

DOWNLOAD PDF SIR FRANCIS WALSHINGHAMS PLAN TO ANNOY THE KING OF SPAIN

Chapter 1 : Sir Francis Drake's Letter on the Spanish Armada, to Sir Francis Walsingham, 29 July,

Sir Francis Walsingham was born into a well-connected family in When his father died two years later, his mother Joyce Denny, remarried Sir John Carey, brother-in-law of Mary Boleyn, who was Elizabeth I's aunt.

He also oversaw spy operations within England itself. He uncovered several plots against the queen, including one supported by Mary Stuart Queen of Scots; see entry. The fact that Elizabeth lived to enjoy a long and prosperous reign was due in large part to the work Walsingham did to keep her safe from her many enemies. He spent the next two years traveling in Europe, where he learned Italian and French. Soon after this, however, Mary I see entry became queen and began taking steps to restore the Roman Catholic religion in England. He took away property from Catholic monasteries and churches, and he outlawed the practice of the Catholic religion. He even executed Catholic leaders, including Sir Thomas More see entry, who refused to accept his religious authority. Mary, however, had remained a Catholic, and she was determined to bring her religion back into power. In many cases Protestants were convicted of heresy, or opinions that oppose established church doctrines principles, and burned at the stake. The young Walsingham went back to Europe. He continued his study of languages, becoming one of the top linguists of his time. He also met many kinds of people and learned how to relate to them a skill that would prove extremely valuable in his later career as a politician and spymaster. After Elizabeth took the throne in and reestablished Protestant rule, Walsingham returned to England and began his political career. He married Ann Carteill, a widow with a son, in She died two years later, and in he married Ursula St. Barbe Worseley, the widow of Sir Richard Worseley. Ursula had two young sons from her first marriage, making Walsingham stepfather to three boys. Walsingham and his second wife had one daughter, Frances. He employed Walsingham to find out whatever he could about foreign spies in London. Tensions were high at this time between England and its primary rivals, France and Spain, and Cecil needed to know in advance about any plots against England. Walsingham performed this job well, and Cecil recommended that the queen send him to France as her ambassador. This marriage would make France a strong ally of England and would help England overcome threats from Spain. But Elizabeth had no intention of marrying anyone, and Walsingham eventually abandoned this attempt. He went on to negotiate a defensive alliance between England and France, the Treaty of Blois, in Later that year, when an uprising broke out against Spanish rule in the Netherlands, Walsingham convinced Charles IX to support the French Huguenots, Protestants who challenged Roman Catholic political power, who were aiding the rebels. After the rebels were defeated, though, the Huguenots faced increasing hostility in France. On August 24, , rioting began in Paris as Catholic mobs raided Protestant districts of the city. The riots, which soon spread to other parts of the country, lasted for several days and resulted in the deaths of an estimated three thousand people in Paris alone. With anti-Protestant feeling at such an extreme, Walsingham felt it was dangerous for him to remain in Paris. He begged the queen to recall him to London, but she kept him at his ambassadorial post until Even so, the traumatic experience of the St. He also became secretary of state, a position he kept until his death. He was elected to Parliament again in , and was knighted in A knight is a man granted a rank of honor by the monarch for his personal merit or service to the country. In he was named chancellor of the Order of the Garter, the most distinguished order of English knighthood. Though Walsingham was not wealthy, he supported artistic and scientific ventures, including voyages of exploration, when he could afford to do so. The writer Richard Hakluyt see entry dedicated the first edition of his tales of exploration to Walsingham in thanks for his support. Organized spy network By the late s Cecil had grown more worried about Catholic plots against Elizabeth. Mary Stuart, a cousin of the queen and a Catholic, had been forced to step down as queen of Scotland, and she had fled to England in in hopes that Elizabeth would protect her. Though Elizabeth agreed to this, allowing Mary to live in England under guard, Cecil was extremely suspicious of Mary. He feared that she would inspire Catholics to overthrow Elizabeth and make Mary queen instead. Although he kept a close watch on Mary, Cecil soon realized that he needed a whole organization of spies to keep him

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adequately informed about possible conspiracies. He knew just the man to create and run such a network: Walsingham excelled at this new job. He hired many new undercover agents, increasing the number of English spies to more than fifty. He recruited many spies at Oxford and Cambridge universities. Without sufficient funding from the government, he paid many of his agents from his own income. Walsingham established a spy school to give agents the professional training they needed. In addition to traveling and seeking information, for example, they needed to know how to decipher coded messages. Some codes simply replaced regular letters of the alphabet with a set of shuffled letters or symbols. In other cases conspirators used invisible ink, made of onion or lemon juice, to write secret messages that could not be seen under normal conditions. When the paper was held near a candle, the invisible words appeared. In another method of secret communication, conspirators would write out a message that seemed innocent. But when it was covered with another paper that had a series of holes punched in it, the letters and words that showed through the holes conveyed the secret message. The queen trusted Walsingham, though she did not make him one of her favorites. She often said that he knew her mind well. Sometimes, as a joke, she called him her "Moor," a term that referred to dark-skinned people from North Africa, because he always dressed in dark clothing and had a dark complexion. More often, however, she called him her "Spirit," because he guided her government so well. Walsingham seemed to be everywhere and to know everything that was happening, not only in London but in foreign nations as well. He became known, and often feared, as a man who could discover any secret. Throckmorton had traveled to Europe and had befriended English Catholics there who were devising a plan to remove Elizabeth from power. According to this plan, French troops would invade England, free Mary Stuart, and restore Catholicism. Throckmorton returned to London to organize communications. Walsingham learned of the plan and had Throckmorton arrested. At the time of his arrest Throckmorton was encoding a letter to Mary Stuart. He also had a list with the names of his co-conspirators and papers that identified locations that would be poorly protected against invasion. Throckmorton denied everything at first, saying that the men who arrested him had planted the papers on him. But Walsingham refused to believe this. Throckmorton was tortured on the rack to make him confess. His wrists and ankles were tied to a frame that was then stretched to cause intense pain. Throckmorton refused to confess after his first day on the rack. Walsingham ordered another day of torture, after which Throckmorton gave a full confession. Throckmorton was executed for treason in July. As was the custom for those found guilty of serious crimes, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered. In this especially cruel type of execution, the condemned man was first hanged, then cut down while still alive, disemboweled, hacked into pieces, and finally beheaded. The Babington conspiracy In Walsingham discovered that Mary Stuart was communicating with Anthony Babington, the leader of a group of English Catholics. Walsingham suspected that she was part of a conspiracy to assassinate Elizabeth, but he had no real proof. So he used an undercover agent, Gilbert Gifford, to help get evidence that would convict Mary of treason. Walsingham arranged for Gifford to act as a double agent. Pretending to sympathize with Mary, Gifford offered to carry letters between Mary and her supporters. He arranged for the letters that she sent and received to be placed in a beer barrel that was delivered to her residence, which was always under guard. Mary agreed to this plan, thinking that her communications would be hidden. But all of her messages were intercepted. The correspondence continued without Mary suspecting that the government was aware of her secrets. Meanwhile, Walsingham ordered Gifford to befriend the English Catholics who were part of this plot. Gifford encouraged them to continue with their plans. Eventually he obtained what Walsingham needed: Walsingham had Babington and the other plotters arrested immediately. On September 13, they were tried and found guilty of treason. One week later they were hanged, drawn, and quartered in front of a huge crowd of onlookers. Attempts to murder kings and nobles often succeeded. William the Silent, leader of the Netherlands, survived an assassination attempt in but was killed by an assassin two years later. Henry III of France died in after being stabbed with a poison dagger. Poison was so feared as a political weapon that people sometimes blamed it for deaths that probably had resulted from natural causes. For example, people believed a rumor that an uncle of Mary Stuart had died after handling coins that had been dipped in poison. In

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fact historians believe it is more likely that he died from a disease. In later times a story arose concerning a plot to kill Elizabeth with a poison dress. There is no evidence, though, of any poisonous clothing ever being sent to her court. An actual plot to poison Queen Elizabeth was discovered in

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Chapter 2 : Singeing the King of Spain's Beard - Wikipedia

Sir Francis Walsingham, (born c. , Kent, England“died April 6, , London), English statesman and diplomat who was the principal secretary () to Queen Elizabeth I and became legendary for creating a highly effective intelligence network.

He was born in Tavistock, Devon, the eldest of eleven children to a Protestant farming family, well-connected but of relatively modest means, that was forced to flee the staunchly Catholic West Country during the anti-Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549. Having resettled in Kent his father Edmund Drake, a lay preacher was formally ordained into the priesthood and appointed Deacon at the Church of Upnor-on-the-Medway where he administered to the spiritual needs of dockyard workers and naval personnel. At the age of 18 he was apprenticed to a local merchant trading with the ports along the south-coast but more significantly his work brought him into closer contact with his cousins, the Hawkins family, who as licensed privateers were doing very well seizing ships travelling the sea-lanes to France. Here was a life that offered not just excitement but the opportunity for great riches and the ambitious Drake was eager to become part of it. Little is known of the early years of his association with the Hawkins family but he certainly embarked with them on a series of slave trading expeditions to the Caribbean and he was evidently a fast learner for by the age of 22 he had command of his first vessel, the Judith. In 1568, he joined with his cousin Sir John Hawkins in an expedition to raid Spanish ships sailing between South America and Europe but bad weather and a lack of provisions soon forced them to take shelter in the Mexican port of San Juan de Ulua where in the belief that a truce had been agreed they took the Spanish Governor at his word when he promised them his protection. It soon became clear that they had been betrayed when on 23 September a powerful Spanish fleet arrived under the command of Francisco Lujan and bombarded the English ships. In a desperate but one-sided struggle 5 of the 7 English vessels were sunk or captured and both Drake and Hawkins were forced to swim for their lives from one ship to another as they were destroyed. They survived but as many as of their men did not. He vowed revenge, and he would have it many times over. Drake had been planning a major enterprise of his own intending to attack the town of Nombre de Dios on the Isthmus of Panama where the silver and gold successfully mined in Peru and elsewhere would be stored ready for transportation to Spain. It was an audacious scheme and one that carried a great deal of risk so finding the money top pay for it was proving difficult; but his reputation as a skilled sailor and a man of bold endeavour had reached the Royal Court and after considerable lobbying on his part in early 1568, he was commissioned as a privateer - or someone licensed to engage in State sanctioned piracy. To become a privateer required the tacit approval of the Queen and this encouraged those who had shown willing to invest in his scheme to actually do so. Drake set sail from Plymouth on 24 May 1568, with two ships and just 73 men “ he required as much space as possible aboard for all the treasure he felt sure to plunder. Arriving off the coast of Panama in late July, Drake was to seize Nombre de Dios in a surprise attack just as he had vowed he would but wounded in the fighting and fearing he might die his men withdrew from the town leaving their haul of treasure behind. Even with their combined forces Drake and Le Testu could not hope to attack the now reinforced Nombre de Dios but reports had reached them that a mule train laden with treasure was on its way to the town. The Spanish and their Indian bearers emerged from the darkness and terrors of the jungle to be met by glinting swords and a hail of musket fire. Already exhausted and disoriented the Spanish resisted only briefly before in panic they fled back into the undergrowth from whence they had come. The haul of treasure they left behind was immense with some mules carrying up to pounds of bullion each, amounting to some , gold pesos, 30 tons of silver, and sacks full of precious jewels. Meanwhile, it had been decided that Le Testu, who had been wounded in the brief fire-fight was too hurt to be moved and so with Drake promising to return for him as soon as he could he was left behind. Drake and the others now endured a four day march overland to rendezvous with their ships only to find them gone and a Spanish fleet moored offshore instead. There was not the slightest possibility of Drake abandoning his haul of gold and silver a second time and so in a hastily constructed raft he set off to find his own ships which were a few miles further down the coast. Drake

