

About 50 years before Queen Elizabeth became queen, the Christian Church split into 2 groups: Catholics and Protestants. The king of England, Henry VIII, chose to be Protestant. He created the Church of England in 1535, but kept many Catholic customs in his new church, which many Protestants did not like. This would be a problem 100 years later.



After Queen Elizabeth died in 1603, her cousin became the new king because Elizabeth had no children. His name was James Stuart and he was already the king of Scotland, which is north of England.



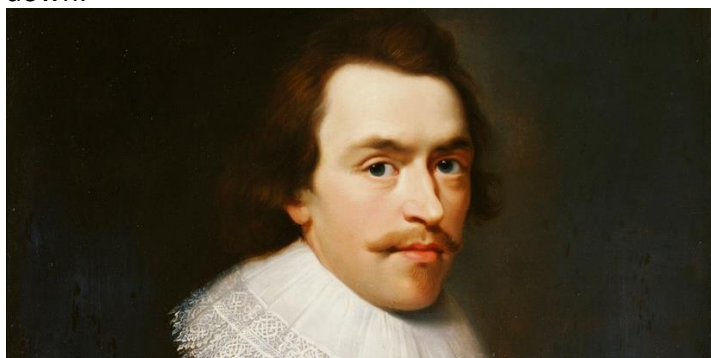
Queen Elizabeth



King James I

King James had to deal with the debt created by Queen Elizabeth and he had to deal with a very strict group of Protestants in Parliament. These Protestants were called Puritans and they wanted all Catholic customs taken out of the Church of England. James did not do what they wanted, which made the Puritans mad.

King James died in 1625 and his son, Charles I, became the new king. Charles needed money because England was fighting wars with Spain and France. Parliament would not give him the money he wanted, so Charles made Parliament close down.



Charles I

In 1628, Charles tried to get money from Parliament again. This time, Parliament told Charles that the only way he was going to get money is if he signed a **document** that would take more power away from the king. It was called the Petition of Right. It had 4 main ideas that the king agreed to:

1. The king could not put people in jail unless there was a good reason.
2. The king could no tax the people unless Parliament voted for the taxes.
3. The people of England did not have to house soldiers.
4. Martial law could not happen during times of peace.



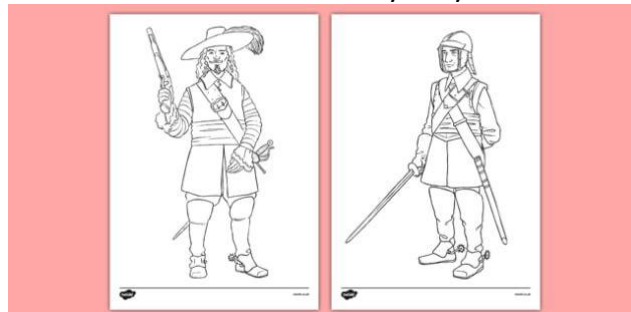
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The king needed the money so he signed the Petition of Right. But as soon as he signed it, he **ignored** it. Charles also closed down Parliament again in 1629. To get the money he needed to fight the wars, Charles made up lots of taxes and forced the people of England to pay. This made the people angry.

Many people were also mad about how Charles handled religious matters. Like his father, James I, Charles did not take the Catholic customs out of the Church of England, thus angering the Puritans. In 1637, he made another group of Protestants in Scotland called Presbyterians angry by trying to force them to **accept** a book of prayers they did not want. These Presbyterians were so mad that they made an army and said they were going to attack England. Charles, again, needed money to stop this new threat. Parliament saw this as a chance to control the king.

Parliament started passing laws to take away more power from the king. Charles was so mad that he tried to arrest members of Parliament, but they ran away before he could. At the same time, thousands of people in London hated Charles, so Charles had to run away.

Supporters of Parliament made an army. Supporters of Charles also made an army. These armies fought the English Civil War from 1642 to 1649. The army of the king was called the Cavaliers. The army of the Puritans of Parliament was called the Roundheads because of the way they wore their hair.



