



**Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves!**



Absolutism in England

During the Protestant Reformation the situation in England was different to that in Western Europe. Change came not from the religious reformers but from the king himself. It was Henry VIII's desire for a male heir to the throne that led him to break away from Rome.

Henry VIII 1491-1547



The Pope refused to annul (declare invalid) his marriage and take a new wife.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII

Catherine of Aragon: Married 1509-1533 – Divorced

Anne Boleyn: Married 1509-1533 – Executed

Jane Seymour: Married 1536-1537 – Died

Anne of Cleves: Married 1540 (January to July) – Divorced

Kathryn Howard: Married 1540-1542 – Executed

Katherine Parr: Married 1543-1547 - Widowed

In 1534 Henry pressured Parliament into passing the Act of Supremacy. The Act broke relations with Rome setting up a new Church of England (Anglican Church) with the king as the head. As a result, religious struggles lasted in England for several generations

Henry did die leaving two heirs to the throne of England, Edward VI and Elizabeth I.

Edward VI (12 October 1537 – 6 July 1553) became King of England and Ireland, on 28 January 1547, and was crowned on 20 February, at nine years of age. He also carried the English claim to the French throne, but he did not rule France. Edward, the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, was the third monarch of the Tudor dynasty and England's first born Protestant ruler. Edward's entire rule was mediated through a council of regency, as he never reached maturity.

Although Henry VIII had severed the link between the English church and Rome, it was during Edward's reign that Protestantism was fully established for the first time in England, with Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, implementing the *Book of Common Prayer*. Edward's reign was marked by increasingly harsh Protestant reforms, the loss of control of any part of Scotland, and an economic downturn. A period of social unrest begun earlier intensified during his rule, and conflicts with the French increased.

When it became clear that Edward's life was to be a short one, the *Device to Alter the Succession* was drafted. This made Lady Jane Grey, Edward's solidly Protestant cousin, the first in line of succession to the throne by excluding his two half sisters, the devout Catholic Mary and moderate Protestant Elizabeth. Following Edward's death at the age of fifteen, a disputed succession reopened the religious conflicts. Lady Jane was Queen for only nine days, during that time reigning in name only, before she was replaced by Mary. Queen Mary then sought to undo many of Edward's Protestant reforms with the *Marian Repeal Acts* in her first two Parliaments.

Queen Elizabeth I

The Tudor kings Henry VII and Henry VIII were skillful manipulators of Parliament, but Elizabeth I was probably the most adept. For fear of losing her power or making compromises between the monarchy and the government, she did not call Parliament into session.

Elizabeth I 1558-1603



During the reign of Elizabeth England's nationalism grew. It becomes known as the **Elizabethan Age**. She strengthened the Royal Navy and encouraged commercial development of trade. She supported "**Sea Dogs**" such as Sir Francis Drake and other privateers. The Sea-Dog's raids on Spain's treasure-filled ships from the New World made her wealthy. She encouraged people such as Sir Walter Raleigh to create Joint Stock Companies.

Elizabeth I was very skillful in war and diplomacy. She became popular with the people of England when she sent British forces to fight on the Protestant's side in France's Wars of Religion and in the revolt of the Dutch against Spanish rule in 1568.

Elizabeth's greatest achievement came in defeating the **Spanish Armada** of King Philip II of Spain. Ironically he was the husband of her half sister Queen Mary I "Bloody Mary" – known for her execution of Protestants. The British Navy sunk many of the 130 ships of Spain and those remaining were either lost in a storm or shipwrecked.

After building a strong monarchy, Elizabeth I left no heirs when she died in 1603. Her cousins, the Stuart's of Scotland, inherited England's throne. King James I ascended the throne recognizing Parliament's power, However, James soon began to declare his idea of divine right of monarchy. Conflicts with parliament over money were frequent. He upset the House of Commons over religious issues. James was a Scots Presbyterian (a sect of Calvinism) however he rejected requests from the Puritans (a similar sect) about further reform within the Church of England. James I signed a peace treaty with Spain in 1604, making Parliament suspicious that he was pro-Catholic. His advisors constantly clashed with Parliament on financial matters.

Parliament's struggles with the Stuart monarchs came to a head under James's son, Charles I. The friction between the English monarchs and nobles, middle-class townspople, and commoners had a long history.

