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## Auszug aus:

Shakespeare - Macbeth - Abiturwissen

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## Macbeth

## Macbeth was first performed in 1606 when Shakespeare reached Time period the highlight of his career.. James I of England (James VI of Scotland) succeeded Elizabeth I. The play was written to flatter<sup>1</sup> the new king ( $\rightarrow$ Scottish history). Historical revulsions: England manifested its role as a world power after the victory over Spain, America was being explored. Old ideas of law and justice, religion and government were overthrown, London developed into a centre of both power and culture. The English language began to change rapidly. A lot was 'modern' in that time period, yet 'medieval' ways of thinking remained dominant. When you read *Macbeth*, it is noticeable that many of these developments influenced the writing of the play. William Shakespeare was born as the third child of John Shake-Biographical notes speare, a noble and influential tanner<sup>2</sup> and glovemaker, and Mary Arden Shakespeare in Stradford-upon-Avon in 1564. His exact date of birth remains unknown but he was baptised on April 26. As a young boy William must have enjoyed an excellent education, for his plays not only show a profound knowledge of Latin and Greek but also a deep insight into philosophy, religion, politics, history and social matters. At the age of 18 he got married to Anne Hathaway (three children: Susanna, Hamnet, Judith). The family moved to London around 1592, where Shakespeare soon joined a theatre company as writer and actor: The Lord Chamberlain's Men (renamed The King's Men after the ascension of the throne of James I). Under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth I and later James I Shakespeare's company soon became the favourite one in town. The famous 'Globe Theatre' was built around 1598. His fame allowed him an early retirement in 1611 when he moved back to his birth-place Stratford with comfort and ease. He died on April 23 1616. The first folio<sup>3</sup> edition of Shakespeare's collected plays and sonnets was edited and printed by John Heminges and Henry Condell, both members of *The King's Men*, as a tribute to their

friend in 1623.

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