



THE RESTORATION OF THE STUARTS IN ENGLAND AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOURGEOIS SYSTEM

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 24 th July 2026 Accepted: 20 th August 2026	After Charles II Stuart returned to power in England, the old order was not fully restored. The king granted an amnesty to participants in the Civil War and issued a decree allowing confiscated lands from the revolutionary period to remain with their current owners. Parliament took control of the country's taxation and financial affairs. Parliament also granted the king an allowance. The country was governed mainly by Parliament. However, despite the amnesty, republicans were persecuted. The bodies of Cromwell and other revolutionary leaders were removed from their graves, hanged, and then their heads were cut off.
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Capitalist relations developed in all sectors of the economy. The number of capitalist farmers increased, while enclosure and the dispossession of peasants from their land intensified. Industry achieved great success. As a result of England's trade with Hindustan (India), substantial profits were earned, while the wealth of the colonies was exploited [1, 4].

Charles II began to pay less attention to the interests of the bourgeoisie. His foreign policy, in particular, caused their dissatisfaction. Even before coming to power, he had begun borrowing money from France. After ascending the throne, he pursued a policy of closer relations with France. In return for financial support from the French king Louis XIV, Charles II made political and economic concessions to France. He also sold Dunkirk to France, a town that had been captured from Spain during Cromwell's rule [3, 6].

The struggle between the king and Parliament led to the formation of two political parties in England: the Tories and the Whigs. The Tory Party consisted of supporters of royal authority, including large landowners and members of the English clergy. The Whig Party included wealthy financiers and some large landowners. They sought to expand Parliament's rights at the expense of royal authority [3].

In 1685, James II, the younger brother of Charles II, ascended the throne. He considered the restoration of absolutism and Catholicism in England to be his main objectives. This alarmed both the Tories and the Whigs [3, 6].

In June 1688, the Tories and Whigs invited William of Orange, the Stadtholder of the United Provinces (the Netherlands) and James II's son-in-law, to take the

English throne. In November, William of Orange arrived in England, while James II eventually fled to France [1, 6].

Before William of Orange ascended the throne, Parliament required him to accept the Declaration of Rights. According to its principles, the king was deprived of the power to suspend laws without parliamentary consent, and the right to impose taxes was placed under parliamentary control. The maintenance of a standing army in peacetime also required Parliament's approval [3, 6].

The constitutional developments following the Glorious Revolution strengthened the position of Parliament and gradually contributed to the establishment of ministerial responsibility within the British political system [3].

The English bourgeoisie called the events of 1688 the "Glorious Revolution" because they strengthened the parliamentary system in England and significantly limited royal authority [1, 3].

The bourgeois revolution of the 17th century in England weakened the feudal-absolutist system of government and removed important obstacles to the further development of capitalism. Therefore, the late 17th century and the entire 18th century became a period of growth in England's productive forces. Ultimately, this led to the emergence of new forms of production and the development of large-scale mechanized capitalist industry [2, 5].

England became one of the first countries to develop the modern capitalist factory system. Compared with the earlier manufactory system, the factory represented a more advanced and productive form of industrial organization [1, 2].



The 18th century was also important in English political history because parliamentary institutions continued to develop. The growing influence of Parliament, the gradual establishment of ministerial responsibility, and the increasing significance of political parties helped shape the foundations of modern parliamentary government [3, 4].

Later, the principle of ministerial responsibility to Parliament was adopted in various forms by numerous European states and other countries around the world [2].

The British colonial empire expanded considerably during the 18th century. By the end of the century, Britain possessed colonies and overseas territories in different regions of the world. It had surpassed several older colonial rivals, including Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands, while also competing with France for commercial and colonial influence [4, 5].

In the 18th century, English landlords increasingly leased their lands to large tenant farmers. These agricultural enterprises operated according to capitalist principles. Using improved agricultural tools and farming methods, tenant farmers employed wage laborers, developed livestock breeding, and increased agricultural productivity [1, 2].

The capitalist farming system supplied industry with raw materials and provided industrial towns with food. Thus, agricultural development contributed significantly to the overall expansion of capitalism in England [1].

Another consequence of the agrarian revolution was that the expropriation of peasants provided the growing capitalist industry with a large supply of labor. Only a proportion of peasants who lost their land could find employment on farms. Many landless peasants moved to cities, increasing the availability of wage labor for manufactories and factories [2, 5].

The political changes of 1688 also affected landownership. Royal lands and other properties increasingly passed into private hands, particularly those of influential landowners, merchants, and financiers. These changes strengthened the economic positions of the aristocracy and bourgeoisie while weakening traditional peasant land rights [3, 4].

By the second half of the 18th century, the necessary conditions for the emergence of large-scale capitalist production had developed in England. English capitalists accumulated wealth through colonial expansion, overseas commerce, and domestic economic transformation. Britain's victories in colonial competition with France further strengthened its international economic position [1, 4].

