

# HISTORY OF ENGLAND



# Glorious Revolution

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- It involved the overthrow of the Catholic king James II, who was replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William of Orange.

- The Glorious Revolution of November 1688, or Revolution of 1688, covers events leading to the deposition of James II and VII, king of England, Scotland and Ireland, and his replacement by his daughter Mary II, and her Dutch husband, William III of Orange.

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- Motives for the revolution were complex and included both political and religious concerns.
- The event ultimately changed how England was governed, giving Parliament more power over the monarchy and planting seeds for the beginnings of a political democracy.
- King James II
- King James II took the throne in England in 1685, during a time when relations between Catholics and Protestants were tense. There was also considerable friction between the monarchy and the British Parliament.

- James, who was Catholic, supported the freedom of worship for Catholics and appointed Catholic officers to the army. He also had close ties with France a relationship that concerned many of the English people.
- In 1687, King James II issued a Declaration of Indulgence, which suspended penal laws against Catholics and granted acceptance of some Protestant dissenters. Later that year, the king formally dissolved his Parliament and attempted to create a new Parliament that would support him unconditionally.
- James's daughter Mary, a Protestant, was the rightful heir to the throne until 1688 when James had a son, James Francis Edward Stuart, whom he announced would be raised Catholic.

- The birth of James's son changed the line of succession, and many feared a Catholic dynasty in England was imminent. The Whigs, the main group that opposed Catholic succession, were especially outraged.
- The king's elevation of Catholicism, his close relationship with France, his conflict with Parliament and uncertainty over who would succeed James on the English throne led to whispers of a revolt—and ultimately the fall of James II.



- The Glorious Revolution refers to the events of 1688–89 that saw King James II of England deposed and succeeded by one of his daughters and her husband.
- James's overt Roman Catholicism, his suspension of the legal rights of Dissenters, and the birth of a Catholic heir to the throne raised discontent among many, particularly non-Catholics.
- Opposition leaders invited William of Orange, a Protestant who was married to James's daughter Mary (also Protestant), to, in effect, invade England. James's support dwindled, and he fled to France. William and Mary were then crowned joint rulers.



# SIGNIFICANT

- The Glorious Revolution (1688–89) permanently established Parliament as the ruling power of England and, later, the United Kingdom representing a shift from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy.
- When William III and Mary II were crowned, they swore to govern according to the laws of Parliament, not the laws of the monarchy.
- A Bill of Rights promulgated later that year, based on a Declaration of Rights accepted by William and Mary when they were crowned, prohibited Catholics or those married to Catholics from claiming the throne.

# WILLIAM AND MARRY



# ACT OF SETTLEMENT



# Provisions

- Following the Glorious Revolution, the line of succession to the English throne was governed by the Bill of Rights 1689, which declared that the flight of James II from England to France during the revolution amounted to an abdication of the throne and that James's daughter Mary II and her husband, William III (who was also James's nephew), were James's successors.
- The Bill of Rights also provided that the line of succession would go through their descendants, then through Mary's sister Anne and her descendants, and then to the issue of William III by a possible later marriage. During the debate, the House of Lords had attempted to append Sophia and her descendants to the line of succession, but the amendment failed in the Commons

- The Act contained eight additional provisions that were to only come into effect upon the death of both William and Anne:
- The monarch "shall join in communion with the Church of England". This was intended to ensure the exclusion of a Roman Catholic monarch. Along with James II's perceived despotism, his religion was the main cause of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and of the previous linked religious and succession problems which had been resolved by the joint monarchy of William III and Mary II.
- If a person not native to England comes to the throne, England will not wage war for "any dominions or territories which do not belong to the Crown of England, without the consent of Parliament".
- This would become relevant when a member of the House of Hanover ascended the British throne, as he would retain the territories of the Electorate of Hanover in what is now Lower Saxony (Germany), then part of the Holy Roman Empire. This provision has been dormant since Queen Victoria ascended the throne, because she did not inherit Hanover under the Salic Laws of the German-speaking states.

