

# Religion, Marriage and Power in Scotland, 1503-1603

Anglo-Scottish relations deteriorated during the reign of Henry VIII, largely because of the English king's hostility to Scotland (despite the marriage of his sister Margaret to James IV of Scotland in 1503). In response, Scotland strengthened its alliance with France, and in 1538 James V married Mary, daughter of Claude de Lorraine, Duke of Guise, a leading French noble.

In 1542 their four-day old daughter, Mary Queen of Scots, acceded to the throne. Conflict ensued as to whether her marriage should bind Scotland closer to France, or to England. In 1547 the English invaded Scotland to enforce an agreement made in Henry VIII's reign, thus launching another protracted war. Nevertheless, Mary Queen of Scots married the [Dauphin](#) in 1558, and in the following year became queen of France as well as Scotland. She also claimed the throne of England after Elizabeth I's accession.

Resource: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>