

Knowledge Map: To what extent has religion shaped the English monarchy? Part 3: English Civil War

Summary:	The English Civil War started because of arguments about religion, money, and who should be in charge. Some people were upset because King Charles I made decisions on his own, without asking Parliament. He also made people pay taxes and tried to change how people worshipped, which many didn't like. After the war, Oliver Cromwell, who was a very serious Puritan, became the leader and changed how people practiced their religion. When King Charles II came to power, he brought back the Church of England, but there were still some who disagreed. The topic ends with the Glorious Revolution, which made sure that the king or queen would be Protestant, and this was a big step in the history of the English monarchy.
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Key Terms

Bill of Rights	A document from 1689 that lists basic rights for people and limits the power of the king or queen.
Cavaliers	People who supported King Charles I during the English Civil War.
Civil War	A war between people from the same country.
Divine Right	The idea that a king or queen's power to rule comes directly from God, not from people or laws.
Interregnum	A time when there is no government. In England, it's the time between the rule of Charles I and Charles II.
Lord Protector	The title used by Oliver Cromwell, who was the leader of England after the English Civil War.
Puritan	Strict protestants who wanted to simplify the way people worshipped in the Church of England, removing practices linked to the Catholic Church.
Restoration	The period when the English Monarchy was brought back under Charles II
Revolution	A drastic change or overthrow of a government or way of life.
Roundheads	People who supported the English Parliament during the English Civil War
Ship Money	A tax on coastal towns to pay for the navy. Charles collected it without the consent of parliament to fund wars
Star Chamber	The private court of Charles I. They were known for their harsh and unfair trials, especially of the King's enemies
11 Years Tyranny	The time from 1629 to 1640 when King Charles I ruled England without Parliament.

Cause 1: Religion

Summary

When King Charles I married Henrietta Maria, a Catholic, many English Protestants felt uneasy, fearing a potential Catholic influence on the throne. The religious tension heightened under Archbishop William Laud's reign when he introduced reforms that many perceived as bringing the Church of England too close to Catholic practices. In an attempt to impose these reforms on Scotland, Charles initiated the Bishop Wars, which were both costly and unpopular, further fuelling discontent. Charles's belief in the divine right of kings, the notion that monarchs are directly appointed by God, challenged the religious and political ethos of many, especially the Puritans, some of whom were even imprisoned for their opposition.

Cause 2: Money

Summary

Ship money, a tax initially levied on coastal towns for the defense of the realm, was extended by Charles I to the interior counties, creating widespread resentment. Public funds were seen as misused by the king, who was accused of extravagance and financing wars without public consent. The king's practice of levying taxes without the consent of Parliament was seen as an infringement on the rights of subjects, causing considerable outcry.

Cause 3: Power

Summary

Charles picked favorites, such as the Duke of Buckingham, which led to accusations of partiality and corruption. His frequent use of the Star Chamber, a court that was seen as an instrument of royal oppression, added to public grievances. Dissolving Parliament multiple times, Charles ruled without it from 1629 to 1640, a period known as the Eleven Years' Tyranny. Parliament's demands for more influence and their opposition to his absolute rule were dismissed by Charles, triggering a power struggle that culminated in the English Civil War.

Interregnum

Summary

During the Interregnum, a time when there was no king or queen, Oliver Cromwell was in charge as Lord Protector. Cromwell, who followed the Puritan faith, made many changes to the Church to remove practices linked to the Catholic Church. This time saw theatres closing and no more festivals, showing the strict views of the Puritans. Cromwell's rule was marked by stern governance, as he effectively became a military dictator. In England, anyone who opposed his religious reforms was severely dealt with. His rule was particularly oppressive in Ireland, where he led a brutal campaign against Irish Catholics

Restoration

Summary

The Restoration was a time when the monarchy was brought back, starting with King Charles II. This marked a shift in religion, as the strict Puritan rules from Cromwell's time were relaxed and the Church of England, which mixed Protestant and Catholic practices, became important again. For Parliament, the Restoration was a big change, too. Even though the king was back, Parliament kept some of the power it had gained. This meant the king couldn't just do whatever he wanted anymore, as he needed Parliament's approval for many things, such as collecting taxes. This balance of power between the king and Parliament was a crucial change that came with the Restoration.

Glorious Revolution

Summary

The Glorious Revolution was a time when King James II was replaced by William III and Mary II. This was important for religion because William and Mary were Protestants, and their rule made sure that England wouldn't return to being a Catholic country. The Glorious Revolution also led to the Bill of Rights, a very important document. This said that the king or queen couldn't make decisions or laws without Parliament's approval, especially about taxes. The Bill of Rights also gave Protestants the freedom to carry arms for their defence. So, the Glorious Revolution and the Bill of Rights changed the power balance, giving the parliament more power over the monarchy