Age of Absolutism

Absolutism

A system in which the ruler, usually a monarch, holds absolute power (complete authority) over the government and the lives of the people

 Monarch = a king or queen who rules a territory, usually for life and by hereditary right

The opposite of a constitutional government or democracy, such as that found in the United States

- In 17th Century Europe, absolutism was tied to the idea of the divine right of kings
 - Divine right = belief that the authority to rule comes directly from God

Essential Understandings

- The Age of Absolutism takes its name from a series of European monarchs who increased the power of their central governments.
- Characteristics of Absolute Monarchies:
 - Centralization of power
 - Concept of rule by divine right

Power of a Monarch

In the 17th Century, people looked to the monarch for political stability

Absolute monarchs had tremendous powers

- Make laws
- Levy taxes
- Administer justice
- Control the state's officials
- Determine foreign policy

No written Constitution or Bill of Rights

Most people did not have any rights at all

Spain Philip II (r. 1527-1598)



"Advancing Catholicism and Increasing Spain's Power"

Background: Charles V

- King of Spain & Ruler of the Holy Roman Empire
 - Ruling two empires involved Charles in constant warfare
 - As a devout Catholic, he sought to suppress Protestantism in the HRE (he was eventually forced to allow the German princes to choose their own religion)
 - The scattered empire proved to be too scattered for any one person to rule effectively so Charles divided it up between his brother, Ferdinand (HRE) and his son, Philip (Spain)

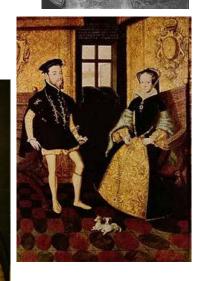
Philip II

- Reigned as an absolute monarch
- Devoted most of his time to government work (unlike many other monarchs)
- Defended the Catholic Church and turned back the rising Protestant tide in Europe
- Fought many wars in an attempt to advance Spanish Catholic power (e.g., the Netherlands)

Tools to Extend Spanish Power

- Marriage: Built alliances and pacified enemies
 - Maria Alliance: Portugal
 - Mary Tudor Alliance: England
 - Elizabeth Valois Alliance: France
 - Anna Alliance: Austria
- War: Gained control of Portugal
- Wealth: Silver and gold from colonies in the Americas fueled the Spanish economy and ensured Spanish power





Spanish Armada

- By the end of the 1580s, Philip II saw England's Queen Elizabeth I as his chief Protestant enemy – she also supported the Dutch against Spain and encouraged English captains to plunder Spanish ships and loot Spanish cities in the Americas
- 1588: Philip II prepared a huge armada, or fleet of warships, to invade England – but the lighter, faster English ships defeated the Spanish Armada in the English Channel
- This marked the beginning of the end of Spanish power





Key Terms

- Philip II reigned as ABSOLUTE MONARCH a ruler with complete authority over the government and the lives of the people
- Asserted that he ruled by DIVINE RIGHT the belief that authority to rule came directly from God (Philip II was a devout Catholic)
- Philip II prepared the Spanish ARMADA a fleet of ships – to carry a Spanish invasion force to England

Philip II's Accomplishments

- Expanded Spanish influence
- Thanks in part to gold and silver from the Spanish colonies in America, he made Spain the foremost power in Europe
- Strengthened the Catholic Church (defended the Catholic Counter-Reformation)
- Made his own power absolute

Philip II's Historical Significance/Legacy

- Under Philip II, Spain reached the peak of its power
- Established the first trans-Pacific trade route between America and Asia
- Commenced settlements in the Philippines (the Philippines was named after him)

France Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715)



Key Terms

- Huguenots
- St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
- Henry IV
- Edict of Nantes
- Cardinal Richelieu
- Sun = symbol of absolute power
- Intendant
- Versailles
- Balance of power

Background: France's Wars of Religion (1560s-1590s)

- Religious wars between the Catholic majority and the French Protestants, called Huguenots, tore France apart
- St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre = worst incident; Catholic royals slaughtered 3,000 Huguenots
 - This symbolized the complete breakdown of order in France

Background: Henry IV

- 1589: Henry IV, a Huguenot prince, inherited the French throne
- For four years he fought against fierce Catholic opposition
- To end the conflict, he converted to Catholicism
- To protect Protestants, however, he issued the Edict of Nantes (1598), which granted the Huguenots religious toleration and other freedoms



