English Constitutional Monarchy

Stuart Absolutism and the English Civil War

Central Issues
1. Enforcement of State Religion
2. King’s Power to Tax
3. WHO is Sovereign?
“The Divine Right Of Kings”  
by Edgar Allen Poe

The only king by right divine  
Is Ellen King, and were she mine  
I'd strive for liberty no more,  
But hug the glorious chains I wore.  
Her bosom is an ivory throne,  
Where tyrant virtue reigns alone;  
No subject vice dare interfere,  
To check the power that governs here.  
Of would she deign to rule my fate,  
I'd worship Kings and kingly state,  
And hold this maxim all life long,  
The King — my King —  
can do no wrong.  

-The End-

Jamestown Colony  
First Permanent English Settlement in N. America  
(1607)

Jamestown Colony  
Virginia Company  
Private Investment

The Gunpowder Plot  
11/5  
“Guy Fawkes Day”  
Anti-Catholic  
Holiday

STATE RELIGION  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Everyone in England must belong to the Church of England.

The King James Bible (1611)
“Authorized” Version
People must read the King’s Bible.

English Calvinists
Puritans and Separatists
CoE “Too Catholic”
One Doctrine Two Approaches

English Protestants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANGLICANS</th>
<th>CALVINISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England</td>
<td>Puritans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATISFIED</td>
<td>PURIFY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Charles used a tax that already existed for coastal cities and applied it to everyone.

Petition of Right (1628)

A declaration of rights passed by Parliament in response to Charles’ abuses of power.
1640
Short Parliament
Long Parliament

The Civil War
(1642-1649)

Playskool Version of the English Civil War

Cavaliers

Allegiance of Members of the Long Parliament
(1640-1660)
Oliver Cromwell  [1599-1658]
† Officer of the Parliamentary army (cavalry) → the New Model Army.
† Led the army that defeated royal forces and now controlled the government.
† He wore... a plain cloth-suit, which seemed to have been made by a poor tailor: his shirt was plain, and not very clean; and I remember a speck or two of blood upon his collar... his face was swollen and red, his voice sharp and untunable, and his speech full of passion. [Sir Philip Warwick, a Royalist, 1640]

New Model Army Soldier’s Catechism

The English Civil War: 1642-1645

The Battle of Naseby [re-enactment], 1645
a Charles I is defeated at Marston Moor, Naseby, and Preston.
a He is handed over to Parliament.

The “Interregnum” Period [1649-1660]
† The Commonwealth (1649-1653)
† The Protectorate (1654-1660)
The Coat of Arms & the Flag of the Commonwealth

Pride’s Purge, 1648
† Cromwell purges the House of Commons of moderates [anyone who isn’t anti-monarchy].
† The results is the “Rump” Parliament.

Regicide → Beheading of Charles I, 1649
† The vote by the Rump Parliament was 68-67.

English Civil War
1649
• Charles I beheaded

• END of Stuart Absolutism
INTERREGNUM 1649–1660
“Between Kings”
Oliver Cromwell “Lord Protector”
Military Dictatorship
Strict Puritanical Rule

Puritans Control Parliament

Protestant Toleration

De-Catholicising of the Anglican Church

12 DAYS

Cromwell’s Parliament passed laws to restrict traditional celebrations of Christmas, which featured twelve days of feasting, drinking, and idleness.

Further Reading
Merry Christmas!

Stop!

Christmas is Banned!

Christmas is Banned

I'm Oliver Cromwell, and I'm in charge now!

Christmas is a SIN!

But why ban Christmas?

- Christmas was a human invention, not in the Bible.
- It was too closely linked to old Pagan (Pre-Christian) beliefs
- The idea of a 'mass' for Christ just smelled of Catholicism!

So it was banned in England in 1647!

That wasn’t the only reason...

- Puritans also hated the...
  - gluttony
  - drunken-ness
  - dancing
  - gambling
  - begging
  - singing

Unlike this cat – they were not party animals!
How did they stop people?

Soldiers patrolled the streets – they were even on the sniff for the smell of roast goose!

What's that I can smell?

Hay! As if I eat roast goose!

Hay, hay? Geddit?

What else was banned?

Bear-baiting

Cockfighting

Horse-racing

and

and

and
and Ale-houses (Pubs)

And even...

And if that makes you want to scream...

In fact... on Sundays it was worse!

and
And above all...not going to....

It’s not as if Puritan churches were comfortable....

And the punishments?
- Usually fines

But often...

But often...

But often...

But often...
So....enjoy your Christmas holiday...

The Puritan Commonwealth [1649-1653]

† Cromwell rules with the Rump Parliament.
† Constitutional Republic
  - Created a constitution $\rightarrow$ Instrument of Government
  - An executive [Cromwell]
  - A Council of State $\rightarrow$ annually elected the committee of Parliament.
  - No monarch.
† Europe is appalled $\rightarrow$ other nations don’t recognize it.
Rebels within a Rebellion: Levellers

- John Lilburne was their leader.
- One of the first libertarians in the world.
- The Agreement of the People was their political manifesto.
  - Abolish corruption within the Parliament & judicial process.
  - Toleration of religious differences.
  - Laws written in the vernacular.
  - Universal suffrage as a "natural right."

Rebels within a Rebellion: Diggers

- Agrarian "communists" led by Gerrard Winstanley and William Everard → seen as the "true Levellers."
- With Charles I gone, they felt that land should now be distributed to the poor.
- Food prices had reached record highs in the 1640s.
- They alarmed the Commonwealth government and angered the local landowners who wanted to claim confiscated aristocratic lands for themselves.

