

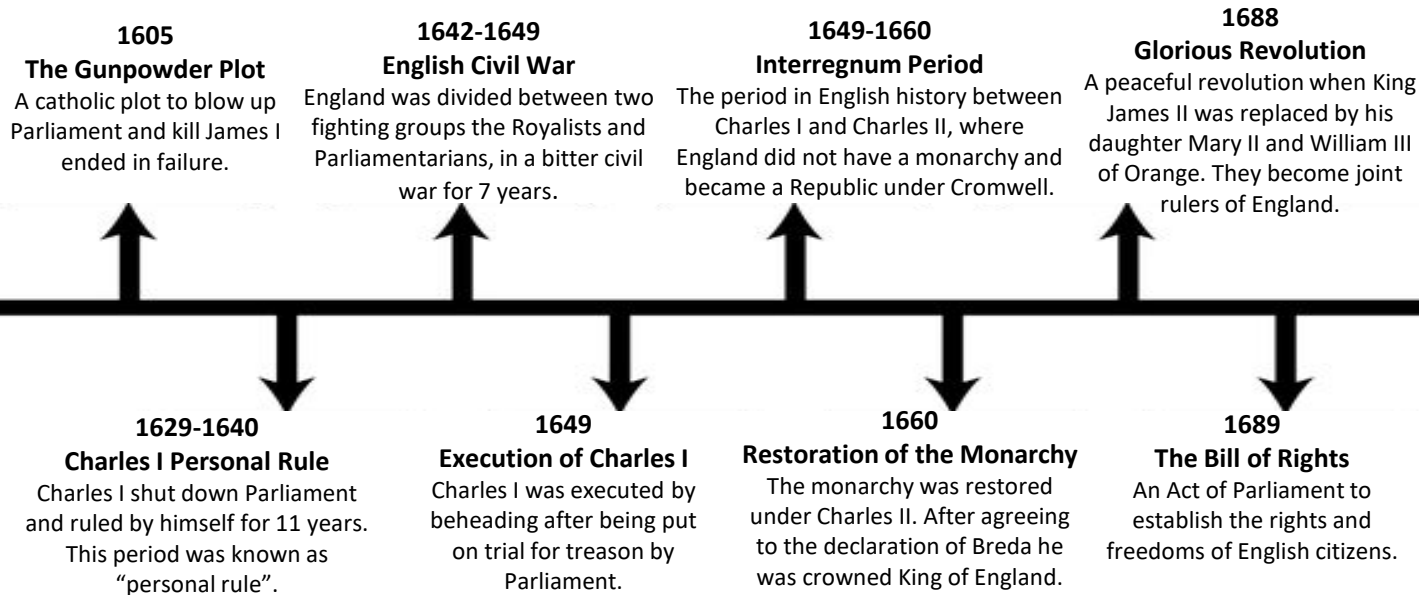
# Knowledge Organiser: Why did the power of the monarchy decline during the Renaissance?










## Topic Summary:

Following Elizabeth I's death, the Crown passed from the Tudors to the Stuart Family. Throughout their reigns, religious, political, economic and social instability grew. This **caused the position of monarchs to be questioned** and the **power of Parliament to change**. The struggle for power during this period was between the **Crown** and **Parliament**. Alongside these political changes, life for ordinary people began to change due to the developments and discoveries made during the Renaissance.











## Key Dates:



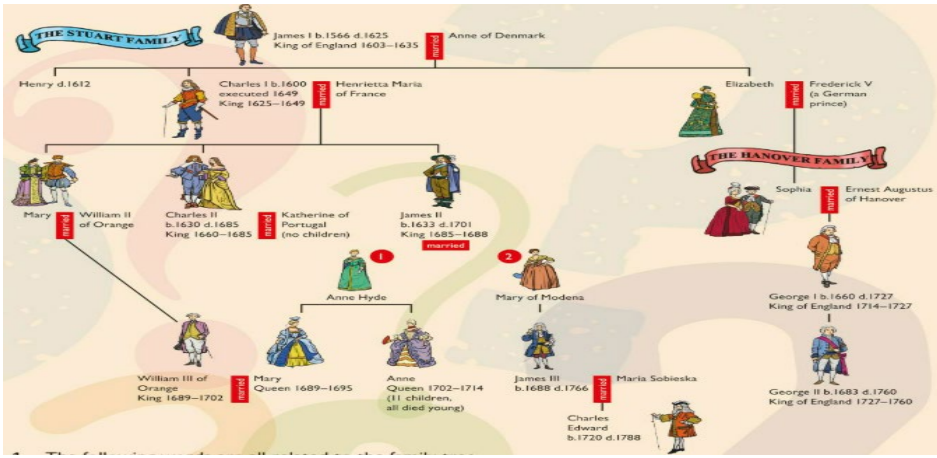
## Key People:

