

History - Lesson 3 of 4

Ireland and Scotland

Enquiry: How revolutionary was the 'Glorious Revolution'?

Mr Olivey



A 'Glorious Revolution'?

The idea that the events of 1688-89 were a 'Glorious Revolution' relied on looking at the past from an English Protestant **perspective**. From this standpoint, William had saved England from a Catholic tyrant in James II. Moreover, very few people in England died during James' invasion.

Yet, when one looks beyond England and considers events that took place in Ireland and Scotland from 1689-92, William's rise to power does not look 'peaceful' or 'bloodless'. Conflict with **Jacobites** (people who still supported James II) led to warfare, violence and death.



War in Ireland

A war between William III and James II began in Ireland in 1689. James II's forces laid **siege** to the City of Derry in April 1689. By the time the siege ended in August, 4,000 of the city's population of 8,000 had died.

James fled to France after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. James' remaining Jacobite forces were defeated at the Battle of Aughrim in 1691. The peace **Treaty** of Limerick (1691) promised that Irish Catholics who swore an Oath of Loyalty to William would be allowed to keep their land. Despite this, 1,000,000 acres of land was taken from Irish Catholics in the following years.



Massacre in Scotland

In Scotland, there were pockets of support for James II after 1689. William feared that these Jacobites would rebel against him. In response to this, William asked all the Chieftains of the Scottish **Clans** to **swear an Oath** of Loyalty to him by 31 of December 1691.

Due to bad weather and a deliberate delay by a political rival, the Maclain Clan of Glencoe's chieftain was a day late to swear this Oath of Loyalty. In response, Williamite soldiers were sent to stay with his clan. On 13 February 1692, 38 unarmed members of the clan were massacred in the snow.



Bloodshed

The bloodshed in Scotland and Ireland can hardly be seen as glorious. The violent conflicts between Williamites and Jacobites, between Catholics and Protestants, led to thousands of deaths from 1689-92.

Yet these changes were certainly **revolutionary**. In Ireland, over 1,000,000 acres of land was removed from Catholics. The divisions that began in the 1690s remained bitter for centuries. In Scotland, the massacre at Glencoe led to the Clans gradually losing power. After 1688, politics in the British Isles would never be the same.



Glossary

Perspective - a person or group's viewpoint on something.

Jacobites - people who still supported James II after 1688.

Siege - when an army tries to take over a town or city by cutting off its supplies.

Treaty - a formal agreement between two or more groups of people.

Clans - groups of people, run by chieftains, who controlled parts of Scotland.

Swear an Oath - make a promise to do, say or think something.

Revolutionary - involving or causing rapid and dramatic changes.



Comprehension Questions

1. Who were the Jacobites?
2. What event started the Williamite-Jacobite war in Ireland?
3. What did the Treaty of Limerick promise Irish Catholic landowners?
4. What was the Glencoe Massacre of 1692?
5. Why do events in Ireland and Scotland suggest that the idea of a peaceful 'Glorious Revolution' is wrong?

