

# How did political power shift in the early modern period?

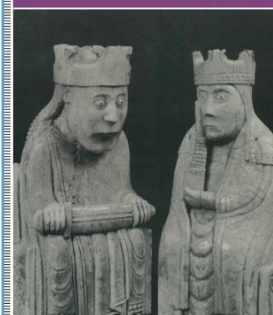
Key dates:	
1642	Beginning of the English Civil War.
1649	Charles I was executed.
1653	Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England.
1660	Charles II was restored to the throne of England.
1688	The 'Glorious Revolution': James II was replaced as ruler by Mary II and William of Orange.

Key terms:	
<b>Monarchy</b>	A form of government where a king or queen is in charge.
<b>Civil War</b>	A war between people/groups from the same country.
<b>Parliament</b>	A country's law-making group. During the Civil War, the Parliament wanted to take power from the king, Charles I.
<b>Royalist</b>	A supporter of the king (in the case of the Civil War, supporters of Charles I).
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	A supporter of Parliament.
<b>New Model Army</b>	The army formed by the Parliamentarians during the Civil War.
<b>Lord Protector</b>	The role taken by Oliver Cromwell after the Civil War.
<b>Republic</b>	A country in which power is held by the people and their elected representatives.
<b>Restoration of the Monarchy</b>	When King Charles II was returned to the throne of England in 1660, and the power of the monarchy was 'restored'.
<b>Glorious Revolution</b>	When King James II was replaced by his daughter Mary I and her husband William of Orange as rulers of England in 1688.
<b>Member of Parliament (MP)</b>	Somebody who is elected to serve in Parliament.

'The trial of Charles I was emblematic (symbolic) of a **major shift in English political thought - and eventually of English political practice...** The nation would no longer accept a king who would not protect them in their law, property, liberty and religion.'

Howard Nenner, *The Right to be King* (1995)

Howard Nenner  
*The Right to be King*  
The Succession to the Crown of England, 1603-1714  
Studies in Modern History General Editor: J. C. D. Clark



Evidence that there was a big shift in political power during the period:	Evidence that there was NOT a big shift in political power during the period:
In 1642, Civil War broke out in England when Parliament demanded more power from the king. They wanted a fundamental shift in the way that the country was run.	In 1660, King Charles II returned from exile to rule England. This reintroduced the monarchy in England. Charles II also promised that nobody would be punished for their role in the Civil War.
In 1649, King Charles I was executed, when a high court decided that he was guilty of treason. This was the first time that an English king had been sentenced to death by his own people.	Though the Glorious Revolution of 1688 led to a change in ruler as James II was replaced by Mary II and William of Orange, there was no real change in the style of ruling.
Oliver Cromwell ruled England as 'Lord Protector', He acted as head of state and head of government of a new republic. Later power slowly shifted to parliament.	Though the monarchs ruled with the help of Parliament after the Civil War, the high status of the monarchy remained.