	<b>James I (1603-1625)</b> The first Stuart to rule England. He was both King James VI of Scotland and James I of England.
	<b>Guy Fawkes</b> An angry catholic who plotted with other rebels to blow up Parliament and King James I of England.
	<b>Charles I (1625-1649)</b> Son of James I. Charles wanted to be an absolute ruler, but was executed by Parliament after the English Civil War.
	<b>Oliver Cromwell</b> An officer of the New Model Army, who later rose to power and became Lord Protector of England. He was a Puritan.
	<b>Charles II (1660-85)</b> Son to Charles I. He was often described as the "Merry Monarch". He was restored as King in 1660.
	<b>James II (1685-88)</b> Brother to Charles II. He was a Catholic King, who was removed by Parliament during the Glorious Revolution.
	<b>William III and Mary II (1689-1702)</b> King James I's eldest daughter Mary and her protestant husband were invited by Parliament to become joint King and Queen of England on the condition that they signed the Bill of Rights.

## Vocabulary:

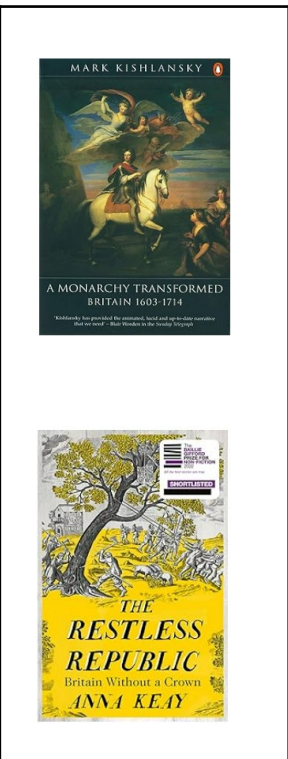
<b>Absolutist Monarch</b>		A ruler who believes they should have complete control and authority.
<b>Divine Right</b>		The belief that monarchs were chosen by God to rule and Parliament should not challenge them.
<b>Parliament</b>		The law-making authority in Britain, whose power and importance grew over time.
<b>Republic</b>		A country without a monarch as the Head of State.
<b>Constitutional Monarchy</b>		A type of monarchy where the King/Queen can only rule by agreeing to a set of conditions made by Parliament.
<b>Interregnum</b>		The time period between the reigns of Charles I and Charles II when Oliver Cromwell ruled.
<b>Restoration</b>		The return of the monarch to the throne of England.
<b>Glorious Revolution</b>		When Parliament forced James II to give up the throne and replaced him with his protestant daughter Mary II and William of Orange.
<b>Bill of Rights</b>		Powers and rights for Parliament introduced in 1689 that reduced the power of the monarchy.
<b>Renaissance</b>		A movement in Europe which focused on a love of learning and making new discoveries.

