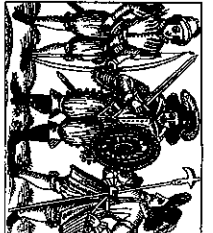


The English Civil War & The Glorious Revolution Name: _____

Changes in Government Civil War broke out in England around 1640. Men loyal to the king, mostly Catholics, were called Cavaliers. Against the king were the Roundheads, led by Oliver Cromwell. The Roundheads were mostly Puritans—people of the Protestant religion. They were fighting for the rights of Parliament. In 1649 Charles I was captured, tried, sentenced, and beheaded.



Charles I

England now became a commonwealth. From 1649 to 1658, England was ruled by Oliver Cromwell. England then had no king. The Commonwealth government of Oliver Cromwell became a military dictatorship. The people had few rights. Four years after Cromwell took over the government, he dismissed Parliament. Under the military dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell, the Puritans ruled England with a certain amount of cruelty. They seemed to have forgotten why they came to power in the first place. When Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, the majority of the English people were happy to see him go.

Oliver Cromwell's son, Richard Cromwell, took over his father's position. However, in 1659, the military forced Richard Cromwell out, so he went into exile for the next 20 years.

The Parliament met once again. Members of Parliament voted to ask the son of Charles I to become king. After accepting this offer, Charles II ruled from 1660 to 1685. These 25 years in England are known as the Restoration because the monarchy was restored or put back into place. In England, Charles II was not very popular, even though he tried very hard to be fair.

When Charles II died in 1685, his brother James II became king. James II became Catholic in 1669. He



Charles II

tried very hard to give Catholics and Protestants equal rights, but the English Protestants were against giving equal rights to Catholics. They did not want England to become a Catholic nation. Charles II

The Glorious Revolution

In 1688 members of Parliament voted to force James II to give up the throne. Parliament invited James' Protestant daughter, Mary, and her husband, William III of Orange, king of Holland, to become king and queen. James escaped to France, and William and Mary became the rulers of England and Scotland. This change in power was called the Glorious Revolution because it was bloodless. In other words, there was no fighting.

Before William and his wife Mary could be crowned, they had to agree that Parliament was the lawmaking body in England—not the king. They also had to agree to ask permission from Parliament to gather an army. William and Mary had to accept this and several other acts passed by Parliament that became known as the English Bill of Rights. In this way, some traditional powers of the monarchy were revoked. The Glorious Revolution was a great victory for parliamentary powers.



William III of Orange

The Revolution Settlement

King William and Queen Mary ruled until 1702. Under their reign, England had a constitutional monarchy. A constitutional monarchy means that the king and queen could no longer rule without consent from the Parliament. Since some members of Parliament were elected by the people, this gave the people a say in their government.



William and Mary

Finally, Parliament did two more things. First, it passed a law called the Toleration Act. The Toleration Act gave religious freedom and limited toleration to Puritans, Quakers, and other Protestants, but not to Catholics and Jews. It was an attempt to create an atmosphere of tolerance. Second, Parliament passed the Act of Settlement. This law said that Catholics could never become kings or queens of England. The English remembered their troubles from the Catholic Stuart kings and did not want to repeat them. So, during the 17th and 18th centuries, England passed from a government with an all-powerful king, also known as an absolute monarchy, to a government with a king who shared his powers with Parliament, known as a limited monarchy. Yet England continued to expand its empire and kept its position as a very strong world power.