Louis XIII

- Son of Henry IV
- Inherited throne at age 9
- Cardinal Richelieu appointed chief administer
 - Focused on strengthening the central government (extending royal power)
 - Sought to destroy the Huguenots and the nobles, two groups that did not bow to royal authority
 - Handpicked his successor, Cardinal Mazarin



Louis XIV

- Son of Louis XIII
- Inherited throne at age 5
- Believed in his divine right to rule



- Took the sun as the symbol of his absolute power: just as the sun stands at the center of the solar system, so the Sun King stands at the center of the nation
- The Estates General, the medieval council made up of representatives of all French social classes, didn't meet once during Louis XIV's reign and therefore played no role in checking royal power

Louis XIV's Policies

- Expanded the bureaucracy and appointed intendants, royal officials who collected taxes, from the middle classes
 - Cemented his ties with the middle classes
 - Checked the power of nobles and Church
- Recruited soldiers
 - French army became strongest in Europe
 - Army was used to enforce his policies at home and abroad
- Use mercantilist policies to bolster the economy
 - New lands cleared for farming, encouraged mining and other basic industries, and built up luxury trades
 - Imposed high tariffs on imported goods to protect French manufacturers

Versailles



- Louis XIV spared no expense to make this the most magnificent building in Europe
- Was the perfect symbol of the Sun King's wealth and power
- Served as the Louis XIV's home and the seat of the government
- Each day began in the King's bedroom with a major ritual known as the levee, or rising
 - High-ranking nobles competed for the honor of holding the royal washbin or hand the king his diamond-buckled shoes
 - Purpose: These nobles were a threat to the power of the monarchy; thus, by luring nobles to Versailles, Louis XIV turned them into courtiers angling for privileges rather than rivals battling for power

Weakening France's Economy

- How did Louis XIV's actions weaken France's economy?
 - Waging war to expand France's borders drained his treasury (other European nations wanted to maintain the balance of power = a distribution of military and economic power among European nations to prevent any one country from dominating the region)
 - Expelling Huguenots, whom Louis XIV saw as a threat to religious and political unity, removed some of his most productive subjects

Louis XIV's Accomplishments

- Strengthened royal power, the army, the economy, and the arts to make France the leading power of Europe
- Prevented dissent from within by keeping the nobles busy in the king's court instead of battling for power (levee)
- Versailles became a symbol of royal power and wealth

Louis XIV's Historical Significance/Legacy

- Louis XIV's efforts (political, military, and cultural achievements) placed France in a dominant position in Europe
- His efforts didn't, however, bring prosperity to the common people of France – his numerous wars and extravagant palaces effectively bankrupted the nation



Prussia Frederick II the Great (r. 1740-1786)



Key Terms

- Holy Roman Empire (HRE)
- Thirty Years' War
 - Ferdinand
 - Defenestration of Prague
 - Mercenaries
 - Depopulation
 - Peace of Westphalia
- Prussia
 - Frederick William I
 - Frederick II
- Seven Years' War

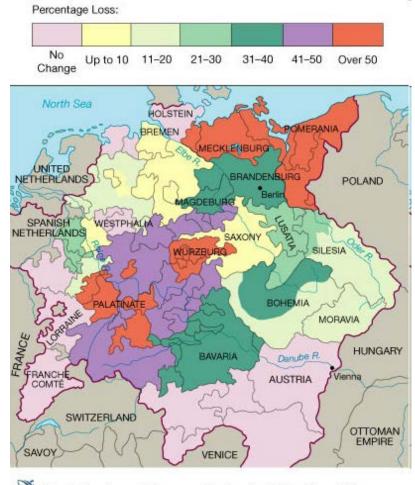
Holy Roman Empire

- Patchwork of hundreds of small, separate states
- Ruled by emperor who had little power over the many rival princes
- This power vacuum contributed to the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War, along with religious division between the Protestant north and the Catholic south



Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

- Series of wars
- Began in Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic) in the German states
- Ferdinand, the Catholic king of Bohemia, wanted to suppress Protestants and assert royal power over nobles
- Defenestration of Prague = a few rebellious Protestant noblemen tossed two royal officials out of a castle window
- This act sparked a local revolt, which widened into a European war