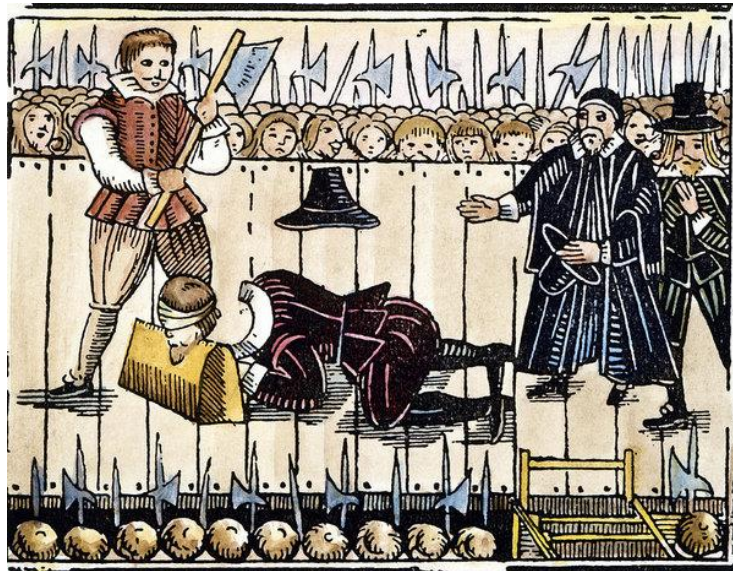
Cavaliers & Roundheads

No one side was winning the war for the first few years. But then the Roundheads found a general that would lead them to victory. His name was Oliver Cromwell. By 1647, Cromwell's Roundhead army had one many battles and captured King Charles I.



Oliver Cromwell

In 1649, Cromwell and the Puritans put Charles on trial for being a traitor of England. Charles was found guilty with a **punishment** of death. Charles I was **executed** in public. This was the first time in European history that a king was executed in public.



Execution of Charles I

Cromwell took control of England. He made being a king against the law. He wanted to make England a republic with elected officials (like the United States), but Cromwell never liked the rules him and his advisers were coming up with. So, Cromwell became a military **dictator**.

As dictator, Cromwell turned England into a Puritan society. He made things like the theater, dancing, and sports **illegal**. Many types of Christianity were ok, except for being Catholic. Many people in England did not like Cromwell.

In 1659, Cromwell died. His government **collapsed**. Parliament was brought back. Parliament decided to bring back the king. They asked Charles I's son, Charles II, to be king. This event was called the Restoration, because the king had been restored, or brought back to the throne.



The Restoration, 1659

During the time of Charles II, many important laws were passed by Parliament. The most important law was called habeas corpus. This law said that people arrested and accused of crimes must be allowed to see a judge. The judge would decide if the prisoner should go to trial or should be set free. Habeas corpus also said that a person could not be held in jail forever without seeing a judge, nor could the king put anyone in jail just because he felt like it. The United States copied this law 100 years later in the Constitution.

In 1685, Charles II died. Like Queen Elizabeth, he had no children. His brother James II became the new king. The problem was James was a Catholic. James put **several** other Catholics into positions of power, which was against the law. He also had a son, who was Catholic and in line to be the next king. These two things made Parliament angry, but James II closed down Parliament.



James II, 1685

Members of Parliament had a plan to get rid of James II. They were afraid of going through the same thing they went through with Charles I. Some members of Parliament sent message to the daughter of James II, Mary, who was married to William of Orange, a prince of the Netherlands. They were both Protestant. The message asked William to bring his army to England and take the throne from James II. William obliged.

In 1688, William of Orange led his army to London. James II, realizing he did not have the support he needed to win a war, ran away. William and Mary took the throne without anyone dying. This event was called the Glorious Revolution.



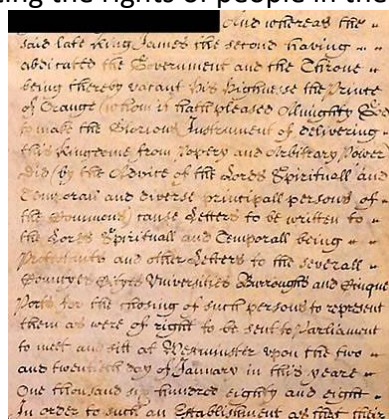
William and Mary, The Glorious Revolution, 1688

King William and Queen Mary made the promise to rule England with Parliament. They would be equal parts of English government. This was a big step toward the way modern day democracies work with equal branches of government.

In 1689, William and Parliament agreed on a Bill of Rights for England's government and people. This document said:

- The king could not close down Parliament when he wanted to
- The king could not make taxes without Parliament
- Parliament had freedom of speech
- The people of England could complain about the king and the country

The United States copied this idea of listing the rights of people in the Constitution.



English Bill of Rights, 1689