

Unit 7



Parliamentarism

England before, during, and after the 17th century

Print version of the *Introduction to Culture Studies (UK & Ireland)* presentation on 22 June 2017 ("New Style") / 9 June 2017 ("Old Style")

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7.1

Timeline

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

7.2

Kingdoms

- 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)

7.3

Remember me!

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.

7.4

1 Origins of Parliamentarism

1.1 House of Lords

House of Lords

- Evolved out of the mediaeval Great Council.
- Originally more powerful than House of Commons
- Lords Temporal and Lords Spiritual
- Powers significantly restricted in 20th century.
- For more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords

7.5

1.2 House of Commons

House of Commons

- Model Parliament of 1295: shires and boroughs.
- Has sole power to impose taxes (since when?)
- Chamber of the House of Commons in Westminster: a reproduction of the old St Stephen’s Chapel.
- 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>

7.6

1.3 Magna Carta

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

- 1215.
- Runnymede.
- King John forced to sign by his barons.
- Implicitly contains the principle “no taxation without representation” that was important for the English Civil War and the American War of Independence.
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta

7.7

2 A national religion for England

2.1 High and Low Church

High and Low Church

- Introduction of protestantism in England under Henry VIII and Edward VI had been half-hearted: the fine English art of compromise.
- Lutherans/Calvinists and Anglo-Catholics combined in one organization.
- Stained glass windows? Candles on the altar? Colour of robes? Incense??

7.8

2.2 KJV

The King James Version of the Bible (1)

7.9

The King James Version of the Bible (2)

- Translation commissioned by King James I of England; a deliberately “archaizing” translation; completed in 1611.
- We have extensive records of the meetings of the translators; use of italics for words “not in the original” (!)
- Had a major influence on the English language.
- “If English was good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for the children of Texas!”
- <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203:16&version=AKJV>
- <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2013&version=AKJV>
- 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>

7.10

2.3 The Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer (1)

7.11

The Book of Common Prayer (2)

- Had as much impact on the English language as the KJV of the Bible.
 - 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.
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Common_Prayer
- <http://www.eskimo.com/~lhowell/bcp1662/index.html>

7.12

2.4 Religion as metaphor for politics

Religion as metaphor for politics

- Roman Catholicism (old landed aristocracy: “the Right”)
- Minus Pope: Anglicanism (compromise)
- Minus Bishops: Presbyterianism (new mercantile bourgeoisie)
- Minus Priests: Quakerism, etc. (the “Left”)
-
- also on the Left: “Diggers” and “Levellers”

7.13

3 The Civil War and the Commonwealth

3.1 Crown and Parliament before the war

Crown and Parliament before the war

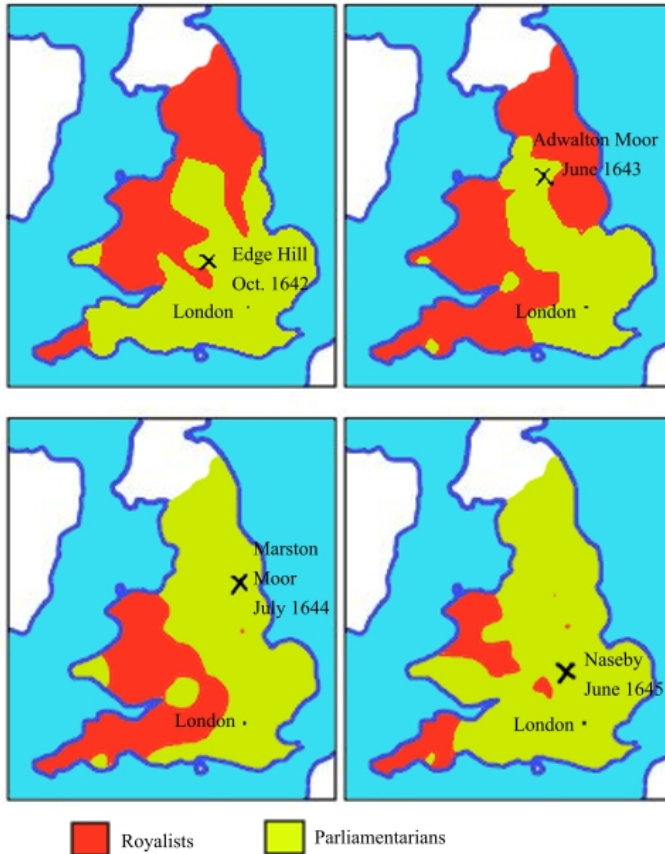
- cf. President and Congress in today’s U.S.A.: the executive branch has to ask the legislative branch for money.
- Power of the Crown reached its peak under Henry VIII.
- Charles I tried to rule without Parliament for a while.
- The Long Parliament.

7.14

3.2 The Civil War

The Civil War (1)

- Really *three* wars – 1642–1646; 1648–1649; 1649–1651.
- Pre-dated the French Revolution by almost 150 years.
- “Cavaliers” vs. “Roundheads” — Cromwell’s “New Model Army”
- Oxford: for the King; Cambridge: for Parliament.



7.15

The Civil War (2)

- After the First Civil War, tensions between Presbyterians and the Army led to the Second Civil War.
- The Rump Parliament.
- King Charles I tried and executed for treason 1649.
- Third Civil War: Scottish Royalists vs. English Parliamentarians.

7.16

3.3 The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

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.
- After the execution of Charles I in 1649, England (including Wales) was declared a Commonwealth; Ireland and Scotland were militarily subjugated.
- In 1653 Oliver Cromwell, leader of the victorious parliamentary army, became “Lord Protector”
- Policy of exporting disorder (e.g. extreme Protestants to Ireland!)

- 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.)

7.17

3.4 The Restoration

The Restoration (1)

- 1660: Charles II: monarchy restored.
- 1665: Plague (“ring a ring o’ rosies”)
- 1666: Great Fire of London.
- Sir Christopher Wren, St Paul’s Cathedral.
- 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?

7.18

The Restoration (2)

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

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

7.19

4 Constitutional Monarchy

4.1 The Glorious Revolution

The Glorious Revolution (1688)

- James II’s Catholicism.
- Deposed in favour of William and Mary (House of Orange).
- The Bill of Rights (1689)
- The Battle of the Boyne (1 July 1690 (O.S.) / 11 July 1690 (N.S.))
- The Battle of Beachy Head (30 June 1690 (O.S.) / 10 July 1690 (N.S.))
- Sovereign debt restructured → Bank of England set up (27 July 1694 (O.S.?))

7.20

4.2 The Georges

The Georges

- 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.

7.21

4.3 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Prime Minister and Cabinet

- The office of “Prime Minister” evolved over the course of several centuries
- George I couldn’t speak English and was happy to leave the details of government to someone else
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom

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