Absolutism, Constitutionalism, Stuart England, Cromwell, The English Civil War, Restoration & Glorious Revolution
Britain (1603-1714)

- Rule of the Stuarts
- Union of England & Scotland
- Trade around the world
- New colonies
- Baptist & Quaker religions formed
- Religion of the monarch is religion of subjects
Seventeenth Century
England & France

• Both countries moved in different directions
• After decades of civil war & religious conflict, England developed a parliamentary monarchy
• English Parliament shared responsibility of governing with the monarch
• France developed an absolutist, centralized government dominated by the monarch
• France created the world’s largest standing army
• France will end its policy of religious toleration & requires Catholicism
• English & French forms of government were models for other countries
• Nobility & Landowners made up the upper class & sought to protect their interests
Foundations of Absolutism

- Peasant revolts & wars impacted European rulers
- Absolutism was an attempt to reassert order & state authority
- Monarchs believed they had a *divine* right to rule & that they didn’t need the consent of the governed
- Monarchs were subject to limits by reason through *laws* & *traditions*
- Absolute rulers needed some help & support from *nobles* to succeed
- Monarchs could sell exclusive trading rights to companies & individuals
- Absolute Monarchies developed in France, *Prussia, Austria, Sweden* & *Russia*
Royal Absolutism

- About increasing the power of the monarchy
- Began with King James I of England
- Power comes from God
- Kings are God’s representatives on Earth
- Monarch was above human law but still subject to God’s laws
- Families often loaned monarchs money in exchange for tax exemptions, titles or other privileges
- Monarchs sold monopolies on the production & sale of salt, tobacco & other goods to raise money
Absolutism & Religion

• Monarchs est. churches & limit the authority of clergy
• Alliances with churches helped monarchs maintain absolute rule
• Churches created images of kings as sacred figures
• People were taught that monarchs must be obeyed because they served God’s interests on Earth
**Parlements**

- Regional French councils that exercised the king’s authority over local issues & taxes
- Louis XIV accepted the noble-dominated *Parlement* of Paris to register royal decrees before they became official law

**Estates-General**

- French *Parliament*
- Met from time to time to grant *revenues* to the king
- Played no role after the early 17\(^{th}\) century
- France lacked a strong tradition of liberties, representation & bargaining between monarchs & other institutions
- Met in 1614 & not again until 1789
English Parliament

- Institution that bargained with monarchs over political issues
- Was first formed in 1295
- Didn’t meet regularly in the early 17th century – monarchy was strong
- Met only to provide financial support to the monarchs in the early 1600s
- Would become a stronger institution later on
- Expected to be consulted from time to time
- Members included nobility & gentry – spoke, wrote laws & criticized royal policies
- The English had a legal & political tradition based on concepts of liberty
King James I (r. 1603-25)

- 1st Stuart king
- Son of Mary, Queen of Scots & Lord Darnley
- Succeeds Elizabeth I
- Also king of Scotland – Scotland & England united
- Favored Catholicism – baptized Catholic, raised Presbyterian
- Sold offices & monopolies to raise $, which Parl. opposed
James I...

- Wrote *True Law of Free Monarchies* in 1598 which set out the doctrine of divine right of kings
- Didn’t get along w/ Parl. (met only when he summoned them)
- Wouldn’t accommodate Puritan demands so they began leaving for N. America
- Jamestown, Virginia and the Union Jack are named after him
- Oversaw English trans. of the Bible that still bears his name
- 1604—Peace w/ Spain seen as a pro-Catholic move
Apotheosis of James I by Peter Paul Rubens
Banqueting House, London

This large oval of The Apotheosis of James I shows the King holding a sceptre with his foot on an imperial globe, being raised aloft by Justice.

It is said to celebrate the Stuart kings' belief in absolute monarchy and the 'Divine Right of Kings'.
End of the English Civil War & Charles I

- Parl. allied w/ the Scots
- July 1644—Scottish & Roundhead armies, led by Oliver Cromwell, defeat Cavaliers at Marston Moor
- Cromwell was a member of Parl., became the Roundheads’ leader & formed the New Model Army; had no military training but never lost a battle
- 1646—Charles I surrendered to the Scots & handed over to Parl.
- Rump Parl. – abolished the monarchy & Anglican Church; est. Puritan Republic
- 1649—Charles put on trial, found guilty & executed
- Charles’ execution shocked Europe (1st time a king was tried & executed by his own subjects)
Execution of King Charles I
HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES I
PASSED THROUGH THIS HALL AND
OUT OF A WINDOW NEARLY OVER
THIS TABLET TO THE SCAFFOLD
IN WHITEHALL WHERE HE WAS
BEHEADED ON 30TH JANUARY 1649.
King Charles Cavalier Spaniel
Oliver Cromwell & The Puritan Republic (1649-60)

- Cromwell became leader of England with the title of “lord protector”
- Only time England didn’t have a monarchy
- Army conquered Ireland & Scotland
- Ruthlessly kills the Irish & transfers Irish land to his soldiers (genocide)
- 1653—disbanded Parl.
- Banned drinking, dancing & theater going; Christmas was outlawed
- Church attendance was mandatory (5 hour sermons)
- Only allowed religions: Puritans, Baptists & Presbyterians
- Died in 1658 & his weak son Richard briefly ruled
Oliver Cromwell’s death mask
Oliver Cromwell statue in front of Parliament
Charles II & The Restoration Monarchy

• 1660—Charles II, son of Charles I, returned to England & crowned king by Parl.
• Monarchy restored in changed format: constitutional monarchy
• Parl. becomes more powerful
• Charles known as the “merry monarch” – charming, fresh face, fun times return
• Anglican Church restored
Charles II & The Restoration Monarchy…

• Became a puppet of Louis XIV – signed secret treaty w/ him
• Appointed Catholic ministers & had Catholic sympathies
• Favored policy of religious toleration
• Navigation Acts req. all imports be carried on English ships (tried to end Dutch dominance of shipping)
• Whigs opposed Charles & tried to ban James from being his successor
The Restoration

- 1666 – fire destroyed most of London
- Aristocracy regained wealth & status
- Royal Society for Science created
- Charles had no legit. children
- Charles declared he was Catholic on his deathbed
King James II (r. 1685-88)

• Assumed throne upon his brother’s death
• Dissolved Parl. & appointed Catholics to high positions in royal court & the army
• Attacked authority of nobles, landowners & the Anglican Church (he’d become Catholic himself)
• His goal was absolutism
• Catholic 2nd wife bears him a son (male heir)
• Many hoped he’d die w/o a male heir, so throne would pass to his eldest Protestant daughter, Mary married to Prince William III of Orange
The Glorious Revolution (1688)

• Parl. forms a coalition & invites William of Orange to take over
• William arrived w/ his Dutch army & was not opposed
• James II fled to France
• “Bloodless” rev. in England only (uprisings in Ireland)
• William & Mary reign together & accept the English Bill of Rights
• Parl. ends divine-right theory of kingship (William & Mary ruled by grace of Parl., not God)
English Bill of Rights (1689)

- Reaffirmed rights of Parl.
- Limited monarchy’s power
- Standing army in time of peace only w/ Parl. approval
- Allowed free elections
- Anglicanism remained est. church
- Prohibited Catholics from ruling
- England now had a true const. monarchy
Act of Settlement (1701)

- Bill allowed crown to pass to Protestant House of Hanover if none of Queen Anne’s kids survived
- Anne outlived all of her 17 children!
- 1714 – Hanoverian George I becomes king – 3rd foreign monarch to rule England
- Hanoverians become new dynasty (end of Stuarts)