- No monarch may leave "the dominions of England, Scotland, or Ireland", without the consent of Parliament. This provision was repealed in 1716, at the request of George I who was also the Elector of Hanover and Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg within the Holy Roman Empire; because of this, and also for personal reasons, he wished to visit Hanover from time to time.
- All government matters within the jurisdiction of the Privy Council were to be transacted there, and all council resolutions were to be signed by those who advised and consented to them. This was because Parliament wanted to know who was deciding policies, as sometimes councillors' signatures normally attached to resolutions were absent. This provision was repealed early in Queen Anne's reign, as many councillors ceased to offer advice and some stopped attending meetings altogether.

- No foreigner ("no Person born out of the Kingdoms of England Scotland or Ireland or the Dominions thereunto belonging"), even if naturalised or made a denizen (unless born of English parents), can be a Privy Councillor or a member of either House of Parliament, or hold "any Office or Place of Trust, either Civill or Military, or to [*sic*] have any Grant of Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments from the Crown, to himself or to any other or others in Trust for him".
- Subsequent nationality laws (today primarily the British Nationality Act 1981) made naturalised citizens the equal of those native born, and excluded Commonwealth and Irish citizens from the definition of foreigners, but otherwise this provision still applies. It has however been disapplied in particular cases by a number of other statutes

- No person who has an office under the monarch, or receives a pension from the Crown, was to be a Member of Parliament. This provision was inserted to avoid unwelcome royal influence over the House of Commons. It remains in force, but with several exceptions. (As a side effect, this provision means that members of the Commons seeking to resign from parliament can get round the age-old prohibition on resignation by obtaining a sinecure in the control of the Crown; while several offices have historically been used for this purpose, two are currently in use: appointments generally alternate between the stewardships of the Chiltern Hundreds and of the Manor of Northstead.)
- Judges' commissions are valid *quamdiu se bene gesserint* (during good behaviour) and if they do not behave themselves, they can be removed only by both Houses of Parliament (or in other Commonwealth realms the one House of Parliament, depending on the legislature's structure.) This provision was the result of various monarchs influencing judges' decisions, and its purpose was to assure judicial independence. This patent was used prior to 1701 but did not prevent Charles from removing Sir John Walter as Chief Baron of the Exchequer



- That "no Pardon under the Great Seal of England be pleadable to an Impeachment by the Commons in Parliament". This meant in effect that no pardon by the monarch was to save someone from being impeached by the House of Commons.

# GEORGE I



- When Queen Anne of Great Britain died in 1714, an act of parliament said the next ruler must be a Protestant. George was not the closest relative, but was the closest Protestant one.
- All the closer relatives were Roman Catholic, so George became King of Great Britain and Ireland on 1 August 1714. He was the first ruler of Great Britain from his family, the House of Hanover.
- Many of the British people did not like the new king. It is often said that he could not actually speak English.
- This may have been true at first, but he sometimes wrote in English later in his reign. George spent less time running the country than previous monarchs and allowed Parliament to have a bigger role.
- Later on, he left Robert Walpole in charge of running the country. Walpole became the first British prime minister, although the word "prime minister" was not used at the time.

# GEORGE II



- **George II** (George Augustus, 10 November 1683 – 25 October 1760) was a British king.
- He was born in Germany.
- He was the last British monarch born outside of Great Britain.
- He became King of Great Britain and King of Ireland.
- He was also Elector of Hanover.
- His son, Frederick, Prince of Wales died before he did, so Frederick's son became George III of Great Britain.
- George II died of heart problems.

