

The Great Revolution of England



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“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

Who Said It: Steve Jobs

The Great Revolution in England

- The Glorious Revolution in England, one of the earliest revolutions of modern times, took place in 1688.
- It is also known as the Bloodless Revolution, the Puritan Revolution, and the Palace Revolution.
- The term "Great Revolution" was first used by John Hampden in 1689.
- The parliamentary system in England was not an idea put forward by anyone.
- Parliament developed naturally from the daily political needs of the English king and his government.
- The term "Parliament" was first used for the English "Great Council" in 1236 during the reign of Henry III.

Magna Carta

- On June 15, 1215, King John of the Plantagenet dynasty signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede Field in England.
- The Magna Carta is one of the earliest documents to contain references to the law of habeas corpus.
- The Magna Carta stated that the king had no power to raise taxes without the consent of the Common Council.

Hundred Years' War

- The Hundred Years' War was a war between England and France that lasted from 1337 to 1453.
- At the beginning of this war, England was ruled by King Edward III.
- The war was the result of disputes over English territories in France and the succession to the French throne, and ultimately ended in a French victory.

- Joan of Arc was a young woman who came forward to defend the city of Orleans in France during the Hundred Years' War.
- Joan of Arc is known as the Maid of Orleans.
- A middle class emerged in England between the 17th and 19th centuries as a result of England's advances in commerce, industrialization, and urbanization.
- The British Parliament sided with the middle class and passed laws that were favorable to them.



Tudor dynasty

- The Tudor dynasty (1485–1603) was a dynasty that ruled England from the late 15th century.
- Henry VII began the Tudor reign.
- The Tudor rulers, who controlled the powers of the feudal lords, ruled in collaboration with Parliament.
- Queen Elizabeth is the last ruler of the Tudor dynasty.

Anglican Church

- Also known as the Church of England.
- It was Henry VIII who took steps to establish an independent church in England.
- As part of the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church was questioned and separated from the control of the Pope in Rome.
- Although it separated from the Roman Catholic Church, it retained many traditional aspects of governance, liturgy, and customs.

- The Protestant Church in England was established during the reign of Edward VI (1547–1553), son of Henry VIII.
- A special prayer book was prepared (1549) and it was recommended that it be used in all churches for worship.
- The Church of England became fully Protestant through reforms such as the use of English in worship and the removal of Catholic customs.
- During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), the Elizabethan Religious Settlement was established, based on Henry's Prayer Book.
- It was a moderate Protestant church that stood between Catholicism and radical Protestantism. It became the official religion of England.
- The British monarch was the head of the Anglican Church.
- Those who are not members of the Anglican Church cannot inherit the throne of England.

Puritan Church

- The Puritans were followers of the Protestant reformer John Calvin in England.
- Puritanism was a reform movement within the Church of England.
- He attempted to "purify" the Church of England by abandoning the remaining Roman Catholic customs and ceremonies.
- The Puritans' most important demand was to remove the British king from his position as head of the Anglican Church.
- The Puritans, who gained power after Queen Elizabeth, exerted a strong influence on the British Parliament.
- The Puritan Church supported the positions of Parliament and the middle classes in England.

Stuart dynasty

- The Stuart dynasty was the dynasty that ruled after the Tudor dynasty.
- The Stuart dynasty ruled from 1603 to 1714.
- James I (James VI of Scotland) was the first ruler of the Stuart dynasty.
- He was invited by Parliament to become joint ruler of Scotland and England.
- It was James I who said, "No Bishop, No King."
- He is also known as the wisest fool in the Christian world.
- The Stuart kings believed that royal powers were God-given, and they did not have a good relationship with Parliament.
- The Stuart kings were proponents of feudal ideas.
- Parliament protected the interests of the middle class.
- The Stuart kings ruled without regard for Parliament and attempted to dominate it.
- The Anglican Church and the Puritan Church in England took sides in the dispute between the king and Parliament.
- The Anglican Church sided with the Stuart kings, and the Puritan Church supported Parliament.

Charles I

- Following the death of James I in 1625, his son Charles I ascended to power as the new ruler.
- He also continued his father's steps.
- During his term, a war with Spain began.
- He summoned Parliament in 1628 to obtain financial support for this war.

Petition of Right

- The king was forced to sign a treaty at the insistence of Parliament.
- Thus, on June 7, 1628, the British King Charles I signed the Petition of Right, a treaty that restricted the king's arbitrary powers.
- The king, who had obtained financial support from Parliament, later violated this agreement and dissolved Parliament.
- After dissolving Parliament, Charles I continued to rule as an autocrat for eleven years (1629–1640).
- This period is known as the 11 years of tyranny.

Long Parliament

- However, the war with Scotland required money and Charles I summoned Parliament again in 1640 to approve new taxation measures to raise money.
- The members of Parliament did not allow this Parliament to be dissolved, and this Parliament continued until 1660.
- This parliament is known as the Long Parliament.
- This parliament also enacted many laws against the king's rule.

Civil War in England 1642

- Over time, relations between the king and parliament deteriorated, leading to a civil war in England in 1642.
- The war was between Charles I and Parliament.
- The New Model Army is the military unit formed to assist Parliament in this war.
- Oliver Cromwell is the founder of the New Model Army.
- In this battle, the Parliamentarian faction defeated the King's army and won.
- After this, the government led by Oliver Cromwell came to power.
- On January 30, 1649, Charles I was tried and executed.

