

Lesson 3. Papal Bull Worksheet (teacher version)

Instructions: Read and annotate the document below. Complete the four-level analysis on the opposite side of the page.

Pope Pius V, Bull excommunicating Elizabeth, Queen of England, 1570.

Source: <http://tudorhistory.org/primary/papalbull.html>

He that reigneth on high, to whom is given all power in heaven and earth, has committed one holy Catholic and apostolic Church, outside of which there is no salvation, to one alone upon earth, namely to Peter, the first of the apostles, and to Peter's successor, the pope of Rome, to be by him governed in fullness of power. Him alone He has made ruler over all peoples and kingdoms, to pull up, destroy, scatter, disperse, plant and build, so that he may preserve His faithful people (knit together with the girdle of charity) in the unity of the Spirit and present them safe and spotless to their Saviour.

1. The number of the ungodly has so much grown in power that there is no place left in the world which they have not tried to corrupt with their most wicked doctrines; and among others, Elizabeth, the pretended queen of England and the servant of crime, has assisted in this, with whom as in a sanctuary the most evil of all have found refuge. This very woman, having seized the crown and monstrously usurped the place of supreme head of the Church in all England together with the chief authority and jurisdiction belonging to it, has once again reduced this same kingdom—which had already been restored to the Catholic faith and to good fruits—to a miserable ruin. Catholics must not allow this to remain the state of our brethren in England.

2. And also (declare) the nobles, subjects and people of the said realm and all others who have in any way sworn oaths to the British Crown, to be forever absolved from such an oath and from any duty arising from lordship, fealty and obedience. We charge and command all and singular the nobles, subjects, peoples and others afore said that they do not dare obey the orders of the British Crown, mandates and laws. Those who shall act to the contrary we include in the like sentence of excommunication.

3. So to, our bishops and priests are commanded to grow and build the Catholic Church across the world to serve as stalwarts in the fight against heretics. No Catholic should rest knowing that there are souls in the world not yet reached by the holy word of God. No Catholic should rest knowing that these so far unconverted people remain neutral in the fight against heresy. Any non-Catholic who is allowed to remain unconverted becomes an enemy of the Church. Any non-Catholic who refuses conversion must not be allowed to continue in their ignorance. It is wonderful in God's eyes to see the world become one, united Catholic body.

Four-Level Analysis

Level 1: What is this document? Refer to the source line: *Who is the author? When was this document written? Where was this document written? Who is intended audience? What do you know about this author? Place? Time?*

The author of this document is the head of the Catholic Church. He is writing this in 1570. The intended audience is other Catholics. This is being written in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation. England has broken from the Catholic Church and Queen Elizabeth is a professed Protestant.

Level 2: What does this document say? *Briefly summarize the main idea of this document.*

This document official excommunicates Queen Elizabeth of England and calls Catholics to fight to restore Catholicism in England. The document also rejects the authority of the English Crown. Finally, this document calls for all Catholics to expand the Catholic Church and labels all non-Catholics as enemies of the Church.

Level 3: Why was this document written? *Why would the author write this at this time? What was his motivation?*

This document was written as a response to the Protestant Reformation. The Pope fears the Catholic Church’s loss of power. This document was written to encourage English Catholics to rebel against England and to rally other European Catholics against the Church.

Level 4: What does this document tell us about this time/place? *How can this document be applied to the diplomacy challenge?*

This document gives insight into the divisions in Europe during the Early Modern era.

Students playing diplomats in non-European empires may choose to exploit these divisions in the Diplomacy Challenge. Students in empires that are not Christian may also consider this document a threat. Students playing diplomats in both England and Spain (a Catholic empire) may use this document as evidence of conflict between the two empires.