



English Revolution 1641-60 and 1688 /Civil Wars, Glorious Revolution

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Main causes of the English Revolution

- ▶ Struggle Against Absolutism
- ▶ The political system that developed in the nation-state was absolutist in character
- ▶ The kings were absolute ruler or despots
- ▶ The doctrine of divine right or king was advocated and it was said that the kings were given the right to rule by god
- ▶ With the support of merchants rulers started putting an end to the instability that feudal system had created.
- ▶ However, in course of time, the despotic rulers began to face opposition inside their countries.
- ▶ The people begun to protect against unjust laws and against the powers of monarch.



English Revolution

English revolution begun in the 17th century with a conflict between the King and the Parliament over the question of political power.

Basic Idea

- The English Civil Wars (1642-1651) witnessed a bitter conflict between Royalist (Cavallers) and Parliamentarians (Roundhead)
- The Royalist supported first King Charles I of England (1625-1649) and then his son Charles II, while the Parlaimeterians, the ultimate victors, wanted to diminish the constitutional powers of the monarchy.
- Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) (Parliamentarian), had more resources and a more professional fighting forces- The New Model Army-which ensured the Royalists ultimately lost the three civil wars fought in England,Ireland, and Scotland (“Wars of the Three Kingdom”)

The Civil War

- ▶ In 1640, Charles-I was involved in a war with Scotland and was forced to call Parliament to call Parliament for money.
- ▶ But Parliament forced to abolish a tax called ship money and to sign a bill agreeing not to dissolve Parliament without its consent.
- ▶ Finding his position threatened the King decided to deal with Parliament severely.
- ▶ He came in person to Parliament to arrest five of its members.
- ▶ However, 'The birds were flown'. they had left and found refuge in the city.
- ▶ The war started in August 1642.
- ▶ The supporters of the king belonged to the nobility and and the Anglican clergy or Roman Catholics.
- ▶ They were called cavallers
- ▶ The supporters of Parliament belonged to the new gentry and were Puritans



contd.

- ▶ Fighting continued for five years.
- ▶ In the end Parliament came out victorious
- ▶ Charles I was captured and publicly executed in 1649
- ▶ Parliament established a Republic.

THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION OF 1688

- ▶ the Republic lasted only seven years. Cromwell, who had played the most important role in defeating the king, became the 'Lord Protector'
- ▶ He was a military dictator and had absolute command of a powerful army.
- ▶ After his death, the Monarchy was restored and the son of the executed king, Charles II, was made king.
- ▶ He and his successor, James II, tried to assert the superiority of the monarchy,
- ▶ But feeling this kind of rule had grown too strong.
- ▶ In 1688, a group of politicians invited William, the husband of James II daughter, Mary, and ruler of Holland, to become king of England.
- ▶ Without firing a shot, William reached London and James II fled to France
- ▶ Then the Throne was granted to William and Mary Jointly.
- ▶ This event is known as Glorious Revolution

Aftermath

- ▶ The Glorious Revolution, which was a bloodless revolution, completely destroyed the doctrine of the Divine Right of kings in England,
- ▶ Parliament enacted a Bill of Rights in 1689 which provided that suspension of laws, levying of taxes, and raising of an army could be done only with the consent of Parliament, which would meet more frequently.
- ▶ It provides for trial by jury, the right to petition and freedom from excessive bail, fines and punishments of persons accused or convicted of crimes.
- ▶ GR marked the triumph of Parliament over the monarchy
- ▶ William and Mary had received the crown from Parliament and were dependent upon Parliament for keeping it.
- ▶ No longer were the English kings to have independent authority of their own.