

## 23 The beginning of the Stuart dynasty

1603-1625

From the Renaissance to the Restoration

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With the death of Elizabeth, James VI of Scotland became the first Stuart King of England. James had been brought up by Protestant lords who had forced his Catholic mother into exile. He was a learned man who wrote treatises in English and Latin but believed in witchcraft. His accession was greeted with relief, for it reduced the danger of civil war; however, instead of basing his rule on 'the love of his people', he based it on the theory of the 'divine right of kings'. He believed that, as a monarch, he was the representative of God on earth. Like the Tudors, he worked with small councils of ministers, rather than with Parliament, but he did not have the money or the military power of the Tudors. He summoned Parliament only to ask for money, but its members refused to levy any taxes unless the money was needed for war.

James surrounded himself with Scottish favourites and his court was disreputable. Corruption in high places and the great search for money and pleasure reinforced religious melancholy in the Puritans and caused a pessimistic view of human nature, reflected in the last tragedies of Shakespeare.

Religion was still a critical issue. Catholics were barred from public life. Puritans disapproved of both the rites and hierarchy of the Church of England. These Puritans had a high sense of duty and

morality; they were against any form of entertainment and underlined the importance of individualism within religion. They wanted the Church to be governed by lay elders not bishops. James insisted that this was the first step to revolution – 'No bishop, no King' – and began to attack them. In 1620 the Pilgrim Fathers, religious dissenters who had first taken shelter in Holland, left England for America on the Mayflower and founded New Plymouth. The new world provided a convenient ground for unwanted religious and political agitators and also a valuable market for English goods, which were exchanged for American products like tobacco.

King James authorised a new translation of the Bible. Nearly 50 scholars, influenced by humanists and working from the original Hebrew and Greek, worked for seven years. Unlike earlier texts, which were for scholars, this version would be heard and read by laymen. It would be used by the Church of England for more than 300 years and greatly influenced all writers.

In 1605 some radical Catholics plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. The failure of the so-called Gunpowder Plot is still commemorated in England on 5th November, when children have fireworks and burn figures of Guy Fawkes, one of the conspirators, on bonfires.

### guided study

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The key ideas of the text are highlighted. Use a wavy line to underline the secondary ideas linked to the primary ones.</p> | <p>5. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.</p>  |
| <p>2. Study the family tree on page 57 and explain why James became king after Elizabeth.</p>                                     | <p>1. Puritans supported all sorts of entertainment. <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F</p>   |
| <p>3. What was the reaction to the Stuart dynasty – happiness or disappointment? Explain your answer.</p>                         | <p>2. Puritans disapproved of the rites of the Church. <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F</p>   |
| <p>4. Find two reasons why Puritans would particularly dislike King James I.</p>  | <p>3. The Gunpowder Plot was planned by a group of Protestants. <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F</p> <p>4. The Mayflower's landing in America is still celebrated on 5th November. <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F</p> <p>5. The King James Bible was used for 7 years. <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F</p> |



1485-1625

# The Tudor and early Stuart society

2.4

Shakespearean comedies and tragedies (☺ 2.12) mainly deal with man as a social unit; we need therefore some knowledge of the social organization of the times. At the top of society was the sovereign, inaccessible to the ordinary person. Next to the sovereign in the social order came the nobility. Its members led a public life of luxury with large estates and many servants. They were expected to serve the state at their own expense as ambassadors, generals in the field, members of the Upper House of Parliament, and as hosts to the sovereign. They were patrons of the arts and supported poets, musicians and artists in their households.

Next to the nobility in the chain of order came the knights. A man was made a knight by the sovereign in person or by his/her deputy, such as the general on a campaign. Below the knights were the gentlemen, men of good birth who owned some land and therefore did not need to be employed in a profession. The study of law, ethics and history, formed the first aim of a general education for a gentleman since he was expected to serve his poorer neighbours in public duties, as magistrate or member of the Lower House of Parliament.

The Tudor age saw the advance of the yeomen, farmers or merchants, successful in buying land or branching out into industries such as coal, iron, cloth. This was a period of building; yeomen built the characteristic half-timbered houses still visible today. Despite the strict hierarchy of status, social mobility was common and they could get a coat of arms and status as gentlemen.

As for the poor, their conditions of life became even worse when many landowners found they could make more money from sheep farming than from growing crops and enclosed the village common land. There was such fear of the homeless unemployed, that 'the Poor Laws' were passed by the Parliament in 1601. Begging was forbidden and vagabonds

were punished outside their own village.

Family life was extremely different from today. The father was the head of the family and its ruler. His power and authority were recognized as part of the social order. Women had few rights of their own. On marriage, the woman's goods and money passed into the possession of her husband. There was also another dark side to married life: most women died in childbirth since the average woman bore between eight to fifteen children. Child mortality was very high and childhood extremely short as both rich and poor children took on adult roles early.



▲ The Armada portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, ca. 1588.