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successfully loaded his treasure and was to elude the Spanish fleet sent to intercept him but keeping to his word first he sent a rescue party to recover Le Testu only to discover that he had already been captured by the Spanish and executed. He had done what he could to rescue his partner but he was none too disappointed that he had failed to do so. In November, Queen Elizabeth commissioned him once more this time to raid the Spanish settlements along the Pacific coastline of South America. But Elizabeth, who mistrusted anyone who sought to rise too far above their station, did not give him sole command, this he would have to share with two other men – John Wynter and Thomas Doughty. This was a situation Drake found intolerable and one he was determined to rectify should the opportunity materialise, and if an opportunity did not materialise then he would manufacture one. Not long after docking in the port of San Julian, Drake accused Doughty of sowing dissension among the men and rallying them in opposition to his desires - he had him arrested and charged with mutiny. The rancour between the two men was evident and in an attempt to ease tensions, John Wynter offered to keep Doughty confined aboard his ship until they returned to England where he could appear before a Court of Law but Drake would have none of it - Doughty would be tried and if found guilty, executed - the verdict was never in doubt. On 2 July, having earlier dined with Drake in an apparent act of reconciliation Thomas Doughty was taken and beheaded on the deck of his ship as his crew and others looked on. Soon after John Wynter, perhaps fearing for his own life sailed for home. Drake was now in sole command just as he had always wanted and both the gold and the glory would be his and his alone. He would not disappoint and his voyage became an epic of Tudor history as he sailed along the coast of Chile and Peru seizing ships almost at will before setting off across the Pacific, through the Indian Ocean, and around the Cape of Good Hope. Off the coast of Peru he captured a Spanish Galleon along with 37, gold ducats. He then seized the Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion carrying a full size solid gold crucifix, 80 pounds of gold in sacks, 26 tons of silver in crates, numerous precious jewels in boxes, and 13 chests of royal plate, a haul so vast that it paid for the entire expedition and more at a single stroke. Other vessels were also taken carrying expensive spices, porcelain, silks, fine cloth, and wine. But Drake still had to get his treasure home and for 56 consecutive days storms raged, one ship, the Marigold was lost, two others he was forced to scuttle, and one was so badly damaged it had to return to port but Drake ploughed on determined to plunder for all he was worth and there were few who any longer doubted his seamanship and ability to do so. He was a leader, who unfettered by the airs-and-graces of noble birth was unafraid to get his hands dirty, and what he expected his men to do he could also do himself proving it time and again as he scaled the rigging, pulled on ropes, and steered the ship. He also knew the language of the gutter, could swear better than most, drink as well as anyone, and could fight with his fists if need be. He had the respect of his men and with a hearty manner, a wry sense of humour, and the ability to make them rich their love also. But the Spanish were fully aware of what had been done and who was responsible for it, and such was the excitement engendered by Drake that it would have been impossible for it to remain a secret for long. But unlike many of his contemporaries such as Sir Robert Dudley, Sir Walter Raleigh, and later the Earl of Essex power and political influence were never Drakes motivation, for him it was always wealth, adventure, and fame. Between and Drake once again roamed the sea-lanes of the Atlantic intercepting Spanish Galleons and filling the gunnels of his own ships with the treasure he considered there for the taking. A furious Philip II of Spain thought otherwise and instructed his representatives in London to demand that Drake be tried and executed as the common thief and pirate he no doubt thought he was. No satisfactory answer was forthcoming from the Spanish diplomats at the Royal Court merely insincere deference of manner and implied threat in word and deed. On 19 April, in a pre-emptive strike Drake attacked the Spanish fleet moored at Cadiz capturing stores, setting the town ablaze, and destroying some 37 ships. He later did likewise to Corunna before proceeding down the Portuguese coast bombarding forts and seizing a treasure ship. For an outraged Philip II, humiliated before the Crowned Heads of Europe it was the final straw - the Armada would go ahead and England with its heretical and impertinent Queen would be brought to heel. Frantic negotiation carried out with insincerity and obfuscation on both sides now occurred as neither wished to be seen as the progenitor of conflict - the Spanish demanded concessions they would never receive, the

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English merely brought time. Conflict resolution was never really on the agenda and on 30 May, the Spanish Armada set sail from Lisbon for the first time but was forced to return to port due to bad weather. He would devise strategy and he would make the final decision but few people doubted who truly stood between victory at sea and the troops of the Duke of Parma on English soil. And Drake was supremely confident – yes, the Spanish ships were larger and their guns more numerous but his were faster and more manoeuvrable and he could attack and move away before the Spanish could adopt their favoured tactic of boarding the enemy vessels. Moreover, he knew the Spanish, he had fought them many times, and they held no fear for him. Late one afternoon an animated Captain Fleming sailed into Plymouth Harbour with urgent news but instead of reporting to Lord Howard he raced to where Sir Francis Drake was playing a game of bowls breathlessly informing him that the Armada had been sighted off the Scilly Isles. An unruffled Drake continued with his shot remarking: In the early hours of the morning of 29 July, Drake along with Howard organised an attack of Fire-ships upon the Armada moored at Calais. Stuffed full of pitch, brimstone, gunpowder, and tar eight ships were set alight and sent downwind at speed towards the Spanish ships at anchor and unable to move. Despite the Fire-ships doing little practical damage they sowed panic among the Spanish Captains many of whom despite express orders not to do so in the event of just such an attack upped-anchor and sailed from port breaking up the tight V Formation that had so far proved almost impervious to English attack. The following day off the coast of Gravelines with their enemy dispersed the English assailed the now vulnerable Spanish ships pounding them at close range sinking 5, capturing others, and damaging many more but such had been their rate of fire that by late afternoon they had used up their supply of shot and had to withdraw. As night descended Drake departed to plunder the stricken galleon Rosario but wishing to maintain secrecy he had extinguished the lamp that was intended to be the beacon around which the English ships would gather during the hours of darkness causing chaos and forcing the fleet to disperse - piracy remained in the blood even at times of national crisis. Unknown to them however, the Spanish Commander the Duke of Medina Sidonia had already made the decision to break off the engagement ordering his ships to make for home via the coast of Scotland and the Irish Channel but they were to run into some of the most violent storms seen for years and much of the Armada was wrecked with more than 5, Spanish sailors and soldiers drowned. The magnitude of the victory at Gravelines would not be recognised for some time and to many it appeared that the Armada had been thwarted rather than defeated but they would never return, and in that both Howard and Drake had triumphed. In , he was ordered by Elizabeth to destroy what remained of the Armada and to assist where possible those Portuguese rebels resisting Spanish occupation. But he was to prove a better deputy than Commander-in-Chief and in a disastrous campaign he was to lose 20 ships and 12, men killed for little gain. As a man in the public eye it was the first serious setback of his life. He returned to England a chastened man and for a time at least returned to Plymouth to concentrate on his duties as Mayor but retirement was never really in his lexicon and he was champing at the bit for the opportunity to restore his reputation. Not long after arriving in the Caribbean, elderly by the standards of his day and no longer the robust figure he had once been, he contracted a fever and his health deteriorated rapidly. Sir Francis Drake died on 27 January, aged Ignoring his wishes that in the event of his death his remains should be returned to England he was buried at sea in a lead coffin the exact location of which remains a mystery - so ended in the shadow of mystery a life that had been lived in the spotlight of glory.

