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The Rise of Parliamentary Democracy in England

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ENGLAND IN THE CIVIL WAR (1642)

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James I

- James Stuart (James VI of Scotland) inherited the English throne from his cousin, Elizabeth I, in 1603
 - Elizabeth I died without producing an heir
 - James VI of Scotland became James I of England
- Problems with Parliament
 - Fought over money
 - Fought over religion
 - Refused to make reforms to "purify" the English church of Catholic practices
 - All he agreed to was a new translation of the Bible (the "King James Version")

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Charles I

- Charles I inherited the throne from his father in 1625
 - Fought with Parliament over money
 - Needed funding for wars with France and Spain
 - Dissolved Parliament whenever he couldn't get his way
 - 1628 - recalled Parliament
 - In exchange for money, Charles I had to sign the **Petition of Right**
 - He signed it, then ignored it

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Petition of Right (1628)

- Parliament had Charles I sign it in exchange for funding
- **Petition of Right** guaranteed basic liberties
 - Only Parliament could levy taxes
 - No martial law during peacetime
 - *Habeas corpus* – prisoners could not be held indefinitely without trial; they had the right to go before a judge and hear charges
 - Soldiers could not be quartered (billeted) in private homes
- Charles I signed it, then ignored it
 - Attempted to rule as an absolute monarch
 - 1629 – Charles I dissolved Parliament
 - Set up fines and fees on the people
 - Increasingly unpopular

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Religious Problems

- Protestants wanted to get rid of what they saw as Catholic elements in the Church of England
- Charles I wanted to keep the Anglican (English) church as it was
 - Wanted to make the religion universal throughout England and Scotland
 - Introduced an Anglican prayer book to Scottish Presbyterians
 - Scots rebelled and threatened an invasion of England
 - Charles I had to recall Parliament yet again for funds for the defense of England

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Parliament Again in Session

- Fall, 1641 – Parliament attempted to limit royal power
- January, 1642 – Charles I tried to arrest the leaders of Parliament, but they got away
- Mob gathered outside of the palace
- Charles I fled to the north of England and raised an army

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English Civil War (1642-1651)

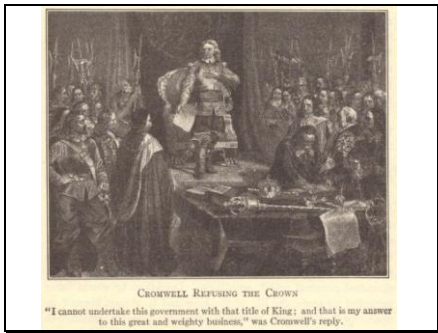
- Charles I's supporters - **Royalists (a.k.a. Cavaliers)**
- Parliament's supporters - **Puritans (a.k.a. Roundheads or Parliamentarians)**
 - Led by **Oliver Cromwell** and his **New Model Army**
 - 1647 - took Charles I prisoner
- 1649 - Charles I brought to trial and executed (beheaded) for treason against Parliament
 - Dramatic challenge to concept of absolute monarchy
 - Monarch was not "the state" because he/she was subject to the laws of the state
- Civil war (a.k.a. Puritan Revolution) was actually several separate civil wars
 - But all fought for essentially the same reasons, and by almost the same groups
 - Charles II (son of Charles I) defeated by Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army
 - Lived in exile in Europe until 1660

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Commonwealth (1649-1660)

- Historians give different dates for this period
 - Civil war (a.k.a. Puritan Revolution) waged (especially during the early years), with different groups struggling for control of Parliament
 - 1649-1660 - period during which the Stuarts were out of power in England
- Parliament was dismissed
- Cromwell established a republican government with a constitution written by John Lambert
 - But Cromwell ripped up the constitution
 - Cromwell became a dictator

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Cromwell and the Puritan Revolution

- Tried to create a **Puritan** society in England
 - Attempted to "purify" it by banning "sinful" activities
 - "Sinful" activities included dancing, sports, and theater
- Some religious toleration
 - Christians
 - Protestants were tolerated
 - Catholics were not tolerated
 - Jews
 - Had been expelled in 1290
 - Cromwell let them back into England

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Conquest of Ireland

- English had ruled and colonized Ireland for over 500 years
 - But Irish disliked and fought against foreign rule
 - Most Irish were Catholic and opposed to Protestant Puritan reforms
 - Cromwell was extremely anti-Catholic
- Irish rebelled against Cromwell
 - Cromwell's New Model Army landed in Ireland in 1649
 - Fighting was bitter and violent
 - Cromwell's forces forcibly evicted civilians and destroyed food supplies, sparking a large famine
- Act of Settlement (1652)
 - Cromwell's forces won
 - All land owned by Catholics who'd fought Cromwell was confiscated by Cromwell's government
 - Circa 12,000 soldiers were paid with confiscated Irish lands
 - The class of wealthy Catholic landowners was effectively destroyed in Ireland
 - Irish came to work as tenant farmers on their ancestral lands

