



Absolutism in England



USEFUL WORDS



"Look — if I'd had any idea what a constitution was, I never would have signed the darn thing. okay?"

SUMMON

GRANT

AGENCY

SUBJECT

CUSTOMARY

AWARD

CLAIM

HENCE

WHATEVER

UNDERTAKE

APPROBATION

SEED

MATTER

DEBT

PIECE OF CAKE

WISE



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.
- The leaders were strong and claimed the absolute authority over:
 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!**



THE MAGNA CHARTA



- 1215
- The exorbitant demand for taxes of the King brought to the rebellion of higher classes (barons, merchants)
- It established for the first time the principle that **everybody, including the king, was subject to the law**
- The king could no longer decide in economic matters **alone**, but needed the approbation of a «general consent»
- That «general consent» is the first seed that will take the form of a Parliament soon
- Hence, the Magna Charta, which stands at the basis of English constitution, was actually made to defend private property.



A piece of
cake!!!

Remember,
Parliament can
summon 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

