

9:5a—The Restoration Period



Charles II (left)

- Charles II a Catholic monarch but shrewd ruler
- son of James II
- devout and stubborn Catholic
- trouble brewing in Protestant England

The Restoration

- British monarchy “restored” with Charles II in 1660
- 1665—deadly plague sweeps London (70,000 dead)
- 1666—Great Fire of London (at right) destroys over half the city’s houses
- London rebuilt



9:5b—The Restoration Period

1688—the Glorious Revolution

- James II has son—signals another Catholic king
- Parliament invites Mary, Protestant daughter of James II, to rule with her husband, William of Orange
- William and Mary arrive—James II flees to France—bloodless coup
- new monarchs respect Bill of Rights, establishing limited, or constitutional, monarchy

Queen Anne (reigned 1702-1714)

- Protestant sister of Mary's
- 1707—Act of Union creates Great Britain (joins England and Scotland)
- Britain at war with France once again, which gave rise to Whigs and Tories
- Tories—conservative aristocrats and landowners who are against change, war
- Whigs—growing merchant class, supported war and trade

Hanoverian kings from Germany—George I, George III

- 1714—George I becomes king
- relative of James I from Germany
- spoke no English, uninterested in Britain
- relied on ministers (cabinet)
- chief of ministers became known as “prime” minister—
- Parliament's power grew even greater

9:5c—The Restoration Period

1760—George III becomes king

- born in Britain, thought of himself as English
- strong-willed and influential
- his handling of American colonies helped bring about American Revolution

Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions

- smaller farms replaced by bigger, fenced-in, more efficient estates
- increased food production, increased population—towns grow in size
- 1750—series of British inventions: steam engine, spinning & weaving cloth
- factories begin to grow—British merchants sold goods around the world

The Enlightenment, or the Scientific Revolution

- Sir Isaac Newton publishes study of gravity, movement of planets⁶⁸
- Adam Smith and *Wealth of Nations*—economics ruled by laws, like science
- John Locke, British philosopher, political theorist
rationalism applied to study of government
concluded monarchs have no divine right
authority of kings comes from people's consent

9:5d—The Restoration Period

Neoclassical Ideal of the Enlightenment

- believed world was harmonious and orderly
- admired harmony, restraint, and clarity of classical writers from ancient Greece and Rome

Neoclassical style of English Enlightenment writers

- frequent classical allusions to myths, gods, heroes of ancients
- inclination to generalize the world rather than describe it from a particular individual's perspective
- fondness for satire

Literary world expanded

- more wealth = more leisure/education = more reading
- coffeehouses and clubs grew for middle-class—like coffeehouses at colleges today
- Age of Dryden (1660-1670)
- Age of Pope and Swift (1700-1750)
- Age of Johnson (1750-1795)
- drama and novel continued to evolve and grow