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AUDIOVISUAL HISTORY LESSONS | FLIPPED LESSON

Historical Background

After the national unity of Elizabeth I's reign, the 17th century brought social and political unrest. The monarchy was overthrown and then restored after an interval of Puritan rule. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 introduced constitutional limitation of the power of the king. The 18th century was an age of political factions, for and against the Stuart dynasty, but also of political stability. Scientific and rational thought prevailed and religious feelings became less extreme. Britain's trading and colonial power grew steadily and by the end of the century the nation had expanded to an empire and ruled the seas.

CHARLES I AND THE CIVIL WAR

AUDIOVISUAL HISTORY LESSONS 3.1

The continuation of the struggle between Crown and Parliament 1625-1649

In 1625 James was succeeded by his son, Charles. **Charles I**, a firm believer in the Divine Right of Kings, came into conflict with his parliament, raising taxes without its consent and demanding absolute religious conformity to the Church of England. The king chose William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury. Laud imposed the liturgy of the Anglican 'High' Church, which the Puritans saw as close to Catholicism. Laud's persecution of the Puritans led thousands of them to emigrate to America. The building of a 'New England' across the ocean was one of the most important effects of Laud's persecution.



Personal rule 1628

Needing to raise money for a war with France, Charles I was obliged to summon Parliament again in 1628. Parliament agreed to grant money on the condition that he accepted the **Petition of Rights**, which stated that no man was to pay any tax without Parliament's approval and that no man was to be imprisoned arbitrarily. Discord between king and Parliament grew increasingly bitter and in 1629 Charles dissolved the assembly and ruled as a despot for 11 years.



The breaking down of personal rule 1640

In an attempt to impose the practices of the Church of England on the Scottish Presbyterians, Charles summoned Parliament in 1640 to raise taxes for a war with Scotland. This '**Short Parliament**' lasted for only one month but just six months later Charles was forced to summon Parliament again (**the Long Parliament**). The Long Parliament refused to grant funds and sought to reduce the king's power. The Parliamentarians passed an Act to the effect that they could not be dissolved without their own consent. Archbishop Laud was imprisoned and executed. The angry king's attempt to arrest four Parliamentarians failed and the king had to flee to the north of the country.

OLIVER CROMWELL AND THE COMMONWEALTH

The Civil War 1642-1649

War was now inevitable. Anglican members of the old aristocracy and the country landlords sided with the king's cause: they were called Royalists or Cavaliers. The Parliamentarians, also known as Roundheads, were mainly Puritans and were supported by the middle class, and by the towns and cities. The Parliamentarians, led by Oliver Cromwell, formed an army (Cromwell's New Model Army), known as Ironsides which eventually defeated the king's army at the decisive **Battles of Marston Moor** (1644) **and Naseby** (1645).

AUDIOVISUAL HISTORY LESSONS 3.2

1649-1669

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), a determined, fanatical Puritan, helped to organise the army when the Civil War broke out in 1642, and was deputy commander of the 'New Model Army' whose Roundheads decimated the Royalist troops.



After the execution of the king, England was proclaimed a **Commonwealth** (a Republic).

Until 1653 it was under the rule of the House of Commons. This body was known as the '**Rump Parliament**' as only supporters of the Republic were allowed to sit in the House of Commons. The Parliament formally abolished the Monarchy and the House of Lords.

The Protectorate 1653

After three years, the Rump Parliament had still not agreed to call a new Parliament. In April 1653, Cromwell and 40 musketeers closed it down.
In 1653 the army appointed Oliver Cromwell '**Lord Protector of the Realm**' with power to rule over England, Ireland and Scotland, although he rejected an invitation to become king. When another Royalist rising broke out in March 1655, Cromwell resorted to military rule and ran the country as a military dictatorship until 1657.

The end of Puritan rule

Cromwell was succeeded by his son Richard. Richard was an inept leader and abdicated eight months later. After Richard Cromwell's resignation, the Republic slowly fell apart. The Presbyterians, who had taken the lead on the parliamentary side in the Civil War, now favoured the restoration of the Stuarts, on condition that the king should not rule without Parliament.

1625 1628 1640 1642 1649 1650 1653

The execution of Charles I 1649

Charles was imprisoned but rejected the authority of the parliamentary court and refused to defend himself against the charges of treason. Finally Cromwell succeeded in having the judges sign a death-warrant, and on 29 january 1649 **the king was beheaded**, the only English monarch ever to be executed.



Royalist reaction - The Battle of Dunbar 1650

The execution of the king provoked a **Royalist reaction** in Ireland and Scotland. Cromwell's troops reacted swiftly and massacred the combined forces of Protestant and Catholic Royalists at Drogheda in Ireland (September 1649). In 1650 a Scottish royalist rebellion was brutally crushed at **the Battle of Dunbar** in Scotland (September 1650) and then at Worcester the following year.



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THE RESTORATION

AUDIOVISUAL HISTORY LESSONS 3.3

The return of the Stuarts
1660-1714

The restoration of **Charles II**, son of the executed king, was welcomed as it marked the end of an oppressive, Puritan era. One of Charles II's first acts was to exact grim revenge on the man responsible for his father's execution. On 30 January 1661, Cromwell's body was exhumed, ritually tried and found guilty of regicide. Cromwell's dead body was then subjected to a posthumous execution.



Plague and fire
1665

Charles II's reign saw London suffer two terrible events in short succession. In 1665 the **Great Plague** killed more than 100,000 Londoners. Many fled the capital to escape disease, while theatres and other forms of public entertainment were banked.

