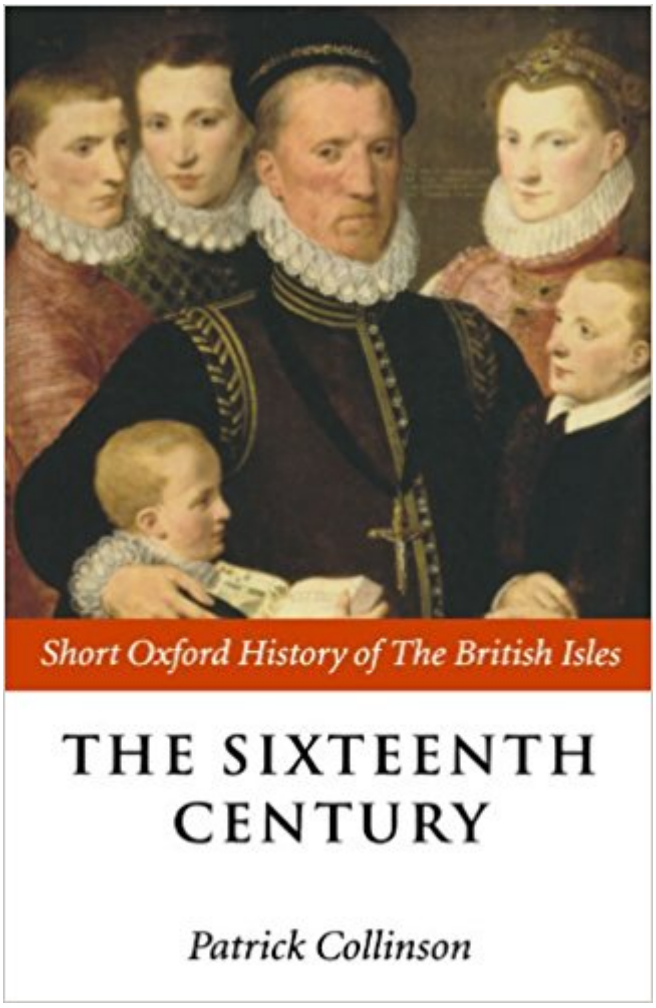
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The Sixteenth Century: 1485-1603 (Short Oxford History Of The British Isles)



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Synopsis

This volume provides a sophisticated yet accessible account of the transformation of the British Isles in the sixteenth century. Six thematic chapters explore the changes in the English monarchical polity, ranging widely to consider the new relationships between the different parts of the British Isles and the establishment of a national, royal, and protestant church. Separate chapters consider Britain’s overseas role; the economy and society; and the literary and cultural development in this period which felt the impact of the English Bible and Shakespeare.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Well-written chapters meld nicely into a holistic account of a fascinating age."--History: Reviews of New Books

Patrick Collinson is Regius Professor of Modern History, Emeritus, in the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Trinity College. He prevously held chairs at the Universities of Sydney, Kent at Canterbury, and Sheffield. He is a fellow of the British Academy and of the Australian Academy of Humanities. He is the author of numerous books and articles on sixteenth-century Britain, including The Elizabethan Puritan Movement (OUP, 1990) and Elizabethan Essays (1994).

This book is not your standard narrative history, but rather a collection of essays by leading 16th century English historians. There is an attempt to give equal space to Ireland and Scotland in

addition to England. While generally admirable, this leads to a rather disconnected history, with many abrupt switches back and forth from England to Ireland to Scotland. The organization of the book into sections on Economy, Politics, Religion, Political theory, Arts, and Foreign relations is rather awkward and leads to an unnecessarily fragmented account. The writing is generally quite dry and dense, as the author is required to cover an entire century of history in one short essay. John Guy's essay on Political theory during the period, however, is quite interesting, covering an aspect of 16th century history usually ignored in general histories. There are much better histories of the period available, notably NEW WORLDS, LOST WORLDS: THE RULE OF THE TUDORS, 1485-1603 by Susan Brigden.

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