

Lesson 6

The Stuarts (1603- 1714)

Part I: James I (1603-1625)

- Elizabeth I died → **childless + the last in Tudor** dynasty.
- **James VI of Scotland** (her closest heir) → James I of England **from 1603 to 1625**.
- With his crowning, **England and Scotland** → **united (not one country)** governed by the same person.
- belief in **the divine right**:
 - a. **God's representative** on earth
 - b. **Judges**: agents of the king, not servants of the law.
 - c. Preferred **to rule alone** (with a small council without the parliament "the wisest fool in the Christendom".)
- **James I's reign** → characterized by conflicts with his parliament:

1. Money :

- When Elizabeth died → **huge debts**.
- He asked **the parliament to raise tax** to pay the debts.
- The parliament agreed, but in return → the right **to discuss James's home foreign policy**.
- James I insisted → he alone had **the divine right** to make such decision (**first quarrel**).

2. Foreign Policy:

- ❖ **The parliament** desired **to play part** in his **foreign policy**:
- **The parliament** wished to participate in a war against the Catholics "**The Thirty Years War**". James I did not agree → **not afford the cost of an army**.
- ❖ **James I** → successful **in ruling without parliament** from **1611 to 1621** → only possible because **Britain** remained **at peace**.

Part II: Charles I (1625- 1649)

- **James's son Charles I** in 1625, became king.
- **Charles I** → in **divine right of monarchy** + attempted to rule as **an absolute monarch**.

A. Charles I VS the Parliament:

1. Charles I believed in the divine right of kings : The parliament → **no right to interfere** in the

king's decision; **only god judges him.**

2. Charles I convoked & dissolved three parliaments in 4 years:

- Because → refused **to provide him with money** to finance **a war against Spain.**
- Because protestant members of the parliament → **angry at Charles I's marriage with a Catholic French princess** & because he **did not consult them.**
- ❖ When the **third parliament** met in **1628**, it presented **the petition of right:** a statement demanding that Charles make certain **reforms in exchange for war funds.**
- Charles I had to accept the petition (Parliament controlled state money "nation budget" and the law).
- ❖ However, **in 1628**, Charles I **dissolved the parliament** & **imprisoned many parliamentary leaders** (ruling **without a parliament** for **11 years**)

3. Religious Problems :

- **Charles I** appointed an **archbishop who disliked Puritans.** (many MP's → Puritans and wealthy) → Anti- catholic feeling because of the **Gunpowder Plot** (In November 1605, the infamous Gunpowder Plot took place in which some Catholics, most famously Guy Fawkes, plotted to blow up James I and his parliament. The story is remembered each November 5th in a celebration known as "Bonfire Night").
- **The archbishop** reintroduced **many catholic practices** → extremely unpopular.
- He also attempted to impose the **Anglican organization** on the **Scottish Kirk** (a democratic institution with no bishops).
- He tried to impose **a new prayer book** and **bishops** as well **in Scotland** which resulted in a **national resistance** and **riots** , against Catholicism
- Charles I, without the parliament, raised an army → unlikely to win. So Charles I made an agreement with the scots:
 - Respect their political and religious freedoms.**
 - Pay them** to return home.
- He called the parliament in 1640 to provide the money (parliament secured some laws in return):
 - + Had **to meet** at least **once every three years.**
 - + Would **not be dissolved without its permission.**
 - +**Prohibited arbitrary taxation.**

B. The Civil War: (1642-1649):

- ❖ **James I** continuing Elizabeth's policy in **colonizing Ulster.**
- ❖ **the Irish rebelled** against the protestant Scottish and English settlers in **1641:**
- **Irish farmers** → their lands being taken from them by Protestants.

- **Irish workers** → replaced by Protestant ones, Scottish & English.
- ❖ **3000 settlers** → killed by the Irish.
- ❖ **Charles I** tried to raise an army under his control against the Irish revolt. But the parliament feared Charles I:
 1. To use the army **to dissolve the parliament**.
 2. Charles's **friendship towards Catholicism**, in addition to his **Catholic wife**.
 3. The Irish declared **rebellion against the protestant parliament not the king**.
 4. He tried **to imprison 5 MP's**.
- **The Civil War had started in 1642 (the king against parliament)**

<u>King</u>	<u>Parliament</u>
Nottingham	London
Royalists, Cavaliers	Roundheads
Noblemen	Merchants and population of London
North and West	East and Southeast

- ❖ **the Royalist army → defeated in 1645:**
 - **Parliament** controlled **the most important national and international sources of money**
 - **Royalist** army **ran away** and in the end **surrendered**.
 - **Oliver Cromwell** & his army captured the king. However, most people wanted **the king back** but feared the army.
 - The **two thirds of the MPs** → not want to put him on trial were removed by the army.
 - **Charles I** → accused with **treason** and found guilty. He was **executed in 1649**.
 - Most people felt sorry that Charles I was no longer their monarch, and did not wish to be ruled by the parliament.