Ma Population Loss in Germany During the Thirty Years' War

Results of the Thirty Years' War

Roving armies of 'mercenaries' (soldiers for hire) burned villages, destroyed crops, and killed without mercy Famine and disease Depopulation (as many as one third of the people in the German states may have died as a result of the war)

Peace of Westphalia (1648)

- Series of treaties seeking to bring about a general European peace and to settle other international problems
- France won extra territory along Spanish and German borders
- German lands divided into more than 360 separate states – each still acknowledged the Holy Roman emperor but each had their own government, currency, church, armed forces, and foreign policy (again, the German states were not united)

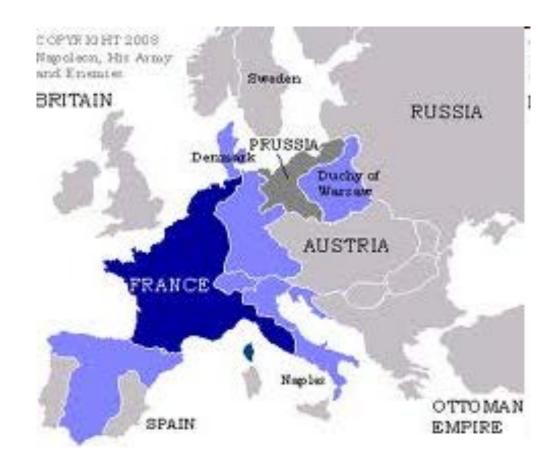
Maria Theresa & the War of the Austrian Successi



- Daughter and successor of the Austrian emperor, Charles VI
- No woman had ruled Hapsburg lands in her own name
- Frederick II of Prussia seized the Hapsburg province of Silesia, which sparked the 8-year War of the Austrian Succession
- With support from Britain and Russia, Maria Theresa preserved her empire and strengthened Hapsburg power by reorganizing the bureaucracy and improving tax collection (Britain and Russia didn't want Prussia to upset the balance of power by gaining new lands)

Prussia

- While Austria was molding a strong Catholic state, a region called Prussia emerged as a new Protestant power
- The Hohenzollern rulers set up an efficient central bureaucracy



Frederick William I (r. 1713-1740)

- Frederick William I gained the loyalty of Prussian nobles by giving them positions in the government and army, which reduced their independence and increased his own control
- He also placed great emphasis on military values and forged one of the best-trained armies in Europe
- Frederick William made sure that from a young age, his son Frederick was trained in the art of war



Frederick II the Great (r. 1740-1786)

- Frederick II's harsh military training had an effect he wasted no time using his army when he came to power in 1740
 - Seized Silesia and sparked the War of the Austrian Succession
 - Brilliantly used his army in several other wars, forcing all to recognize Prussia as a great power and earning himself the title of 'Frederick the Great'
- By 1750, the great European powers included Austria, Prussia, France, Britain, and Russia
 - These nations formed various alliances to maintain the balance of power
 - Two basic rivalries persisted: Prussia vs. Austria and Britain vs. France
 - These rivalries sometimes resulted in worldwide conflict
- Seven Years' War (1756-1763)
 - Fought on four continents
 - Austria, Prussia, France, Britain, and Russia fought in Europe
 - Britain and France also fought in Africa and India
 - In North America, the war is known as the French and Indian War: Native American groups took sides with the French or the British
 - The Treaty of Paris ending these wars gave Britain a huge empire, thus changing Europe's balance of power for the next hundred years
 - Also, Prussia came out of the war stronger than it went in

Frederick II the Great's Accomplishments

- Further consolidated power in Prussia
- Seized Silesia in Austria, thus extending Prussia's territory
- Built a strong army and used that army to build a strong state (forced other nations to recognize Prussia as a great power)

"Prussia is not a state which possesses an army, but an army which possesses a state"

Frederick II the Great's Historical Significance/Legacy

- Brought Prussia from a state of general weakness to that of great power and wealth
 - Military successes and domestic reform brought land and prosperity to Prussia
- He was an absolute ruler but he lived under the principle that he was the 'first servant of the state' – he always ruled under the guidance of what was most beneficial for Prussia, and expected his people to possess the same devotion

Austria

AUSTRIA: MARIA THERESA & JOSEPH II

- ➢ MARIA THERESA (r. 1740-1780)
 - Strengthened central power of crown
 - Limited autonomy of regions
 - Aimed at making govt. more efficient
 - Limited burden on peasants, reduced <u>ROBOT</u>
 - Main concern = healthy pool of military recruits