From the Renaissance to the Restoration

## build up your language Tudor society

- Match the words with their Italian equivalent.
 

1. sovereign	a. patrono
2. ambassador	b. senza tetto
3. general in the field	c. sovrano
4. patron	d. delegato
5. deputy	e. latifondista
6. yeoman	f. ambasciatore
7. landowners	g. piccolo proprietario terriero
8. homeless	h. generale sul campo

- Write a sentence about Tudor society for each of the words above.

## guided study

- Put the following people into their order of status: *beggars, knights, yeomen, nobility, monarch.*
- Status was extremely important to people at this time. How did they demonstrate their status?
- How would you describe Tudor and early Stuart society?



# 25 Charles I's reign

1625-1642



▲ John Calvin proposes a new Reformation project to his followers. Bern, Landesbibliothek.

From the Renaissance to the Restoration

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When Charles I (1625-49) succeeded his father, James I, in 1625, religion was central to life. Charles I and Archbishop Laud preferred more

decoration and ritual, which to some appeared too 'papist'. Puritans, followers of Calvinist ideas, felt that a simple, disciplined life of prayer, study and work demonstrated that they were God's chosen people. Presbyterians abhorred the church hierarchy and wanted elected ministers. Independents stressed the individual's right and duty to seek their personal God through prayer and biblical study. Religion entered every aspect of life (☺ **Dossier 2**); it affected politics because many wanted further reformation of the church and any changes in the law had to be made by Parliament.

There was already tension between the Crown and the Parliament, but, while Elizabeth and James had avoided confrontation, Charles I believed, like his father, in the divine right of kings; so he refused any compromise. Laws

passed by Parliament were the only way to

establish taxes, so the clashes with Parliament denied Charles the money he needed. During the 16th century, the landed wealth of the monarchy and aristocracy had suffered from price rises, whereas the Puritan middle classes had become more affluent through trade and many were Members of Parliament (MPs). Thus the MPs felt able to demand concessions from the king in return for finance.

The court of Charles I and his French Catholic wife, Henrietta Maria, was elegant and refined. He founded the royal art collection and commissioned works by leading artists such as Peter Paul Rubens and Anthony van Dyck, whom he made court painter in 1632.

In 1628 Charles I's unsuccessful foreign policy provoked Parliament into writing the *Petition of Rights*, which demanded that taxes collected without Parliament's permission and imprisonment without trial should be illegal. For 11 years after that, Charles ruled without Parliament. He also supported the introduction of the ritual of the Anglican Church to Presbyterian Scotland, which provoked a rebellion. Charles I was sure that Parliament would finance an army to fight the rebellious Scots, but they refused. Charles entered the House of Commons to arrest the leaders. The Civil War broke out in 1642.

## build up your language

Talking about history

- Write the Italian equivalent for the following verbs.  
1. to gain; 2. to stress; 3. to affect;  
4. to avoid; 5. to refuse; 6. to establish;  
7. to demand; 8. to found;  
9. to support; 10. to break out

## guided study

- Complete the table below to show how Charles I's choices led to the Civil War. One example has been provided.

Causes	Consequences
Charles I preferred more decoration and ritual.	To some he appeared too papist.
Charles I believed in the divine right of kings.	

- Match the Protestant groups with the correct characteristics.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Church of England | a. elected ministers                                  |
| 2. Puritans          | b. personal prayer and study                          |
| 3. Presbyterians     | c. Calvinists, rigorous simplicity                    |
| 4. Independents      | d. majority, including the king, becoming more papist |

- Answer the following questions.  
1. Why did MPs want new laws?

- Why did the king refuse to compromise?
- Why did the king need Parliament?



1642-1660

# The Civil War and the Commonwealth 26

The forces involved in the Civil War were divided into Royalists and supporters of Parliament, led by Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658). The former had long hair and were known as 'Cavaliers'. They included the lords, the gentry and the Church of England. The latter were called 'Roundheads' because they considered long hair sinful and cut theirs short. London, the ports, the Navy, the new gentry and small landowners, artisans and Puritans sided with Parliament. The king's army consisted of the nobility and their followers; their early advantage was their cavalry. The Parliamentarians had only foot soldiers, but by 1645 they had equipped and trained an efficient army and navy, the latter blocking any foreign support for the king. Cromwell's soldiers fought so strongly that they were called 'Ironsides'. The Catholic Irish did not prove good allies to the king and the Scots betrayed him and handed him over to Parliament in 1647. The army reduced the number of MPs and what remained of the House of Commons was nicknamed 'The Rump Parliament', which, in 1649, tried and executed the king. England became a republic known as the Commonwealth. In 1653 Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Without the control of the Church and Crown, there was an explosion of extremist ideas. The groups which had supported Parliament against the king divided and made government difficult. Cromwell found himself a military dictator as the army was the only means of holding both idealism and anarchy at bay. His army subdued Ireland. Peace was made with Scotland. In 1651, he resumed the *Navigation Acts* (first passed under Richard II) against Holland. These acts stated that all English imports had to be carried in ships owned by England, thus depriving the Dutch of their control of trade routes. In the Dutch War which followed (1652-54), the Dutch were defeated and had to accept English supremacy on the seas. Victory against Spain in 1655 gave England a long future connection with the Caribbean. This success contrasted sadly with a failed domestic policy of reform. The wars had led to high taxes.

