

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

THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

IV SEMESTER

BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER

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- Charles II ruled England for 25 years (1660-1685)
- At beginning – relation between new parliament and king was cordial
- Convention Parliament – Anglican dominant-
- Established the Anglican church with bishops and Prayer Book was to be the church of England.
- Anglican triumph was against the wishes of king.
- The Clarendon Code established the domination of Anglicans in every branches of government.
- Clarendon Code :

- The Clarendon Code is a series of four legislative documents created by the English Parliament between 1661 and 1665.
- They take their name from Lord Chancellor Edward Hyde, Count of Clarendon.
- The Clarendon Code intended to protect the national church of England from subversive tendencies
- The Corporation Act (1661) – It required all individuals working within the government to embrace the Anglican Church.
- The Uniformity Act (1662) – This rule made the use of the Book of Common Prayer mandatory during church services.
- The Conventicle Act (1664) – This act prohibited conventicles (unauthorised worshipping meetings) of more than five people who were not members of the same household.
- The Five Mile Act (1665) – It intended to forbid non-conformist ministers from living within 5 miles of the parishes from which they had been expelled



- Soon like earlier Stuart rulers Charles II also became arrogant towards Parliament.
- In 1681, he dissolved parliament due to difference of opinion.
- After that he never summoned another Parliament.
- In 1685, Charles II was succeeded by his younger brother James II.

James II and his Policies



- He thought that every man who opposed him must be a rebel.
- He was a Catholic by religion.
- Earlier Parliament introduced an Exclusion Bill to exclude James from becoming the king of England.
- But Charles successfully prevented its passage and so there were no opposition when he ascended the throne.

- Immediately after his coronation, James II resolved to restore Roman Catholicism, against the will of the Majority of the English people.
- Tried to remove all restriction imposed upon the Catholics.
- James believed that the Crown possessed ‘suspending and dispensing powers’.
- By this king could suspend or dispense any law of the land without the will of the parliament.
- His own friends and relatives were appointed in key posts- army , universities - catholics



- By the Declaration of Indulgences (1687) the king suspended the laws against the Catholics.
- By the close of the year- he alienated most of Subjects.
- During this time, the possibility of deposing James II in favour of his elder daughter **Mary** was discussed.
- Mary – Protestant – wife of the greatest protestant leader of Europe- William of Orange.

- In 1687 many leading lords of England communicated with William- reluctant to accept the invitation.
- Later agreed to accept it if he get definite invitation from leading Englishmen to do so.
- In 1688 James reissued the Declaration of Indulgences and gave orders to read it in all churches.
- Those who refused were sent to trial.
- James maintained a standing army of twenty thousand soldiers.- alarmed the people.



- In spite of all the tyranny of James, the people had no intention for revolution to expel the king
- It was because they hoped that Mary the Protestant would succeed him as he had no son so far.
- But this hope was shattered when a son was born to James in July 1688.
- Now disillusioned masses and their leaders decided to dethrone James with help of William of Orange.

- On 30 June 1688, seven important men of England sent an invitation to William.
- The letter was carried over to Holland by Admiral Herbert, disguised as a common sailor.
- He accepted the invitation and set sail from Holland in November 1688.
- He landed at Torbay with professional army men of fifteen thousand.
- James was deserted by his army, Princess Anne, and his second daughter – they joined with his opponents.
- Hearing that William was approaching to London with a large army, James II fled to France on Christmas Eve of 1688.
- Convention Parliament was summoned - in January 1689 William and Mary were proclaimed King and Queen.

