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The Glorious Revolution in England

As we are learning about the French Revolution, we should learn about what happened in England. To recap where we last left off, in 1559, **King Henry VIII** had founded the **Church of England** so he could divorce Katherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn (whom he later beheads) and have son. Many English people became **Protestant.** After Henry’s six wives and the short, terrible rule of Bloody Mary, Queen **Elizabeth I** ascended the throne and ruled for 44 wonderful years of religious tolerance, great literature (Shakespeare), exploring the New World, and military victories.

England’s revolution was less violent and made sure that the **monarchy’s power was limited**, because the monarch always has to share power with Parliament. After Queen Elizabeth I, who never married or had children, her cousin became King James I. He was an acceptable king, but the throne passed to his son, Charles I. And **King Charles I** was awful. Charles was spending a lot of money and seemed to want England to be Catholic again.

**Parliament** tried to stop the king or at least slow him down, which it had the power to do. Parliament is an elected legislature and makes laws for Great Britain. It is comprised of two houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. If you were born as a nobleman, you inherited your seat in the House of Lords, but the people elect members to serve in the House of Commons. Parliament began in 1066 and had created the first bill of rights for noblemen, called the **Magna Carta** in 1205.

So in 1629, King Charles I *dissolved* Parliament; Charles ruled for the next eleven years as his “personal rule.” Finally, Charles I decided he needed money to fight Scotland, who invaded England and for other things, he called together “the Long Parliament”. However, Parliament would not listen to the King and refused to give him any money. So in 1642, the King got his soldiers together to fight soldiers who were loyal to Parliament, which started the **English Civil War,** a conflict which killed about 200,000 people**.** The Parliamentarians, led by **Oliver Cromwell**, joined with Scotland and beat the Royalists on the battlefields. The King surrendered. Cromwell kicked everyone out of Parliament who disagreed with him about religion, created a small Parliament, known as the Rump Parliament (which I think is funny because rump means butt). Cromwell and the Rump Parliament had Charles I executed, which shocked everyone, and Oliver Cromwell declared himself “Lord Protector” of Great Britain. Cromwell was a religious Puritan and banned all forms of fun: theater, cake, parties, etc. Cromwell died from a kidney infection and in 1660, **King Charles II**, Charles I’s son who was living in exile, took the throne, an event called **the Restoration**.

King Charles II was a popular king, known as the Merry Monarch, because of his fantastic parties, literature and plays written during his reign, and many mistresses. He wore some really epic wigs and outfits (Google him). Charles II had twelve illegitimate children, but none with his wife, so after Charles’ death; his brother King James II ascended the throne.

**King** **James II** was popular at first. However, the British people were furious that he did something *truly shocking and horrible*: his wife gave birth to a son! The problem was that James and his second wife, Mary of Modena (who was fifteen years old and James was forty. Gross.) were both Catholic and had a Catholic baby boy, which could lead to all the future kings of England being Catholic! The British people, who are Protestant, (remember Henry VIII?) could not imagine anything worse.

As a result of this Catholic baby, the British people had an almost bloodless revolution, known as the **Glorious Revolution**. First, Mary, James II’s Protestant daughter from his first marriage, married a Protestant, Dutch prince, William of Orange. William and Mary sailed to England with an army, but as soon as they land, James II’s army threw down their weapons (maybe there’s hugging?) and joined the other side. King James II lost his nerve, fled England, and **William and Mary** become king and queen. Because Parliament was *offering* the throne to William and Mary, they wanted the new king and queen to agree that their **power was limited** and to respect the natural rights of Englishmen and the role of Parliament. Hence, the Parliament confirmed the English **Bill of Rights** in 1689. Some of the rights included in the Bill of Rights are: freedom of speech, free elections, fair trials, banning overly harsh punishment, and affirming the power of Parliament to make laws and levy taxes. Thomas Jefferson borrowed very heavily from the English Bill of Right for the American Bill of Rights.

I would like to point out that while all of this is happening, the British are doing some pretty terrible stuff and making money at it. The African slave trade, which the British are running, is enslaving and killing millions of people in Caribbean. The British are starting to take over India. They are stealing land from Native Americans and killing them through warfare and disease in the Thirteen Colonies and Canada. And no woman, except the queen, has full rights anywhere. But, the British are inventing the forms of government we now use. Plus, they invented the corporations and central banks, which are the basis of our modern economy.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Great Britain change from a Catholic to a Protestant country?
2. Who was queen during Shakespeare’s time?
3. What document is the first list of rights, written in 1205? Did anyone name his or her album after it?
4. What is Parliament? Name its two houses. What’s our American equivalent called?
5. Name three terrible actions taken by King Charles I.
6. Who were the two sides of the English Civil War?
7. Who won? What title did he give himself?
8. What is the Restoration?
9. List two things about King Charles II.
10. What did King James II do that angered the British so much? Explain why the baby is a big deal.
11. What change in power happened as result of the Glorious Revolution? Who wins and who loses?
12. Who really runs England? The Parliament or the king and queen?
13. What is the Bill of Rights? What are some of the rights listed?
14. To whom are the British not extending those rights?
15. Do any of these ideas still influence us, in New York, today? How?

15. What was a major effect of the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights on Great Britain?

(A) The power of the monarch was limited.

(B) Ireland revolted against the monarchy.

(C) Parliament was abolished.

(D) A renewed interest in Greek and Roman culture developed.

16. The Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights led the English government to develop a political system in which

(A) Rulers were responsible to the people

(B) Religious authorities controlled the lawmaking process

(C) The power of the monarch came from God

(D) The individual was denied a trial by jury

17. The English Bill of Rights and the political philosophy of John Locke both support the idea of a

(A) coalition government (B) fascist dictatorship

(C) Marxist dictatorship (D) limited government

18. The Puritan Revolution and the Glorious Revolution are both closely associated with the

(A) expansion of Papal authority in Rome

(B) beginning of the Reconquista in Spain

(C) calling of the Congress of Vienna

(D) rise of parliamentary democracy in England

19. Which document established the principle of limited monarchy in England?

 (A) Twelve Tables (B) Magna Carta

 (C) Act of Supremacy (D) Balfour Declaration

* *Parliament offered the throne to King William and Queen Mary.*
* *Catholic King James II fled England for France.*
* *Parliament agreed to joint rule with the monarch.*

20. These events are most closely associated with the

 (A) Crusades (B) French Revolution

 (C) Glorious Revolution (D) Reconquista

21. The signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 and the Glorious Revolution in 1688 were key events in English history because they resulted in

(A) creating alliances with France (B) defeating Protestant nobles

(C) limiting the power of the monarchy (D) annexing territory