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Chapter 3 : Francis Walsingham | Revolv

Principal Secretary Sir Francis Walsingham resorted to all manner of espionage in the service of Queen Elizabeth I. By Arnold Blumberg. Among the many portraits of famous Elizabethans hanging in London's National Portrait Gallery is that of Sir Francis Walsingham, painted around by the artist John De Critz the Elder.

Money, bribery, blackmail – these are their recruitment methods – Nikolai Patrushev, head of the Russian Federal Security Service FSB , October It is not really surprising that historically occultism and espionage have often been strange bedfellows. The black art of espionage is about obtaining secret information and witches, psychics and astrologers have always claimed to be able to predict the future and know about things hidden from ordinary people. Gathering intelligence is carried out under a cloak of secrecy and occultists are adept at keeping their activities concealed from sight. Like secret agents they also use codes, symbols and cryptograms to hide information from outsiders. Occultists and intelligence officers are similar in many ways, as both inhabit a shadowy underworld of secrets, deception and disinformation. It is therefore not unusual that often these two professions have shared the same members. He was a Protestant and as a young man during the bloody reign of the Catholic Queen Mary was forced to flee abroad to escape persecution. While in exile, Walsingham learnt Italian and French and became acquainted with the work of the famous Venetian Secret Service that used its spying skills for trade and commerce under the cloak of diplomacy. Between and Walsingham, who had become a Member of Parliament, worked in England in domestic counter-espionage exposing Catholic plots against the monarchy. Cecil Williamson In Walsingham was appointed as the new ambassador to France. He proceeded to set up his own network of undercover agents in France, Italy, Spain and the Low Countries. The late Cecil Williamson, who worked for British Intelligence during World War II and later ran a witchcraft museum, told this writer that Walsingham often used witches as spies. The Mysterious Dr Dee Dr. The magus travelled to the Duchy of Lorraine and drew up the birth charts of both the Duc and his brother, who was also regarded as a possible husband for the English monarch. Dr Dee, probably influenced by Walsingham, diplomatically reported back to London that the stars suggested a political alliance would be far wiser than matrimony and the queen took his advice. In Sir Francis returned to London and became a privy councillor. This placed him at the heart of government and he proceeded to set up what amounted to the first organised foreign espionage service to operate from England. Walsingham was also responsible for foiling the Catholic plot whose exposure led to the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. This was a guide to writing ciphers and secret codes for magical purposes and Dee informed Sir William Cecil about his discovery. He also passed on the political and military intelligence he had acquired during his travels across Europe. It has been alleged that Dee used the famous Enochian magical alphabet as a code to disguise this information. If he had been arrested his captors would not have understood it and dismissed it as nonsense. In Dee even claimed he had received a spirit message from one of his angelic contacts concerning a threat to the English Fleet. The message said that a group of disguised Frenchmen working for the Spaniards was secretly visiting the Forest of Dean. The forest was the centre for English ship-building and the French agents planned to bribe disloyal foresters to burn it down. Dr Dee sent his supernatural intelligence to Walsingham and the saboteurs, who were masquerading as squatters, were arrested. He asked Dee to use his knowledge of astrology to calculate the weather prospects for an invasion. The magus told him there would an impending disaster in Europe caused by a devastating storm. When news of this prophecy was leaked and reached Spain, naval recruitment fell and there were desertions of sailors from the Spanish Fleet. In Lisbon an astrologer who repeated the prediction was charged with spreading false information. Francis Drake It is a fact that in a great storm did scatter the ships of the Spanish Armada in the English Channel and aided the English victory. This metrological event was popularly credited to a magical ritual performed by the buccaneer Sir Francis Drake on the cliffs at Plymouth. Superstitious people believed Drake was a wizard and sold his soul to the Devil in exchange for success over the Spanish. It is claimed that he also organised several covens of

