



Universität des Saarlandes
Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft sowie
Übersetzen und Dolmetschen

Unit 7

Parliamentarism

England before, during, and after the 17th century

Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)

22 June 2017 (“New Style”) / 9 June 2017 (“Old Style”)

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



Figure: Cromwell before the coffin of Charles I

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

[Faces](#)[Timeline](#)[More Faces](#)[Remember me!](#)[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)[A national religion for
England](#)[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

1 Origins of Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

2 A national religion for England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for politics

3 The Civil War and the Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

The Restoration

4 Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

How many of these people can you identify? (1)

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



Timeline (from the point of view of England)

- 1558 **Elizabeth I** (TUDOR)
- 1603 **James I** (STUART, son of Mary Queen of Scots) (*"Jacobean"*)
- 1625 **Charles I** (son of James I) (*"Caroline"*)
- 1642 Civil War begins
- 1649 Charles I executed
- 1649 **Interregnum** (Commonwealth & Protectorate)
- 1660 **Charles II** (son of Charles I) (*"Restoration"*)
- 1685 **James II** (brother of Charles II)
- 1688 Glorious Revolution
- 1689 **William (III) and Mary (II)** (ORANGE)
- 1694 William III
- 1702 **Anne** (sister of Mary II, daughter of James II)
- 1714 **George I** (HANOVER) (*"Georgian"*)
- An online resource: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_tl_british.shtml

- 1535-1542 Legal union between Wales and England (same laws)
- 1541 England and Ireland: personal union: two separate countries, one king (Henry VIII)
- 1603 England and Scotland: personal union: two separate countries (each with own parliament and own laws), one king (James VI of Scotland = James I of England)
- **1707 Kingdom of Great Britain** (England plus Scotland) — Ireland still a separate country; Queen Anne was now Queen of Great Britain and (separately) Queen of Ireland.
- **1801 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**
- 1922 Irish Free State (independence, except for six of the nine counties of Ulster)
- **1927 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** (somewhat belatedly)

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

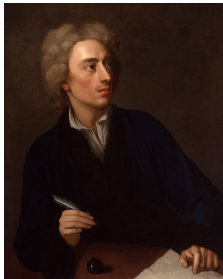
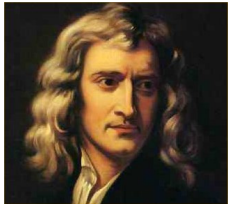
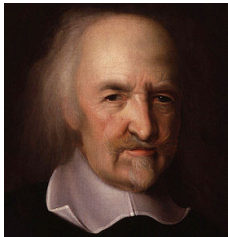
[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

How many of these people can you identify? (2)

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Some seventeenth-century people worth remembering

- Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679): philosopher: social contract and “enlightened absolutism”: ‘Leviathan’, 1651
- John Milton (1608–1674): poet (second only to Shakespeare): ‘Paradise Lost’, 1667; civil servant for the Commonwealth
- John Locke (1632–1704): philosopher: empiricism, political liberalism
- Isaac Newton (1642 (O.S.)–1727): mathematician, physicist, alchemist, biblical scholar
- Henry Purcell (1659–1695): musician
- Alexander Pope (1688–1744): satirical poet; wrote the following epitaph for Newton:
*Nature and Nature’s laws lay hid in night;
God said, Let Newton be! and all was light.*

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



Terry Moore / Parliament, via Wikipedia

- Evolved out of the mediaeval Great Council.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



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- Originally more powerful than House of Commons

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[House of Lords](#)

[House of Commons](#)

[Magna Carta](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)



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- Lords Temporal and Lords Spiritual

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



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- Powers significantly restricted in 20th century.

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[House of Lords](#)

[House of Commons](#)

[Magna Carta](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)



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- For more information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

House of Commons



Parliament, via Wikipedia

- Model Parliament of 1295: shires and boroughs.

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

House of Commons



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[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[House of Lords](#)

[House of Commons](#)

[Magna Carta](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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- Chamber of the House of Commons in Westminster: a reproduction of the old St Stephen's Chapel.

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[House of Lords](#)

[House of Commons](#)

[Magna Carta](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)



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- Extract from tourist guide book:
Text: <http://spence.saar.de/courses/textproduction/sitzungs/chamberofthehouse.pdf>
Analysis: <http://spence.saar.de/courses/textproduction/sitzungs/sitzungs.pdf>

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Magna Carta (never has “the” before it!)

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Public Domain

- 1215.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Magna Carta (never has “the” before it!)