- George donated the royal library to the British Museum in 1757, four years after the museum's foundation.
- He had no interest in reading, or in the arts and sciences, and preferred to spend his leisure hours stag-hunting on horseback or playing cards.
- In 1737, he founded the Georg August University of Göttingen, the first university in the Electorate of Hanover, and visited it in 1748. The asteroid 359 Georgia was named in his honour at the University in 1902.
- He served as the Chancellor of Trinity College, Dublin, between 1716 and 1727; and in 1754 issued the charter for King's College in New York City, which later became Columbia University.
- The province of Georgia, founded by royal charter in 1732, was named after him

- During George II's reign British interests expanded throughout the world, the Jacobite challenge to the Hanoverian dynasty was extinguished, and the power of ministers and Parliament in Britain became well-established.
- Nevertheless, in the memoirs of contemporaries such as Lord Hervey and Horace Walpole
- George is depicted as a weak buffoon, governed by his wife and ministers

# The Seven Years' War

- The Seven Years' War (1756-1763) was a global conflict that spanned five continents, though it was known in America as the "French and Indian War."
- After years of skirmishes between England and France in North America, England officially declared war on France in 1756, setting off what Winston Churchill later called "the first world war."
- While the French, British, and Spanish battled over colonies in the New World, Frederick the Great of Prussia faced off against Austria, France, Russia and Sweden.
- The Seven Year's War ended with two treaties. The Treaty of Hubertusburg granted Silesia to Prussia and enhanced Frederick the Great's Power.
- The Treaty of Paris between France, Spain and Great Britain drew colonial lines largely in favor of the British, an outcome that would later influence the French to intervene in the war for American Independence.



- The first British victory at Louisburg in July of 1758 revived the sagging spirits of the army.
- They soon took Fort Frontenac from the French and in September of 1758, General John Forbes captured Fort Duquesne and rebuilt a British fort called Fort Pitt in its place in honor of William Pitt.
- From there, British forces marched to Quebec, beating French forces in the Battle of Quebec (also known as the Battle of the Plains of Abraham) in September 1759.
- Montreal fell in September of the following year.

- The British under George III were not just fighting over territory in the Americas; they were simultaneously involved in maritime battles that tested the might of the British Navy.
- The French had to scrap an attempted invasion of Britain after losing the Battle of Lagos and the Battle of Quiberon Bay in 1759.
- In addition to the victories in Canada, Great Britain beat back French forces in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Havana, Manila, West Africa and India, wresting Pondicherry from the French on January 16, 1761.

- The Treaty of Paris
- The Treaty of Paris was signed on February 10, 1763, officially bringing an end to the French and Indian War.
- The British were awarded Canada, Louisiana and Florida (the latter from Spain), thereby removing European rivals and opening up North America for Westward expansion.
- The Treaty of Paris also returned Pondicherry to France, and gave them back valuable colonies in the West Indies and Senegal.
- The British victory in the French and Indian War earned England a reputation as a world power with a strong navy, a reputation they would use to continue their empire-building around the globe.
- The French loss would later inspire them to side with American patriots against the British during the Revolutionary War.

- The Treaty of Hubertusburg
- The Treaty of Hubertusburg (also known as the Peace of Hubertusburg) between Austria, Prussia, and Saxony was signed five days after the Treaty of Paris on February 15, 1763. It named Archduke Joseph of Austria Holy Roman Emperor and gave Silesia and Glatz to Prussia, further bolstering the power and influence of Frederick the Great and Prussia.

# Robert Walpole



# Robert Walpole

- **Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Oxford**, (26 August 1676 – 18 March 1745), known between 1725 and 1742 as **Sir Robert Walpole**,
- He was a British statesman and Whig politician who is generally regarded as the *de facto* first prime minister of Great Britain.

- Walpole was a Whig from the gentry class who was first elected to Parliament in 1701 and held many senior positions. He was a country squire and looked to country gentlemen for his political base.
- Historian Frank O'Gorman says his leadership in Parliament reflected his "reasonable and persuasive oratory, his ability to move both the emotions as well as the minds of men, and, above all, his extraordinary self-confidence".
- Hoppit says Walpole's policies sought moderation: he worked for peace, lower taxes and growing exports and allowed a little more tolerance for Protestant Dissenters.
- He mostly avoided controversy and high-intensity disputes as his middle way attracted moderates from both the Whig and Tory camps,

- Walpole's political career began in January 1701 when he won a seat in the general election at Castle Rising.
- He left Castle Rising in 1702 so that he could represent the neighbouring borough of King's Lynn, a pocket borough that would re-elect him for the remainder of his political career. Voters and politicians nicknamed him "Robin".
- Like his father, Robert Walpole was a member of the Whig Party.
- In 1705, Walpole was appointed by Queen Anne to be a member of the council for her husband, Prince George of Denmark, Lord High Admiral. After having been singled out in a struggle between the Whigs and the government, Walpole became the intermediary for reconciling the government to the Whig leaders.
- His abilities were recognised by Lord Godolphin (the Lord High Treasurer and leader of the Cabinet) and he was subsequently appointed to the position of Secretary at War in 1708; for a short period of time in 1710 he also simultaneously held the post of Treasurer of the Navy.



