

Economy

Trade:

The population of England was 2.2 million and most people made money from farming

Henry VII did not have an active economic policy for the country (only for the crown)

Most money is made from pastoral farming

Change: during Henry VII's reign 90% of exports were of cloth and cloth exports increased by 60% during his reign

Change: Weaving, fulling and dyeing all developed which created more rural employment

Trade:

The Merchant Adventurers transported a lot of cloth from London

During Henry VII's reign a commercial axis with Antwerp was developed which was Europe's main money market and the goods were then transported across Europe

The Hanseatic League dominated trade in Northern Europe and the Merchant Adventurers were not able to overcome their trading privileges

Intercursus Magnus:

This said that English merchants could export to any part of the Duke of Burgundy's lands apart from Flanders

It also said that merchants would be granted swift and fair justice

It also said that effective arrangements would be put in place for the resolution of disputes

Philip of Burgundy confirmed it in 1499

Society

Change:

Growth of the bourgeoisie

Increased social mobility due to economic pressures especially since the Black Death

Churchmen:

They were often great landowners

Curates and chantry priests were rewarded well for dealing with the spiritual needs of the people

Bishops and Abbots could sit in the House of Lords

Change: the higher clergy were becoming less socially exclusive

Martin V declared that the King governed the Church in England and so Henry appointed bishops with legal training

Feudal System:

Society was not as firmly hierarchical as France or Spain but the great landowners and senior churchmen were still just below the king

King: Church

Archbishops

Bishops

Clergymen

King: Nobility

Gentry

Yeomen

Citizens (including the bourgeoisie)

Labourers

Vagrants

Religion

Roles of the Catholic Church:

Way of maintaining social control	Catered for the spiritual needs of the people
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Played an important political role in domestic and international affairs	Provided opportunities for employment and social advancement (senior churchmen had great political power)
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The Catholic Church:

All English people belonged to the Catholic Church and were under the spiritual leadership of the Pope although Martin V declared that Henry VII was head of the church in England.

Religious community, belief and services:

Religion was an important part of daily life and central to the community.

The year was based around religious festivals and baptism, marriage and death

The threat of hell and purgatory greatly influenced people and you could acquire grace by observing the seven sacraments and going on pilgrimage.

The Church's social role:

The Church brought people together and Laymen would create a confraternity in order to provide for Masses or funeral costs of members, help maintain the church, to donate to charity and to socialise. As a parish, they would take part in the practice of 'beating the bounds' on Rogation Sunday to try and protect the parish.

People would donate to rebuild churches and leave money to the parish church in their wills as well as leaving money for the foundation of chantries

Change: individual religious experience became even more important in the 15th century with the writing of mystics

Religious orders:

Monastic orders:	Friars:	Nunneries:
1% of adult males were monks	Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians	Often enjoyed less prestige than monasteries
There were 900 monasteries	Worked among lay people	Often relatively poor
Some operated cathedrals	Declining in importance by the late 15th century	

The Lollards:

Followed the teachings of John Wycliffe

Thought it was important to understand the Bible and wanted it to be translated into English

Sceptical about transubstantiation

Viewed the Catholic Church as corrupt

By the late 15th century, Lollardy was in decline



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