Cromwell died in 1658. After his son's failure to govern, the army marched on London and restored the Houses of Parliament. In 1660, Parliament invited Charles I's son, Charles II, to return from his exile in France.



▲ Robert Walker, **Portrait of Cromwell**, 1634. London, National Portrait Gallery.

From the Renaissance to the Restoration

**guided study**

## build up your language War

1. Match the words with their Italian equivalent.

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. cavalry       | a. fanti        |
| 2. foot-soldiers | b. alleati      |
| 3. navy          | c. marciare     |
| 4. allies        | d. cavalleria   |
| 5. to subdue     | e. sottomettere |
| 6. to march      | f. marina       |

3. Which of these factors was most important in the Parliamentarians' victory? Money / religious fervour / experience / training / navy? Why?

4. What were the main features of the Commonwealth foreign policy? Why do you think that was successful while domestic policy was not?

2. Complete the table below to compare and contrast the Royalists and the Parliamentarians.

	Royalists	Parliamentarians
nickname		
appearance		
supporters		
led by		
army		



# 3

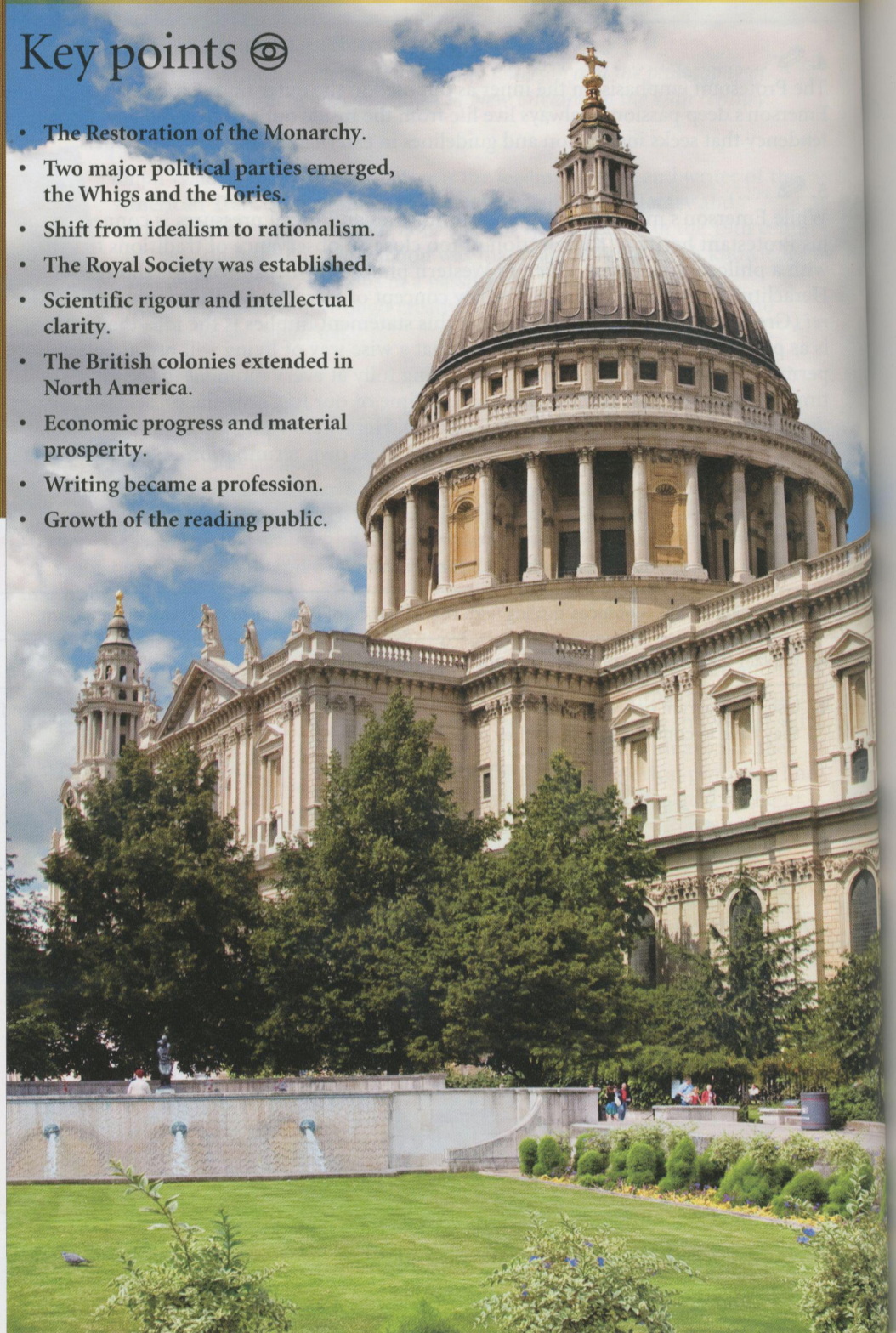
## From the Restoration to the Augustan Age 1660-1760

