

Y8 History Cromwell and the Restoration



Summary

Oliver Cromwell ruled England from 1649 to 1658, the only time England was a republic. This era is also known as the 'Interregnum' which literally means the era between kings. Cromwell was a strict Puritan and many of his changes, such as the banning of many forms of entertainment and strict rule by major generals, were unpopular. In 1660 the monarchy was restored when Charles II was invited back to be King of England. Popular and successful, he became known as the 'Merry Monarch' but his heir and brother James II seemed to try to restore Catholicism which led to the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. This was where parliament chose William and Mary to be joint monarchs doing away with the Stuart notion of 'Divine Right of Kings.'

Key Figures

Oliver Cromwell	Lord Protector of England and the Commonwealth. A strict Puritan, he ruled England from 1649-1658
Charles II	Nicknamed the 'Merry Monarch' he was restored to the throne of England in 1660. He brought back entertainment and made the English monarchy strong. He was King during the Fire of London and the Great Plague
James II	Younger brother of Charles II, he succeeded him. He was a Catholic king ruling Protestant England. James was overthrown by his daughter and her husband in the Glorious Revolution.
William III and Mary II (of Orange)	Chosen by parliament to be joint monarchs after the overthrow of Mary's father, James II. Their power was reduced by laws like the Bill of Rights.



Key Vocabulary

Republic	A country without a monarch.
Interregnum	The period of time 'between kings.'
Lord Protector	The title Cromwell took when he ruled England.
Puritan	A strict Protestant. Very plain and simple clothing, beliefs and churches.
Restoration	The return of Charles II to the throne of England.
The Great Plague	The Black Death returned in 1665 killing thousands of people.
Physician	A doctor
Miasma	Foul air, it was believed to cause disease
The Great Fire of London	A disaster of the Restoration era. Destroyed 4/5 th of the city.
The Glorious Revolution	The overthrow of James II by his daughter Mary and her Protestant husband.
Heir	The person in line to inherit the throne.
Succession	The system of determining who will become the next monarch
Hanovers	Protestant kings called George (who came from Hanover (present day Germany) after Queen Anne (the last Stuart) died in 1714.

Challenge—Look at the timeline. Which of these events did most to reduce the power of the monarchy in England? Can you explain why?

Other Resources
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcgbkqt>

