

# The Glorious Revolution of 1688–89

Just how glorious was the revolution of 1688–89 if you lived in Scotland or Ireland?

## How 'glorious' was the revolution?

The phrase 'Glorious Revolution' was adopted by John Hampden in 1689 but is very much an English-centred point of view. The revolution was not so glorious for Scotland and Ireland, but was a turning point in the eventual alliance of the three kingdoms.

### Scotland

William was forced to issue a separate declaration to the Scots offering Scotland a future 'free from all hazard of Popery and arbitrary power' and a separate settling of Scotland's affairs under the supervision of a Scottish parliament without the English having any role. This passed the Scottish parliament by only five votes. The revolution caused an upsurge in Scottish nationalist and Jacobite activities, ultimately leading to the brutal Glencoe massacre in 1692. Not all of Scotland was anti-English/anti-William but the relationship between the two kingdoms was certainly insecure. This can be highlighted by the refusal of the Scots to accept the Act of Settlement of 1701, arguing that it applied only to the English throne.

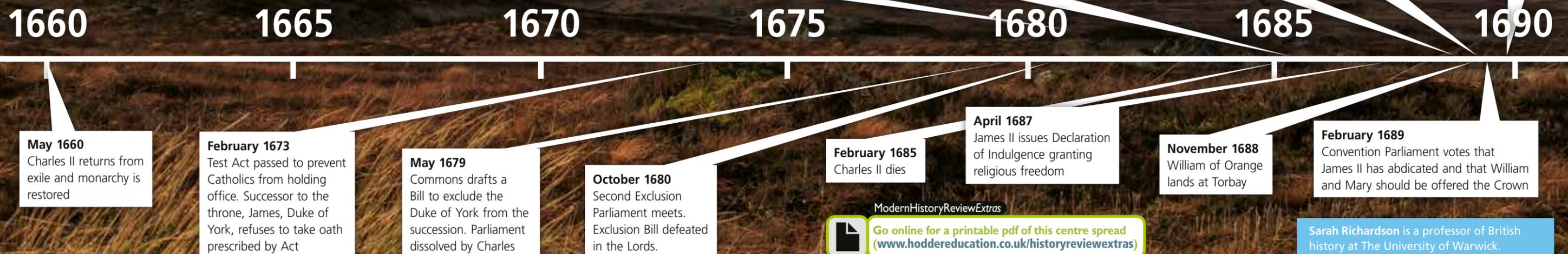
### Ireland

In Ireland the progress of revolution was far more violent than in England or Scotland. The Catholic population in Ireland had welcomed James's rule as it was associated with a number of social and religious policies favourable to the Catholics. They resisted William by force and were ultimately quelled by the bitter Battle of the Boyne in 1690 which led to James fleeing to France and the surrender of Jacobite forces. The Treaty of Limerick, which established the dominant rights of the Protestant supremacy in Ireland, were followed by a number of measures dispossessing the Catholics of their land and civil rights. Unsurprisingly, the Irish Catholic population remained fervently Jacobite, however the revolution also encouraged a separate Irish Protestant national consciousness. In 1698 William Molyneux wrote *The Case of Ireland being Bound* which denounced the blatant subordination of Ireland and Irish interests to England and asserted a Protestant Irish identity.

## Bill of Rights 1689

For the first time the monarch's powers were defined, written down, and given limits. The Bill of Rights laid down 'that the levying of money for, or to the use of the crowne by pretence of the prerogative without grant of parliament or for longer time or in other manner than the same is or shall be granted is illegal'. All elections would be held freely without any force. It also stated that the raising of a standing army in peacetime unless with the consent of Parliament was illegal. Along with various constitutional provisions associated with law-making, the Bill required rulers to take an oath to maintain the Protestant religion and forbade any member of the royal family from marrying a Catholic.

After these changes, did the people have any more power? The king could still formulate policy at home and abroad. He made civil, ecclesiastical and military appointments. It was only in terms of revenue that the king's position was curtailed and it was this that gradually eroded the power of the monarchy. In fact, it was the position of Parliament — not the people — that was strengthened. Parliament was no longer under threat of being prorogued or undermined as it had been under the Stuart kings. It kept control of the purse strings and could maintain and justify a separate existence from that of the monarch.



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