Cromwell Dissolves the “Rump” Parliament in 1653

- Cromwell tears up the ineffective Constitution.
- Dismisses the Rump Parliament and rules with the support of the military.
  - Declares martial law.
  - Military dictator.
- Religious tolerance for all [esp. for Jews], except for Catholics.
- Crushes a rebellion in Scotland.
- Crushes a rebellion among the Catholics of Ireland → kills 40% of all ethnic Irish!

Ulster Plantation: 1609-1660

Ulster Plantation Established Under King James I
% Of Land Owned by Catholics in Ireland

Cromwell—Lord Protector or King??

† England longs for an end to martial law!
† Cromwell dies in 1658 and his son, Richard, takes over, but is weak and lasts for only two years.

The Restoration
(1660-1688)

Parliament could no more exist without the Crown than the Crown without Parliament. This was the most important lesson of the English Civil War!

King Charles II [r. 1660-1685]

a 1661 → "Cavalier" Parliament [filled with Royalists]
   ▪ Disbanded the Puritan army.
   ▪ Pardoned most Puritan rebels.
   ▪ Restored the authority of the Church of England.

a 1662 → Clarendon Code [Act of Uniformity]
   ▪ All clergy & church officials had to conform to the Anglican Book of Common Prayer.
   ▪ It forbade "non-conformists" to worship publicly, teach their faith, or attend English universities.

Great London Plague, 1665
Great London Fire, 1666

King Charles II [r. 1660-1685]

- 1673 → Test Act
  - Parliament excluded all but Anglicans from civilian and military positions.
  - [to the Anglican gentry, the Puritans were considered "radicals" and the Catholics were seen as "traitors!"]

- 1679 → Habeas Corpus Act
  - Any unjustly imprisoned persons could obtain a writ of habeas corpus compelling the govt. to explain why he had lost his liberty.

Charles II’s Foreign Policy

- 1665 – 1667: Second Anglo-Dutch War

  - To Charles II, Louis XIV is an ideal ally against the Dutch.

  - 1670 → Treaty of Dover

King James II [r. 1685-1688]

- Introduced Catholics into the High Command of both the army and navy.
- Camped a standing army a few miles outside of London.
- Surrounded himself with Catholic advisors and attacked Anglican control of the universities.
- Claimed the power to suspend or dispense with Acts of Parliament.
- 1687 → Declaration of Liberty of Conscience
  - He extended religious toleration without Parliament’s approval or support.

The Glorious Revolution

1688
The “Glorious” Revolution: 1688

- Whig & Tory leaders offered the throne jointly to James II’s daughter Mary [raised a Protestant] & her husband, William of Orange.
  - He was a vigorous enemy of Louis XIV.
  - He was seen as a champion of the Protestant cause.

English Bill of Rights [1689]

- It settled all of the major issues between King & Parliament.
- It served as a model for the U. S. Bill of Rights.
- It also formed a base for the steady expansion of civil liberties in the 18c and early 19c in England.

Main provisions:

1. The King could not suspend the operation of laws.
2. The King could not interfere with the ordinary course of justice.
3. No taxes levied or standard army maintained in peacetime without Parliament’s consent.
5. Sessions of Parliament would be held frequently.
6. Subjects had the right of bail, petition, and freedom from excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment.
7. The monarch must be a Protestant.
9. Censorship of the press was dropped.

CIVIL WAR IN ENGLAND

- The English Civil War 1642-1649 -> king arrests some members of parl -> this sparks civil war
  1. CAVALIERS = supporters of the king
  2. THE ROUND HEADS = supporters of parl
- The New Model Army – the army of parl
- Oliver Cromwell – creator and commander of the New Model Army
- The Rump Parliament - moderate members of parliament are expelled by force leaving the radicals in charge
- 1649 the Rump Parliament tries and condemns King Charles I -> he is beheaded

CROMWELL AND NEW GOVERNMENTS

- 1640-1653 The Commonwealth = England is a Republic/no monarchy
- Irish Revolt -> brutally crushed by Cromwell
- The Levelers – group who wanted democracy and equality -> crushed by Cromwell
- Cromwell destroys the Rump Parliament

1653-1658 The Protectorate

- rule of Oliver Cromwell
- puritan religious/military dictatorship
- Cromwell takes the title “Lord Protector”
- The Instrument of Government – new constitution created by Cromwell
- the country is divided into 11 districts, each one ruled by a “major general”

RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY

- 1660-1668 The Restoration -> Stuart monarchs restored to the throne
- 1660-1685 King Charles II
- 1685-1688 King James II
  1. brother of Charles II
  2. openly Catholic
  3. parliament does not revolt because James was old and his daughters Mary and Anne were Protestants -> but in 1688 his wife gives birth to a son -> fear of a Catholic hereditary monarchy
- 4. in late 1688 Parliament invites the protestant Dutch leader William of Orange and his wife Mary to invade England
THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

- 1688 King James II flees to France
- 1689 William and Mary become monarchs of England
- 1689 no fighting or bloodshed -> thus called the "Glorious Revolution"
- 1689 The Bill of Rights –
  1. passed by parliament affirming their right to make laws and levy taxes
  2. no standing army w/ out parliamentary consent
  3. king could not interfere with parliamentary elections or debates
  4. establishes the foundation for a constitutional monarchy = limited monarchy

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