

The Glorious Revolution




The young William III of Orange. William was born in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 14 November, 1650, eight days after his father's death. He was trained to be a ruler from his earliest years.

When James II came to the throne in 1685, memories of the horrors of civil war were still present in people's minds. No one wanted more conflict. But the new king was a Roman Catholic and many feared the outcome if he tried to impose his religion on his subjects. In the end, his reign was short, brought to an abrupt conclusion by the events of the 'Glorious Revolution'.


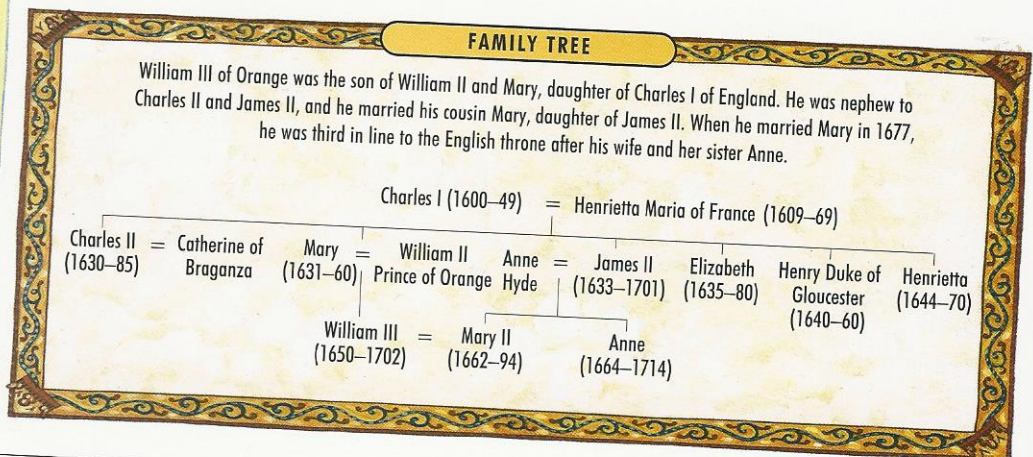
Shortly after he became king, James was faced with a rebellion by the Duke of Monmouth, the eldest of the illegitimate children of Charles II. However, the rebellion was short-lived and the Duke and his followers were punished with great ferocity.

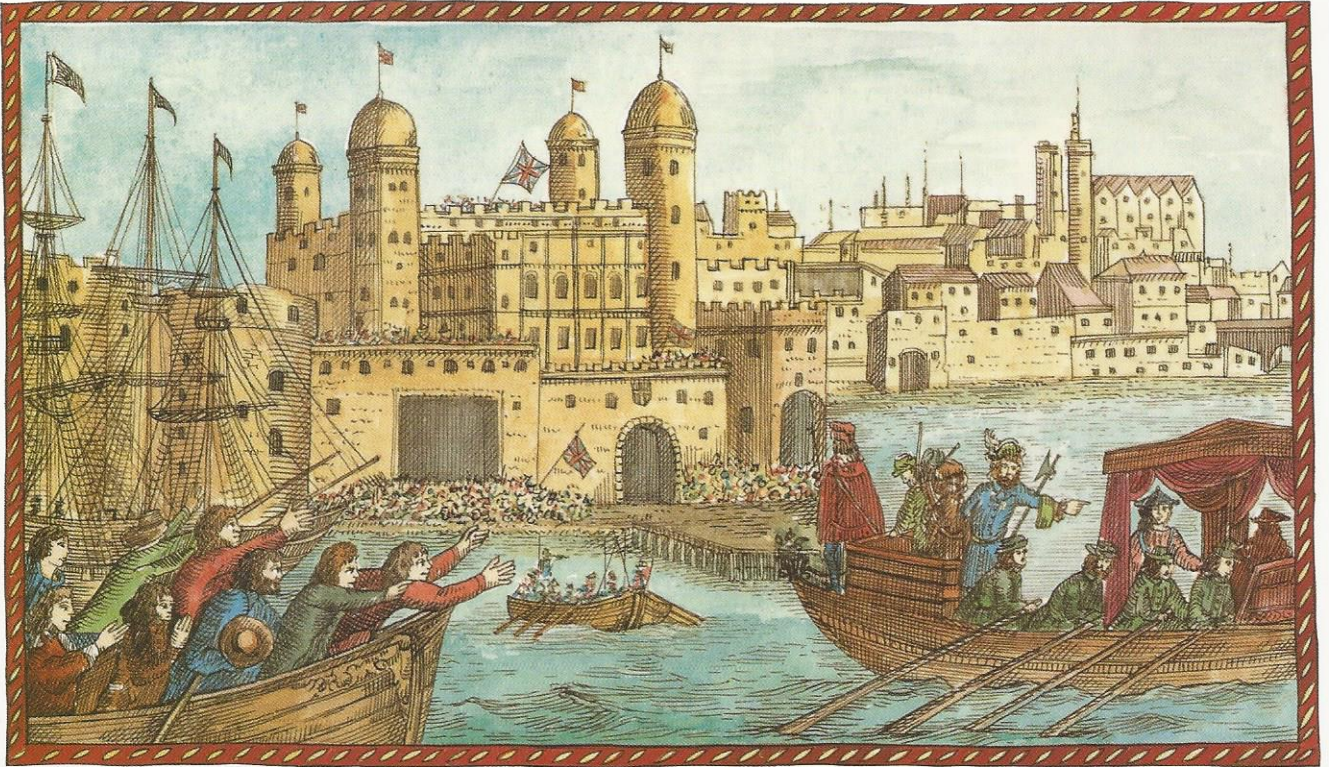
The main hope for Protestant leaders lay in the fact that James's heir was his eldest daughter, Mary, borne by his first wife. She was a Protestant and was married to William III of Orange, ruler of the Dutch Protestants. However, even this hope faded when it was announced that James's second wife was pregnant. In June 1688, she gave birth to a son – the new heir to the throne who would undoubtedly be brought up in the Catholic faith.

