

Gradually, Elizabeth's attitude to conflict changed, and she became more willing to engage in it. She was now a powerful respected queen and had more experience and political support.

This change is seen in a later portrait - 'The Armada Portrait'. This painting depicts the Queen in expensive clothes, reflecting her wealth and power. She is shown with her hand over the New world, or North America on a globe. This shows possession, and that she is willing to go beyond her own shores. She is also shown behind two portraits depicting the Spanish Armada. She is shown by a golden figure-head, showing the success of her privateers.

Perhaps the best example of her change in attitude was with her naval war with Spain. Despite the Spanish Armada being a large and dangerous fleet, the English defeated them. Not many would had given the English privateers any chance.

Elizabeth's willingness to engage in conflict was also found at home with her war against Ireland. The English believed it could provide Spain a backdoor to England, as the Catholic Irish disagreed with the Protestant English.

In my opinion, Elizabeth was ~~happy~~ to engage in conflict when necessary, but overall was quite peaceful. She favoured war by stealth, such as the privateers, but when needed, open war was undertaken.

This is a great essay, Hugo - ~~really~~ definitely the best I've read so far. It is both well-structured and well-written - fantastic work!

GCXC