

Table 5

UNIT IV

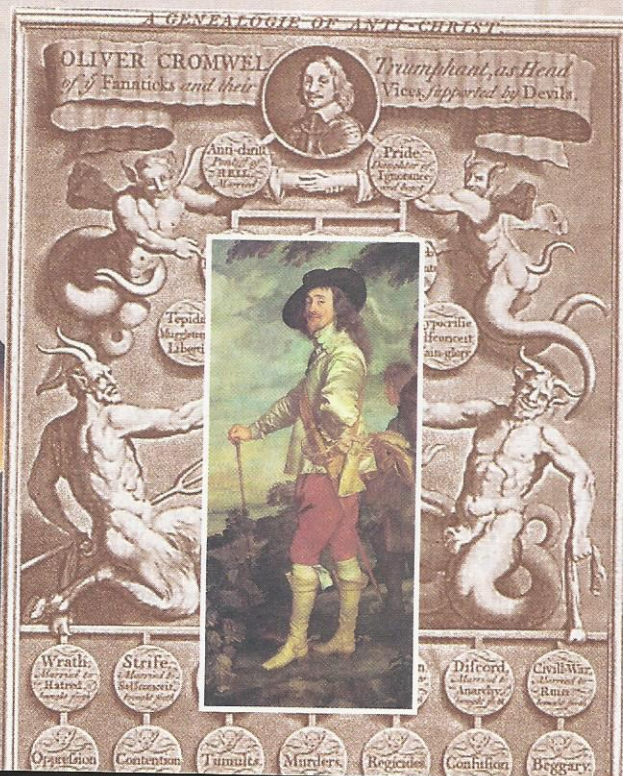
THE STUARTS AND THE STRUGGLE OF THE PARLIAMENT AGAINST THE CROWN

THE STUART KINGS AND THEIR CONFLICTS WITH THE PARLIAMENT. THE CIVIL WAR AND THE NEW MODEL ARMY. RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES IN THE COUNTRY. OLIVER CROMWELL AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

THE RESTORATION OF MONARCHY. THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION. TWO PROTESTANT MONARCHS

Key words, terms and concepts:

1. Gunpowder Plot—Guy Fawkes (1605)
2. Puritans
3. Independents
4. Levellers
5. Diggers
6. New Model Army — Oliver Cromwell
7. High treason
8. The Rump
9. The Lord Protector (1653–1658)
10. The Commonwealth — The Interregnum



The ideology of the rising classes in England at the beginning of the 17th century was Puritanism, it was a form of democratic religion similar to the Calvinist views: denying the supremacy of a man over religious faith, demanding a direct contact with God without any mediators, without anyone between Man and God, thus denying Church as an unnecessary institution. It was a challenge to the Church of England and the Monarch as its head, to the absolute Monarchy altogether.

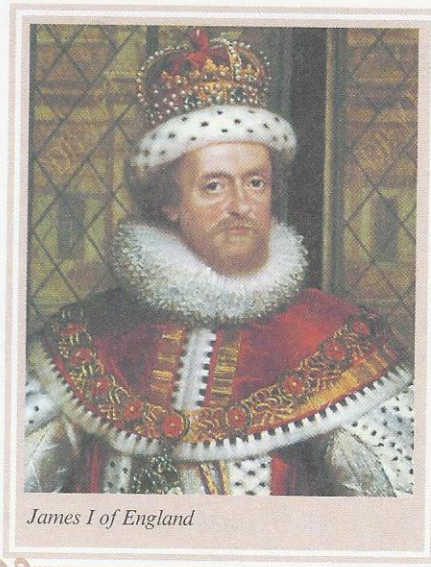
The Puritan ideology was also a challenge to the cultural achievements of Renaissance — the religious doctrines rejected theatre, entertainment, pleasure, they preached and practised austerity, asceticism, adoption of puritan values against idleness. There were different varieties of puritan ideology and groups of people — the extremists, like **independents** (1581), insisting on complete independence of their communities, and **moderates**, who believed in cooperation with monarchy.

