

# Comparing texts – Gunpowder plot. Text 2: Gunpowder Plot

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## Gunpowder Plot

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*"The Gunpowder Plot"* redirects here. For the British television show, see *The Gunpowder Plot: Exploding The Legend*. For the book by Antonia Fraser, see *The Gunpowder Plot: Terror and Faith in 1605*.

The **Gunpowder Plot** of 1605, in earlier centuries often called the **Gunpowder Treason Plot** or the **Jesuit Treason**, was a failed assassination attempt against [King James I of England and VI of Scotland](#) by a group of provincial [English Catholics](#) led by [Robert Catesby](#).

The plan was to blow up the [House of Lords](#) during the [State Opening of England's Parliament](#) on 5 November 1605, as the prelude to a popular revolt in the [Midlands](#) during which James's nine-year-old daughter, [Princess Elizabeth](#), was to be installed as the Catholic head of state. Catesby may have embarked on the scheme after hopes of securing greater religious tolerance under King James had faded, leaving many English Catholics disappointed. His fellow plotters were [John Wright](#), [Thomas Wintour](#), [Thomas Percy](#), [Guy Fawkes](#), [Robert Keyes](#), [Thomas Bates](#), [Robert Wintour](#), [Christopher Wright](#), [John Grant](#), [Ambrose Rookwood](#), [Sir Everard Digby](#) and [Francis Tresham](#). Fawkes, who had 10 years of military experience fighting in the [Spanish Netherlands](#) in suppression of the [Dutch Revolt](#), was given charge of the explosives.

The plot was revealed to the authorities in an anonymous letter sent to [William Parker, 4th Baron Monteagle](#), on 26 October 1605. During a search of the House of Lords at about midnight on 4 November 1605, Fawkes was discovered guarding 36 barrels of [gunpowder](#)—enough to reduce the House of Lords to rubble—and arrested. Most of the conspirators fled from London as they learned of the plot's discovery, trying to enlist support along the way. Several made a stand against the pursuing Sheriff of Worcester and his men at [Holbeche House](#); in the ensuing battle, Catesby was one of those shot and killed. At their trial on 27 January 1606, eight of the survivors, including Fawkes, were convicted and sentenced to be [hanged, drawn and quartered](#).

Details of the assassination attempt were allegedly known by the principal [Jesuit](#) of England, Father [Henry Garnet](#). Although he was convicted of [treason](#) and sentenced to death, doubt has been cast on how much he really knew of the plot. As its existence was revealed to him through [confession](#), Garnet was prevented from informing the authorities by the [absolute confidentiality](#) of the confessional. Although anti-Catholic legislation was introduced soon after the plot's discovery, many important and loyal Catholics retained high office during King James I's reign. The thwarting of the Gunpowder Plot was commemorated for many years afterwards by special sermons and other public events such as the ringing of church bells, which have evolved into the [Bonfire Night](#) of today.

#### Gunpowder Plot

### GUN-POWDER Plot:

A brief Account of that bloody and daring Design laid against the King, his Lands, and Customs in Parliament, and of a Happy Deliverance by Divine Power. To the True of this see the last. LONDON according to Order.



A late 17th or early 18th-century report of the plot.

#### Details

<b>Participants</b>	<a href="#">Robert Catesby</a> , <a href="#">John Wright</a> , <a href="#">Thomas Wintour</a> , <a href="#">Thomas Percy</a> , <a href="#">Guy Fawkes</a> , <a href="#">Robert Keyes</a> , <a href="#">Thomas Bates</a> , <a href="#">Robert Wintour</a> , <a href="#">Christopher Wright</a> , <a href="#">John Grant</a> , <a href="#">Ambrose Rookwood</a> , <a href="#">Sir Everard Digby</a> and <a href="#">Francis Tresham</a>
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">London, England</a>
<b>Date</b>	5 November 1605
<b>Result</b>	Failure, plotters executed