

The
Restoration
or, the Neoclassical
Period
or, the Enlightenment
or, The Age of Reason

1660-1800



King Charles II, the first monarch to rule in England following the restoration of the monarchy to power.

What Had Happened Was:



Pimpin' ain't easy but it's necessary

- Elizabeth I left no heirs, so her 1st cousin, James VI, the King of Scotland, assumed the throne and made a lot of people angry.
 - He was a peaceful, easy-feeling type of dude, but he wanted to unite Scotland and Ireland with England into one kingdom
 - James VI considered monarchs to be “little gods on Earth” and ruled as such, rarely consulting parliament
 - ***The Divine Right of Kings*** became a political contention for generations.
 - He married a Catholic (French princess Henrietta)
- His son, Charles I, shared most of his political views and behaviors, and after two generations, it finally led to the English Civil War.

A close-up, detailed portrait of Oliver Cromwell, showing his eyes, nose, and mouth. The painting style is realistic with visible brushstrokes.

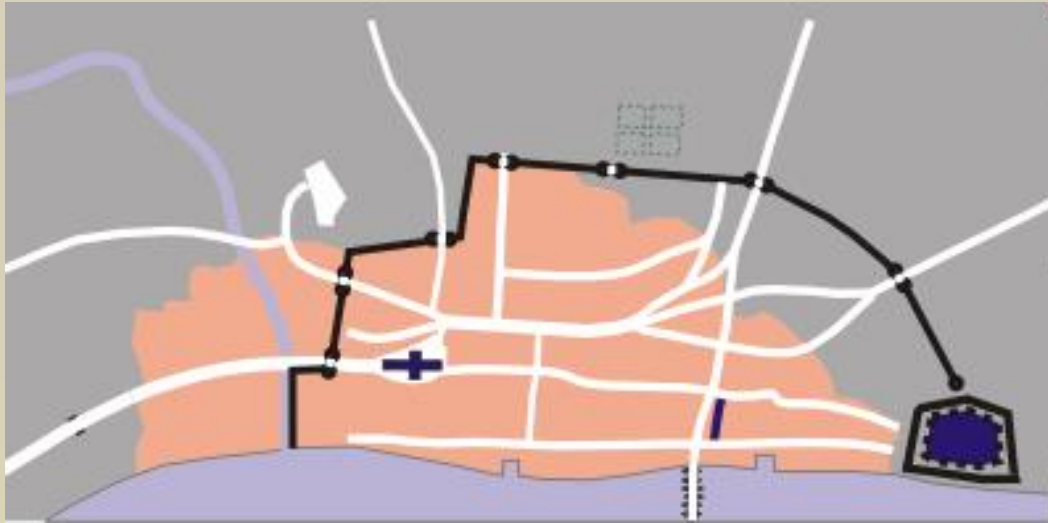
Puritan, Parliamentarian, Presbyterian Rule

- “The Restoration” is the period after England suffered a devastating civil war
- Puritans (“New Model Army,” “Roundheads”) vs. Royalists loyal to the crown (“Cavaliers”)
 - **Oliver Cromwell** (pictured) turned England into “The English Commonwealth,” conquered Ireland and Scotland (later called “The Protectorate”)
 - Executed Charles I, then ruled as “Lord Protector” from 1653-1658
 - Richard Cromwell, his son, did not have the confidence of the army
 - Everything blew up and Charles II returned from The Hague and reclaimed the throne in 1660.

Oliver Cromwell,
1599-1658

After the Civil War

- And! a fire burned down 2/3 of London in 1666, killing 1/6 of its inhabitants



- But also! Helped end the Black Plague that came to London in 1665

The Time with 100 Names

- **“The Restoration Period”** coincides with **“The Enlightenment Period”** because the aristocratic thinkers of the day finally got down to focusing on the Personal Ability of Each Human to Use **Reason** (logic) to improve.
 - AKA **“The Age of Reason”**
- This included real scientific thinking (as opposed to alchemy) and real philosophical thinking (like the ancient Greeks and Romans).
 - This philosophical focus on the Ancients led people to also refer to the time as **“The Neo-Classical Period.”**
 - We can see this era’s focus on the Ancients in our federal architecture in Washington, DC.

From Why? to How?

- People used to believe that terrible natural events preceded terrible human tragedy (like in *Hamlet*).
 - **Why** did this earthquake happen? The King ordered the execution of an innocent man.
- During **The Enlightenment**, people began to think about **how** things happened instead.
 - **How** did this earthquake happen? (Maybe the continents are on plates or something that move around.)
- **The Royal Society** was formed to support such scientists and inventors as Isaac Newton, Ben Franklin, Charles Babbage, James Cook, Charles Darwin, etc... all the way to Stephen Hawking.

Changes in Religious Ideas

- Thinking about “how” led to the development of **Deism**.
- This was the prevalent religious ideology of our American founding fathers (Ben Franklin, George Washington, etc).
- They believed that God was like a clockmaker who set the Earth ticking and then moved on to other projects.



A close-up portrait of John Locke, an English philosopher, with long, wavy brown hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark coat and a white cravat.

Changes in Political Ideas

- The English philosopher John Locke and the French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau began to stress that “The Divine Right of Kings” was a crock of poo.
- They argued that government required the consent of the governed, was obliged to uphold human rights, and should be overturned if it failed in either of those respects.
- This should sound familiar!

John Locke,
1632-1704

The British Class System

- During this period, the middle class grew significantly, but the rich got richer and the poor got miserable.
 - **The Great, who live profusely. (several mansions)**
 - **The Rich, who live plentifully. (big house)**
 - **The Middle Sort, who live well. (regular house)**
 - **The Working Trades, who labor hard, but feel no want. (little house)**
 - **The Country People, Farmers, etc. who fare indifferently. (cottage)**
 - **The Poor, that fare hard. (shack)**
 - **The Miserable, that really pinch and suffer want. (homeless)**
- Many writers chose to focus on the glaring contrasts between the various classes. This is still a major issue in England (and elsewhere).
- **Satire** evolved in England because of class warfare and stereotypes.

New Art Forms

- The Restoration saw the reintroduction of theater in England (the Puritans had shut down drama for 18 years).
 - Got a little bawdy b/c censorship was over—the “Restoration Comedy” was like *American Pie* movies
- Poetry was a big deal— odes, elegies, etc.
- People started writing **NOVELS**.
 - Lots of people thought the form was trashy/tacky, like how a lot of people feel about reality shows now.

End of The Restoration

- The Industrial Revolution
- The French Revolution
- Everybody got tired of focusing on the rich.
- The world was too undeniably ugly to keep focusing on “elegance, reason, and taste.”

Titles We Will Read from the Restoration Period

Poetry:

- “To His Coy Mistress” – Andrew Marvel
- “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” – Robert Herrick
- (We’ll count John Donne here but he’s really in the gray area between the Renaissance and now)

Novel:

- *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift

Informational:

- “A Modest Proposal” – Jonathan Swift
- *Journal of the Plague Year* by Daniel Defoe
- *The Diary of Samuel Pepys* by Samuel Pepys