### Key points

- The Restoration of the Monarchy.
- Two major political parties emerged, the Whigs and the Tories.
- Shift from idealism to rationalism.
- The Royal Society was established.
- Scientific rigour and intellectual clarity.
- The British colonies extended in North America.
- Economic progress and material prosperity.
- Writing became a profession.
- Growth of the reading public.

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► **St Paul's Cathedral** is the Anglican cathedral in the City of London and the seat of the Bishop of London. The present building, designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren, dates from the 17th century. It sits on the edge of London's oldest region, the City, which originated as a Roman trading post along the River Thames.





3.1

# The Restoration of the monarchy

1660-1685



▲ **The Fire of London,** 1666.



5  
The diary

From the Restoration to the Augustan Age

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Charles I's son, Charles II, who had spent his exile in France was clever enough to avoid his father's inflexibility. He was able to finance himself with the aid of the French and did not quarrel with Parliament. The reaction to the Civil War and Puritan Commonwealth varied from the rejection of strict morality to a more rational interest in the real, present world, rather than a concentration on the life of the soul in the next world. It was a period of dichotomy in society; dignity coexisted with excess, purity with immorality, simplicity

with ornamentation, self-respect alongside obsession with appearance.

In 1665 there was an epidemic of bubonic plague, followed in 1666 by the Great Fire of London which destroyed almost all of the wooden buildings. The latter led to the planned reconstruction of the capital under the architect Christopher Wren (1632-1723), whose most famous building is St Paul's Cathedral. We know about these events in detail because of the writings of famous diarists, like Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn.

Parliament was still concerned to avoid Roman Catholicism and despotism. The *Test Act* prevented Catholics from holding public office. The discovery of unsuccessful 'Popish Plots' favouring Charles's openly Catholic brother, James, led to the emergence of two factions in Parliament. One was nicknamed 'Tory' and consisted of the supporters of the king and his legitimate successors, the Church of England, and the landed gentry. The other was called 'Whig' and consisted of both nobles and merchants, who did not want absolute power in the monarchy, and preferred religious toleration of Protestant dissenters.



▲ **Titus Oates** was a 17th-century perjurer who fabricated a 'Popish Plot', a supposed Catholic conspiracy to kill King Charles II. He was arrested for sedition, sentenced to a fine of £100,000 and thrown into prison. Engraving, 1685. Mansell Collection.

## guided study

1. Look at the summarising table about Charles II's reign and complete it with your notes.

THE MERRY MONARCH'S REIGN

- Restoration life .....
- The rebuilding of London .....
- Two political parties .....



1688-1714

# The Glorious Revolution 32

intellectual clarity

▼ Sir Peter Lely, **William of Orange**, 1677. London, National Portrait Gallery.



► William Wissing, **Queen Mary II**, 1685. London, National Portrait Gallery.

Charles II died without any legitimate heir, so his brother James II succeeded him on the throne. James's second wife, Mary of Modena, was a Catholic, and in 1688 he became the father of a Catholic son and heir.

The Whigs and even the Tories in Parliament were alarmed; another civil war could happen. Parliament and William of Orange negotiated secretly and James, his wife, and baby son were forced to escape to France. On 28 January 1689 William and Mary, James II's Protestant daughter, became joint monarchs at the request of Parliament. A revolution had taken place; the monarch had been chosen by Parliament, not by divine right. This revolution had been without any fighting – it was known as the 'Bloodless' or 'Glorious Revolution'. Parliament had William sign the *Bill of Rights*, which gave to Parliament alone the right to raise taxes, pass laws and control an army. With the *Act of Settlement* of 1701, Parliament also decided on the succession – if William and Mary died childless, Anne was to follow and James's son was excluded. There was greater tolerance of Puritan non-conformists outside the Church of

England. Some censorship was withdrawn and newspapers began.

In the reign of Queen Anne (1702-14), England fought in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14), which gave England the French possessions in Canada and the monopoly of the slave trade with Spanish America.

With the *Act of Union* of 1707 Scotland was united with England and lost its independence. Many Scots emigrated to England and the expanding colonies. The British Empire was emerging. Science (📄 **Dossier 3**) was able to flourish in a society less impassioned by religion and in the security of political peace.

From the Restoration to the Augustan Age

## build up your language Specific terms

1. Write a definition of the following:

1. to negotiate: .....
1. joint monarchs: .....
2. slave trade: .....