1666

The second was the **Great Fire** of London of 1666, which destroyed two thirds of the City of London. One of the architects who helped rebuild the new City was Christopher Wren, still remembered today for the construction of one of London's great landmarks, the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral, in 1675.



The Glorious Revolution
1689-1702

Two political parties dominated British politics: the radical, anti-Catholic Whigs, and the Tories, who were more favourable to the Stuarts. When Charles II died in 1685 with no legitimate heir, his brother, James, Duke of York, became king as **James II**. Although James was a Catholic, he was initially a popular king. However, when James' Catholic wife gave him a male heir in June 1688, the nation was alarmed that the successor to the throne would be another Catholic.

In November 1688, William of Orange, Protestant husband of James' daughter Mary Stuart, raised an army in Holland and landed in England. James II did not attempt to give battle but fled abroad. **William and Mary** were welcomed by the English and duly crowned king and queen of England in what is known as **the Glorious (Bloodless) Revolution**. William and Mary were offered the throne on condition that they signed the **Bill of Rights** (1689) which limited the king's power and established a parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy. During William's reign the **Toleration Act** (1689) gave Dissenters freedom of worship, and the **Act of Settlement** (1701) established that only Protestants could be heirs to the throne.

With the support of King Louis XIV, in 1689 James II brought an army to Ireland, hoping to fight his way back to power. James' army was defeated by William at the **Battle of the Boyne** in 1690. James fled to France and William proceeded to bring the whole of Ireland, a predominantly Catholic country, under Protestant control.

THE AUGUSTAN AGE

AUDIOVISUAL HISTORY LESSONS 3.4

George I
1714-1760

When Queen Anne died in 1714 the Whig politicians promptly enacted the Act of Settlement by having the Elector of Hanover proclaimed king **George I**. One very important constitutional effect of the Hanoverian succession was the creation of the position of **Prime Minister**. George I, who could speak no English, chose to deal with one minister who acted as a link between the Cabinet (the council of ministers) and the king. This gave him great power and authority. The first Prime Minister in the modern sense was **Sir Robert Walpole** (1676-1745).



The First Jacobite rising
1715

The major opposition to the Hanoverians came from the Jacobites, who first supported the restoration of James II's son James, and then of his grandson, Charles, to the throne. The first and unsuccessful Jacobite rebellion occurred in 1715.

CHARLES II (1660-1685) | MARY AND WILLIAM (1689-1702) | QUEEN ANNE (1702-1714) | GEORGE I (1714-1727) | GEORGE II (1727-1760)

1660 | 1665-66 | 1673 | 1689 | 1702 | 1714 | 1715 | 1727 | 1745

What was restored during the Restoration?
1673

The first Parliament of the reign, known as the Cavalier Parliament, consisted almost entirely of Royalists. The Cavalier Parliament was determined to restore both king and Parliament and to prevent the king from ever being able to set up an autocratic government. The Church of England was also re-established and under the **Test Act** of 1673 any man in public office had to take communion in the Protestant Church and recognise the king as the Head of the Church of England. All Catholics and Dissenters were excluded from public offices.



Queen Anne
1702-1714

William died childless in 1702 and Mary's sister **Anne** came to the throne. Within months of her accession the **War of Spanish Succession** broke out, fought to prevent Louis XIV from gaining control of the vast Spanish Empire on the death of its Spanish monarch. England, allied with Holland and Prussia against France, Spain and Portugal, won a series of military victories which strengthened its position when the war ended. With the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), Britain retained Gibraltar and Minorca, and gained the Hudson Bay Territory and the right to trade with the Spanish South American colonies. The foundations of a great colonial empire were laid.

During Anne's reign England and Scotland were united into the United Kingdom of Great Britain (1707). The **Act of Union** reinforced England's control over Scotland and prevented a return of the Stuarts. The Act of Settlement of 1701 had established that the crown would pass to the Protestant rulers of the German Principality of Hanover if Anne died without an heir.

George II and the wars abroad
1727-1760

Under George II's reign, Britain fought a series of **wars** on foreign soil all for colonies and trade. 'The War of Jenkin's Ear' (1739) against Spain won the right of British merchants to trade with the Spanish colonies. In the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48) the hostilities between England and France were due to rivalry in India and America. The Seven Years' War (1756-63) saw the expansion of British influence in India and Canada. The Seven Years' War was overseen by the brilliant Whig statesman, William Pitt the Elder (1708-78), the first to realise the importance of the colonies and the true founder of the British Empire.

The Second Jacobite rising - The Battle of Culloden
1745

The second, and last, Jacobite rising came about in 1745 during the reign of George II. The failure of this rising and Jacobite defeat in Scotland at the Battle of Culloden (1746) marked the final blow to the Jacobites' hopes.



CHECKPOINT

1 **Answer the following questions.**
1. What conditions did Parliament impose on Charles I through the Petition of Rights?
2. What two sides fought the Civil War?
3. What charges were brought against Charles I and what sentenced was passed?
4. What political and religious changes came with the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660?
5. What two catastrophes struck London during the reign of Charles II?
6. What change in the monarchy came about with the Glorious Revolution of 1688?
7. What did the Bill of Rights of 1689 establish?
8. What event finally brought an end to the Stuart claim to the throne?
9. What important political figure first appeared under King George I?

ACTIVE LEARNING

2 **Using the material in the Timeline and the audiovisual lessons, create a concept map outlining the impact of religious questions in the period covered by this chapter.**

EXAM FIRST EXTENSION
Reading and Use of English: Part 3 Blue Plaque to Oliver Cromwell
Reading and Use of English: Part 3 10 Downing Street

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