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witches to work magically to raise the storm and prevent the invasion. Meanwhile, as a result of scrying in his shewstone or crystal, Dr Dee saw a symbolic vision of a castle with its drawbridge drawn up England and the image of the elemental king of fire. As a result he urged the Navy to employ fire-ships against the Armada and they did so with good results. The new king had an unhealthy obsession with witchcraft and his early reign was dominated by this preoccupation. It led him to employ the Secret Service in his own personal vendetta against suspected witches. James I ordered its agents to hunt down alleged practitioners of witchcraft and expose their alleged plots against the monarchy. One of those involved was the Earl of Bothwell, accused of high treason for organising a coven of Scottish witches to work magic against the king in an attempt to seize the throne. To assist his secret agents in their new witch-hunting activities, King James persuaded Parliament in to pass a new and stronger Witchcraft Act to deal with the problem. The Bill was rushed through and it was made law within three months. As a young man Dashwood went on the Grand Tour of Europe that was compulsory for aristocrats and he was initiated into a Masonic lodge in France. While visiting Italy he developed anti-Catholic views, violently broke up a celebration of the Mass and insulted the Pope. Even though he was an aristocrat, Dashwood was disgusted at the vast wealth of the Roman Church compared with the poverty of its devoted worshippers. He also became fascinated by classical mythology and decorated his country house at West Wycombe in Buckinghamshire with murals, paintings and statues of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. Sir Francis Dashwood founded a secret society called the Order of the Friars of St Francis of Medmenham more popularly known as the Hellfire Club named after the abbey he had purchased on the banks of the River Thames where its meetings were held. Rumours circulated in the coffee houses of London that the Friars practised sexual orgies featuring aristocratic ladies and prostitutes dressed up as nuns. There were also satanic rites such as Black Masses where the naked body of a noblewoman acted as an altar. However, according to one senior member of the Hellfire Club, this occult mummery was just an amusing diversion for the dandies. The inner circle of the Order was actually dedicated to the serious revival of the pagan Eleusian Mysteries and the worship of the Bona Dea or Great Mother Goddess. At least four members of the group were known to be actively involved in espionage. Wilkes had allegedly recruited the chevalier into the British Secret Service. In Italy he gathered intelligence on the exiled Stuart dynasty and their supporters, although the head of the British Secret Service in Rome believed Dashwood was a Jacobite agent. In fact he was only pretending to support the Stuart cause and was passing on information about their activities directly back to London. In later years Sir Francis and Benjamin Franklin were involved in a clandestine plan to reconcile the American colonists and the British government to prevent the War of Independence. The assistant director of Naval Intelligence during the war was Lt. Commander Ian Fleming RN, best known later as a thriller writer and the creator of the famous fictional spy James Bond Ian Fleming Ian Fleming conceived an audacious plan to lure a high-ranking member of the German government into defecting to Britain so as to provide a morale-boosting propaganda coup. The Reichminister and deputy fuehrer himself, Rudolf Hess, was chosen as a suitable candidate for the actual plot. This was because he was a supporter of peace with Britain and was also under the influence of astrologers and occultists. It was believed this could be used against him. Commander Fleming recreated The Link, a defunct Anglo-German friendship society of the s that had a wealthy membership of Nazi sympathisers drawn from the British Establishment. The admiral was a friend of Major-General J. In the s Fuller formed the extreme-right wing Nordic League aka the White Knights of Britain , allegedly established by Nazi agents. It has been suggested that Fuller was not interned during the war with other leading fascists such as Mosley and Domville because he was a MI6 double-agent. It had allegedly regrouped and recruited even more prominent pro-Nazi members in the British Establishment including aristocrats and royalty. Under its terms Britain would keep control of its Empire and Germany would have free reign in occupied Europe. The Nazis also hoped that British troops would be sent to fight alongside the German Wehrmacht and the SS against the Soviet Union in a joint anti-communist crusade. Hitler did not want to invade and occupy Britain. Instead he would have preferred to negotiate a treaty with a sympathetic new government in London. It has been suggested that the only reason the fuehrer abandoned

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Operation Sea Lion "the proposed invasion of Southern England" and instead invaded the Soviet Union was to force Churchill to accept peace terms. If the Red Army had been defeated Britain would truly have been standing alone, as Hitler did not believe the Americans had the political will to enter the war. Unfortunately he underestimated the ability and resolve of the Soviets to defend their motherland and also the clandestine support that the US was already offering Great Britain. The NID plot to ensnare Rudolf Hess used bogus astrological predictions combined with political intelligence. Hess was persuaded that a Scottish aristocrat, the Duke of Hamilton, was willing to negotiate peace terms on behalf of the influential people at the top of British society who wanted to end the war. The duke had met Hess at the Berlin Olympics in and the deputy fuhrer for some reason thought he was a member of the surviving Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. On that day six planets would be aligned in the zodiac sign of Taurus and conjoined to the full moon. Hess saw himself in the role of a messianic hero saving Germany from possible future defeat by making peace with the British. All the false reports reaching the deputy fuhrer about the political situation in England and the astrological aspects convinced him that his mission would be a success. He had been convinced by the misinformation fed to him by British Intelligence that these three men represented a genuine peace movement capable of removing the warmonger Churchill and agreeing to German terms. Hess had also previously met the Duke of Windsor when he had visited Berlin before the war. As a result Hess was persuaded that some members of the German-descended royal family were sympathetic to Nazism. In fact Hitler had appointed him as the head of the German branch of the Red Cross that was responsible for exterminating the mentally sick and physically disabled. Unfortunately instead of meeting pro-Nazi aristocrats and royals when he landed, Hess was captured by a local farmer and a Home Guard unit. They handed him over to the police and he was transferred to London to be interrogated by MI5. Unfortunately the British government completely mishandled the capture of Hess. The German High Command had also disowned him and said that his flight had been unauthorised. They also suggested that Hess might be insane so his value for propaganda purposes was undermined and diminished. The Gestapo immediately launched Operation Aktion Hess. In June a decree was issued banning all public performances of clairvoyance, astrology, fortune-telling or telepathy. Anybody associated with Hess and his esoteric interests was thrown into concentration camps and occult secret societies were closed down. Because of staff shortages in the Gestapo, officers from the Naval Intelligence Service were drafted in to interrogate some of the arrested psychics. It has been claimed that they recruited some of them for secret operations using dowsing on maps with pendulums to hunt down British submarines. It has also been claimed that Ian Fleming and the NID was involved in a plot to silence the Spiritualist medium Helen Duncan, the penultimate person to be charged under the old Witchcraft Act of 1951. As the news of the loss had not been publicly released, and the Admiralty was keeping it secret for morale purposes, Duncan became a target for the security services. This suggests that the Intelligence Services actually believed these mediums had genuine powers. Since he has edited The Cauldron newsletter www. He is the author of Secret Societies:

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Chapter 4 : Sir Francis Walsingham (c) [Queen Elizabeth's Spymaster]

Drake then presented to Sir Francis Walsingham his letter of commendation from the Earl of Essex, under whom he had served in Ireland; whereupon 'Secretary Walsingham [the first civilian who ever grasped the principle of modern sea power] declared that Her Majesty had received divers injuries of the King of Spain, for which she desired revenge.