AUSTRIA: MARIA THERESA & JOSEPH II

- ➢ JOSEPH II (r. 1765-1790)
 - Continued strengthening central authority
 - Asserted royal authority over church
 - Promoted religious toleration
 - Tried to improve economic conditions



AUSTRIA: MARIA THERESA & JOSEPH II

- ➢ JOSEPH II (r. 1765-1790)
 - Reformed judicial system & rationalized laws
 - Enacted far-reaching reforms of rura social structure
 - Abolished serfdom & robot



Russia Peter I the Great (r. 1682-1725) & Catherine II the Great (r. 1762-1796)





Key Terms

- Tsar/Czar = Russian word for Caesar; male monarch or emperor, especially in Russia prior to 1917
- Westernization = the adoption of Western ideas, technology, and culture
- Autocratic = ruling with unlimited authority
- Warm-water port = one that would be free of ice all year round
- St. Petersburg = symbol of Peter's effort to Westernize Russia
- Russo-Turkish War = Russia defeated the Ottoman Empire and gained access to a warm-water port on the Baltic Sea
- Partition = divide up

Russia in the 1600s

- Russia was primarily a medieval state, untouched by the Renaissance and Reformation and largely isolated from Western Europe
- The "Time of Troubles" had plunged the country into a period of disorder and foreign invasions
- The reign of the first Romanov czar in 1613 restored some order, but it wasn't until Peter I the Great came to power that Russia got back on the road to becoming a great modern power

Peter I the Great

- Took the throne at age 10 (1682)
- Took control of the government in 1689
- Traveled to the West in 1697 to learn about Western ways for himself – brought technical experts, teachers, and soldiers he recruited back to Russia
- Peter I then embarked on a policy of westernization = the adoption of Western ideas, technology, and culture
- Persuading Russia people to change their way of life was difficult
- To impose his will, Peter I became the most autocratic of Europe's absolute monarchs, meaning that he ruled with unlimited authority

Peter I's Goals

- Strengthen the military
- Expand Russian borders
- Centralize royal power
- Westernize Russia

Actions to Accomplish his Goals:

- Brought all Russian institutions under his control
- Forced the boyars (landowning nobles) to serve the state in civilian or military positions while allowing them to maintain control over their land (which forced peasants into serfdom)
- Forced changes in social customs and pushed reforms (imported technology, improved education, etc.)

Modernizing Russia

- Using autocratic methods, Peter I pushed through social and economic reforms
 - Imported Western technology
 - Improved education
 - Improved waterways and canals
 - Developed mining and textile manufacturing
 - Backed new trading companies
- To pay for these reforms, Peter I adopted mercantilist policies, such as encouraging exports
- Peter I had no mercy for any who resisted the new order – those who revolted were tortured and executed

Warm-Water Port

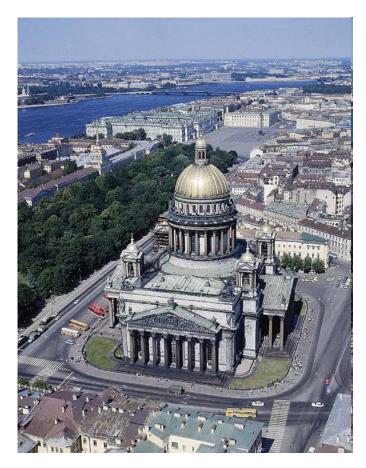
Russia's seaports, located along the Arctic Ocean, were frozen over during the winter. To increase Russia's ability to trade with the West, Peter desperately wanted a warm-water port - one that would be free of ice all year round. Peter I tried to gain access to a warm-water port in the Black Sea but was unable to defeat the Ottoman Empire.