### guided study

2. Look at the summarising table about the Glorious Revolution and complete it with your notes.

THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION AND QUEEN ANNE	Causes .....
	Constitutional monarchy .....
	Succession to the throne .....
	The development of the British Empire .....

3. Which is the best explanation for why the 1685 revolution was 'Glorious'? Justify your choice.

- a. It avoided civil war.
- b. It avoided Catholic despotism.
- c. Parliamentary sovereignty was established peacefully.

4. What questions are these the answers to?

1. *Bill of Rights*.
2. Canada.
3. Science.



# 3.3 The early Hanoverians

1714-1760



▲ **Pulteney Bridge** in Bath, completed in 1773. Project by Robert Adam (1728-92).

From the Restoration to the Augustan Age

Queen Anne died, leaving no Protestant Stuart heir. In 1714 George I, the first English king of the House of Hanover, came to the throne. He brought his German court with him, which was not popular. He spoke no English, so he had to rely upon his

### Parliamentary ministers.

These ministers were from the noble families of the House of Lords and their protégés in the House of Commons. The Hanoverian ministers met without the king, in a chamber called the Cabinet; the leading minister of the Cabinet later became known as the Prime Minister. The first Prime Minister was Sir Robert Walpole, who remained in power for over 20 years. George II (1727-60) gave him a house, 10 Downing Street, which is still today the residence of the Prime Minister. For most of his time in office, Walpole managed to keep England out of foreign conflicts so that trade could flourish and taxes could be kept down. However, from 1726, Walpole and his

government were accused of corruption.

There was an interest in improving agriculture; land was enclosed and scientific methods were used to breed animals and grow crops. Better food was to result in a growing population. The first phase of creating industry was taking place in the rural areas, in textiles, metal working, and coal mining. However, industrial progress was delayed by a lack of capital and banks. Transport was poor; roads were bad and infested with highwaymen.

The next long-serving Prime Minister was William Pitt (1708-78) in 1766. He started a mercantilist policy aiming at maintaining a favourable balance of power in Europe. Both naval and land warfare increased British territory and commerce. The new bourgeois man seeking his profits all over the world was reflected in the character of Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (☺ 3.7).

The wealthy merchants, who controlled the most productive trades, bought large estates to gain prestige and enable their children to join the aristocracy.

### Coffee-houses (☺ A Modern

**Perspective 3**) in town were a place for social and professional networking and also for debate, as they circulated the latest periodicals and pamphlets. Increased leisure and comfort among the rich increased the habit of reading for pleasure. Journalism became a profession and best-selling novels sold in the ten thousands. Middle-class women, who were denied access to public life of any kind, constituted a major market for fiction.

Britain was still a rural country with small market towns and ports, nevertheless, London dominated the life of the nation. Fine stone neo-classical buildings and outward civilised elegance hid a violent and vulgar society, still enjoying cock fighting and public executions, drunkenness and vice. Life expectancy was low in all classes since both women and children died in childbirth.

## guided study

- Some concepts have been highlighted in the text. Write them in the appropriate column in the following table and fill in the corresponding cause or effect.

Cause	Effect

- Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

- |   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Tories were the most important political party.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. William Pitt was the first Prime Minister.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. Industry began in the urban areas.   | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. Coffee-houses were places for social, professional and political meetings. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. The majority of the population could read.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

- Underline the positive and negative aspects of 18th-century society.



## 3.6 The rise of the novel

1714-1760

## Information store

Middle-class hero

Inner and outer settings

Chronological sequence of events

1st-person or 3rd-person narration

Realistic style

## The Novel

The literature of the Augustan Age was characterised by a remarkable output in a variety of genres, which reflected the economic and intellectual progress of the period, and an increasing popular interest in reading.

Lending or circulating libraries, which stocked all types of literature, acquired great importance and, since subscriptions were moderately priced, they led to an increase in the reading public.

The growing importance of the middle class, both in the political and social field, deeply affected the cultural outlook of the period and influenced the development of the prose genre. The belief in the power of

reason and the individual's trust in his own abilities found expression in the novel.

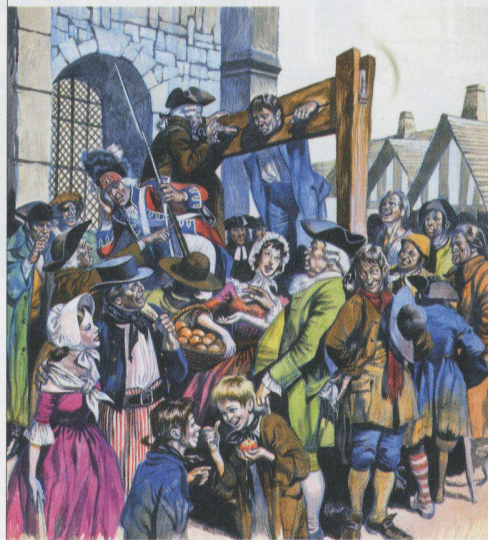
Various writers contributed to the rise of the novel in the 18th century.