<p><b>Lesson 1:</b> How much power did the monarchy have by 1603?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Medieval times, key events like the <b>Magna Carta 1215</b> and the <b>Provisions of Oxford 1258</b> limited the power of monarchs so they <b>could no longer rule as absolutist rulers</b>.</li> <li>By 1603, monarchs <b>still had authority over foreign policy, religion and the royal court</b> but could not rule entirely alone.</li> <li>Parliament now had the <b>power to approve new laws and taxes</b>, meaning the <b>monarchy had to share power</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 2:</b> Why did James clash with Parliament and the people?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King James I was the <b>first Stuart monarch</b> to rule England. When he inherited the throne he was already <b>King James VI</b> of Scotland.</li> <li>King James I faced many different issues when he inherited the throne from Elizabeth I and the Tudor Dynasty. He inherited <b>debt</b> from the war with Spain, a <b>Parliament that wanted more power and religious divisions</b> between the <b>Catholics and Protestants</b>.</li> <li>King James I believed in the <b>'Divine Right of Kings'</b> and argued that monarchs were <b>above Common Law</b>. He <b>did not want to share power</b> with Parliament and refused to meet with them for <b>10 years</b>.</li> <li>His <b>harsh treatment of Catholics</b> during his reign provoked <b>Guy Fawkes</b> and <b>group of plotters</b> to blow up the <b>Houses of Parliament on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605</b>, an event we now commemorate as <b>Bonfire Night</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 3:</b> Why did Charles I's reign lead England to civil war?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charles I inherited the throne from his father in 1625. He believed in the <b>'Divine Right of Kings'</b>. He <b>did not want to share power with Parliament</b> so he refused to meet with them for <b>11 years</b>. This became known as his <b>'personal rule'</b>.</li> <li>Charles I also made financial errors. He continued to <b>raise taxes</b> despite being advised not to. Charles imposed the hated <b>ship tax</b>. This was only supposed to be paid by coastal villages during war to protect from attack but Charles made <b>everyone pay it</b> even in peacetime.</li> <li>Charles I also raised money by forcing English people to lend money to him through <b>'forced loans'</b> which he <b>never paid back</b>. He also <b>spent taxes unwisely</b> by buying lots of paintings and clothes.</li> <li>Finally, Charles I made religious changes which angered the Puritan MPs in Parliament. Parliament feared that Charles was a <b>secret Catholic</b> because he married a Catholic French Princess and that their heirs would be raised as Catholics too.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 4:</b> Why did the civil war end with the king losing his head?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Civil War</b> had raged on for <b>7 years</b> and left nearly <b>200,000 people dead</b>.</li> <li>Families had been <b>split down the middle</b> – some family members supported the <b>Royalists</b> who fought for the King while others supported the <b>Parliamentarians</b> and fought for Parliament.</li> <li>King Charles I was <b>captured and imprisoned</b> in the Tower of London by Parliament.</li> <li>When Parliament met up to discuss what to do with Charles I, Cromwell and his <b>New Model Army</b> stopped the 240 MPs from entering. This left <b>only 46 MPs</b> to decide what to do with Charles I. By the end of the debate, <b>26 to 20 voted</b> were passed to put the King on <b>trial for treason</b> and crimes against England and its people.</li> <li>Charles I <b>refused to speak at his trial</b> because he believed no mortal man could judge him. This left him with no defence – he was <b>found guilty</b> of treason and <b>executed</b> at Whitehall Banqueting Hall on the <b>30<sup>th</sup> January 1649</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 5:</b> Why did England become a republic and what problems did it face?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After execution of King Charles I, England became a <b>republic</b> and remained so for the next 11 years. This period is also known as the <b>'interregnum'</b> as it was the time between the reigns of two Kings.</li> <li>Without a King/Queen, people looked towards the <b>most powerful man in the country</b> to guide them.</li> <li>That person was <b>Oliver Cromwell</b>, the leader of the <b>New Model Army</b> during the Civil War. Cromwell took over the running of England as <b>'Lord Protector'</b>.</li> <li>Cromwell was also a <b>Puritan</b>. Puritans were <b>extreme Protestants</b> who believed their purpose was to worship God through <b>simple Church practices and lifestyles</b>.</li> <li>Cromwell thought everyone should follow these rules. Therefore, social activities like <b>football, theatre, pubs and horse-racing were banned</b>. In 1647, he famously <b>banned Christmas celebrations</b>.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Lesson 6:</b> Was the monarchy truly restored in 1660?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After <b>Cromwell died</b> the running of the country passed to his son <b>Richard</b>. However, Richard was <b>unsuited to ruling</b> and abdicated leaving England without a leader again.