

Henry VIII, king of England, is recorded in history, especially in historical awareness of general public by his family life, record-setting six marriages, divorce of the first of them, beheading of two of his wives and separation of the Church of England from Rome. The aim of this thesis was to get “below the surface” of simplifying interpretation of reign of Henry VIII, to analyze, how king was trying to solve in both home and foreign policy a question of succession after himself on the English throne and establishing position of his house.

Henry VIII was found in a very unstable and difficult position concerning the security of Tudor dynasty on the English throne for the main duration of his reign. So, this was one of reasons, why Henry in desire for having son decided to divorce with his first wife; this had extraordinary diplomatic and international consequences in difficult time of Italian wars. The whole situation led in legal and in the end religious separation of the Church of England from Rome. Matrimonial diplomacy and elimination prospective home rivals were usual instruments of securing of ruling dynasties both in England and the other European countries. But Henry VIII came in the period of divorce crisis with new instrument in making his dynastic policy. His “first minister” Thomas Cromwell actively involved Parliament in. Its legislation not only broke connection of Church of England with Rome, but also settled heirs of Henry VIII and possible conditions for their succession.

When Henry VIII died in 1547, hand over the throne his nine-years-old son, instead of him ruled named Privy council, in situation of full secure of Tudor dynasty.