- Under the guidance of Walpole, Parliament attempted to deal with the financial crisis brought on by the South Sea Bubble.
- The estates of the directors of the South Sea Company were used to relieve the suffering of the victims, and the stock of the company was divided between the Bank of England and East India Company.
- The crisis had gravely damaged the credibility of the King and of the Whig Party, but Walpole defended both with skilful oratory in the House of Commons.
- Walpole's first year as Prime Minister was also marked by the discovery of a plot formed by Francis Atterbury, the Bishop of Rochester.
- The exposure of the scheme crushed the hopes of the Jacobites whose previous attempts at rebellion (most notably the risings of 1715 and 1719) had also failed. The Tory Party was equally unfortunate even though Lord Bolingbroke, a Tory leader who fled to France to avoid punishment for his Jacobite sympathies, was permitted to return to Britain in 1723

- Walpole's position was threatened in 1727 when George I died and was succeeded by George II.
- For a few days it seemed that Walpole would be dismissed but, on the advice of Queen Caroline, the King agreed to keep him in office. Although the King disliked Townshend, he retained him as well.
- Over the next years Walpole continued to share power with Townshend but the two clashed over British foreign affairs, especially over policy regarding Austria.
- Gradually Walpole became the clearly dominant partner in government.
- His colleague retired on 15 May 1730 and this date is sometimes given as the beginning of Walpole's unofficial tenure as Prime Minister. Townshend's departure enabled Walpole to conclude the Treaty of Vienna, creating the Anglo-Austrian alliance.

- Walpole secured the support of the people and of the House of Commons with a policy of avoiding war.
- He used his influence to prevent George II from entering the War of the Polish Succession in 1733, because it was a dispute between the Bourbons and the Habsburgs.
- He boasted, "There are 50,000 men slain in Europe this year, and not one Englishman."
- By avoiding wars, Walpole could lower taxes.
- He reduced the national debt with a sinking fund, and by negotiating lower interest rates. He reduced the land tax from four shillings in 1721, to 3s in 1728, 2s in 1731 and finally to only 1s in 1732. His long-term goal was to replace the land tax, which was paid by the local gentry, with excise and customs taxes, which were paid by merchants and ultimately by consumers

- The year 1737 saw the death of Walpole's close friend Queen Caroline.
- Though her death did not end his personal influence with George II, who had grown loyal to the Prime Minister during the preceding years, Walpole's domination of government continued to decline.
- His opponents acquired a vocal leader in the Prince of Wales who was estranged from his father, the King.
- Several young politicians including William Pitt the Elder and George Grenville formed a faction known as the "Patriot Boys" and joined the Prince of Wales in opposition

# William Pitt



- **William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham**, PC, FRS (15 November 1708 – 11 May 1778) was a British statesman of the Whig group who served as Prime Minister of Great Britain in the middle of the 18th century.
- Historians call him Pitt of Chatham, or **William Pitt the Elder**, to distinguish him from his son, William Pitt the Younger, who also was a prime minister.
- Pitt was also known as **the Great Commoner**, because of his long-standing refusal to accept a title until 1766.

