

The English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution, Introduction

During the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia all had monarchs that held all the power in their nations. In other words, they were truly Absolute Monarchs. For example, Louis XIV of France, Frederick the Great of Prussia, Maria Theresa of Austria, and Peter the Great of Russia shared power with no one.

England, on the other hand, was a constitutional monarchy and had been for some time. A constitutional monarchy is a nation that has a king or a queen, but the king or queen shares their power with a legislative part of government, which includes many members from various parts of the nation. The legislative part of government makes laws that even the monarch must follow. In England, the legislative body was and is called Parliament.

In the 1500s, Queen Elizabeth I and Parliament were always arguing over how money was to be spent. Parliament thought the queen was spending far too much money on wars and extravagance, while Queen Elizabeth felt it was her right as queen to spend money as she saw fit.

When Queen Elizabeth died in 1603 she left England in considerable debt. She also left England with no heir to the throne, as she had no children. The next few decades were chaotic as the kings of England struggled with Parliament for power that culminated in a bloody civil war.

Please read the file entitled, "Parliament Limits the English Monarchy" or follow the link provided. As you read, answer the questions from the file called, "Civil War.Questions" on a separate file and send it to my email.