

Question:

How did the Glorious Revolution occur in Britain? What was its fallout at home and abroad?

Answer:

- Glorious Revolution occurred in Britain in 1688.
- James II. was king at that time.
- He was a Catholic while majority of population of England and Scotland were Protestants.
- **Divine Right of King:** He was ruling according to theory of divine right of King, according to which king has lots of power and was not answerable to anyone. People were fed up of this despotic rule of James II.
- **Catholicism:** As James II was catholic himself, he promoted Catholicism. He used his suspending and dispensing powers for promotion of Catholicism.

Declaration of Indulgence 1687: He passed declaration of Indulgence for the welfare of Catholics. According to this, catholics can practice their religion freely and can do jobs. .

→ Trial of seven bishops:

James II issued another declaration and asked the clergy to read out that declaration to public. But, they hesitated and seven bishops requested the king that they cannot read out it to public. King arrested them in the charges of treason. Later, those bishops were released by the jury.

→ Influence on Universities:

King started influencing universities for the promotion of Catholicism. He wanted to bring forth more catholic students. For this purpose, he also dismissed Sir Isaac Newton.

Protestants of Britain were unhappy by the despotic rule of James II. So, they invited daughter and son-in-law of James II, Queen Mary and William respectively.

William accepted this offer because he also wanted help of England against France.

So, people and parliament of Britain peacefully handed the throne to Queen Mary and William, which came to be

known as Glorious Revolution.

Fallout of glorious revolution at home:

1. End of divine right of king:

This revolution put an end to divine right of king. As from now, king would be selected by people.

2. Era of constitutionalism:

Era of constitutionalism begins with this revolution because it has ended the despotic rule.

3. Supremacy of parliament:

This revolution established the supremacy of parliament as the powers of king became limited.

4. Gave death-blow to catholicism:

End of James II was proved as end of catholicism. It was also decided that no catholic can ever become the king.

5. Era of religious toleration:

It started era of religious toleration in England as everyone was granted religious freedom except catholics. Because it was considered a foreign religion.

6. Political stability:

Act of settlement 1689 sets the

succession on throne which helped in the establishment of constitutional monarchy.

7- Independence of judiciary:

This revolution sets the judiciary free as previous monarchs can influence the judiciary. Salaries of judges were also fixed with time.

Fallout on abroad:

1. Relations with France:

Previous monarchs like James II, has sold their foreign policy to French King Louis XIV. James II and Louis XIV were friends. But people of England did not like this friendship as Louis XIV was very cruel to Protestants. They considered the influence of France as disgrace.

But the ascension of William of Orange to English throne has bring glory to England. Because Louis XIV accepted the over-lordship of William to English throne by the treaty of Ryswick 1697.

2. Britain as a great power

Britain emerged as a great power after the victory of England in the war against France.

3. Britain's entry into European politics:

William of Orange wanted the help of England against France because its homeland Holland has a great enmity with France for about 127 years. Both of them have fought 27 wars in all these years. This was also the reason that William accepted offer of English throne. So, England had to participate in the war against France. And, this pushed the England into European politics.