Parliamentarism

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[House of Lords](#)

[House of Commons](#)

[Magna Carta](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

House of Lords

House of Commons

Magna Carta

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

High and Low Church

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Parliamentarism

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Parliamentarism

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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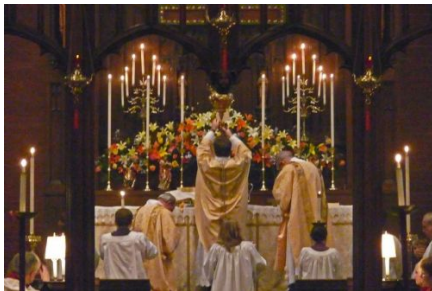
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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The King James Version of the Bible (1)

Parliamentarism

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CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

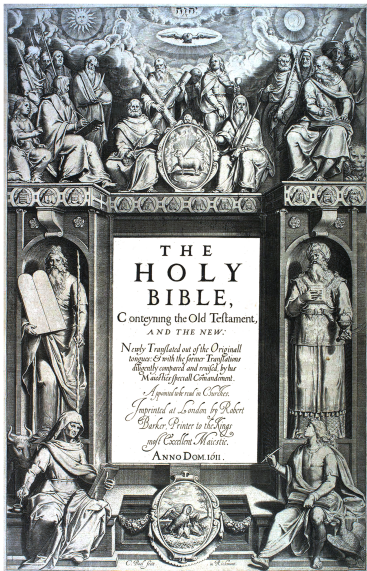
KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



The King James Version of the Bible (2)

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

[Faces](#)[Timeline](#)[More Faces](#)[Remember me!](#)[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)[A national religion for
England](#)[High and Low Church](#)[KJV](#)[The Book of Common Prayer](#)[Religion as metaphor for
politics](#)[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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[Faces](#)[Timeline](#)[More Faces](#)[Remember me!](#)[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)[A national religion for
England](#)[High and Low Church](#)[KJV](#)[The Book of Common Prayer](#)[Religion as metaphor for
politics](#)[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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[Faces](#)[Timeline](#)[More Faces](#)[Remember me!](#)[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)[A national religion for
England](#)[High and Low Church](#)[KJV](#)[The Book of Common Prayer](#)[Religion as metaphor for
politics](#)[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

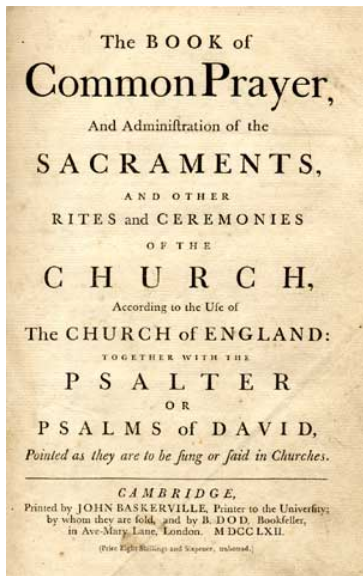
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- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authorized_King_James_Version
- Richard Dawkins’ remarks:
- <http://lexilogia.gr/forum/showthread.php?3284-Religious-Education-as-a-Part-of-Literary-Culture>
<http://www.newstatesman.com/religion/2010/12/king-james-bible-poetry-shall>

The Book of Common Prayer (1)



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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church
KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Book of Common Prayer (2)

- Had as much impact on the English language as the KJV of the Bible.
 - wording of marriage ceremony...

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Book of Common Prayer (2)

Parliamentarism

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 - wording of marriage ceremony...
 - wording of General Confession... (TEST ME!)
- 1662 version is still in use in the worldwide Anglican Communion today, alongside a more modern version.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

- Roman Catholicism (old landed aristocracy: “the Right”)

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

**Religion as metaphor for
politics**

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Religion as metaphor for politics

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

**Religion as metaphor for
politics**

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Religion as metaphor for politics

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Minus Bishops: Presbyterianism (new mercantile bourgeoisie)
- Minus Priests: Quakerism, etc. (the “Left”)

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

Religion as metaphor for politics

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church

KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

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- also on the Left: “Diggers” and “Levellers”

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

High and Low Church
KJV

The Book of Common Prayer

Religion as metaphor for
politics

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy



- cf. President and Congress in today's U.S.A.: the executive branch has to ask the legislative branch for money.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

**Crown and Parliament before
the war**

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

Crown and Parliament before the war

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

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the war**

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Power of the Crown reached its peak under Henry VIII.



Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

**Crown and Parliament before
the war**

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

- cf. President and Congress in today's U.S.A.: the executive branch has to ask the legislative branch for money.
- Power of the Crown reached its peak under Henry VIII.
- Charles I tried to rule without Parliament for a while.



Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Power of the Crown reached its peak under Henry VIII.
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- The Long Parliament.

The Civil War (1)

- Really *three* wars – 1642–1646; 1648–1649; 1649–1651.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

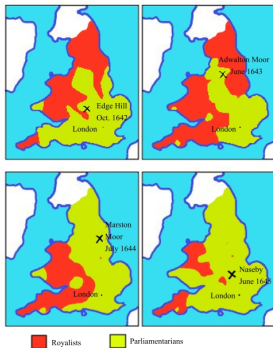
The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Oxford: for the King; Cambridge: for Parliament.



Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

The Civil War (2)

- After the First Civil War, tensions between Presbyterians and the Army led to the Second Civil War.



Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- The Rump Parliament.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Third Civil War: Scottish Royalists vs. English Parliamentarians.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

- A phenomenon that Marxists often call “Bonapartism”: an incomplete revolution, followed by a dictatorship to hold the balance of power between the warring classes.

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

**The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate**

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

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- After the execution of Charles I in 1649, England (including Wales) was declared a Commonwealth; Ireland and Scotland were militarily subjugated.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

**The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate**

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

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[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Crown and Parliament before
the war](#)

[The Civil War](#)

[The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate](#)

[The Restoration](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Crown and Parliament before
the war](#)

[The Civil War](#)

[The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate](#)

[The Restoration](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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- No pubs, no theaters, no dancing... but freedom of speech: “Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.” (John Milton, Areopagitica. A speech for the liberty of unlicensed printing to the Parliament of England.)

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Crown and Parliament before
the war](#)

[The Civil War](#)

[The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate](#)

[The Restoration](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

The Restoration (1)

- 1660: Charles II: monarchy restored.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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- 1660: Charles II: monarchy restored.
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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

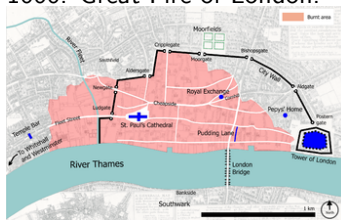
The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
ParliamentarismA national religion for
EnglandThe Civil War and the
CommonwealthCrown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate**The Restoration**

Constitutional Monarchy

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- Sir Christopher Wren, St Paul's Cathedral.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
ParliamentarismA national religion for
EnglandThe Civil War and the
CommonwealthCrown and Parliament before
the war

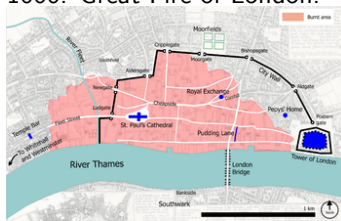
The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate**The Restoration**

Constitutional Monarchy

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
ParliamentarismA national religion for
EnglandThe Civil War and the
CommonwealthCrown and Parliament before
the war

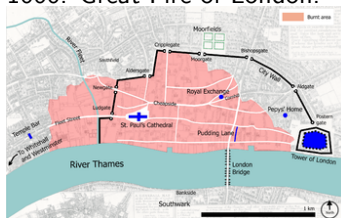
The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate**The Restoration**

Constitutional Monarchy

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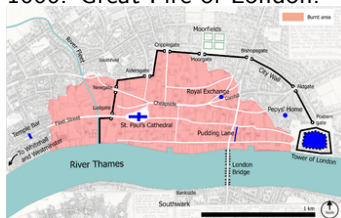
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- Charles II fathered many illegitimate children (baronetcies granted to them)

[Faces](#)[Timeline](#)[More Faces](#)[Remember me!](#)[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)[A national religion for
England](#)[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)[Crown and Parliament before
the war](#)[The Civil War](#)[The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate](#)[The Restoration](#)[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

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- Restoration drama.
- Charles II fathered many illegitimate children (baronetcies granted to them)
- Long-term consequences of this: Constitutional Crisis of 1911: How many members of the House of Lords owed their title to a sexual adventure that took place between 1660 and 1685?

The Restoration (2)

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

Two good ways to gain an initial impression of the Restoration period:

- The film *Restoration* (1995):
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- The Diary of Samuel Pepys:
<http://www.pepysdiary.com/>
<https://twitter.com/samuelpepys>

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Crown and Parliament before
the war

The Civil War

The Commonwealth and the
Protectorate

The Restoration

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution (1688)

- James II's Catholicism.

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Glorious Revolution (1688)

- James II's Catholicism.
- Deposed in favour of William and Mary (House of Orange).

Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

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- Sovereign debt restructured —> Bank of England set up (27 July 1694 (O.S.?))



Bank of England

[Faces](#)

[Timeline](#)

[More Faces](#)

[Remember me!](#)

[Origins of
Parliamentarism](#)

[A national religion for
England](#)

[The Civil War and the
Commonwealth](#)

[Constitutional Monarchy](#)

[The Glorious Revolution](#)

[The Georges](#)

[Prime Minister and Cabinet](#)

- George I (of Hanover) couldn't speak English.

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Georges

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Parliamentarism

Robert Spence

CS

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Georges

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

- George I (of Hanover) couldn't speak English.
- George II.
- George III ("Farmer George") — the "tyrant" the American revolutionaries took up arms against.
- Massive expansion of British power: free trade plus the British navy.



- The office of “Prime Minister” evolved over the course of several centuries

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

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- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom

Faces

Timeline

More Faces

Remember me!

Origins of
Parliamentarism

A national religion for
England

The Civil War and the
Commonwealth

Constitutional Monarchy

The Glorious Revolution

The Georges

Prime Minister and Cabinet