



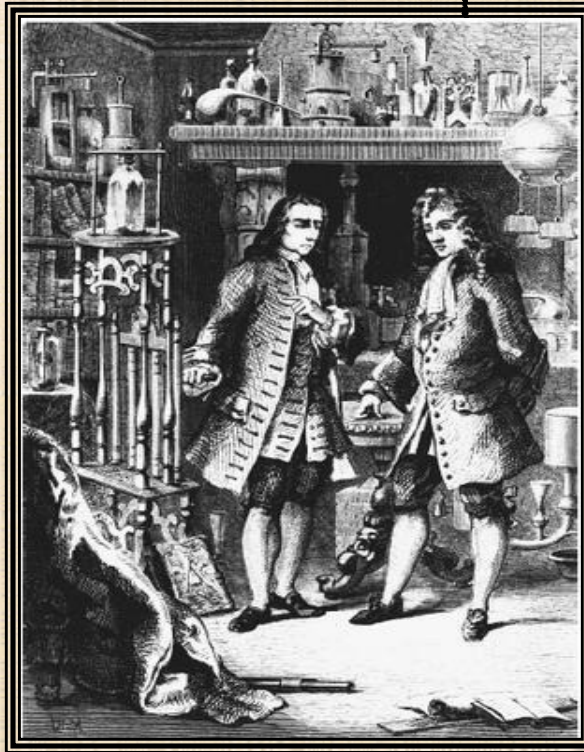
# *The Restoration and Enlightenment Era*

*The Age of Reason: 1660-1798*



# *Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660*

- England turned its back on the era of the Puritan rule and entered a lively period in which the Stuart Court set the tone for upper class social and political life.





# *Charles II Returns*

- After Oliver Cromwell's government in England was deposed, Charles II returns to England after Parliament restores power.
- Charles II spent much time (maybe too much?) exiled in France under Louis XIV and absorbed their glamour, elegance. This intrigued him. He returned to England trying to emulate the French courts' sophistication and splendor.



*Charles II*



*King Louis XIV*





- Now, Lords and Ladies wore silks, lace, elaborate wigs, sparkling jewelry, performed sophisticated dances, etc.





# *Disaster in England*

- Charles II won widespread support with Parliament as a series of disasters occurred:
  - Great Plague (1665)
  - Great Fire in London (1666)
- Soon, old political rivalries resurfaced creating two nation's chief political parties: Tories and Whigs



# *The Great Plague*



In the year 1665, death came calling on the city of London in the form of plague. People called it the Black Death, black for the color of the tell-tale lumps that foretold its presence in a victim's body, and death for the inevitable result. The plague germs were carried by fleas which lived as parasites on rats. It had first appeared in Britain in 1348, and after that the islands were never totally free of plague.



# *The Great Fire of London*



- The night of September 2, 1666, a small fire broke out in a baker's shop in London, perhaps started by the carelessness of a maid.
- In the close-packed streets of London, the blaze soon became an inferno.
- Fanned by an east wind, the fire spread with terrifying speed, feeding on the tar and pitch commonly used to seal houses.
- Fully 80% of the city was destroyed, including over 13,000 houses, 89 churches and 52 Company (Guild) Halls.
- The spiritual hub of the city, Old St. Paul's Cathedral, was nothing but rubble. (John Donne's church)



# The Political Parties

## The Tories 1679-1832

- Based from Catholic outlaws in Ireland
- Supporters of James II and Charles II
- Supported royal authority (land owning aristocrats), conservative Anglicans
- No desire for war with France

## The Whigs 1679-1850

- Based from Presbyterian Scots
- Opponents of the succession of Charles II
- Limit royal authority (powerful nobles, wealthy merchants)



- Charles (who had no children) was succeeded by James II (his Catholic brother) in 1685.
- James II was determined to restore Catholicism, which lost him the support of even some Tories.
- In 1688, James abdicated (or rather, forced out) and replaced with William and Mary, peacefully. Mary first, then Will.



- King William and Queen Mary were Dutch Protestant – enemy of Catholic France and the Whig party.
- They started a series of wars considered “Second Hundred Years’ War” with Louis XIV (France)
- Parliament banned Catholics from the throne a year before William’s death in 1702.
- Mary’s Protestant sister, Anne was crowned next.
- During her reign, she joined England and Scotland to become Great Britain.



# *The Age of Reason*



- Despite the recurring warfare with France, the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of relative stability in Britain.
- It was heavily influenced by Enlightenment, a philosophical movement inspired by such works of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century figures, such as John Locke and Sir Isaac Newton.
- There was order, balance, logic, and reason that were paramount ideas of the day.
- Methods of scientific inquiry were applied to everything from farming to politics.



# *Literature*

- They sought to make sense of the world by observing human society and reflecting on both its positive and negative attributes. Some writers of this era offer their views on the restored monarchy, human nature, the proper behavior of children, and role of women in society.
- Prominent authors include: Daniel Defoe, Jonathon Swift, Samuel Pepys, Alexander Pope, Joseph Addison, and Lady Montague