Expanding Russia's Borders

- The Great Northern War (1700-1709)
 - Against Sweden (dominated the Baltic region)
 - Russia suffered humiliating defeats

 but after rebuilding the army, Peter
 I defeated the Swedes and won
 territory along the Baltic Sea
- Used land to build a new capital
 - = St. Petersburg
 - 'Window on the West' Italian architects designed palaces, etc.
 - Became a symbol of Peter's effort to forge a modern Russia



Trails to the Pacific

- Expanded empire to the east by traveling across the plains and rivers of Siberia
- Signed a treaty with China that recognized Russia's claim to lands north of China
- Hired a Danish explorer, who discovered the Bering Strait (made Russia the largest country in the world)



Peter I the Great's Accomplishments

- Using autocratic methods, Peter the Great:
 - Strengthened Russia's military
 - Expanded Russian territory (defeated Sweden and created a new capital in St. Petersburg)
 - Ended Russia's long period of isolation
 - Centralized royal power
 - Pushed through social and economic reforms to Westernize Russia

Catherine the Great

- Capable and ruthless absolute monarch
- Reorganized the provincial government
- Codified laws
- Began state-sponsored education for both boys and girls
- Embraced Western ideas and worked to bring Russia fully into European cultural and political life
- Allowed boyars to increase their hold on peasants, thus forcing even more peasants into serfdom. When the peasants rebelled, Catherine took firm action to repress them.
- Waged the Russo-Turkish War against the Ottoman Empire, which gained her a warm-water port on the Black Sea in 1774

The Partitions of Poland

- 1770s Russia, Prussia, and Austria hungrily eyed Poland
- To avoid fighting one another, the three countries agreed in 1772 to partition, or divide up, Poland (not until 1919 would a free Polish state reappear)

Catherine the Great's Accomplishments

 Further Westernized Russia
 Defeated the Ottoman Empire in the Russo-Turkish War and gained a warmwater port on the Black Sea

Peter the Great & Catherine the Great – Historical Significance/Legacy

- Used terror to enforce absolute power
- Westernized Russia
- Expanded Russia's borders through war, treaties, and exploration
- Policies contributed to the growth of serfdom, which served only to widen the gap between Russia and the West (exactly the opposite of what Peter and Catherine wanted to do)

Looking Ahead

- By the mid-1700s, absolute monarchs ruled four of the five leading countries in Europe – Britain, with its strong Parliament, was the only exception
- As these five nations competed with one another, they often ending up fighting to maintain a balance of power
- At the same time, new ideas were in the air radical changes would soon shatter the French monarch, upset the balance of power, and revolutionize European societies

England Charles I, Charles II, James II (r. 1625-1649) (r. 1660-1685) (r. 1685-1688)





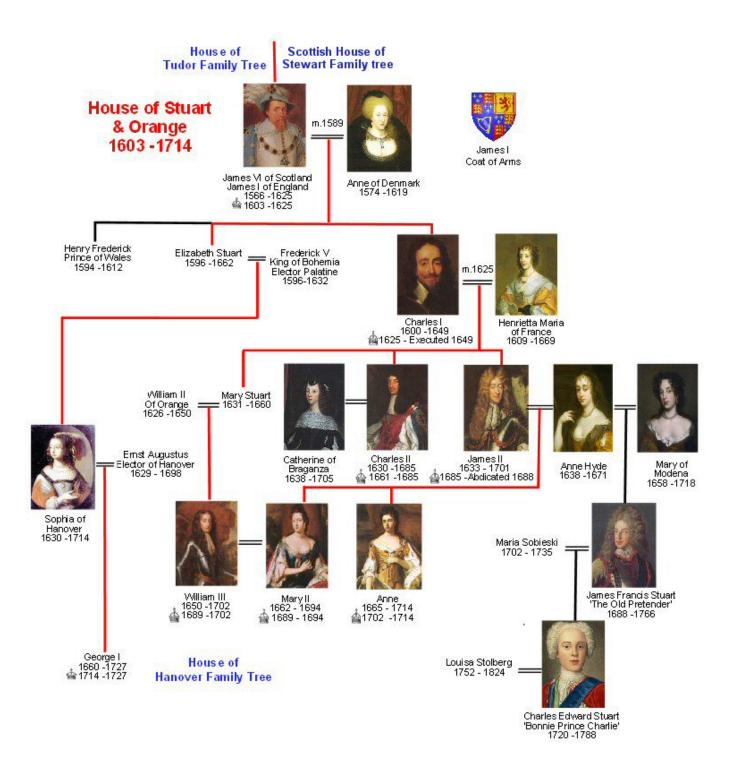




- Early Stuarts: Charles I
 - English Civil War
 - Cavaliers
 - Roundheads
- Oliver Cromwell & the Commonwealth
- Restoration Stuarts: Charles II & James II
 - Restoration
 - Glorious Revolution
- William & Mary
 - English Bill of Rights
 - Limited monarchy
 - Constitutional government

Essential Understanding

- Political democracy rests on the principle that government derives power from the consent of the governed (the people). The foundations of English rights include the jury trial, the Magna Carta, and common law.
- The English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution prompted further development of the rights of Englishmen.