William began to make preparations for an attack by sea using the Dutch fleet. James could not believe that his own daughter and son-in-law would attack him and invade Britain.



- 1633** Birth of James, second son of Charles I and Henrietta Maria.
- 1634** Created Duke of York.
- 1642–46** Lives in Oxford during Civil War.
- 1648** Escapes to Netherlands.
- 1660** Restoration of brother Charles I. Marries Anne, daughter of Earl of Clarendon. They have two daughters, Mary and Anne.
- 1668–69** James is admitted to Roman Catholic Church.
- 1673** Marries Catholic princess Mary of Modena.
- 1677** Eldest daughter, Mary, marries William of Orange.
- 1685** Succeeds his brother as James II (6 February).
- 1688** 'Glorious Revolution'. James II is allowed to escape.
- 1689** Parliament declares abdication of James II (12 February).
- 1690** James lands in Ireland. James defeated at Battle of Boyne.
- 1701** Death of James II.



Instead, he thought that the Dutch preparations were for war against the French king, Louis XIV. James was unprepared when William's fleet landed in Torbay, Devon, on 5 November, 1688.

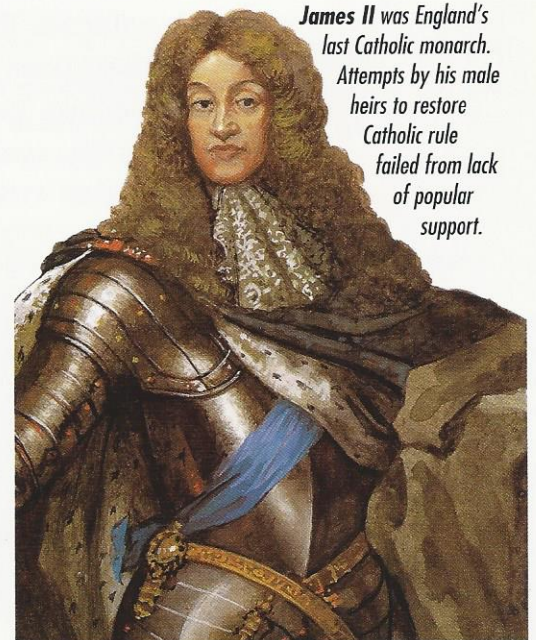
At the news of the Dutch invasion, James panicked. He refused to send his army to confront the invaders because he thought they were too unreliable. Indeed, many Protestant officers deserted and went to join the Dutch force. When he heard that his second daughter, Anne, had also deserted him for the Protestant cause, James made plans to flee. After one unsuccessful attempt, he escaped to France to join his wife and baby.

William marched to London without a shot being fired. This was the 'Glorious Revolution' – a change of monarch without bloodshed.

When James II ordered freedom of worship for Catholics and other dissenters, the Archbishop of Canterbury and six other bishops sent a petition to the king asking him to withdraw the order. James's reaction was to send them to the Tower of London. The bishops were tried and found not guilty.



The title of this picture is 'Popery's downfall and the Protestant's uprising'. It celebrates the victory of the Protestant King William over James II.



James II was England's last Catholic monarch. Attempts by his male heirs to restore Catholic rule failed from lack of popular support.