destroy and bring in captivity.
But great God above, that ever doth procure
For his faithful people all that is necessary
And ever provide, I you do ensure
His falsehood to be known, and eke his policy.
No fair words we shall trust, after my opinion,
But boldly to go forward in our peregrination.
If this Haman were hanged, then dare I well say
This realm then redressed full so should be,
And the bishops reformed in a new array,

Transcript (cont.)

Then established should be our true Christianity.
But until this be done, we may be well sure
These grievous offences we cannot recure [remedy].
The intolerable exactions that long he did use
The laity among and also the spirituality,
Is worthy of death, who can this excuse?
I see blood by him shed with great credulity:
For him a shameful death by right doth it claim
With utter confusion and extreme shame.
This cursed Cromwell by his great policy
In this realm hath caused great exaction,
Them highly promoting that sets out heresy
By the aid of the chancellors, using exhortation.

I haue t'gery all for to f'g'et I t'g'ub y' t'conu'nt' conuenice
 and noit for to seife. t'g'oll y' t'g'raue be sp'ant
 t'g'off t'g'ou'nt' t'g'eri t'g'ould t'g'eyne. in t'g'his mobil' t'g'et'ing
 t'g'hest' t'g'awo to t'g'yst'raic. it is int'ent t'g'
 t'g'hen t'g'hortly w'olde y'ci t'g'eyng w'ob to w'ill t'g'ofusion
 our nobill' for t'g'er boldness. t'g'hortly t'g'yalobe t'g'g'ent
 t'g'her t'g'icid' to be t'g'aste. and t'g'at w'er t'g'et p'et'ra
 t'g'his count'ie to be t'g'epolate. of so mobil' t'g'et'ing
 t'g'ic fo' t'g'ayt'ful t'g'omm'ent' be of t'g'uide t'
 t'g'ome t'g'it'ent' to t'g'urss'ew. noit' t'g'ait t'g'opou' t'g'ou'nt'
 differ not y'our matt'is. t'g'ell a new' y'ere
 t'g'ere aide w'ill come out of a t'g'raung' t'g'au'nt'
 t'g'he t'g'urss'ew t'g'ep'any t'g'ont'ic. noit' may t'g'e be t'g'ure
 y'ur t'g'urss'ew w'ill aide. t'g'et' w'orou'nt' to t'g'eb'ure
 now t'g'ode in w'ob t'g'ause. we t'g'ay' t'g'op' t'g'au'nt'
 not ag'aint our t'g'ince. t'g'his may t'g'e w'ell t'g'is
 t'g'ue t'g'ait' to t'g'aynt'ent'. and t'g'et' of t'g'is t'g'ou'nt'
 t'g'he t'g'au'nt' t'g'urss'ew. of t'g'urss'ew t'g'et'ic
 t'g'aly'ent'ly to t'g'ead. t'g'he t'g'raunt' t'g'ob t'g'e t'g'ate
 t'g'at t'g'ually we may t'g'ee t'g'is t'g'oy'full t'g'ate
 in all our t'g'ist'esse. t'g'et' w'ob noit' t'g'et'raung'
 t'g'oly'ent'ly for to t'g'ey' our t'g'ou'nt' for to t'g'ave
 and t'g'is t'g'ou'nt' w'ill t'g'ou'nt' t'g'aynt'
 and we do t'g'off'end'. t'g'one we do t'g'raue
 t'g'ode t'g'end' t'g'one t'g'ou'nt' t'g'one. to t'g'eyne t'g'ou'nt'
 t'g'at t'g'et'raung' may t'g'abou'nt' w'ob t'g'et'raung' t'g'ent'

I haue t'g'ave our t'g'ou'nt'
 na' t'g'et' t'g'it' t'g'ou'nt'.

f'imb

Transcript

Against them all for to fight, I think that convenient,
And not for to cease till your lives be spent.
If longer they should reign in this noble region,
Christ's laws to destroy, it is their intent;
Then shortly would they bring us to utter confusion,
Our nobles for their boldness shortly should be shent,
Their heads to be lost, and that were great pity
This country to be desolate of so noble progeny.
Wherefore, faithful commoners, be of good cheer
Your intent to pursue now take upon hand;
Defer not your matters till a new year
I fear aid will come out of a strange land.
The English commonty, now may ye be sure,
Your purpose will aid these wrongs to recure [be remedied].
Now God, in whose cause we take upon hand,
Not against our prince, this may he well spy;
But faith to maintain and right of this land,
The authors surprising of cursed heresy.
Valiantly to speed, he grant us by grace,
That finally we may see his joyful face.
In all our distress, let us not refrain
Diligently for to pray our king for to save,
And his undoubted wife queen Lady Jane;
And we do offend, pardon we do crave.
God send him long time to reign with equity,
That virtue may abound with gracious plenty.

God Save our King and hoc cupit auctor.

Finis

Connections to curriculum

Key stage 5

AQA GCSE History

- The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

Edexcel GCE History:

- Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

OCR GCSE History

- Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

Related resources



English Reformation c1527-1590

How did state and people respond to religious change?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-english-reformation-c1527-1590/>



Henry VIII court rules

How did Henry VIII get up in the morning?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/henry-viii/>



Cardinal Wolsey

Dr Dan Gosling introduces documents related to the fall of Cardinal Wolsey.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/henry-viii/>

Related resources



Henry VIII

Marking the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/henryviii/>



Chronicles of the Dissolution

A graphic arts project illustrated by eight students who spent a week at The National Archives.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/chronicles-dissolution/>



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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