- Pitt was a member of the British cabinet and its informal leader from 1756 to 1761 (with a brief interlude in 1757), during the Seven Years' War (including the French and Indian War in the American colonies).
- He again led the ministry, holding the official title of Lord Privy Seal, between 1766 and 1768.
- Much of his power came from his brilliant oratory. He was out of power for most of his career and became well known for his attacks on the government, such as those on Walpole's corruption in the 1730s, Hanoverian subsidies in the 1740s, peace with France in the 1760s, and the uncompromising policy towards the American colonies in the 1770s.↓

- Pitt is best known as the wartime political leader of Britain in the Seven Years' War, especially for his single-minded devotion to victory over France, a victory which ultimately solidified Britain's dominance over world affairs.
- He is also known for his popular appeal, his opposition to corruption in government, his support for the American position in the run-up to the American Revolutionary War, his advocacy of British greatness, expansionism and empire, and his antagonism toward Britain's chief enemies and rivals for colonial power, Spain and France.
- Marie Peters argues his statesmanship was based on a clear, consistent, and distinct appreciation of the value of the Empire



- The British parliamentary historian P. D. G. Thomas argued that Pitt's power was based not on his family connections but on the extraordinary parliamentary skills by which he dominated the House of Commons.
- He displayed a commanding manner, brilliant rhetoric, and sharp debating skills that cleverly utilised broad literary and historical knowledge.
- Scholars rank him highly among all British prime ministers.

# George III



- George III was born on 4 June 1738 in London, son of Frederick, Prince of Wales and Augusta of Saxe-Gotha.
- He became heir to the throne when his father died in 1751, succeeding his grandfather George II in 1760.
- He was the first Hanoverian monarch to use English as his first language.
- In 1761, George married Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and they enjoyed a happy marriage, with 15 children.

- George chose his mentor the Earl of Bute as his first chief minister.
- He was a poor choice, isolating George from senior politicians.
- Effective government became almost impossible, and George was increasingly vilified.
- The instability following Bute's resignation in 1763 did little to solve the crown's financial difficulties, made worse by the Seven Years' War.
- In 1770, George appointed Lord North as his first minister.

- Although an effective administrator, North's government was dominated by disagreements with the American colonists over British attempts to levy taxes on them.
- War began in 1775 and was prolonged in 1779, at the king's insistence, to prevent copycat protests elsewhere.
- The British defeat in 1781 prompted North to resign.

- In 1783, North and the prominent Whig politician Fox formed a coalition government.
- Their plans to reform the East India Company gave George the chance to regain popularity.
- He forced the bill's defeat in Parliament, and the two resigned.
- In their place George appointed William Pitt the Younger.
- The combination of Pitt's skill and war with France in 1793 strengthened George's position, but disagreements over emancipation of the Catholics - Pitt was in favour and George vehemently opposed - led to Pitt's resignation in 1801.

- The American war, its political aftermath and family quarrels put great strain on George.
- After serious bouts of illness in 1788 - 1789 and 1801, thought now to be caused by porphyria, he became permanently deranged in 1810.
- The Prince of Wales (later George IV) became regent.

- Under George III, the British Agricultural Revolution reached its peak and great advances were made in fields such as science and industry.
- There was unprecedented growth in the rural population, which in turn provided much of the workforce for the concurrent Industrial Revolution.
- George's collection of mathematical and scientific instruments is now owned by King's College London but housed in the Science Museum, London, to which it has been on long-term loan since 1927



- He had the King's Observatory built in Richmond-upon-Thames for his own observations of the 1769 transit of Venus.
- When William Herschel discovered Uranus in 1781, he at first named it *Georgium Sidus* (George's Star) after the King, who later funded the construction and maintenance of Herschel's 1785 40-foot telescope, which was the biggest ever built at the time.

- The grievances in the United States Declaration of Independence were presented as "repeated injuries and usurpations" that he had committed to establish an "absolute Tyranny" over the colonies.
- The Declaration's wording has contributed to the American public's perception of George as a tyrant. In pursuing war with the American colonists, George III believed he was defending the right of an elected Parliament to levy taxes, rather than seeking to expand his own power or prerogatives.
- In the opinion of modern scholars, during the long reign of George III the monarchy continued to lose its political power, and grew as the embodiment of national morality.

- George remained ill until his death at Windsor Castle on 29 January 1820. In 1801, under the Act of Union Great Britain and Ireland were united into a single nation - the United Kingdom.
- George was thus the first king of the new nation.