Married to Anne Barne and Ursula St. It was Walsingham and his men who discovered the Babington Plot and were able to stop it and protect Elizabeth. His father was a very wealthy lawyer who died in when Francis was around two years old. When Mary I became queen after the death of Edward VI, many Protestants fled to the continent, including Walsingham, who continued his law studies at universities in Basel and Padua, where he was elected to the governing body by his fellow students in . He would stay a member of parliament throughout the rest of his life. In , Walsingham married Ursula St. Walsingham became active in soliciting support for the Huguenots in France and developed a friendly and close working relationship with Nicholas Throckmorton, his predecessor as MP and a former ambassador to France. By , Walsingham was working with William Cecil to counteract plots against Elizabeth. He was instrumental in the collapse of the Ridolfi plot, which hoped to replace Elizabeth with the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots. Walsingham believed that it would serve England better to seek a military alliance with France against Spanish interest and the defensive Treaty of Blois was concluded between France and England in . The Huguenots and other European Protestant interests supported the revolt in the Spanish Netherlands, which were provinces of Habsburg Spain. When Catholic opposition to this course in France resulted in the death of Huguenot leader Gaspard de Coligny and the St. Ursula, who was pregnant, escaped to England with their four-year-old daughter. She gave birth to a second girl, Mary, in January while Walsingham was still in France. He returned to England in April , having established himself as a competent official whom the Queen and Cecil could trust. Smith retired in , leaving Walsingham in effective control of the privy seal, though he was not formally invested as Lord Privy Seal. A spy in the French embassy in Londonâ€”who has plausibly been identified as Giordano Bruno, a lapsed Dominican friar who would later achieve renown as a freethinking philosopher of the Italian Renaissanceâ€”alerted Walsingham to a correspondence with Mary that was being routed through the embassy. The plot was broken with the arrest of the chief go-between, Francis Throckmorton, in November . In his possession were incriminating documents, including a map of invasion ports and a list of Catholic supporters in England. The Spanish ambassador was expelled and diplomatic contacts with Spain severed. The following month Mary, Queen of Scots, was placed in the strict custody of a friend of Walsingham. At Christmas, she was moved to a moated manor house at Chartley. In July , Anthony Babington wrote to Mary about an impending plot to free her and kill Elizabeth. Within a week, Mary was beheaded. On hearing of the execution, Elizabeth claimed not to have sanctioned the action and that she had not meant Davison to part with the warrant. Davison was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Davison was eventually released in October , on the orders of Cecil and Walsingham. Walsingham also helped prepare for the inevitable war with Spain. It was Walsingham and his spy network that helped prepare England for the Armada attack. Francis Walsingham died on April 6, . He was buried at the Old St.

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Chapter 5 : Francis Walsingham - Wikipedia

Walsingham was the only son of William Walsingham of Footscray in Kent, by his wife Joyce, Daughter of Sir Edmund Denny, William died the year following Francis' birth and his mother married Sir John Carey, a distant relation by marriage of Anne Boleyn's family.

His efforts culminated in the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots , in Early life and career Walsingham came from a family that held a number of minor offices at court. His father, a lawyer, died when Walsingham was about two years old. Walsingham, along with hundreds of other zealous Protestants, fled England upon the accession to the throne of the Catholic Mary Tudor Mary I in He lived abroad for five years, studying Roman civil law in Padua, Italy, and becoming fluent in Italian and French. In advice he wrote to his nephew years later, he stressed the importance of both formal and informal education: After Elizabeth succeeded to the throne in November , Walsingham returned to England and was elected to the Parliament that met in January He continued to serve as an MP, though with little apparent enthusiasm for the duties, until his death. During this time he appears also to have been the anonymous author of a brilliantly poisonous propaganda pamphlet denouncing a rumored intended marriage between Mary Stuart and Thomas Howard, the fourth duke of Norfolk. Norfolk was convicted of treason and was executed in June His experiences there would affirm his growing conviction that, with religion now the dominating political fault line in post-Reformation northern Europe, England could no longer trust its long-term security to a rapprochement with any of the Catholic powers. Cecil, however, believed that an alliance with France would prevent it from joining forces with Spain and sought to promote a marriage of Elizabeth with a member of the French royal family and to enlist French support for Protestant rebels in the Spanish Netherlands. During this time he suffered a debilitating attack of what was probably kidney stones. The ailment would plague him for the rest of his life, frequently leaving him in severe pain and bedridden for months at a time. The massacre of Protestant noblemen in Paris on St. Principal secretary and spymaster Walsingham was recalled to England at the end of and was appointed to the Privy Council and named a principal secretary. She nonetheless clearly valued his trustworthiness, industry, unvarnished counsel , and occasional acid humor. Like Cecil before him, Walsingham made a point of accumulating and mastering a vast array of information and statistics concerning government administration , economics, and practical politics. Walsingham also employed experts on codes and ciphers and in the art of lifting the wax seal of a letter so that it could be undetectably opened and read. Catholic conspiracies and the Spanish Armada Those secret efforts would lead directly to the exposure of two more serious plots to depose Elizabeth and restore Catholicism to England. A spy in the French embassy in Londonâ€”who has plausibly been identified as Giordano Bruno writing under the pseudonym Henry Fagot , a lapsed Dominican friar who would later achieve renown as a freethinking philosopher of the Italian Renaissanceâ€”alerted Walsingham to clandestine correspondence with Mary that was being routed through the embassy. The plot was broken with the arrest of the chief go-between, Francis Throckmorton , in November In his possession were incriminating documents, including a map of invasion ports and a list of Catholic supporters in England. The Spanish ambassador was expelled and diplomatic contacts with Spain severed. Walsingham was married twice both times to widowed women: Barbe Worseley in Her third husband was Richard Burke, 4th earl of Clanricarde. Walsingham was granted a number of lucrative preferments and estates from the crown, including the manor of Barn Elms, near Richmond Palace. Legacy Walsingham is rightly seen as a seminal figure in the history of the British secret services. Although he closely guarded his own methods and secrets and thus left little in the way of a direct legacy for his immediate successors to follow, he was a pioneer in intelligence methods that would later become staples of professional government spy agencies throughout the world. In his private life he was a significant patron of the arts and sciences, supporting the search for the Northwest Passage and other voyages of discovery as well as writers, scholars, and musicians. After the defeat of the Armada, Vice Adm. Lord Henry Seymour wrote him in appreciation, "You have fought more with your pen than many have in our

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English navy. But it is good news here.

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Chapter 6 : Sir Francis Drake In the Pacific

Sir Francis Drake died on 27 January , aged Ignoring his wishes that in the event of his death his remains should be returned to England he was buried at sea in a lead coffin the exact location of which remains a mystery - so ended in the shadow of mystery a life that had been lived in the spotlight of glory.

Edinburg House at Scadbury: He continued his studies in law at the universities of Basel and Padua , [10] where he was elected to the governing body by his fellow students in He chose to sit for Lyme Regis. He was instrumental in the collapse of the Ridolfi plot , which hoped to replace Elizabeth with the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots. When Catholic opposition to this course in France resulted in the death of Huguenot leader Gaspard de Coligny and the St. Smith retired in , leaving Walsingham in effective control of the privy seal , though he was not formally invested as Lord Privy Seal. He was involved directly with English policy towards Spain, the Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland, and France, and embarked on several diplomatic missions to neighbouring European states. The venture was calculated to promote the Protestant interest by embarrassing and weakening the Spanish, as well as to seize Spanish treasure. He returned to England without an agreement. Elizabeth was past the age of childbearing, and had no clear successor. If she died while married to the French heir, her realms could fall under French control. Walsingham replied with a discourse on the topic that "young princes were many times carried into great errors upon an opinion of the absoluteness of their royal authority and do not consider, that when they transgress the bounds and limits of the law, they leave to be kings and become tyrants. The letters indicated a conspiracy among the Catholic powers to invade England and displace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots. Within a week, Mary was beheaded. Davison was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Walsingham received regular dispatches from the English naval forces, [] and raised his own troop of men as part of the land defences. Nothing remains of any of his houses. Ursula, Lady Walsingham, continued to live at Barn Elms, with a staff of servants, until her death in Charles Nicholl examined and rejected such theories in *The Reckoning*: It fictionalizes him as irreligious and sexually ambiguous, [34] merges chronologically distant events, [] and inaccurately suggests that he murdered Mary of Guise.

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Chapter 7 : Francis Walsingham : definition of Francis Walsingham and synonyms of Francis Walsingham

William died when Francis was an infant, and Joyce Walsingham then married Sir John Carey, who was related by marriage to the family of Queen Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn (). Walsingham attended King's College at Cambridge University from to , but he left without obtaining a degree.

Spain and France looked north and regarded the country as heretical and a potential enemy to their expanding empires. In times of crisis a government needs good, accurate and reliable intelligence. From to he traveled abroad and succeeded in becoming fluent in both French and Italian. Soon after he returned to England, Mary Tudor ascended throne and Francis found himself on the wrong side of the religious tracks. Fearing arrest for his outspoken Protestant views, he decided it prudent to return abroad. He is even thought to have been involved in a minor way in the anti-Catholic plots of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, to place Lady Jane Grey on the throne. Over the next nine years he traveled extensively in Italy and central Europe, studying law and politics. The methods he learned at the various Italian Courts served him well in the years to come. That same year he married a widow, Ann Carteill but she died two years later, leaving him without children. In he married the widow of Sir Richard Worsley and by her he had a daughter, Frances. He took charge of the small network of secret agent Cecil had established and so started 22 years of loyal, unswerving service to the Queen. She was occasionally his guest at his home in Surrey and although they did not always agree on policy, she trusted him implicitly. In Cecil sent him as ambassador to Paris where he was involved with the negotiations for several treaties. He was in the city when the Huguenots were murdered in the Massacre of St. Bartholomew on 24th August , which reinforced his hatred of foreign Catholic regimes. He was recalled from Paris in and appointed Secretary of State, a post he held until his death. The modern-day equivalent would be Foreign Secretary and head of MI5 and 6. He was convinced that England could only be safe with the complete defeat of Spain and the removal of Mary. To this end he expanded the network of spies to more than 50 agents, many of them paid out of his own pocket. He was like a black spider at the center of a great web. Elizabeth was reluctant to move against her cousin, but Walsingham had no such qualms. Late in a trainee priest named Gilbert Gifford was intercepted coming from France through the port of Rye. He was taken to Walsingham who learned that Gifford was to act as messenger between Mary and her supporters on the Continent. Walsingham turned Gifford and persuaded him to work for the Government. He was to tell Mary that a system for smuggling letters and papers between her and Europe had been set up. In fact, the spymaster himself constructed this route so that all correspondence passed through his hands before it crossed the Channel. In May Mary sent two letters, one to the Spanish ambassador, Mendoza, giving her support to an invasion of England. The other was to a supporter, Charles Paget, asking him to remind Phillip of Spain of the urgency for invasion. The following month Sir Anthony Babington and a Catholic priest, John Ballard, were heard discussing the proposed Spanish invasion and the plot to murder Elizabeth. All this evidence still did not implicate Mary directly in a plot against Elizabeth. On 17th July Walsingham received what he had been waiting for--a letter, in reply to one from Babington, written by Mary and giving her approval to the plot to murder the Queen. Ballard and Babington were arrested and placed in the Tower of London. Others implicated in the plot were rapidly placed under lock and key. On 13th September the conspirators were tried and condemned and a week later Babington, Ballard, and five others were dragged on hurdles to St. Giles Field, Holborn, where, in front of a large crowd, they were hanged, drawn, and quartered. She even pleaded that some way be found to deal with Mary without the need for execution. Both Cecil, by now Lord Burghley, and Walsingham were determined that this should not happen. Together, with the support of the Council of State, they brought constant pressure on the Queen until she eventually signed the warrant on 1st February Her intention seems to have been to hold the signed warrant as a threat against Mary, but Walsingham would have none of it. When told of the execution, Elizabeth was furious. She refused to see them and, for a while, Cecil dared not go to Court. Walsingham, meanwhile, was hard at work preparing for the inevitable invasion by

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Spain; an invasion that through the skill of English seamen and the luck of the weather, never came. Only one, William Cecil, received a peerage. Francis Walsingham was knighted in and he received the honorary appointments of Chancellor of the Order of the Garter and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. When he died on 6th April , the news was carried to Philip II of Spain via a letter from one of his agents in England. But it is good news here.