</li> <li>• Recognising that England needed a strong, single ruler, an important army figure called General Monck decided to <b>bring back the monarchy</b>. This period is known as the <b>'Restoration'</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Charles II</b> was invited to restore the monarchy but <b>only</b> on the condition that he agreed the <b>Declaration of Breda</b>. This was a set of agreements that said the King <b>could not seek revenge or punish Parliamentarians</b> who fought against his father. He also had to <b>promise to listen to Parliament, not raise taxes</b> without permission and allow <b>religious freedom</b>.</li> <li>• When he became King, Charles II <b>reversed the strict laws</b> of Cromwell. He was known as the <b>'Merry Monarch'</b> for his party lifestyle.</li> <li>• However, despite his promises, Charles II made it <b>illegal for Puritans to worship freely</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 7:</b> Why did the Glorious Revolution make England a constitutional monarchy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles II died without any legitimate children, so he was replaced by his brother King James II.</li> <li>• <b>James II</b> was a <b>Catholic</b> Monarch, but by this time most people in Britain were <b>Protestant</b>. Some people were worried that James might make major religious changes that could lead to another war.</li> <li>• Other people were not worried about King James II as he was <b>old</b> and had <b>two protestant daughters</b>.</li> <li>• However, in <b>1688</b>, James II's Catholic wife had a <b>son</b> - this meant the heir to the throne was Catholic!</li> <li>• Parliament, mostly made up of <b>Protestant MPs</b>, feared that England would have Catholic Kings for ever more, decided to act. They plotted to <b>overthrow James</b> and replace him with <b>his eldest daughter Mary</b> and her Dutch husband <b>William of Orange</b>. Realising he couldn't win, James II <b>fled to France</b>.</li> <li>• This has become known as the <b>'Glorious Revolution'</b> as power changed in England <b>without fighting</b>.</li> <li>• Mary II and William III were invited to be the <b>'joint-rulers'</b> of England but only if they agreed to a set of demands called the <b>'Bill of Rights'</b> which <b>increased the power of Parliament over the monarch</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 8:</b> How did the monarchy change under Queen Anne and George I?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Bill of Rights 1689</b> and <b>Act of Settlement 1701</b>, placed strict limits on monarchs: they could not raise taxes or make laws without Parliament and <b>only Protestants could inherit the throne</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Queen Anne</b> still influenced politics but the <b>rise of political parties</b> such as the <b>Whigs and Tories</b> meant that <b>Parliament was becoming the centre of political debate</b>.</li> <li>• As <b>George I spoke little English</b> and spent much of his time in Hanover Germany, he had little understanding of English politics. This made him <b>heavily dependent on his ministers</b>.</li> <li>• This led to the <b>cabinet system</b> developing where a <b>small group of ministers led decision making</b>. One minister called <b>Robert Walpole</b> emerged as the <b>first Prime Minister</b>, showing that <b>Parliament now directed government policy</b> not the monarchy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson 9-10:</b> Enquiry Outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will plan and write a <b>historical essay</b> that explains why the power of the monarchy was challenged during the Renaissance. You will need to <b>provide evidence</b> about the <b>political, economic and religious problems</b> of a <b>range of Stuart Monarchs</b> and <b>explain how this threatened their power</b> as King. You must write <b>detailed PEEL paragraphs</b> and reach an <b>overall judgement</b> to explain the <b>main reason</b> why the power of the monarchy was challenged during the Renaissance.</li> </ul>

**What do historians say?**



**A Monarchy Transformed: Britain 1603-1714 – Mark Kishlansky**

*Mark Kishlansky tracks the political and religious upheavals during the century that saw the Stuart Monarchy rise and fall. He portrays the era as one of intense conflict and transformation that significantly shaped British politics and laid the foundation for constitutional changes which allowed Parliament to have supremacy over the monarchy.*

**The Restless Republic: England without a Crown – Anna Keay**

*Anna Keay explores the turbulent decade following the execution of Charles I in 1649, when England became a republic under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell. Keay focuses on how this period affected ordinary people living in England. She emphasises that the interregnum was not just an interruption in the natural order of the monarchy but a profound experiment in governance and society.*

**How can I find out more?**

**Documentary:** The Gunpowder Plot – History Hit.



**BBC Bitesize:** The English Civil War



**Podcast:** The execution of Charles I - History Hit.



**Podcast:** Oliver Cromwell – History Hit.