- Daniel Defoe (☺ t16, t17) is generally regarded as the first true novelist and the creator of realistic fiction. He wrote in a matter-of-fact style and combined this with powerful narrative and journalistic curiosity. His novels mixed adventure with physical and psychological realism.
- Samuel Richardson (1689-1761) blended realism and romance into his work; he developed the epistolary novel into a serious art. His novels are defined as 'novels of character' since he focused not on action, but on states of consciousness. His aim was to explore the inner space and therefore action became secondary. The epistolary form perfectly suited the expression of Richardson's heroines' feelings.
- Henry Fielding founded a new way of writing. He essentially wrote comic-epic novels dealing with all social classes and different outlooks. They are novels of plot, extending through periods of life, from youth to maturity. They are mainly set outside, in the country, in town, they show the characters while they are travelling. They reflect a clockwork universe where the author is to the work as God is to the created world. So their moral universe is reliable and cheerful because the author is in control of events. The characters are driven by clear motives, and are defined by their actions. Hypocrisy is the great social sin but the fundamental nature of man is clear to the author, and is also clear to the reader by the end of the novel.

To sum up, 18th-century novels shared the following features:



Text bank  
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► Embleton, Ron (1930-88).  
**Daniel Defoe in the pillory.** Private Collection.



# 4

# The Romantic Age

1760-1830

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► **The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London.** Founded in 1824, it houses a rich collection of over 2,300 paintings dating from the mid-13th century to 1900. The gallery belongs to the public of the United Kingdom and entry to the main collection is free of charge. This picture shows the National Gallery with a grass lawn on the square in front during an event promoting London parks.

## Key points ☹

- The age of revolutions.
- Growth of towns.
- The poor lived on the margins of survival.
- Reaction against reason.
- Revival of everyday life.
- Nature perceived as a living creature.
- Imagination as a means of knowledge.
- Emphasis on the individual.





► **The Death of General Wolfe** is a well-known 1771 painting by the Anglo-American artist Benjamin West depicting the final moments of British General James Wolfe during the 1759 Battle of Quebec.



► **A portrait of George III** (1738-1820), King of Great Britain and Ireland. He was the third British monarch of the House of Hanover but, unlike his two predecessors, he was born in Britain and spoke English as his first language.

The grandson of George II, George III (1738-1820), came to the throne in 1760. His reign lasted 60 years and is one of the longest in English history. In the 18th century, domestic stability and economic expansion took the place of the civil and religious conflict of the 17th century.

Britain fought against France for domination; the wars, such as the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War, gave Britain the advantage in colonial expansion. The system of mercantilism prevailed. This was embodied in the *Navigation Acts* (1770), which said that all colonial trade had to be in British ships; that all colonial produce had to come to Britain, who then had a monopoly on the re-export of colonial resources; finally the colonies could only import from Britain.

Much of the fighting against France had been in North America. In 1763, French Canada and the lands down to the Mississippi were ceded to Britain. The British government wanted the Americans





## 4.1 Britain and America

1760-1789

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The Romantic Age

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**guided study**

to help pay for their defence and imposed taxes to collect some of this debt. These taxes were the catalyst for the rebellion. At the Boston Tea Party (1773) the rebels, dressed as Native Americans, threw the hated British tea (from India, another part of the British Empire) into the harbour. The rebels maintained that the taxes were unjust, as the colony had no political power: they said, "No taxation without representation." In England, Edmund Burke recognised the justice of their cause and Tom Paine's *Common Sense* (1776) stimulated the desire for a republic. The Americans divided into Patriots and Loyalists and the War of Independence began in 1775. While the Patriots had no army, they knew the land. The British had an army, but it was too small to both attack and defend what it had won, and was two months' distance from supplies and orders. There was no one capital for the British to take, and the Americans showed an unusual unity against Britain. A deciding factor was the support of the French for the Americans. The French fleet stopped the British navy.

The practical skills of the Americans enabled them to take advantage of circumstances. George Washington became the leader of the army. In the spirit of the Enlightenment, they worked to create the foundations of this new country. On 4 July 1776 in Philadelphia the Congress signed the *Declaration of Independence*, written by Thomas Jefferson, a lawyer from Virginia. It was more than a statement that the colonies were a new nation, since it claimed that all men had a natural right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". It also stated that governments can only claim the right to rule if they have the approval of those they govern – "the consent of the governed".

The British army was defeated, and Britain recognised the independence of its former colonies with the Treaty of

**1. Complete the mind map about the reasons leading to the Declaration of American Independence.**

**2. How was the desire for independence from Britain both political and economic?**

**3. Did some people in England support the American cause?**

**4. List the most memorable events of the American War of Independence in chronological order:**

1770 .....

1773 .....

1775 .....

1776 .....

1783 .....

1787 .....

