

## Case Study - England: Early 1600s

In the early 1600s, England had a monarch and a Parliament (which was like our Congress). The members of Parliament were used to having some power, to advising the king, and to being used to pass certain laws – such as new taxes.

- 1 Charles I believed that the king should have all the power. He wanted to have total control and to not have to listen to Parliament. He claimed to be an absolute monarch that ruled by divine right. This angered the members of Parliament. They thought that divine right absolute monarchy was a bad type of government.

- 2 Many people in England had begun to believe that people had rights that the government should protect. They began to believe that the old ways of doing things were wrong - they had new and better ideas for new and better forms of government. They wanted the people to have a say in what happened - not just the king. They wanted democracy. Charles I disagreed. He wanted the king to have unlimited power.

- 3 Charles I also liked to spend money. He spent way too much money on parties and wars. He then wanted to raise taxes on the people to pay for his spending. He wanted to ignore the Magna Carta and the Common Law which said that taxes should be raised by Parliament since they were elected by the people. Charles I wanted to be able to raise taxes whenever he wanted. He began to force nobles to “give him loans” and put them in jail if they refused.

- 4 Many people in England, including a majority of the members of Parliament, were Puritans. That meant that they were Protestants that wanted to get rid of anything in the Church of England that was at all Catholic. Charles hated the Puritans and had a Catholic wife. He had outspoken Puritans beaten and jailed. He wouldn’t tolerate Puritan writings or ideas. This caused many Puritans (such as the Pilgrims) to come to the New World. The ones that stayed in England were very upset at the way the government treated them.

- 5 When people in England disagreed with the king or protested against his laws, the king would send his military to their town to take over and enforce laws. When the military came in it would take away the people’s rights and treat them unfairly. They were no longer allowed to speak their mind. Charles I ignored the rights that were given to English citizens in the Common Law.

- 6 The Parliament of England wanted England to be the greatest nation in the world. They felt that for this to happen the people needed to rule it. They were afraid that Charles I would ruin their economy, destroy their religion, and take away all their freedoms. They wanted a ruler who would follow the Rule of Law. Since they loved their country they felt that they had to do whatever it took to make England the best it could be.

**Each numbered section above is an example of one of these causes of revolutions. Write the number from above in the blank next to the appropriate cause of revolutions.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Religious Intolerance      \_\_\_\_\_ Social Injustice      \_\_\_\_\_ Unpopular Method of Rule

\_\_\_\_\_ Enlightenment Ideas      \_\_\_\_\_ Economic Distress      \_\_\_\_\_ Nationalism

**Predict - What do you think will happen in England given what you just read?**