



The Glorious Revolution: When a King Lost His Crown

KS4 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What Was the Glorious Revolution?

In **1688**, something extraordinary happened in **England**. A king named **James II** was forced to give up his throne without a single battle being fought. Instead of war and bloodshed, **William of Orange** and his wife **Mary** were invited to rule together. This peaceful change of power was called the **Glorious Revolution**.

Think of it like a school where the headteacher was so unfair that everyone agreed to replace them with new leaders—without anyone getting hurt or fighting.

Why Did People Want a New King?

James II was a **Catholic** king in a mostly **Protestant** country. Many English people were worried he would give Catholics special powers and take away rights from Protestants. He also believed that kings should have total power and didn't need to listen to anyone else. The English Parliament—the group of people who help run the country—wanted a king who would follow the law like everyone else.

How Did a King Lose His Crown Peacefully?

Parliament invited **William and Mary** to take the throne instead. **James II** was so unpopular that he left the country without fighting back. This was truly **glorious** because it happened without wars or deaths. Everybody involved—the new monarchs, Parliament, and the people—got what they wanted: a peaceful change of power.

Think of it like trading in an old video game for a new one, but instead of arguing about it, everyone just agreed it was a good idea.

Why Did It Matter So Much?

The **Glorious Revolution** changed the world because it proved that **a king could be replaced if people decided he wasn't ruling fairly**. Before this, most kings believed they had **divine right**—meaning God had chosen them to rule without any

limits. After **1688**, a new document called the **Bill of Rights** was created. This said that **Parliament had power too**, and the king had to follow laws.

This revolution gave ordinary people a say in how their country was run. It inspired other countries to think about democracy and fairness. **America's founding fathers** looked at what happened in England and used similar ideas when they created the **United States Constitution**. The idea that leaders must follow the rules became a foundation of modern democracy.

Today, because of the **Glorious Revolution**, we expect our leaders to have limits on their power. No president or prime minister can do absolutely anything they want. That peaceful moment in **1688** changed how governments work everywhere.