Monarchy vs. Parliament

Parliament: England's legislative body

- House of Lords which represented the nobility
- House of Commons (the lower house) which represented everyone else

Parliament controlled the finances!

The Tudor's dealt with Parliament well - the Stuarts did not!



Palace of Westminster

Tudors vs. Stuarts

- Tudor monarchs believed in divine right but recognized the value of good relations with Parliament
- Stuart monarchs weren't as popular as the Tudors or as skilled in dealing with Parliament – they inherited problems that Henry and Elizabeth had long suppressed, resulting in a century of revolution that pitted the Stuart monarchs against Parliament

James I - King of England

- James VI- King of Scotland became James I King of England
- Reigned 1603-1625
- He believed in the divine right of kings - kings receive their power from God and are responsible only to God
- 1611 King James version of the Bible



James I's Accomplishments & Historical Significance

- Often offended the Puritans in Parliament (Elizabeth flattered them to get her way)
- Expanded English international trade and influence was actively pursued through the East India Company
- The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history – began during his reign
- James handed down to his son, Charles I a fatal belief in the divine right of kings, combined with a disdain for Parliament
- These beliefs and attitudes led to the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I



Charles I

- Son of James I
- Reigned 1625-1649
- Married to a devout French Catholic
- When he did not get what he wanted from Parliament he dissolved it in 1625



Charles I

- Money came from taxing the people
- Decrease in popularity
- He had to call
 Parliament
- Parliament took this opportunity to impose limits on the monarchs' power



"Charles I, King of England, the "Triple Portrait" by Anthony van Dyck

Petition of Right - 1628

- The King would not:
 - imprison subjects without due cause
 - levy taxes without Parliament's consent
 - house soldiers in private homes
 - impose martial law in peacetime
- After agreeing to the petition, Charles I ignored it because it limited his power
- The petition was important: it set forth the idea that the law was higher than the king

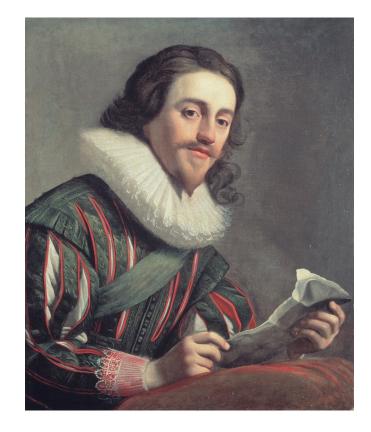


Think Through History

- Explain how the Petition of Right contradicted the idea of absolute monarchy.
- An absolute sovereign was supposed to be above everyone; the Petition of Right said that the law and Parliament could limit the power of the English monarch.

Charles I

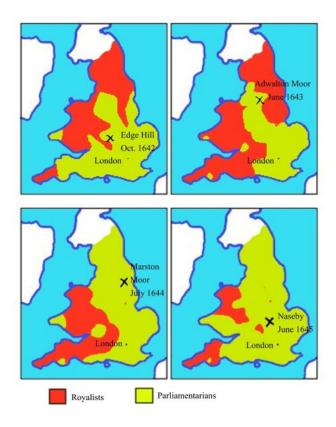
- 1629 1640 Charles I dissolved Parliament and ruled personally
- Charles tried to arrest Parliament's leaders in January 1642 –they escaped
- A mob of Londoners raged outside the palace
- Charles fled London and raised an army in the north of England, where people were loyal to him



English Civil War: 1642-1649

- Cavaliers: Supporters of the king or Royalists versus
- Roundheads: Puritan supporters of Parliament
- Oliver Cromwell, military genius, lead the New Model Army (Parliament)
- His army was made up chiefly of extreme Puritans known as the Independents, who believed they were doing battle for God

Parliament won!





