

Section 4

Limited Monarchy in England

Key Ideas

- Conflict between monarchs and Parliament led to civil war in England.
- After the Civil War, England briefly became the Commonwealth—a republic not ruled by a monarch.
- The Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights created a constitutional monarchy and provided a democratic model for later governments.

Key Terms • English Civil War • Puritan • treason • republic • Restoration • Glorious Revolution • English Bill of Rights • constitutional monarchy

Visual Glossary



Reading Skill Analyze Cause and Effect Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.



During the 1500s and 1600s, English monarchs and Parliament struggled for power. Today, Parliament largely controls the government. ▼

As you have read, many European leaders ruled as absolute monarchs from the 1400s into the 1700s. But the situation in England was somewhat different. In time, conflict over the English monarch's powers led to civil war and revolution.

Monarchs Versus Parliament

By the 1500s, the English legislature—Parliament—had placed strict limits on England's monarchs. As a result, the monarchs had to work with Parliament in order to carry out their policies.

The Tudors From 1485 to 1603, England was ruled by monarchs who belonged to a single family: the Tudors. The Tudors believed in the divine right of kings, but they realized that they needed a good relationship with Parliament in order to govern effectively. Tudor monarch Henry VIII consulted Parliament frequently. As you read in an earlier chapter, Henry received Parliament's approval to become head of the new Church of England. Henry also spent a great deal of money fighting wars. To raise money, he had to ask Parliament for permission to create new taxes.

In 1558, Henry's daughter Elizabeth took the English throne. Like her father, she worked closely with Parliament to win support for her policies. As a result, she had a good relationship with Parliament.

Growing Conflict Elizabeth died childless in 1603. The new monarch was her relative James Stuart, who ruled as James I. James had been the king of Scotland for many years. Although he agreed to rule England according to English customs, he believed that he should have absolute power over England. This belief soon brought him into conflict with Parliament.

James repeatedly argued with Parliament over money. Parliament often resisted adding new taxes that James had demanded. Eventually, James dismissed Parliament for seven years and collected taxes on his own.

Charles I Takes Power In 1625, James's son Charles I inherited the throne. Like his father, Charles ruled as an absolute monarch. He put his enemies in jail without trials. He tried to establish new

taxes. Before Parliament agreed to give him funds, it insisted that he sign the Petition of Right in 1628. The Petition of Right prevented the monarch from raising taxes without Parliament's consent or jailing anyone unjustly. Although Charles signed the Petition of Right, he dissolved Parliament the following year.

For 11 years, Charles ruled England without Parliament. During this time, he added new taxes and fines to pay for his government. His religious policies made some people fear he was trying to bring back Catholicism.

Charles's religious and tax policies were very unpopular and led to rebellion in Scotland. To raise money to end the Scottish rebellion, Charles was forced to allow another meeting of Parliament in 1640.

Reading Check How did Tudor monarchs govern England?

dissolve, *v.*, to bring to an end

Selected English Monarchs, 1509–1649		
Monarch	Ruled	Major Actions or Beliefs
1 Henry VIII	1509–1547	Henry separated the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church.
2 Elizabeth I	1558–1603	Elizabeth was a daughter of Henry VIII. She returned England to Protestantism after years of Catholic rule.
3 James I	1603–1625	James was the king of Scotland and a cousin of Elizabeth's. He believed in the divine right of kings and tried to increase the monarchy's power.
4 Charles I	1625–1649	Charles was the son of James I. He wanted absolute power. Conflict with Parliament led to the English Civil War, and Charles was beheaded in 1649.

Closer Look

The English Civil War

After years of growing conflict between English monarchs and Parliament, open warfare broke out in 1642. Supporters of Charles I and of Parliament fought for years. The parliamentary forces eventually won, executing Charles and ending the monarchy.

THINK CRITICALLY How did the Civil War change England?



▲ Parliamentary forces defeated the king's army at the 1644 battle of Marston Moor.
▲ A pamphlet about a 1648 battle



▲ An English soldier's uniform, about 1650

Civil War and Commonwealth

The **English Civil War** was a series of battles that lasted from 1642 to 1651. Fighting took place between supporters of King Charles and supporters of Parliament.

