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Tudors: the history of England from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, Peter Ackroyd (book review)

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Tudors: The History of England from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I.

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Body

The second book of Ackroyd's projected six-volume *history* of **England** dives headfirst into its subject matter—with Henry VIII's ascension to the throne. Ackroyd (*London: The Biography*) covered the roots and earlier years of the Tudor dynasty, including Henry VII's reign, in his previous volume, *Foundation*. Readers wanting the author's views on the **Tudors** as a whole should take note. He interweaves his narrative of the Tudor monarchs here with a detailed exploration of the religious reformations and upheavals of the era, sparked by Henry VIII's break with the Roman church and destined to have tremendous and long-lasting effects on English *history* and culture at all levels.

VERDICT A weightier and more focused read than Leanda de Lisle's study, below, this work should be of particular interest to those seeking an in-depth look at the religious changes of the Tudor period and the complex and often violent ways in which religious upheaval intertwined with politics.—**Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Libs., Columbia**

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