Royalists *Cavaliers*

House of Lords N & W England Aristocracy Large landowners Church officials More rural

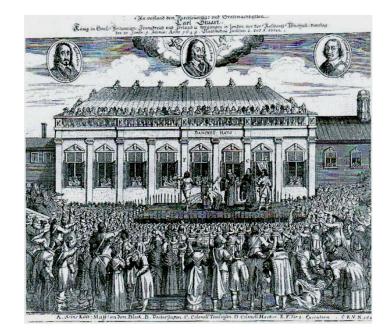


Parliamentarians *Roundheads*

House of Commons S & E England Puritans Merchants Townspeople More urban

Death of King Charles I - 1649

- Cromwell and the Puritans brought Charles to trial for treason. They found him guilty and sentenced him to death.
- The execution of Charles was revolutionary. Kings had often been overthrown, killed in battle, or put to death in secret – but never before had a reigning monarch faced a public trial and execution by his own people.

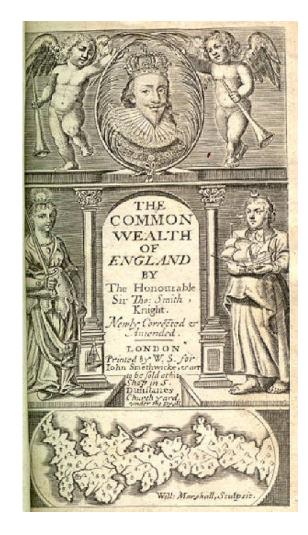


Charles I's Accomplishments & Historical Significance

- Petition of Right imposed limits on the monarch's power
- Back and forth with Parliament led to the English Civil War (dissolving, then calling, then trying to arrest Parliament)
- Executed for treason the first time a reigning monarch faced a public trial and execution by his own people

Commonwealth of England 1649-1653

- Cromwell ruled with Rump Parliament
- Rump Parliament abolished the monarchy and the House of Lords, and declared England a republic, or commonwealth
- 1653 Cromwell dismissed Parliament (too difficult to work with) and set up a military dictatorship



The Protectorate 1654-1660

- Cromwell "Lord Protector"
- Ruled until his death in 1658
- He was buried in Westminster Abbey
- When the Royalists returned to power his corpse was dug up, hung in chains, and beheaded



Restoration of the Stuarts

- Parliament then restored the monarchy
- Charles II took the throne from 1660 -1685
- Under the restored Stuart monarchy, Parliament kept much of the power it had gained
 - It restored the Church of England as the state religion and restricted some rights of Catholics and Puritans



James II

- 1685 James II (the younger brother of Charles II) became king when Charles II died
- Devout and openly Catholic
- James named Catholics to high positions in the government, armed forces, and universities
- Conflict over religion again brewed



Glorious Revolution 1688

- Parliament did not want James II's Catholic son to assume the throne
- The Dutch leader, William of Orange, a Protestant and husband of James's daughter Mary, was invited to rule England
- James II and his family fled, so with almost no violence, England underwent its "Glorious Revolution"



Charles II's & James II's Accomplishments & Historical Significance

- Under the restoration Stuarts (Charles II and James II), Parliament kept much of the power it gained during the time of Cromwell and the Commonwealth
- Conflict over religion remained a serious issue:
 - Stuarts = Catholic
 - Parliament = Church of England (Anglican)
- Parliament invited William and Mary to rule England, which led to the Glorious Revolution

The Bill of Rights 1689

- The Bill of Rights set the foundation for a constitutional monarchy
- Helped create a government based on the rule of law and a freely elected Parliament
 - Parliament's right to make laws and levy taxes
 - Standing armies could be raised only with Parliament's consent
 - Right of citizens to bear arms
 - Right to a jury trial



William and Mary Mary r.1689-94 and William r.1689-1702

- Required to accept the Bill of Rights in order to rule - which they did
- They are the only monarchs in
 British history to
 have reigned
 jointly



Bill of Rights

Main provisions:

- The King could not suspend the operation of laws.
- The King could not interfere with the ordinary course of justice.
- No taxes levied or standard army maintained in peacetime without Parliament's consent.
- Freedom of speech in Parliament.
- Sessions of Parliament would be held frequently.
- Subjects had the right of bail, petition, and freedom from excessive fines and cruel and unusual punishment.
- The monarch must be a Protestant.
- Freedom from arbitrary arrest.
- Censorship of the press was dropped.
- Religious toleration.