

The English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution, Introduction ESL

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 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 was different. England 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 included many member from around the nation. The legislative part of government ***makes laws*** that even the monarch must follow. In England, the law makers were and are 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 making England beautiful, while Queen Elizabeth felt it was her right as queen to spend money as she wanted.

When Queen Elizabeth died in 1603 she left England owing lots of money. She also left England with no king because she had no children. The next few years were crazy as the kings of England struggled with Parliament for power that ended in a bloody civil **war**.

You will read about the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution in the file called, "English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution."