

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:II

MODULE I AGE OF TRANSITIONS



THE RESTORATION 1660
IV SEMESTER
BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER
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- Oliver Cromwell was succeeded by his son Richard Cromwell as the Lord Protector, but he was failure.
- Condition of England was worsened.
- Unlike his father , he was not a soldier- held the view that army sholud obey the civil power.
- The army generals had no respect for either parliament or the ne Protector.
- By the 1659 they forced him to retire into private life.
- They dissolved the Parliament and recalled the Old Rump parliament, which symbolized republican government.
- But when Rump issued orders to the military officials , it was dissolved.
- Now England was a country without Parliament and Lord Protector.



- There was no authority and soldiers , unpaid and hungry were raising money at the sword's point.
- Near to phase of anarchy
- Many Englishmen turned back nostalgically to the years before the revolution.
- Knowing the pulse of the majority of Englishmen, General Monk, the deputy of Oliver Cromwell in Scotland, determined to put an end to anarchy
- Summoned a Parliament known as the convention Parliament(1660) and invited Charles II , son of Charles I to accept the throne of England



- From Holland, Charles accepted the offer of the Parliament and on 29th May 1660 he entered the Banqueting Hall.
- It marked the end of the commonwealth.
- This incident is known as the Restoration in English history.
- It was not merely a restoration of monarchy.
- According to General Monk “ it marked the end of ‘ slavery of sword government’.

- It proved that Puritan revolution was a failure
- People were tired of Puritan discipline, rule of soldiers etc
- By the Restoration of 1660, the House of lords and the Anglican Church were also restored.
- During the restoration period, the Royalists tried to recover their lost power and Property.
- The expelled bishops and priests were reinstated.
- The lands of crown, church and nobles were restored to them.
- The parliament passed the Indemnity and Oblivion Act (1660), granting amnesty to all except the regicides.



- The living judges who tried Charles I were executed.
- The body parts of regicides like Cromwell were dug out and hung.