Civil War

The Beginning of Democracy in England

After the execution of Charles I, there was a short time period of unrest as other Kings were appointed, England was ruled by a military dictator, or had no head of state at all. Eventually, England became a constitutional monarchy (which it still is today!), where the monarch would NEVER have more power than the elected representatives of the people (the parliament). No longer could England’s monarch rule without the consent of parliament.

There were many political and social changes introduced during this time period that would set the foundations for democracy in England, and later in Canada. **The Bill of Rights** signed by King William and Queen Mary in 1689 is one of those important documents.

**1. Definitions: Pages 146-154. England had all three of these styles of government during and after the Civil War in England.**

a). Define what each government is (definition) and (b) when did this government style occur.

Republic (page 146-147)

Constitutional Monarch (page 154)

Dictator (page 147)

**2. Read page 147**

Who was Oliver Cromwell and list his contributions to English History during this time period.

**3. Read page 154 and the Legacy of the Glorious Revolution.**

What is political reform?

What is social reform?

Now go back and read pages 146,151,152,154.

List all political and social changes that occurred in the English Society.

Political Reform

Social Reform

**4. Read *Exploring Sources* p 152 and The Bills of Rights. Whole Class**

The Bill of Rights was an important statement of democratic rights in England, and Canada’s government, legal system, and constitution reflect these principles today.

1. Translate the clauses in the Bill of Rights to modern-day English.

2. Identify which clauses support the rights of parliament and which ones support the rights of the individual. Which clauses do you believe are more important in a democracy?