**5. At that time, do you think the North American colonies were as important to the British as places such as India, the Caribbean or Africa?**

Versailles in 1783. America became the symbol of a 'new start' with its virgin territory, where people from all European countries could melt into a new race. The new republic of the United States of America adopted a federal constitution in 1787 and George Washington became the first president. The colonists who remained loyal to Britain crossed into Canada.



# 4.2 Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions

1760-1789

At the end of the 18th century, the methods of farming and of the manufacture of goods began to change. Scientific thinking stimulated invention. Also, there had been a vast increase in trade, both domestic and colonial, which was to provide raw materials and the economic capital for even further development.

The Agricultural Revolution happened gradually. First small parcels of land were

enclosed to make larger, more efficient arable farms. Animals were bred selectively therefore producing more meat.

Spinning wool into thread was a common domestic, part-time agricultural activity. It was the first process to be mechanised in the 1760s and 1770s. Textile workers were the first to feel the social implications of the Industrial Revolution; country people moved to mill towns, weavers were de-skilled and became factory workers.

The textile being produced was cotton – the raw material from the Indian and American colonies. The first new machines were water driven, but the invention of the steam engine by James Watt was to change not only the textile industry but also coal mining and the production of iron.

All this economic activity made it necessary to improve domestic transport. New roads were ‘turnpikes’ or toll roads and made an improvement to the postal system. Still, land travel was slow; it was much more efficient to transport heavy, bulky goods such as coal and iron, and fragile goods such as pottery by water.

## build up your language Industrialization

The Romantic Age

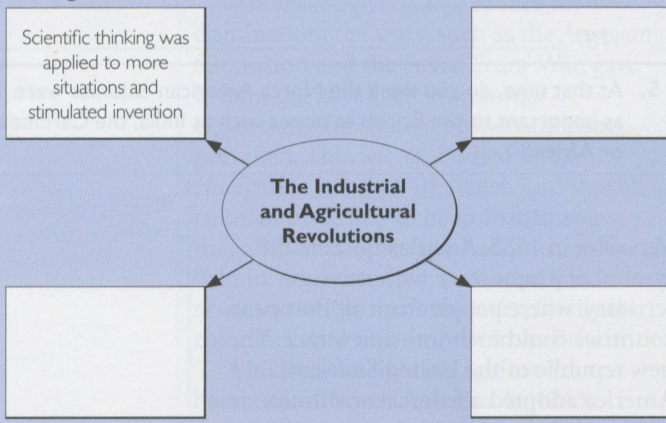
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### 1. Match the words with their Italian equivalent.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. manufacture   | a. motore a vapore    |
| 2. raw materials | b. manufatti          |
| 3. increase      | c. strada a pedaggio  |
| 4. enclosure     | d. aumento            |
| 5. spinning      | e. recinzione         |
| 6. steam engine  | f. materie prime      |
| 7. coal mines    | g. miniere di carbone |
| 9. turnpike road | h. filatura           |

## guided study

### 2. Complete the mind map about the reasons leading to the Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions.



### 3. Which needed to come first, the Industrial Revolution or the Agricultural Revolution, and why?



▲ An exhibition of pottery by Josiah Wedgwood.





## Industrial society 43

In the second half of the 18th century the nation came to be divided into two main classes: those who lived by owning, or wage-payers, and those who lived by earning, or wage-earners. The difference between rich and poor increased. The great English landlords grew extraordinarily rich thanks to the absolute freedom they had to exploit their land and to make money out of the minerals beneath the soil. In doing so, however, they also provided opportunities for enrichment to those who leased their farms, and their mines and the industrial sites around them. Wealth turned England into a 'consumer society' where the wish of people to imitate the improving standards of their betters was common to all classes. People demanded 'luxuries' such as white bread, china crockery and printed cotton.

In these years there was a shifting of population from the agricultural and commercial areas of the South to the North and the Midlands where, after the development of the steam engine, the new factories were built near the coalfields which provided them with fuel. Small towns, the so-called 'mushroom towns', were constructed to house the workers.

Women and children were highly prized by employers because they could be paid less and were easier to control. Furthermore, the fact that the children were so small meant they could move more easily in mines, or crawl between the machines in the cotton industry to carry out repairs. For the labourers, or 'hands', the city environment meant long working hours and appalling living conditions. Industrial cities lacked elementary public services – water-supply, sanitation, street-cleaning, open spaces; the air and the water were polluted by smoke and filth; the houses, built in endless rows, were overcrowded.

Industrial labour imposed new work patterns which no longer depended on the weather or change of season, but were determined by the mechanized regularity of the machine and rational division of labour. Discipline, routine and monotony marked the work of industrial labourers, whose wages were so low as to hardly keep them alive. Though Englishmen in general might hope to live to their fortieth birthday, the life expectancy of the poor inhabitants of the industrial cities was well below twenty years due to incessant toil, serious disease and heavy drinking.

◀ Women and children at work, 1771-76.

