



Absolutism in England



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 after the breakup of the medieval order .
- The leaders were strong and claimed the absolute authority of the state against former restraints such as:
 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!



A piece of
cake!!!

Remember,
Parliament
summons 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