During the 18th century, colonial expansion was accompanied by economic exploitation, violence, and the extraction of resources from conquered territories. These processes contributed to primitive capital accumulation and the development of capitalist economic relations [2, 5].

The commercial and industrial bourgeoisie accumulated capital through landownership, international trade, and colonial activities. Seeking greater profits, entrepreneurs increasingly recognized the importance of mechanized production and began supporting technological inventions and their application to industrial manufacturing [1, 5].

The first significant improvements in the cotton textile industry occurred in weaving. In 1733, John Kay invented the flying shuttle, which accelerated the weaving process. As a result, the demand for yarn increased, encouraging further technological improvements in spinning [1, 2].

In 1761, the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce announced a reward for the development of improved mechanical spinning technology [2].

In the 1760s, James Hargreaves developed a mechanical spinning machine known as the "Spinning Jenny." This invention represented a major breakthrough in spinning technology. It enabled a single worker to operate several spindles simultaneously, significantly increasing productivity. However, the machine was still operated manually, and the yarn it produced was relatively weak [1, 5].

Improvements in spinning technology continued. In 1769, Richard Arkwright patented a spinning machine that could be powered by water. In 1779, Samuel Crompton developed a more advanced spinning machine known as the "Spinning Mule." This invention combined important advantages of earlier spinning technologies and made it possible to produce finer and stronger yarn [2, 5].

The development of mechanized textile production was not limited to England. Other European countries also experimented with mechanical spinning systems. However, England developed the industrial and economic conditions necessary for the widespread application of these technological innovations [1, 2].

As new spinning machines came into use, weaving began to lag behind. This encouraged further improvements in weaving technology. In 1785, Edmund Cartwright developed a power loom, which contributed to the mechanization of textile production. Following subsequent improvements, mechanical weaving



became increasingly widespread during the 19th century [1, 5].

Other technological innovations supported the development of metallurgy in 18th-century England. The use of coke in iron production and improvements in steelmaking methods increased the availability of metal products and helped establish the foundations of large-scale industrial manufacturing [2].

The introduction of machinery into industry increased labor productivity and expanded production. The growth of iron production was especially significant because iron became an essential material for machinery, equipment, construction, and transportation infrastructure [1, 5].

The development of large-scale factory industry dramatically changed England's economic geography. Previously, the southeast had been one of the country's most commercially developed regions. During the Industrial Revolution, important industrial centers emerged and expanded in other regions. Cities such as Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Glasgow became major centers of industrial and commercial activity [4].

Working conditions in early factories were often extremely difficult. Workers faced long working hours, low wages, unsafe workplaces, and limited social protection. The introduction of machinery also displaced some traditional workers, while employers increasingly used the labor of women and children. These problems contributed to growing dissatisfaction among industrial workers [1, 2].

During the early stages of industrialization, some workers protested against the introduction of machinery by destroying industrial equipment. Such protests reflected fears of unemployment, declining incomes, and deteriorating working conditions [5].

The destruction of machinery became associated with the Luddite movement, which emerged in Britain during the early 19th century. The movement reflected broader tensions between technological progress and the economic insecurity experienced by industrial workers [7].

Initially, workers' opposition to machines represented a reaction to the rapid transformation of traditional production methods. Over time, the workers' movement developed new forms of collective action, including strikes and organized demands for improved working conditions [2, 7].

The Industrial Revolution was closely connected with the development of steam-powered transportation. The work of engineers such as George Stephenson contributed to the advancement of steam locomotives

and railway technology during the early 19th century. Railway construction subsequently expanded rapidly across Britain [4, 7].

Railway construction stimulated the development of metallurgy, mechanical engineering, coal mining, and other related industries. It also improved transportation efficiency, facilitated domestic trade, and supported the expansion of industrial markets [7].

The construction of railways encouraged the development of locomotive and railway carriage manufacturing. The Industrial Revolution produced major social and economic consequences. As large-scale factory production became dominant, a modern industrial working class emerged in England [2, 7].

The Industrial Revolution transformed hand-operated tools into mechanized equipment, workshops into factories, craftsmen into industrial workers, and merchants into industrial entrepreneurs. Thus, the Industrial Revolution marked an important milestone in the development of capitalist society. It represented a significant advance in productive forces and a new stage in the formation of capitalist relations of production [1, 2, 5].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the political, economic, and social changes in England during the 17th and 18th centuries played a significant role in the development of capitalism. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 strengthened parliamentary power and created favorable conditions for economic growth. Agricultural reforms and the Industrial Revolution accelerated the transition from manual labor to machine-based production, increasing productivity and expanding industry. However, industrialization also caused social problems, including poor working conditions, unemployment, and the exploitation of women and children. Colonial expansion and international trade further strengthened England's economy. Overall, these transformations established England as a leading industrial nation and significantly influenced the development of modern capitalist society.

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