

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:II MODULE-I-AGE OF TRANSITIONS



**CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
IV SEMESTER
BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER
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- Glorious Revolution – revolution without bloodshed – ushered the beginning of new Era in English history.
- Settled the long drawn out struggle for supremacy between the King and Parliament.
- People and leaders of England rose against tyranny of James II.
- While they welcomed the new king and queen, they drew up a list of limitations on the Crown to protect themselves against any future attacks on their liberties.



- The Revolution settlement established ‘Constitutional Monarchy’ in England.
- It completely discredited the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings in England . Hence the era of absolute monarchy was ended.
- Before becoming King, William had to accept a number of drastic limitations on the Royal power.
- These limitations were then incorporated into the Bills of Rights, which was enacted in 1689.



- Bills of Right

- Bills of Rights was almost a short written constitution.
- Its most important Provision were:
 1. Making or Suspending any law without the consent of Parliament is illegal
 2. levying taxes without the consent of Parliament is illegal
 3. Maintaining a standing army without the consent of Parliament is illegal
 4. Elections of members of Parliament must be free.
 5. There must be freedom of speech in Parliament and right to participate in its debates.
 6. Parliament should meet frequently.

- 7. Englishmen have the right to petition the Sovereign.
- 8. Englishmen have right to trial by a jury
- 9. Excessive bail should not be demanded.
- The Bills of Rights thus confirmed the Revolution by shifting sovereignty from the crown to Parliament.
- It shook the foundation of feudalism- transformed the socio- economic life in England and prepared way for commercial and industrial Revolution.
- Created favorable atmosphere for the growth of capitalism.