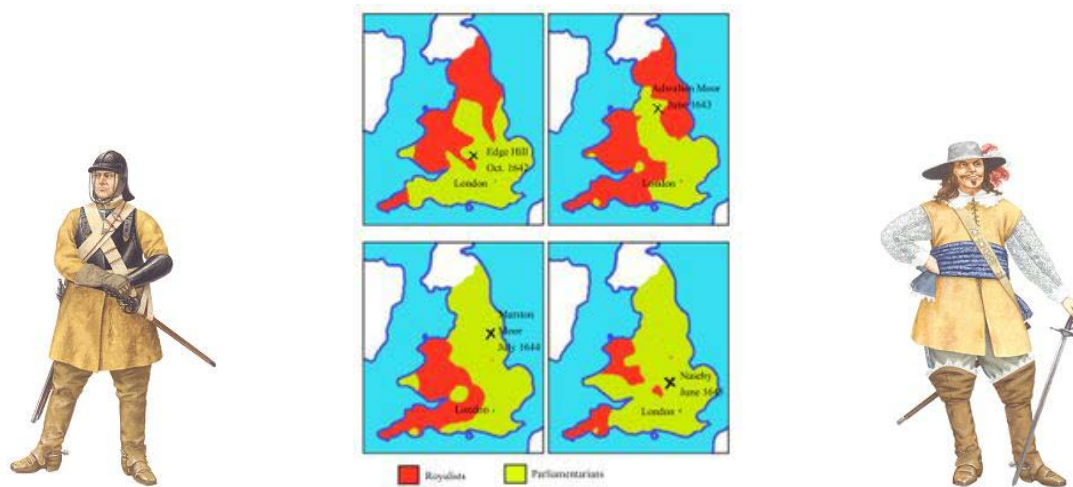
Charles I (1625-1649)



Charles I tried to rule without Parliament and viciously persecuted his enemies, especially the Puritans and the Scots. By 1640 Charles faced a war against Scotland and Ireland. He called the Puritan-controlled Parliament into session to raise money for the war. Charles rejected Parliament's "**Nineteen Propositions**" limiting royal power and in 1642 Civil War broke out in England. The Puritan Commander was Oliver Cromwell who defeated King Charles's forces in 1646. The Puritans purged Parliament of Cavaliers and executed Charles in 1649. After the Puritans abolished the monarchy, Cromwell dismissed Parliament. A group of army officers drew up a constitution, setting up a commonwealth and naming Cromwell "**Lord Protector.**" Cromwell ruled as a dictator for seven (7) years, enforcing strict Puritan rules on social behavior. This was the only time in England's history that the country had a written constitution but did not have a king or queen.

The two sides of the **English Civil War (1642-1651)** were:-

The Roundheads – the Parliament's Puritans v. **The Cavaliers** – those loyal to the king



Roundhead

Royalist lands (1642-1645) Parliamentarian lands

Cavalier

Cromwell died in 1658 and in 1660 the English army overthrows his son Richard and reconvened Parliament. During the **Restoration** Charles II became the new king. Parliament settled religious toleration controversies and passed the **Habeas Corpus Act**. English society rebelled against the strict Puritan styles and embraced a flamboyant lifestyle.

Charles II died in 1685 and was followed by his Catholic brother, James II. He tried to run the country as an absolute monarch and reopened the Protestant v. Catholic issue. In 1688 there was the **Glorious Revolution** when Parliament deposed James II. Parliament then established its supremacy by inviting Protestant monarchs William and Mary of Orange to take the throne. Parliament required them to sign The Bill of Rights (1689). The bill secured Parliament's power over the crown and did not allow taxation without consent and broadened the due process rights.

Because of all of these confrontations England becomes a **constitutional monarchy** (a monarchy where the powers of the ruler are restricted to those granted under the constitution and laws of the nation). The principles of individual freedom, the rights of citizens and the removal of absolute monarchy laid the foundation for the concept of representative democracy in the modern world.

DOCUMENTS OF ENGLISH RIGHTS

Document	Ideas
MAGNA CARTA (1215)	English barons rebelled against King John's high taxes and military failures and forces him to sign the <i>Magna Carta</i> . It strengthened due process by requiring both a proper trial and lawful judgment in royal courts before levying a sentence
PETITION OF RIGHT (1628)	Charles I's extravagances and foreign wars required a Parliamentary session and a clash forced an important compromise. This <i>Petition of Right</i> restricted the monarch's power to collect taxes, quarter troops in private homes, declare martial law, and imprison individuals without just cause (habeas corpus concept) and insured jury trials.
HABEAS CORPUS ACT (1670)	During Charles II's reign, parliament settled religious toleration controversy and passed the <i>Habeas Corpus Act</i> – arrested individuals were guaranteed a statement of charges against them, opportunity for bail, and a speedy trial.
BILL OF RIGHTS (1689)	Under William and Mary, parliament forbade taxation without its consent, and broadened due process rights to include protection from cruel and unusual punishments and excessive bail and fines



Presentation of the Bill of Rights

