HENRY VIII: Shape of a King



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A FEW BOOKS & WEBSITES WITH ABOUT HENRY VIII (FOCUSING ON HIM)

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Ten Key Events in the Life and Reign of Henry VIII

1503: Death of Elizabeth of York	This was the culmination of events that changed young Henry's life forever. Arthur died, Henry became the heir, his father took over his upbringing, and his mother died. Henry truly mourned her death.
1509: Coronation of Henry and Katherine of Aragon	At this moment, everything seemed possible. Henry positioned himself as a gallant lover and king, and the future seemed bright and promising. Henry and Katherine had a good marriage for many years.
1511: The beginning of building up the Royal Navy	Henry began his efforts to establish a strong Royal Navy and to build a ship that would become the star of the fleet: The Mary Rose (named for the Virgin Mary and Henry himself, the Tudor Rose).
1533: The coronation of Anne Boleyn	This was the first large public event after the break with Rome. Henry presented Anne as queen and mother of his heir; she was crowned with St. Edward's crown.
1534: The passage of the Act of Supremacy	This was a key point in Henry's Reformation efforts, as he required his subjects to accept him as the Supreme Head of the Church of England. The Henrician Reformation was very much top-down and political.
1536: Execution of Anne Boleyn	I believe this changed Henry forever: the brutality with which he planned and carried out the death of the woman he had loved so much foreshadowed further violence in the rest of his reign.
1536-41: The Pilgrimage of Grace & Dissolution of the Monasteries	Henry began dissolving monasteries and his subjects staged a serious rebellion; his harsh response to their continued demands contributed to the excesses of the dissolution of 800 monasteries throughout England.
1543: Family and Final Act of Succession	In the third Act of Succession, Henry once again involved parliament in determining the future of the dynasty. He also commissioned a portrait to demonstrate his family dynasty.
1544-46: War with France and Henry's Size	Henry made one final attempt to invade France, which gives us a clue to his enormous size (armor measurements); his size is related to changes in his health (physical, mental, and emotional).
1547: Henry's death, his will, and the future of the Tudor dynasty	Henry made a final will before his death in 1547. He devoted a large percentage of the will to stating his desires for the future, far beyond the reigns of Edward and his daughters.