

## Cromwell's Climb to Power



- For the next four years the Army was engaged in securing the realm. Financed by the appropriation and sale of Royalist lands, Cromwell carried-out a battle against mutinous factions in the army before engaging in campaigns in Ireland and Scotland which devastated those areas.
- 6% of the Scottish population was wiped-out, and 41% of Catholic Ireland.
- As a governing body, the Rump was a failure.
- Sentiment in the Army was millenarian and strongly in favor of continuing revolution.
- April 21, 1653 Cromwell used the Army to clear Parliament.
- "The legal authority that had called the New Model Army into existence had vanished, but the Army remained." (307)
- Cromwell was convinced that a new, holy, era had begun. God had granted the Army victory over the Scots and Irish, after all.
- Parliament was replaced with a Parliament of the "Saints," men from the Puritan parishes elected for their piety. (The "Barebones Parliament")
- The only thing that the Barebones Parliament could agree upon was to hand all power back to Cromwell in December.
- "Instrument of Government" takes over. Cromwell named Lord Protector.

## Cromwell's Reign (Oh, yeah, the "Interregnum")

- Cromwell never lost the vision that the "Republic" was to be a reign of the godly.
- The Instrument of Government involved a Council of State and a single legislative house composed of those who were known to be godly.
- (In other words, Army members and Cromwell's cronies.)
- Puritan religious ordinances passed early-on in the Long Parliament were enforced.
- Christmas feasting was replaced with a day of fast.
- All other sacred feasts were abolished and replaced with a single day of fasting every month.
- Nevertheless, there was tolerance of the choice of each parish to worship as it pleased, as long as it did not lead to trouble.
- Financial problems began in 1653 as well -- the funds raised from Royalist lands and special taxes had dried-up. The new "Parliament" was unwilling to support the continued costs of war with Spain and Holland.
- Cromwell was always successful as a general.
- January 1655 -- Cromwell chooses to rule alone, as a military dictator. The Realm is divided into twelve military zones, where selected major generals are charged to "discourage and discountenance all profaneness and ungodliness."
- This was not a cheaper form of government, but it was easier to collect taxes.
- 1657 -- "Humble Petition and Advice" actually a constitution which re-established the old order of government, with Cromwell taking the place of 'king.' He was offered the crown.

## Alright, enough of that, now back to your regularly scheduled monarchy.

- The Humble Petition and Advice was essentially another step in the restoration of the Monarchy.
- Oliver Cromwell may have had his "issues" but he was sincerely interested in the welfare of England.
- He died in September 1658, fairly certain that what followed would again be an English Kingdom.
- His son, Richard, briefly tried to take his place, but was firmly asked by the generals to end the Protectorate entirely.
- The restored Rump parliament continued their long tradition of financial stinginess and mismanagement of policy -- the crazy days of 46-49 were coming back complete with religious extremists and the threat of anarchy.
- May 1659 -- Parliament ordered the Army to disband. The Army closed Parliament.
- Much to the relief of all, General George Monck, administrator of Scotland had had enough and marched on London.
- Monck reinstated Parliament, "unpurged" it to give it a majority in favor of restoration, and dissolved it after it had fulfilled the express purpose of inviting Charles II out of exile to take the throne.

## King Charles (take) II

- Charles dictated the terms of his own return at Breda.
- Desiring to avoid a repeat of any part of the last twenty years, Charles' terms were designed to win the people to him, including his enemies.
- Pardon was offered to all except those whom *Parliament* named as traitors.
- Property rights were guaranteed until such time as Parliament could sort-out a just way of compensating the various parties for loss.
- "liberty to tender consciences" was promised, suggesting (no matter how vague this may seem) that freedom of thought and speech would be guaranteed.
- The landing of the King in Kent began a progressive party that followed the King to London.
- In France, Charles developed a well-earned reputation for enjoying all the pleasures life had to offer.
- Since he had also developed a sense of dignity and congeniality, with tolerance as his bottom line, even the Puritans were generally willing to put up with this. One thing was certain:
- Christmas was back.

