

(In)glorious revolution

Chronology

1649	King Charles I is executed.
1660	Charles II is invited to take back the throne after 11 troubled years without a king. His father Charles I had been executed in 1649.
1677	William marries his cousin Mary. He is 27, she is just 15.
1679-81	Parliament attempts to stop Charles' brother James from becoming king after Charles dies, because James is Roman Catholic.
1685	Charles II dies and is succeeded by his brother James II.
1687	James II promises religious tolerance to his fellow Catholics. James starts putting powerful Catholics in positions of power in his army, and tries to get Catholics in the House of Commons again.
June 1688	James II's son is born, and fears grow that the kingdom will stay Catholic. There are rumours the baby was swapped at birth and the young prince is an impostor! Seven important statesmen (the immortal seven) send William a letter inviting him to be king.
October 1688	William publicly denies he has any intention of being king.
November 1688	William and his fleet land in Devon, and find large parts of the country support him.
December 1688	James II's wife, Queen Mary of Modena, flees with their son to France. James is captured in Kent. William enters London and is cheered and welcomed by crowds. James is allowed to escape and join his wife in France.
January 1689	Parliament is called to discuss whether James is still king even though he has run away to France, and if they can legally ask William and Mary to be king and queen.
February 1689	Parliament passes an Act, called the Bill of Rights, which criticises James II and allows Parliament to invite William and Mary to rule, although it limits their powers as monarchs.
April 1689	William and Mary are crowned. They start work on building works at Hampton Court Palace.
1690	James still has Catholic support in Ireland, and he fights the English in the Battle of the Boyne, but loses and flees Ireland.
1694	Mary dies of smallpox, aged only 32. William is devastated.

