



## The English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution

**Enduring Understanding:** The relationship between citizens and their government is a fundamental component of political rule. To understand the role of constitutions, the characteristics of shared powers, the protection of individual rights, and the promotion of the common good by government, you will be able to explain the effects of the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution on the power of the monarchy in England and on limited government.



## Standard 7-2.4: The English Civil War and Glorious Revolution

The **English Civil War** was a major struggle in England between the powers of the people, represented in the form of Parliament (English law-making body), and the monarch, King Charles I. This issue began in England in 1215 with the signing of the **Magna Carta** which was supposed to limit the powers of the monarch.

Parliament began making demands to King Charles I. Parliament wanted Charles I to allow them to begin making decisions on laws, which would limit the absolute power of the monarch. Parliament was challenging the idea that kings have divine right. These challenges were based on political, economic, and religious issues that had been going on since the reign of Charles' father, James I. Politically, Parliament wanted more input in the government, again trying to build on the foundations of the Magna Carta. Charles I, like his father, refused to let Parliament meet. In 1629, he physically locked them out of their meeting place at Westminster. They were locked out for eleven



Parliament was locked out of Westminster (above) by King Charles I during the Eleven Years Tyranny.

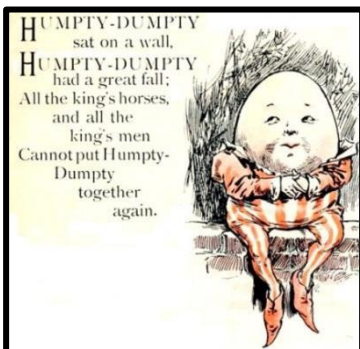


years. This was known as the **Eleven Years Tyranny**.

Economically, Parliament and Charles I argued over issues related to the practice of raising money by collecting taxes and allowing men to buy advancements in their social status. One example occurred when **John Hampden**, a member of Parliament, refused to pay a new tax called the "Ship Tax" because Parliament had not agreed on it. Although Hampden was put on trial and found guilty, he was seen as a symbol of defiance by standing up to the king's power.

### Section Review:

- 1) What did Parliament and King Charles I disagree upon?
- 2) How did Charles I respond to Parliament's challenge to the divine right theory and interest in having more input in the government?
- 3) How did John Hampden defy King Charles I's unlimited rule?



In 1642, as tensions between Parliament and Charles I continued to escalate, King Charles sent soldiers to arrest five members of Parliament that he considered to be his biggest critics. Because Parliament represented the people of England, this action by Charles I was seen as an attack on the people. **Civil war** (war between two groups of people within the same country) broke out in 1642 in England between the supporters of Charles I, the **Royalists**, and the supporters of Parliament. The supporters of Parliament soon fell under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell and his "**New Model Army**."

The New Model Army was able to claim major victories over the Royalists. In 1646 Charles I surrendered, but in 1647 he escaped, and the next year the civil war resumed with the Royalists being quickly defeated again. In 1649 Charles I was put on trial for charges of abuses of power against Parliament and the people. He was found guilty and was beheaded.

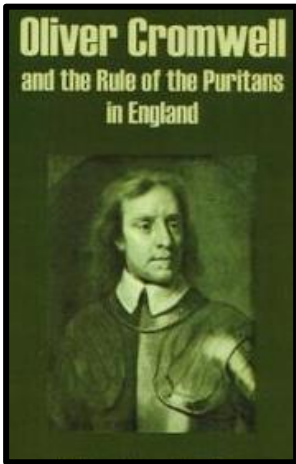
The English Civil War was another major event that challenged absolute monarchs. This served as foreshadowing of John Locke's idea that a government or ruler's abuse of power should lead to its overthrow.

**Section Review:**

4) Why was the arrest of five Parliament members seen as an attack on the people?

5) Who supported Charles I? Who supported Oliver Cromwell?

6) How did the English Civil War finally come to an end and what did its end symbolize?



After the English Civil War, England's government was in a state of transition. For the first time in many years England had no king. Oliver Cromwell, who led the "New Model Army" during the English Civil War, became "**Lord Protector**" of England. A Lord Protector is a non-royal ruler. The time period in which England was ruled by a Lord Protector instead of a monarch is known as the "**Protectorate Period**". After Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, his son Richard took over as Lord Protector. Unlike his father, Richard Cromwell was a weak leader, and after eight months he resigned. As the political situation in England became unstable, Charles II was invited to retake the throne in 1660. This period was called the **Restoration** because the monarchy was restored to power. After Charles II died in 1685, his brother James II took the throne.



King Charles II

**Section Review:**

7) What was the Protectorate Period?

8) What happened during the Restoration?



James II was Catholic; which caused Protestant leaders to fear that he would return England to a Catholic nation after over a century and a half of being Protestant. The establishment of the Church of England in 1535 had proven to be a traumatic event for much of England and the situation did not want to be revisited. These Protestant leaders of Parliament turned to William of Orange for help and asked him to take the throne of England. He was Protestant and also married to Mary, the oldest daughter of James II. William agreed to Parliament's proposal to be king and came to England with an army in 1688. However, there was no

fighting because James II fled to France. William and Mary took the throne that her father abdicated (gave up) in a bloodless revolt known as the **Glorious Revolution**. Parliament had prearranged with William and Mary that they would agree to some limits on their power. These limits on the monarch were written in the English Bill of Rights that William and Mary signed in 1689.



**The English Bill of Rights** required the monarch to share power by allowing Parliament to make laws. It also assured the protection of individual rights for the people. The signing of the English Bill of Rights made England a **constitutional monarchy**, which is a type of limited government.

The English Bill of Rights laid the foundation for future limited governments to be created worldwide. The events that occurred in England were also inspirational to the Enlightenment philosophers like John Locke and helped to foster new beliefs about how government should be structured.

**Section Review:**

**9) Why would Parliament not want a Catholic monarch?**

**10) Who came to power during the Glorious Revolution?**

**11) How did the government in England change after the Glorious Revolution?**

## Sources

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**Cover Image 2:** Engraving by H. Bourne from the fresco by Edward Matthew Ward in the new Houses of Parliament, painted circa 1860. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images) <<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/books/2013/05/the-glorious-revolution-and-small-c-conservatism/>>

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