House of Tudor

Henry VIII 1509-1547

Henry exuded glamour; and is best remembered for the number of his wives (six, but only two executed). A mistress produced a healthy son, so Henry believed that his wife was at fault or the union was cursed. Parliament enacted that the pope had no authority, so Cranmer, the archbishop of Canterbury, could declare that Henry's first marriage was void. Henry failed to humiliate France but defeated Scotland. His treatment of his great ministers was no better than his wives. Thomas Wolseley was ruined, Sir Thomas Moore and Thomas Cromwell were executed, and Norfolk would have been had Henry not died.

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