**Social Studies 9: England as a Republic and the Monarchy is Back**

-I tried to find out what Charles I was executed with, but I couldn’t find it. However I did find out that last minute they had to find a new executioner to do the job as the original one refused. The new one was paid 100 pounds. After his death people were allowed to go up on the scaffold and pay to dip handkerchiefs in his blood because people thought that the blood of a king would heal a wound when wiped on the wound.

What is a republic?

🡪A country without a king

Did executing Charles I make England a republic? Yes? No? Why or why not?

**The Commonwealth**

By rights, when Charles I was executed, Charles II should take over the throne.

The Commonwealth, or the English Republic, was created when the Rump Parliament voted to abolish the monarchy and the House of Lords.

People doubted the rights that the Rump Parliament had to do these things, but they were supported by something called ‘might makes right.’ This meant that they were stronger than those who opposed them.

They had the support of the Roundhead army who would attack anyone who did want to support the Commonwealth.

Ireland and Scotland had turned out to be a problem as they supported Charles II and the Royalist cause.

**Oliver Cromwell the Soldier**

Cromwell was a master soldier, so they sent him to defeat the Scottish and Irish Royalist threats.

He had minimal sympathy for the Catholics and Presbyterians he defeated.

He defeated the Scottish protests in two major battles and ended their resistance.

In Ireland in 1641 things were a bit more brutal.

The city of Drogheda resisted and Cromwell’s soldiers massacred the city’s entire garrison.

Eventually they forcibly removed all Catholic landholders from the north of Ireland and resettled in the south and west. And Northern Ireland was resettled with English and Scottish Protestants.

**Cromwell the Lord Protector**

The Rump Parliament soon seemed to be unable to govern effectively and Cromwell lost patience.

The army wanted to have more influence and they also wanted to be paid for their efforts.

The Rump Parliament refused to hold an election unless their seats could be guaranteed. So Cromwell and his army drove them out of Parliament, locked the door behind them and kept the key to himself.

He was named Lord Protector of England and was essentially a military dictator.

**England under Cromwell**

Cromwell split the country into districts ruled by major generals.

Each general was responsible for law and order, and collecting taxes in their district.

The Blue Laws outlawed Christmas and other ‘pagan’ ceremonies.

It also forbade dancing, gambling, sports and theatre.

Cromwell’s rule was very unpopular but he was too strong to be resisted.

Cromwell saw himself as a failure because instead of getting rid of a dictator in the king and keeping England dictator free, he had become one himself.

**The Republican Experiment Ends**

1658: Oliver Cromwell passed away.

His son, Richard Cromwell, took over but soon proved incapable.

Nine months later he resigned and the experiment ended.

**Writing Break**

-Write down one thing you learned.

-Write down one thing you already knew.

**The Monarchy Returns**

General Monk, commander of the northern army, recalled the Long Parliament after Cromwell’s death.

He feared another civil war would break out if parliamentary government wasn’t restored.

He got the parliament to dissolve itself and call for an election.

This parliament voted to restore the monarchy and the House of Lords.

1660: Charles II was invited back to be king of England.

This was a very popular decision. The English were fed up with military dictatorships. They wanted the return of parliament to protect their rights.

The Puritans had liked the Blue Laws, everyone else thought they were grim and resented them.

**Charles II of England**

Parliament insisted that Charles rule as a constitutional monarch, and that parliament would set out his power.

Charles agreed at face value but planned to regain what his father had lost. He tried to plot with other European nations but it never happened.

He tried to have a majority of supporters in parliament and in order to do that he used persuasion, bribery and blackmail.

Those who supported Charles became known as ‘Tories’ and were the beginning of England’s first political party. Those who opposed a catholic monarchy were known as ‘Whigs’.

Charles, as a fun loving person, restored all of the things that the Blue Laws prohibited.

**The Legacy of Regicide**

Those who had killed Charles I were punished severely.

Thirteen members of the Rump Parliament were hanged, drawn and quartered. And then their bodies were displayed around the city as a warning. This means that they were hanged but taken down before death occurred and while they were still alive they were cut open and their organs were removed. Finally after they died they were cut into four sections, then it was those four sections that were displayed.

They even dug up Cromwell and other Roundhead’s bodies and hung them by Westminster Abbey.

Charles tried to protect Catholics but parliament passed the Test Act.

This made the Church of England the supreme church. It didn’t let Catholics hold political office and Charles’ brother James, a Catholic, had to give up his job because of it.

Parliament was making it clear that they made the laws not he.

Things got a little complicated in 1685 when Charles died and James II took over.