The new forces, the developing bourgeoisie began to actively oppose the absolute monarchy, particularly using the Parliament. In 1601 the Parliament made the first declaration of protest, disapproving of the Queen's sell out and distribution of licences.

Those first seeds of discord were to grow up strong and dangerous during the reign of the Stuarts; James I and Charles I.

James VI King of Scots — born in 1566, crowned King of Scots in 1567, became James I (1603–1625) of England.

On the death of Queen Elisabeth I in 1603 he became the senior representative of the Tudor dynasty, being the great-grandson of Margaret, the eldest daughter of Henry VII.



James I of England

The Stuart Kings were less successful than the Tudor Monarchs.

In person King James was not a figure of great majesty; he was, in fact, small, awkward, and had an impediment in his speech. Possessed of a high opinion of his own wisdom he finely believed that Kings were divinely ordained to rule, and that their royal prerogative was unquestionable. So it was hardly surprising that he quarrelled violently and often with his Parliament; the Commons were disappointed, and the Puritans were more so, for James would have none of them, he preferred the Catholics, but the latter ruined their Cause in their famous but abortive Gunpowder Plot.

On November 5th in the year 1605 the famous Gunpowder Plot was perpetrated as a protest against the sharp enforcement of the anti-Catholic laws of King James I. The anniversary of this cabal is celebrated each year in England and is called Guy Fawkes Day in memory of the chief character in the drama. This fellow Fawkes took a house adjoining the Houses of Parliament in London, tunnelled through to

the cellar, and concealed a nice fat charge of gunpowder in the coal bin. Unfortunately for the leader, one of the conspirators warned a certain Lord by letter to stay away from a meeting at the House on the day set for the explosion. This led to the discovery of the plot and Guy Fawkes was tortured and hanged. On this day it is customary in England to dress up like Americans do on Halloween, and to carry an effigy of Fawkes through the streets and then to burn it.

“Remember, Remember,
the 5th of November,
The Gunpowder Treason
and Plot.” — goes a well-known rhyme.

The King was noted for persecuting witches and writing books, principally about the divine rights of Kings.

James was closely connected with the international catholic reactionary powers.

The first Stuarts had faced the alternative: either to give up absolute power and cooperate with new gentlemen and bourgeoisie or to support reactionary noblemen.

They preferred to struggle against the puritans, representatives of new revolutionary ideology.

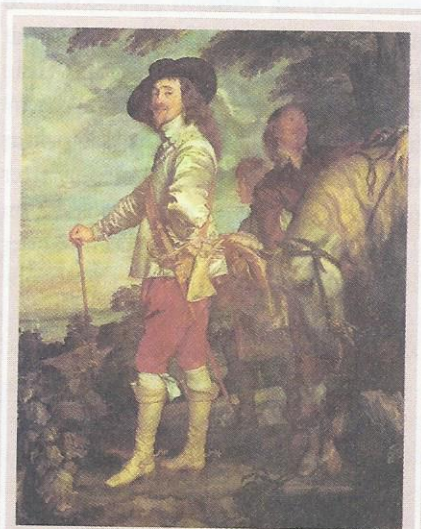
James I, and later his son Charles I were extravagant and wasteful.

Charles I Stuart (1625–1649) was in a constant conflict with Parliament.

The Parliament, when convened, refused to give the King financial support, and Charles I ruled for 11 years without Parliament (1629–1640). That Period of Personal Government, during which the King did not receive the usual financial aid and had to raise money as best as he could: pawned Crown Jewels, gave out honours, etc.; came to an end when he became involved in a war with Scotland for which he couldn't pay.

The King (Charles I) was forced to convene a meeting of the Great Council and later to call a Parliament.

And he had to concede to this Parliament almost all that it asked, so badly he was in need of money. Later his attempts to go back on his word and revoke his concessions and his refusal to hand over to Parliament control of the Army



Charles I



The five eldest children of Charles I, from left to right: Princess Mary (who married William of Orange), Prince James (James II); Prince Charles (Charles II), Princess Elizabeth and Princess Anne (who died as children)