Rump Parliament

- On 6 December 1648, during the trial of Charles I, soldiers led by Colonel Thomas Pride prevented members of Parliament hostile to the New Model Army from entering the House of Commons in England - Pride's Purge.
- The remaining section of Parliament is known as the Rump Parliament or Remnant Parliament.
- This parliament lasted from 1648 to 1653.

Cromwell's reign

- Oliver Cromwell's reign, which lasted from 1649 to 1658, was a period of military dictatorship.
- He established dominance over Parliament.
- The Protectorate was a system of government designed by Cromwell to govern England.
- Cromwell became its ruler and became known as the Lord Protector.
- In 1653, Oliver Cromwell dissolved the Rump Parliament.
- In July 1653, Cromwell established a nominated assembly in place of the Rump Parliament, known as the Barebones Parliament.
- The people did not accept Cromwell's rule and wanted to restore the monarchy.
- They conveyed this demand to Cromwell, who rejected it.
- After Cromwell's death in 1658, Parliament appointed Charles II, son of Charles I, as ruler of England.
- Charles II restored the monarchy in England.
- He worked in harmony with Parliament.
- His reign lasted from 1660 to 1685.
- The period from 1649 to 1660 is known as the Commonwealth period.

Green Ribbon Club

- The Green Ribbon Club (1674 - 1683), a political club in London, was founded during the reign of Charles II.
- The name comes from the green ribbons on the hats worn by members of the club.
- The club's original name was the King's Head Club, which was renamed in 1679.

To the great revolution

James II

- In 1685, Charles II was succeeded by his brother, James II.
- The Great Revolution in England took place during his reign.
- James II took arbitrary measures and entered into conflict with Parliament.
- He was a devout Catholic, who supported freedom of worship for Catholics and appointed Catholic officers to the military and government.
- In 1687, the king formally dissolved his parliament and attempted to create a new parliament that supported him.
- Parliament considered ways to remove James II.
- Parliament invited Mary, daughter of James II's first wife, and her husband, William of Orange, to England.
- They came to England from Holland with a large army.
- Upon learning of this, James II, without a fight, took everything he could get his hands on and sought refuge in France in 1688.
- Parliament then declared James II's daughter Mary and her husband William as the new rulers.

Bill of Rights 1689

- The Bill of Rights was a law enacted by Parliament after the Revolution, placing restrictions on the monarchy.
- The new king and queen signed this bill.
- The document recognized several constitutional principles, including the right to parliaments, free elections, and freedom of speech in parliament.
- It was after this Act that freedom of religion and freedom of speech were allowed in England.
- This bill also prohibited the monarchy from being part of the Catholic Church.
- But the rule that only Anglicans could become heirs to the crown remained.
- With this, the feudal system in England weakened and royal power came under the control of Parliament.

Important Sources used

- NCERT Standard 10
- NCERT Standard 11- Themes 6&7
- History of the Modern World by B.V. Rao:

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. The Glorious Revolution took place in the year:

- A) 1649
- B) 1660
- C) 1688
- D) 1707

Answer: C

2. Consider the following statements about James II:

1. He belonged to the Stuart dynasty.
2. He was a Catholic ruler.
3. He escaped to France during the revolution.
4. He was restored to the throne after five years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A) 1, 2, 3 only
- B) 1 and 4 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

3. Consider the following statements about the Bill of Rights (1689):

1. It limited the powers of the monarchy.
2. It established Parliamentary supremacy.
3. It allowed the king to levy taxes without Parliament.
4. It laid the foundation of constitutional monarchy.

Correct statements:

- A) 1, 2, 4 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

4. The Glorious Revolution is associated with which country?

- A) France
- B) England
- C) Russia
- D) America

Answer: B

5. Consider the following about the Stuart Dynasty:

1. James I was the first Stuart king of England.
2. The dynasty ended with Mary II.
3. Charles I belonged to this dynasty.
4. The Glorious Revolution removed the last ruling Stuart king.

Correct statements:

- A) 1, 3, 4 only
- B) 1, 2 only
- C) 2, 4 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

6. Consider the following statements about the nature of the Glorious Revolution:

1. It was mostly peaceful.
2. It is considered a political revolution.
3. It resulted in the establishment of a republic.
4. It strengthened Parliamentary democracy.

Correct statements:

- A) 1, 2, 4 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

7. Who discovered the sea route to India?

- A) Columbus
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) Magellan
- D) Cabral

Answer: B

8. Consider the following regarding effects of the revolution:

1. Parliamentary supremacy was confirmed.
2. The monarch became answerable to Parliament.
3. Protestant succession was ensured.
4. Divine Right Theory became stronger.

Correct statements:

- A) 1, 2, 3 only
- B) 2 and 4 only
- C) 1 and 4 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

9. Consider the following statements about Mary II:

1. She was the daughter of James II.
2. She was a Protestant.
3. She ruled independently after William III's death.
4. She became queen as part of the Glorious Revolution.

Correct statements:

- A) 1, 2, 4 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 4 only
- D) All are correct

Answer: A

10. The king removed from the throne during the Glorious Revolution was:

- A) Charles I**
- B) Charles II**
- C) James II**
- D) William III**

Answer: C