

SOCIAL AND ULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:II

MODULE I-AGE OF TRANSITIONS



COMMONWEALTH AND PROTECTORATE
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- End of civil war in 1649 – other problems in England
- Killing of the king- feeling against the Puritans
- The Rump Parliament had numerous enemies both inside and outside England.
- The Royalists in England were looking for the restoration of the monarchy.
- Scotland refused to recognize the new regime and welcomed Charles II. Ireland too

- After the execution of king , Parliament abolished monarchy and House of lords
- Declared England a Commonwealth.
- Formed a Council of State.
- Oliver Cromwell – political and military leader of England.
- Born in 1599 in Huntingdon near Cambridge.
- Was first elected to Parliament in 1628- beginning of political career.
- His tenure in parliament was very short as King Charles I suspended the Legislative body in 1629.
- Then he returned to government in 1640 when king was forced to reconvene parliament.



- Then he – devout Puritan- it was during the civil war that Cromwell's career as a military leader was born.
- When the Irish people revolted against the Commonwealth, Cromwell went to Ireland with his troops and terrorized whole people.
- He ruthlessly killed the Royalists, Catholic priests and even the common men.
- After his conquest Catholicism was banned in Ireland and all Catholic owned land was confiscated and given to Protestant Scottish and English settlers.
- Cromwell returned to England in 1650 after the Scots proclaimed Charles II as king of Scotland



- Cromwell led a military campaign against the Scots and won a decisive victory over them.
- Charles II fled to France.
- The passage of the Navigation act of 1651 debarred the Dutch from trading with England and her colonies.- led to a war with the Dutch and Cromwell and his army won the war

❑ **Change in Government**

- Cromwell demanded the dismissal of Rump Parliament and election of new parliament.
- But Parliament introduced a bill to prolong its power.
- While discussion on bill was going on, Cromwell and his men went to parliament and cleared the House.
- A nominated Parliament took its place.
- The members were chosen entirely from the Puritan sect.
- Cromwell then set up a Council of army officers to draw up a constitution.
- The new scheme of government prepared by the council is called the Instrument of Government, which set up a new monarchy with Cromwell as monarch.
- But he did not take the title king but of Protector



- He became the lord of Protector of Life.
- Parliament consisting of one house was to be elected.
- Seats were reserved for Scotland and Ireland in the new parliament.
- He continued in office till 1658.