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Restoration

- **Oliver Cromwell** died in 1658
 - His son, Richard Cromwell, briefly ruled after his death
- Parliament invited Charles I's son to be king
 - The period when the Stuart dynasty (under Charles II) was restored to power is known as the **Restoration**
- Reign of **Charles II** (1660-1685)
 - 1679 – Charles II agreed to right to writ of *habeas corpus* – "to have the body"
 - From earlier Petition of Right
 - Prisoner could demand to be brought before a judge to hear charges (could not be held indefinitely)

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Political Parties Develop


- Charles II died in 1685
 - He had no legitimate heir
- First **political parties** in Parliament debated who'd be heir to the throne
 - **Tories**
 - Supported Charles II's brother, James, who was a Catholic
 - **Whigs**
 - Did not want a Catholic monarch
- **James II** came to the throne in 1685 when his brother, Charles II, died

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Reign of James II (1685-1688)

- James II put Catholics in power (against English law)
 - He dissolved Parliament when it objected
- James II was married twice
 - First wife – Anne Hyde
 - Daughters Anne and Mary raised as Protestants
 - Mary married Prince William of Orange (part of the Netherlands)
 - Second wife – Mary of Modena – Catholic
 - Gave birth to son, James Francis Edward Stuart
 - A Catholic son threatened Protestant rule in England

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CHILDREN OF CHARLES I

Portrait by Van Dyck, in Windsor Castle. The three children are the Prince of Wales, later King Charles II; the Duke of York, afterwards King James II; and the Princess Mary, later mother of the Prince of Orange, King William III. Van Dyck, famed for elegance and refinement as an artist, was King Charles's court painter. He left many pictures of the royal family, which are among the great portraits of the world.

William III and Mary II were not only husband and wife, but first cousins. William III was the son of Mary, sister of Charles II and James II.

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Glorious Revolution

- Parliament was scared that Catholic monarchs would rule England
- Some members of Parliament offered the throne to James II's Protestant daughter, Mary, and her husband, William
- James II fled to France



House of Commons, Palace

This, the largest royal palace in Great Britain, was bought in 1691 by Cardinal Wolsey, who later presented it to Henry VIII. It stands on the bank of the Thames near London. It was occupied at various times by the French, Spanish, and William III. It no longer serves as a royal residence, but since this one of its best rooms are occupied by members and associates of the crown. Its galleries contain a fine collection of pictures, including portraits of the monarchs. "House of Commons," Index of the court of William and Mary.

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English Bill of Rights (1689)

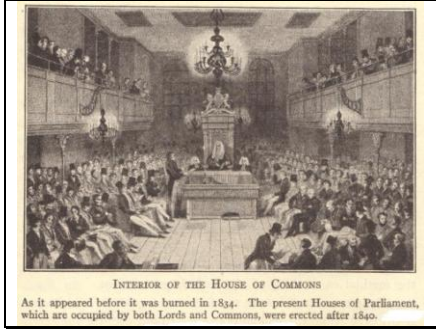
- England became a **constitutional monarchy**
 - Monarch's power limited by laws
 - William and Mary consented to these changes
- **English Bill of Rights**
 - No taxation without consent of Parliament
 - Monarch could not suspend the laws of Parliament
 - Freedom of speech for parliamentary debates
 - Citizens free to petition the monarch regarding grievances

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Cabinet System

- Dilemma
 - 1688 – no monarch could hold the throne without Parliament's consent
 - But Parliament needed the monarch's permission to rule
- 18th century (1700s)
 - Representatives of the majority party formed a **cabinet**
 - Cabinet worked closely with the monarch
 - Leader of the cabinet - **Prime Minister**
 - Prime minister and his/her cabinet are effectively the leaders of the British government today
 - Since the joint reign of William and Mary, the role of the monarch has weakened to the point of being only a ceremonial head of state

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Time Line of 17th-Century England

- 1603 James I (James VI of Scotland) inherited the English throne from his cousin, Elizabeth I.
- 1625 Charles I inherited the English throne from his father, James I.
- 1628 Charles I signed the Petition of Right.
- 1642 The English Civil War, also called the Puritan Revolution, began.
- 1649 Charles I was beheaded for treason.
- 1649 England was run as the Commonwealth, led primarily by Oliver Cromwell.
- 1660 The Restoration period began as Charles II (son of Charles I) was crowned king.
- 1685 James II inherited the throne from his brother, Charles II.
- 1688 James II fled England.
- 1689 William III and Mary II took the throne of England. They agreed to the English Bill of Rights.

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Review Questions

- How did the House of Stuart (the Stuart dynasty) come to power in England?
- Why did James I and Charles I have conflicts with Parliament?
- Describe the Puritan Revolution led by Oliver Cromwell.
- How and why was Ireland conquered and colonized under Cromwell's leadership?
- What was the Restoration?
- What events led up to James II losing the English throne?
- During the 17th century, many English people came to associate Protestantism with parliamentary democracy, and Catholicism with absolute monarchy. Do you agree with this way of thinking? Why or why not?
