



# The Glorious Revolution

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# So What Is It??

- ▶ A shift in the control of England, previously from Catholic James II, to his protestant daughter, Mary II and her Dutch husband, William of Orange-Nassau.
- ▶ Occurring in 1688, it brought an end to the Stuart dynasty.
- ▶ It wasn't necessarily a smooth transition either. For William and Mary to be set rulers, an overthrow did need to occur, precisely by the parliamentarians. For they were angered with James.

# What Was So Bad about James II??

- ▶ First off, he was **CATHOLIC**. It really wasn't that concerning until the people of England witnessed that his son, James Francis Edward Stuart, was baptized Catholic. This raised fear amongst the people that a catholic heir would take his place one day.
- ▶ To actually realize why an uprising occurred, you must understand the fear of Popery the people felt.
- ▶ Popery, besides a hatred of Catholics, was also a conspiracy theory that deeply troubled the people. They believed that Catholics were planning to overtake the church and state!!
- ▶ The most notable instance of this can be seen in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.
- ▶ Also, James did not make use of a Cabal, as did Charles. This gave him more power, in comparison to Parliament.

# James II's Actions As king

- ▶ As he ruled, his popularity quickly descended due to the following:
  - ▶ His closing of the Test and Corporation Acts: which now allowed Catholics to be in powerful positions
  - ▶ In 1686 according to the Godden Vs. Hales case, James terminated the Test acts, which now allowed for his appointment of catholic peers to his "Privy" Council.
  - ▶ A year later, he passed the Declaration of Indulgence, allowing Catholics to be excused from penal laws
  - ▶ Lastly, James even went as far as to dissolve parliament!!

# Plans For Uprising

- ▶ When the people saw that James' daughter, Mary would not be receiving the throne, they started to plot an uprising.
- ▶ On June 30, 1688, Seven peers sent William of Orange letters addressing their allegiance to him, if he were to storm into England and get rid of James.
- ▶ Before William even opened the letters, plans for this attack were already underway.
- ▶ Q: But why does William care?!?!?
- ▶ A: You see, William was already fighting a battle with French King, Louis XIV. With the help of England, he was sure to win. Also, with James out of the picture, and a free parliament around, help would be more likely offered to desperate William.



# The Attack on England

- ▶ William had obtained in all, over 21,000 men.
- ▶ (P.S. ➡ The is 4X the size of the Spanish Armada in 1588!)
- ▶ Unfortunately, the English had raised about 25,000 men ☹
- ▶ So, with that, William landed his crew at Torbay, Devon.
- ▶ As word was spreading within England, many cities rose up in Anti-Catholic riots. This made James II Nervous, and to prove that he still was a strong king, he decided to meet William in a head on battle.
- ▶ After attempting to resist Williams forces, James decided to retreat back to London. This decision was made thanks to his health declining, shown by his many nose bleeds, and by his very own nephew, Lord Cornbury, who was also fearful of the Catholics.

# The Attack (cont.)

- ▶ After making it back to the capital, one event had really slapped some sense into James. And this event was the abandonment of his other daughter, princess Anne.
- ▶ Fearful for his life, James thought that a Free parliament wasn't such a bad idea anyway, and agreed to William's proposal.
- ▶ With William heading towards the capital, he met some resistance. This gave James just enough time to make a run for France, and escape for his life. Unfortunately, he was caught, and with William's approval, he was allowed to free the country.
- ▶ With that, the parliament that remained began to operate again in 1689. (It was known as the "Convention Parliament" ).

# So Now What???

- ▶ After James fled England, William and Mary, together, took the throne on February 13, 1689, to rule jointly with each other.
- ▶ Before being bestowed such an honor as the throne of England shone, William and Mary were handed the **Declaration of Rights**.
- ▶ Later to become part of the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Rights outlined several key constitutional boundaries, including the forbidding of taxation unless with parliamentary consent, and the need for a parliament in general. It also stated that laws must be made only with the approval of parliament, people have a given right to petition, speak freely, and bear arms. The people also have the rights to due process. Lastly, parliament can only be dissolved and elected with its own consent.
- ▶ Unfortunately, kings will be kings, and it wasn't until 1694 where the Bill Of Rights is really enforced through the Triennial Act.



# Why Its Important

- ▶ Passage of the Toleration Act, which allowed for all religions to be practiced in England, besides Catholic.
- ▶ Parliament received way more power and control than before. For they now were in control of waging war, taxation, royal succession of the crown, etc.
- ▶ Led to the creation of the Bank of England in 1694
- ▶ Led to a more critical outlook on what the kings can and cannot do.
- ▶ Unfortunately, no limitation was established on the power of parliament, which will lead to more problems in the future (Whig Oligarchy).
- ▶ Encouraged the use of slavery with the closing of the Royal African Companies monopolistic practices on trade.
- ▶ Gave parliament more power than the Crown

# Sources:

- ▶ [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/glorious\\_revolution\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/glorious_revolution_01.shtml)
- ▶ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious\\_Revolution#The\\_Bill\\_of\\_Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution#The_Bill_of_Rights)
- ▶ Barron's book: Pages 108 and 109