



# Stuart Absolutism

and the  
English Civil War



## The Stuarts

Kings of England & Scotland  
(1603-1688)

### STUART ABSOLUTISM

James I

Charles I



CROMWELL

### RESTORATION

Charles II

James II



JI CI

INTERREGNUM

CII JII

## Central Issues

1. Enforcement of State Religion
2. King's Power to Tax
3. WHO is Sovereign?

**James I** & James VI  
of Scotland

**STUART  
ABSOLUTISM**



**James I** & James VI  
of Scotland

**DIVINE  
RIGHT**





**"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.


O! 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-

*Graham's Magazine,*  
October 1845

# Jamestown Colony

First Permanent English  
Settlement in N.America  
(1607)



# Jamestown Colony

Virginia Company  
*Private Investment*




Photo by Matt Brown

# The Gunpowder Plot

11/5 "Guy Fawkes Day"

Anti-Catholic  
Holiday

# STATE RELIGION

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND





## RELIGIOUS UNIFORMITY

Everyone in England must belong to the Church of England.



## The King James Bible (1611)

**“Authorized” Version**

*People must read the King's Bible.*



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<http://www.tvspots.tv/video/53168/MARS--BUCKLED>

## English Calvinists




Puritans and Separatists

**CoE “Too Catholic”**

**One Doctrine  
Two Approaches**



## English Protestants

ANGLICANS	CALVINISTS	
Church of England	Puritans	Separatists
<b>SATISFIED</b>	<b>PURIFY</b>	<b>SEPARATE</b>
		

## Another Snickers Feast



## Charles I MORE ABSOLUTISM



## Charles I Coin



## Ship Money

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*

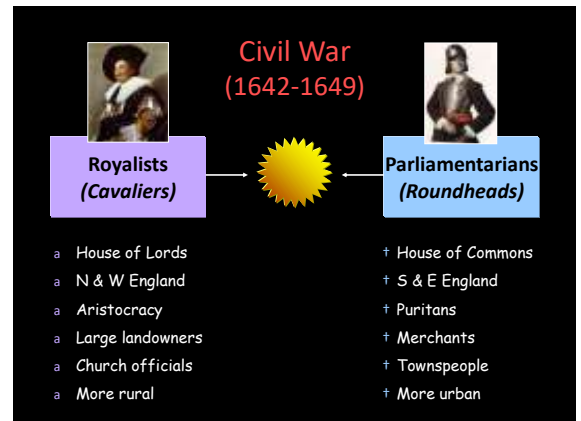


# 1640

Short Parliament  
Long Parliament



The  
Civil War  
(1642-1649)



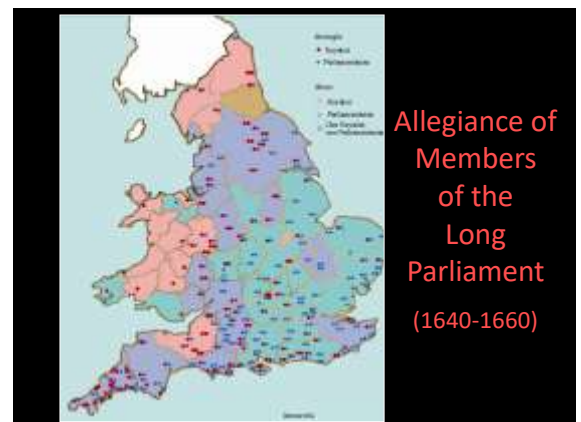
Playskool Version  
of the English Civil War



Cavaliers



Roundheads



## 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 (1649-1660)

## The "Interregnum" Period [1649-1660]



- † The **Commonwealth** (1649-1653)
- † The **Protectorate** (1653-1660)

