

# Absolutism in England



# What is Absolutism?

- Essentially the ruling power is not subjected to any other agency:
  1. judicial,
  2. legislative,
  3. religious,
  4. economic,
  5. electoral.

«I am the State!»



# Absolute Monarchy

- Absolute monarchy originated in early modern Europe after the breakup of the medieval order .
- The leaders were strong and claimed the absolute authority of the state against former restraints such as:
  1. Church
  2. Feudal lords
  3. Medioeval customary Law





# The Divine Right

- Kings derived their authority from God.
- God chooses political leaders.
- God grants the right to rule to the nobility.

**Which was the origin of such theory?**

The medioeval conception according to which God awarded the ruler of temporal power and the Church of spiritual power.





*temporal*

*spiritual*





I actually became the  
Head of the Church and  
the State as well.....

With the Act  
of Supremacy!



Wait a minute,  
wait a minute!  
How could Henry  
rule as an absolute  
monarch?

The Magna Charta  
limited his power in  
economic matters and  
put him under the  
control of Parliament!



A piece of  
cake!!!

Remember,  
Parliament  
summons only  
if I wish, hence,  
only if I need it.

I took control of  
the possessions  
and lands of the  
Church with the  
act of Supremacy

Hence, I became  
stronger and I  
didn't need the  
money of  
Parliament any  
longer!



As far as I can  
remember I called  
Parliament....let me  
think.....

One.....two...SEVEN  
times!

Seven times in  
26 years!

We were not in  
speaking terms,  
actually!!!



I was my  
father's  
daughter!!!

I called  
Parliament 13  
times ... in 45  
years!!!!

I could do whatever  
I wanted, I was  
Elizabeth, after all!





Despite a frugal policy in economic matter, when Elizabeth died.....

....the nation was in debt of £350,000 .

It was not an excessive debt, but a wise policy in economic matters was needed.



If a monarch had not been wise enough to avoid undertaking a policy of heavy taxations....

....it would have been difficult to escape the control of Parliament.

But the Stuart kings ignored the lesson of the Tudor monarchs!





So, with the Stuart dynasty English absolutism will crash against the firm rock of Parliament eventually!

And the English monarchy won't be the same any longer.

But that is another story! See you!!



▶ Next Episode



# The Stuarts

