

England Rejects Absolutism

Quaestio: _____

Nunc Agenda: In your assigned groups, read over your group position, summarize it in bullet points in the chart below, and choose and prepare one group member to give a brief explanation to the class.

Introductory Address

The first goal of this meeting is to determine whether or not England should enter into a Civil War. A summary of the events that have taken place up to this point will be read aloud for all parties. During this reading, you must annotate the text in three ways: (1) Underline important information, (2) Write notes to clarify unclear references or define new terms, (3) Circle and/or write notes for details that can help you decide on your view. Before beginning opening speeches, your group will have a few minutes to decide your position.

Opening Speeches

Summarize the positions of each group in bullet-point form while listening to the opening speeches. Keep in mind that, while the present groups are acting as representatives, in reality, there would be overlap between the religious and the socio-political identities in actual individuals. In other words, a noble might be an Anglican and a commoner may also be an Anglican, or one may be Catholic and the other Puritan.

Noble Landowners	Common Townspeople	English Anglicans	English Puritans	English Catholics

Moderated Caucus: The Spectre of Civil War

Now that you have studied the events leading up to this moment, you must decide (1) whether your support lies with the King or with Parliament, and (2) whether or not you want to begin a civil war. Use the space below to lay out your positions and your arguments to support them.

King or Parliament?	Civil War or Nay?

Moderated Caucus: The State of the Commonwealth

Read about the events of the English Civil War, and about the way in which the “Lord Protector” of England Oliver Cromwell has been running your country. Now that you have what life is like under Puritan-dominated Parliamentary rule, you must decide (1) whether you approve of the actions of Parliament, and (2) whether or not you think England would be better off returning to the monarchy.

Approve of Parliament?	Return to Monarchy?

Moderated Caucus: Addressing Absolutism

Read about the events of the Restoration of the Monarchy, and about the concerns surrounding the actions and positions of James II. Now that you have been reminded of what life is like under an absolute monarch, you must decide (1) whether or not you can accept James II as an Absolutist and Catholic King, and (2) whether or not you think William of Orange should be invited by Parliament to be the new, non-Absolutist and non-Catholic, king.

Cool with King James II?	William for King?

Glorious Revolution

Read about the Glorious Revolution and answer the following questions as a group.

1. What happened to King James II when power was handed to William and Mary? Why is this event named the Glorious Revolution?
2. What were William and Mary required to sign before becoming King and Queen? What restrictions did this put on the Monarchy?
3. Define “Constitutional Monarchy.”