War Grows Closer Members of Parliament were angry about Charles's actions, especially after he had ignored them for 11 years. They demanded new limits to the king's power.

In 1642, Charles led troops into Parliament to arrest some of its leaders. The members of Parliament escaped. Soon, the conflict between king and Parliament turned into civil war.

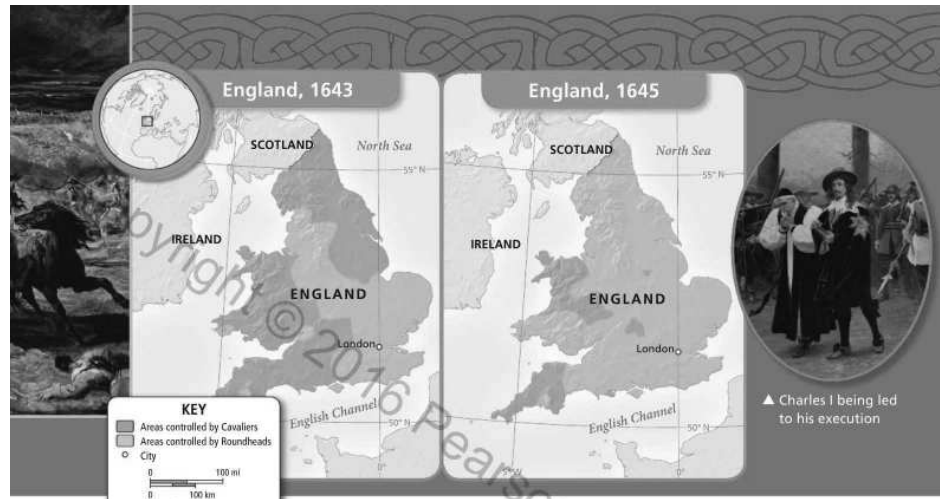
Cavaliers and Roundheads The king's supporters were known as Cavaliers, or Royalists. Most Cavaliers were wealthy nobles who dressed elegantly and had

fashionably long hair. Cavaliers gave Parliament's supporters the mocking nickname of "Roundheads" for their habit of wearing short hair. Roundheads included merchants, some members of the upper classes, and Puritan clergy.

Puritans were English Protestants who wanted to reform the Church of England.

One leader of the Roundhead troops was a Puritan member of Parliament named Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell was a gifted military leader. Under his direction, the Roundheads won a number of battles over the king's forces. By 1646, Charles had surrendered, although scattered fighting continued for five more years.

After the war, Roundhead leaders took control of the government, dismissing members of Parliament who disagreed with them. Those who were left formed



▲ Charles I being led to his execution

what was called the Rump Parliament. Then the Rump Parliament put Charles on trial for **treason**, or the betrayal of one's country.

The Monarchy Ends Charles was found guilty of treason, and he was executed in early 1649. This event shocked Europe. Parliament had sent a clear message that it would not tolerate a monarch who did not respect the traditions and customs of the country.

After Charles's execution, England's government changed. Parliament had two houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of the House of Commons were elected to represent their regions. But members of the House of Lords were nobles or clergy who inherited the position or were appointed by the monarch.

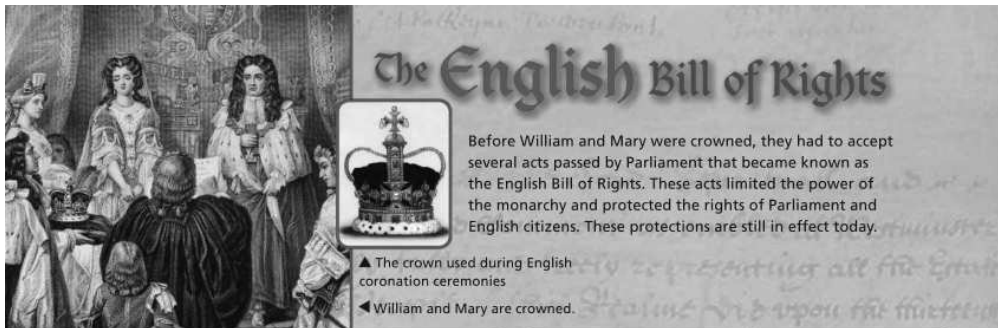
After the Civil War, the House of Commons took control of the English government. It **abolished** the monarchy, the House of Lords, and the Church of England. It declared England to be a republic known as the Commonwealth. A **republic** is a form of government in which citizens have the right to vote and elect officials. In 1653, Cromwell became England's new leader, known as the lord protector.

