

WILLIAM III AND MARY II

With the invasion of William of Orange in November 1688, James II was forced to give up his throne without any bloodshed. This is known as "**The Glorious Revolution**" or "**Bloodless Revolution**". However, with William in the country and James apparently out of the way, Parliament faced a difficult decision.

Who was going to rule, and with how much power?

Suggestion 1 - James II should keep the title King with William and Mary ruling as regents for him	Problems - 1) James might try to return to claim title, with a French army. 2) William refused to be just Regent
Suggestion 2 -Mary, the legal heir, if James' son was ignored, should be Queen	Problems - William is alleged to have said that he would not be his wife's lackey (servant). Many MP's agreed. Sexism was strong in 17th Century England! Women unsuitable for job
Suggestion 3 -William and Mary should rule as joint and equal sovereigns.	1) Both William and Mary happy with this. 2) Since Parliament would have to agree to this unusual arrangement, Parliament would be able to decide how much power the new King and Queen should have.

William of Orange, a Protestant, was leading the Dutch War against the Catholic, King Louis XIV of France. He wanted English help in the war, and so accepted the idea of a joint monarchy with his wife Mary, James II's eldest daughter. This gave Parliament the excuse that they were replacing one Stuart with another. There was no doubt that William, although he had an English mother, saw himself as Dutch and it was Holland that was his main priority and England came a very poor second.

In February 1689, Parliament issued **THE BILL (DECLARATION) OF RIGHTS**, which made sure that William and Mary would be unable to rule without the consent of Parliament. It said

1. Monarchs could not suspend or abolish **laws** unless Parliament agreed.
2. **Taxes** could not be imposed without Parliament's consent.
3. There would be no full-time **army** during peacetime without Parliament's consent
4. Protestants would be allowed to have **weapons** in their houses for their defence
5. **Elections** would be free from Royal interference.
6. Government was not allowed to impose cruel or unusual **punishments**
7. Parliament was to **meet** frequently and had to meet at least once a year to vote money needed by the monarchs.
8. Members of Parliament were to have freedom of speech and **debate**.
9. Subjects had the right to **petition** the King
10. **Anne**, was to succeed if Mary had no children.
11. In the future only a **Protestant** could inherit the throne.

12. Subjects may be required to take an **oath** of allegiance to a monarch.

Parliament's powers were further strengthened by additional acts

1. **Mutiny Act 1689**

Louis XIV recognised James II as the rightful King of England (Both Catholics). He gave help to James both in money and soldiers to get back his throne. The war that followed was to last from 1689-1697. The Mutiny Act was passed to give the King power to raise an army, control the army and enforce military discipline, but only for a period of six months at a time, when Parliament would have to meet to review the situation.

2. **Triennial Act 1694**

This stated that no Parliament should last for more than three years, after which there should be new elections.

3. **Act of Settlement 1701**

The purpose of this act was to settle the succession question. Mary had died childless, in 1694. As William has no heirs the crown would pass to Anne, all whose children had died at birth or in early childhood. James II and his son James Edward, were both still alive, but Parliament wanted to exclude any chance of either of them succeeding to the throne. They didn't want a disputed succession. It was decided that Sophia, a Protestant married to the Elector of Hanover (Granddaughter of James I) would succeed. If she died it was to pass to her descendents, namely her son George, later George I (1714-1727)

1. In future, the Crown of England could only be inherited by **an Anglican**.
2. Anybody **married to a Catholic** was to be **barred** from the throne
3. After Anne's death, England would **not provide an army** to protect foreign possessions without Parliament's consent
4. Monarch was **not to leave country** without Parliament's permission. (stopped William going to Holland)
5. In future, **foreigners were barred** from sitting on the **Privy Council** or receiving estates from the King.
6. No-one working in the Monarch's office or receiving a pension from him was allowed to be a Member of Parliament. (Stop King influencing Parliament)
7. Ministers who were impeached could not be saved by royal pardon.
8. Monarchs could continue to choose Judges, but the Judges would only keep their jobs if they were of "good behaviour". They could be removed if a petition from the Houses of Lords and Commons was given to the King, asking for a removal of a judge.

Some of these clauses never came into force (6,7) and were repealed (cancelled) before 1714.



War of English Succession, The Nine Years War or King William's War. 1689-1697.

One of William's motives behind accepting the throne of England was to get military aid for his fight against the Catholic French King, Louis XIV. As soon as Louis decided to back James II, in his attempt to gain back the English Crown, war became inevitable.

In March 1689, James II landed in Ireland with a French army. At the same time John 'Bonnie Dundee' Graham led loyal Highlands clans in a Jacobite rising. In May, William declared war on France. In July, 1689, John Graham defeated King William's forces at the **Battle of Killiecrankie**. Unfortunately for James II, Graham was killed in the battle, and without his leadership, James success in Scotland was doomed. (A Pyrrhic Victory). In August, William's troops reversed the defeat at the **Battle of Dunkeld**

In June, 1689, England, the United Provinces, the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Savoy and many German States formed the **Grand Alliance** against France. This alliance was vital to counteract the French naval superiority.

In 1690, William sailed to Ireland with an army and defeated James at the **Battle of the Boyne** on the 1st July, 1690. James escaped back to France although some resistance to William carried on until the **Treaty of Limerick** in 1691. In this treaty, 11,000 Irish soldiers loyal to James were allowed to go to France. This led to the formation of a regiment of Irish soldiers called the "Flying Geese" who fought as mercenaries in various armies in Europe.

After Ireland, William concentrated his military campaigns in the Netherlands. However, the Grand Alliance began to crumble and at the **Treaty of Ryswick** in May, 1697, the war was brought to an end. Louis recognised William as King of England, promised to support his successors, be friends with England and withdrew his support of James.

Naval battles

- In June 1690, French Navy defeats Anglo-Dutch Navy at Beachy Head.
- Defeat reversed at Barfleur, French navy badly damaged.
- Unable to afford rebuilding their fleet, the French change tactics and used privateers to attack merchants ships.

The war was incredibly expensive and led to the formation of the **Bank of England in 1694** which could lend money to the government at an acceptable rate of interest and was able to be paid off over a longer than usual period. Coin clipping was also widespread so that in 1696, all clipped coins were collected in, melted down and reissued. (Recoinage Act).

In 1702, Charles II of Spain died, and the question of who should succeed him plunged Europe into another war, **the War of the Spanish Succession 1702-1714**. France and Austria both claimed Charles' land. Louis broke his agreement made at the Treaty of Ryswick and again gave his support to James II and on his death to his son, James Edward, (the Old

Pretender). The Grand Alliance was reformed in support of Charles III. The English army under the command of John Churchill (Duke of Marlborough) fought in Europe and gained notable victories at Blenheim 1704, Ramillies 1706, Oudenarde 1708 and Malplaquet 1709. The war was eventually ended with the Treaty of Utrecht 1713. James Edward Stuart (James II son) had to leave France.

William was becoming increasingly unpopular towards the end of his reign. His personal war against Louis XIV had proved extremely expensive and massive tax rises had taken place in England. To make matters worse, William spent most of his time fighting in the United Provinces. This led many Englishmen to believe that his only interest was in protecting the Netherlands and that his alliance with England was purely to serve this purpose. The English also accepted him more when Mary was alive. In 1702, he was killed in a riding accident when his horse tripped over a molehill. This led to the Jacobite toast **"let us drink to the little gentlemen in the black velvet coat"**