## 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*



**Cromwell**

## Puritans Control Parliament



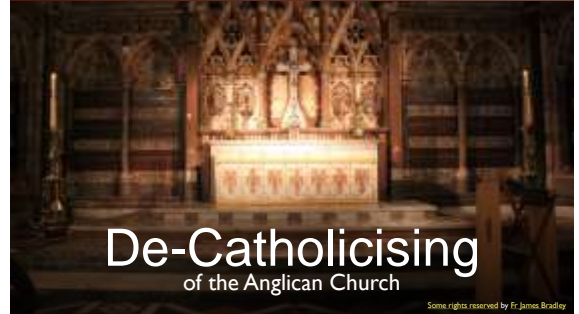
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## Protestant Toleration



Some rights reserved by Rajan Manickavasagam

## De-Catholicising of the Anglican Church



Some rights reserved by Fr James Bradley

**12  
DAYS**



Art Credit:  
Kaiser-Baumers-Fries

## Christmas

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

**Further Reading**



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## 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?



What's that I can smell?

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

Hay! As if I eat roast goose!

*Hay, hay? Geddit?*

## Puritan Names

Free Gift	Earth	Dust	Discipline	Faith
Delivery	Kill-sin	Sorry-for-sin	Ashes	Fear-not
Fear-God	Praise-God	Increased	Mercy-me	And...
The-Lord-Is-Near			Wrestling-with-the-devil	

## What else was banned?



Bear-baiting

and



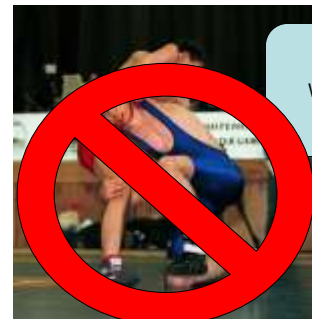
Cockfighting

and



Horse-racing

and



Wrestling

and

Ale-houses  
(Pubs)



and



And even...



And if that makes you want to  
scream....

@#&\*%\$

swearing was  
banned!



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...





or



or



or



Or even



So....enjoy your Christmas holiday...



For their sakes!

### The Puritan Commonwealth [1649-1653]



- † Cromwell rules with the Rump Parliament.
- † Constitutional Republic
  - Created a constitution → *Instrument of Government*
  - An executive [Cromwell]
  - A Council of State → annually elected the committee of Parliament.
  - No monarch.
- † Europe is appalled → 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



## The Protectorate [1653-1660]

- † 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 Established Under King James I



## Ulster Plantation: 1609-1660



## % Of Land Owned by Catholics in Ireland [in green]



## 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]

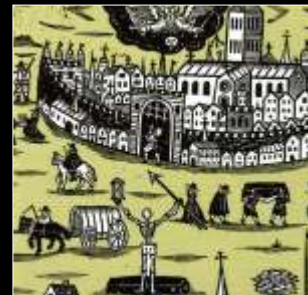
- a Had charm, poise, & political skills [unlike his father!].
- a Restored the theaters and reopened the pubs and brothels closed during the Restoration.
- a Favored religious toleration.
- a Had secret Catholic sympathies.
- a Realized that he could not repeat the mistakes his father had made.



## 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]

- a 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!"]
- a 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



- a To Charles II, Louis XIV is an ideal ally against the Dutch.
- a 1670 → **Treaty of Dover**

## King James II [r. 1685-1688]



- a Was a bigoted convert to Catholicism without any of Charles II's shrewdness or ability to compromise.
- a Alienated even the Tories.
- a Provoked the revolution that Charles II had succeeded in avoiding!

## King James II [r. 1685-1688]

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



## The Glorious Revolution

1688



## The "Glorious" Revolution: 1688

- a 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]



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

## English Bill of Rights [1689]

- a 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.
  4. Freedom of speech in Parliament.
  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.
  8. Freedom from arbitrary arrest.
  9. Censorship of the press was dropped.
  10. Religious toleration.



## 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

- 1649-1653 **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** -
  1. rule of Oliver Cromwell
  2. puritan religious/military dictatorship
  3. Cromwell takes the title "Lord Protector"
  4. **The Instrument of Government** - new constitution created by Cromwell
  5. the country is divided into 11 districts, each one ruled by a "major general"

## RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY

- 1660-1688 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

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- 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

## The Glorious Revolution -> James II flees -> William and Mary take the throne



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