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Chapter 8 : Biography: Sir Francis Walsingham –“ Adventures of a Tudor Nerd

This entry was posted in folklore, Sixteenth Century, The Tudors and tagged Cadiz, Earl of Leicester, Elizabeth I, Lagos, Lord Howard of Effingham, Martin Frobisher, Philip II, Pope Sixtus V, Robert Dudley, Rosario, San Felipe, Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins, Spanish Armada, Walsingham by JuliaH.

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In the second half of the 16th century a series of economic, political and religious circumstances created tensions in the relations between England and Spain. The increasing power of the Spanish Empire , which in had entered a dynastic union with the kingdom of Portugal and its empire under Philip of Spain, was expanding in the Americas and had the support of the German Habsburgs as well as the Italian princes, was regarded by the English as a major threat to their security. In the tension between the two countries erupted into the Anglo-Spanish War of –“ Preparations[edit] Francis Drake in an audience with Queen Elizabeth Queen Elizabeth gave the English privateer, Sir Francis Drake , an outstanding leader of previous naval expeditions , the command of a fleet whose mission was to inspect the Spanish military preparations, intercept their supplies, attack the fleet and if possible the Spanish ports. A further twenty merchantmen and armed pinnaces joined forces with the expedition. Seven days after their departure, the Queen sent a counter-command to Drake with instructions not to commence hostilities against the Spanish Fleet or ports. There were at that precise moment sixty carracks naus and various smaller boats in the port. Gun positions on the shore opened fire, shelling the English fleet from the coast with little effect, but they managed to repulse an attempted landing by launches at El Puntal. At dawn on 1 May, the English withdrew having destroyed 27 [15] or 37 [16] Spanish ships, with a combined capacity of 10, tons. There was an exchange of artillery fire between the English fleet and the Spanish-Portuguese shore batteries, producing minor damage and no casualties. On 2 June the English sick and wounded were evacuated back to England. That same night a storm broke which prevented further sailing for three days. Original engraving by Theodor de Bry , , coloured at a later date. After a brief exchange of fire it was captured , the first ship to be so on the return run from the Indies. Conclusion[edit] The expedition led by Francis Drake was a resounding military success: It was not until August that the Armada was ready to leave for the British Isles. Stop him now and stop him forever". English sources often give dates from Julian cal.

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Chapter 9 : Sir Francis Walsingham, English Secretary of State - calendrierdelascience.com

SIR FRANCIS WALSHINGHAM, English statesman, was the only son of William Walsingham, common sergeant of London (calendrierdelascience.com), by his wife Joyce, daughter of Sir Edmund Denny of Cheshunt.

Posted in Espionage , Famous battles , Historical articles , History , Royalty , War on Thursday, 17 May Click on any image for details about licensing for commercial or personal use. This edited article about espionage around the Spanish Armada originally appeared in Look and Learn issue number published on 26 July But as anyone who lived in the days of Good Queen Bess would have told you, Drake was only half the answer. He was tall, slender, dark and mysterious, like an Italian cavalier. His tread was soft and he spoke only when it was necessary, but his eyes were everywhere. With war always on the cards, Walsingham concentrated his agents in Spain. Thus it was that three years before the mighty Spanish Armada sailed up the Channel to invade England, Standen and his fellow spies were reporting to Walsingham that the Spaniards were assembling a great fleet in Cadiz harbour, and their plan was to use it to attack England. In London, Walsingham went into urgent conclave with the Queen. As a result, a few weeks later Drake sailed into the half-finished fleet at Cadiz and pounded it into so much wooden wreckage with broadside after broadside of cannon. But beards have a habit of growing again, and so do invasion fleets. Like a modern MI5 chief, Walsingham and his staff sifted the incoming reports. He was also in the pay of Philip of Spain, and Walsingham knew it. And Stafford was finding out things, even if they were not always right. Instead, Walsingham wisely left him where he was, and treated his reports with caution. Probably, too, the spy-master fed Stafford with false information in the belief that the ambassador would pass it on to the Spanish and thereby confuse them. Much more reliable were the reports of Standen. In the summer of , the year before the Armada, Standen wrote to Walsingham that from his observations he thought it was most unlikely that the Armada could sail that year. He was right, as Walsingham reported to the Council that he was bound to be. The date he had learned was May, It did sail in May but a storm drove the ships back to port, and the voyage was delayed for two months. Although Walsingham had furnished the Council with the number of enemy ships, their armament, powder and shot, the number of soldiers and sailors they carried and even details like the short range of their heavy guns, the English Navy was not nearly sufficiently prepared to meet the challenge. Walsingham well knew the reason for that. One of them was the vexing question of Mary Queen of Scots, held captive by Elizabeth. Those men who were said to have been conspiring with Mary were alleged to have put their coded messages into kegs of beer being taken in to the Scottish Queen. The messages were found by Walsingham, decoded by his intelligence officials, and used as evidence to send the unfortunate Mary to the scaffold. Another famous Elizabethan spy was Christopher Marlowe, the brilliant young poet and playwright who was stabbed to death in a tavern brawl at Deptford and who, had he lived longer, might have made as great an impact upon the literature of England as that of Shakespeare. Walsingham knew all about what was happening at Rheims. He met the situation by sending his own agents to the Duc de Guise, as students affecting to be disenchanted with Protestant England and ready to plot against the Queen. Young Marlowe was such an agent, probably going to Rheims in February and staying there about five months. Was his stabbing, by a man named Frizer, who was pardoned a month later, in some way connected with his espionage activities? When it was, Walsingham had a brilliant and worthy successor. Writing to his best spy in Italy about recruiting new spies, Thurloe commented: For money they will do anything, adventure body and soul, too. Such intelligence must be procured from a Monsignor, from a Secretary or a Cardinal. The spy chief knew how impoverished the King had become, who were his supporters, and every movement they made on the Continent. Spy chief Thurloe, however, retired from politics. Although Thurloe declined, it speaks volumes for his fame that the King he had worked against for so long eagerly sought to employ him.