After the Civil War, England faced many challenges, including rebellions in Ireland and Scotland. Cromwell gradually began to rule England as a military dictator. After an uprising, he divided the country into 11 military districts. He enforced strict Puritan ways, such as closing theaters and passing laws to set aside Sunday for religious observance.

Reading Check Who was Oliver Cromwell?

abolish, *v.*, to end

The English Bill of Rights



Before William and Mary were crowned, they had to accept several acts passed by Parliament that became known as the English Bill of Rights. These acts limited the power of the monarchy and protected the rights of Parliament and English citizens. These protections are still in effect today.


- ▲ The crown used during English coronation ceremonies
- ◀ William and Mary are crowned.

Free elections



Freedom to elect members of Parliament

Freedom to petition




Freedom to petition, or request change from, the monarch

Independent Parliament



Freedom for Parliament to hold debates without royal interference

Fair trials



Freedom from royal interference with the laws or the courts

The Glorious Revolution Because of James's Catholic beliefs, tensions between James and Parliament were strong. Leaders of Parliament urged James's Protestant daughter, Mary, and her Dutch Protestant husband, William II of Orange, to force James from power. William and Mary brought an army from the Netherlands, landing in England in late 1688. Within a month, James fled for France and William and Mary took control of England. This bloodless overthrow of the king became known as the **Glorious Revolution**.

The English Bill of Rights Parliament insisted that William and Mary accept limits on their power. In December 1689, Parliament passed the **English Bill of Rights**, a list of the constitutional rights of England's citizens, Parliament, and monarch. The Bill of Rights demanded that the monarch protect the people

“... from the violation of their rights which they have here asserted, and from all other attempts upon their religion, rights and liberties.”

—The English Bill of Rights, 1689

The Bill of Rights focused on the need for an independent legal system and the right to trial by jury. It also ensured free elections, freedom of speech, and the need for Parliamentary approval for taxation.

Together, the Glorious Revolution and the Bill of Rights ended any possibility of absolute monarchy in England. The Bill of Rights established a **constitutional monarchy**, or a monarchy limited by law. These ideas of limited government and the protection of rights later influenced the leaders of the American Revolution as they wrote the U.S. Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Reading Check What was the Glorious Revolution?

myWorld CONNECTIONS

Like the English Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution protects rights. It also divides power among the branches of the federal government.



Restoration and Revolution

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658. His son took over briefly, but this government soon collapsed. Eventually Parliament voted to restore the monarchy to power. The return of the monarchy is known as the **Restoration**.

The Restoration In 1660, Parliament asked the son of Charles I to become king. He ruled as Charles II. Although Charles II agreed with many of his father's beliefs, he knew that he had to act through Parliament. He pardoned many of his father's enemies.

Charles ended the Commonwealth's Puritan restrictions on theater and music. He tried to encourage religious tolerance of Catholics and of non-Anglican Protestants, although Parliament resisted this.

Charles's brother, James II, became king in 1685. James was a firm ruler who wanted to have absolute power. He was also a Catholic. As king, James practiced his faith openly, appointing Catholics to government positions. Many English people resented James's use of his power, and they feared that he would try to make England a Catholic state.

Section 4 Assessment

Essential Question

What should governments do?

9. How did disagreements between the monarchy and Parliament shape England's history? Go to your Student Journal to record your answer.

Key Terms

1. What was the English Civil War?
2. How did the English Bill of Rights limit the powers of the monarchy?
3. How does a constitutional monarchy differ from an absolute monarchy?

Key Ideas

4. Why did monarchs and Parliament come into conflict in the years before the English Civil War?
5. What happened to the English government after the end of the Civil War?
6. How did the English Bill of Rights provide a model for later governments?

Think Critically

7. **Compare and Contrast** How did the Tudors' relationship with Parliament differ from that of later monarchs?
8. **Analyze Cause and Effect** What caused the English Civil War? What were the effects of the war?