### build up your language

1. Look for these key words in the text and write down either the noun/s or the adjective/s they can be associated with.

1. mushroom towns
2. working hours
3. living conditions
4. public services
5. smoke
6. filth
7. machine
8. life expectancy
9. toil
10. disease

### guided study

2. Here are some of the social consequences of the Industrial Revolution. Join the two halves of each sentence.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. The population shifted from the rural South    | a. by their work place.                                      |
| 2. The factories were built near the coalfields   | b. working and living conditions appalling.                  |
| 3. The workers lived                              | c. to the industrial areas of the North and to the Midlands. |
| 4. The mushroom towns were built around           | d. polluted the environment.                                 |
| 5. Employers preferred women and children because | e. they could be better exploited.                           |
| 6. The smoke and dirt                             | f. the mines and factories.                                  |
| 7. Overcrowding and lack of hygiene made          | g. after the invention of the steam engine.                  |



## Emotion vs reason 45

The last 30 years of the 18th century are referred to as the Early Romantic Age because the new sensibility that had been anticipated in Richardson's novels, and in Sterne's work, became dominant and began to influence even the writers whose approach to literature was still classical, such as Thomas Gray.

The Enlightenment had brought tolerance and the recognition of the value of a cultured society; however, this rational outlook proved unsatisfactory. The supremacy of reason as the only way to knowledge and progress, had led to the repression of emotion and feeling. As men studied their surroundings, they began to refer to the impressions of their senses. Thus the individual response became more valid than the communal; the singular inspiration more valid than the general rule.

Many factors produced this change. The noisy activity of the town was compared unfavourably with the simple serenity of the countryside. There was a growing interest in humble and everyday life in opposition to the lofty subjects of Classicism. Related to this was an interest in melancholy, often associated with meditation on the suffering of the poor and on death. A new taste for the desolate, the love of ruins, graveyards, ancient castles and abbeys were part of a revival of

interest in the past felt as a period contrasting with present reality. The rediscovery of the art, architecture, legends and popular traditions of the Middle Ages manifested itself in the 'Gothic', which was no longer synonymous with barbarous, but became a facet of exoticism (☺ 4.8).

The concept of nature changed. The classical view of nature as a set of divine laws and principles established by God, which man could order and control thanks to reason, was slowly replaced by the view of nature as a real and living being to be described as it really was.

The higher value placed on sensibility led to the need to elaborate a new aesthetic theory built on individual consciousness rather than on the imitation of the precepts of nature or the classics. The Scottish historian and philosopher David Hume (1711-76) denied the objectivity of experience as stated by Locke (☺ 3.4) and wrote: "Beauty is no quality in things themselves: it exists merely in the mind which contemplates them; and each mind perceives a different beauty."

The most remarkable work on the subject was certainly Edmund Burke's *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1756-59) (☺ Dossier 4) in which he gave supremacy to the sublime over the beautiful.



▲ A portrait of Thomas Gray.

## guided study

1. This section is entitled "Emotion vs reason". Put all the words below into two columns with *Reason* as the first heading and *Emotion* as the second. They come in pairs of 'opposites'.

classical head rationality sentiment  
individual humble objective intellect  
imagination romantic conventional  
lofty subjective heart

2. Answer these questions.

1. How did the attitude towards reason change at the end of the 18th century?

2. What was the countryside identified with?  
3. What new interests emerged? Why?  
4. How did the classical view of nature evolve?  
5. Was beauty still regarded as an objective quality?  
6. What was the new aesthetic theory built upon?

3. Find an example in the passage of a writer whose subject matter was emotional, but whose approach to literature was still classical.

4. Find an example of a writer who emphasized the subjectivity of experience.



# Romantic poetry 47

## Information store

Presence of 'lyrical I'  
 Language of sense impressions  
 Nature as a living force  
 Freedom from models and rules  
 Symbols as vehicles of visionary perception  
 Search for a new language and subject  
 Return to past forms which achieved more flexibility

## Romantic poetry

There are some features that can be found in most Romantic poems:

- the presence of the 'lyric I';
- the presentation of nature 'as a living force' and, in a pantheistic vein, as the expression of God in the universe;
- the use of the language of sense impressions because the senses were instruments to set the visionary power in action;
- the freedom from models and rules as regards poetic technique;

▼ Thomas Phillips, **Byron during his journey to Albania and Greece**, 1812.

English Romanticism saw the prevalence of poetry, which best suited the need to give expression to emotional experience and individual feelings. Towards the end of the 18th century there had been a growing appreciation of the power of the imagination, but only with the Romantics did the imagination gain a primary role in the process of poetic composition. The eye of the imagination allowed the Romantic poets to see beyond surface reality and apprehend a truth beyond the powers of reason. An almost divine faculty, imagination allowed the poet to re-create and modify the external world of experience. The poet was seen 'as a visionary prophet' or 'as a teacher' whose task was to mediate between man and nature, to point out the evils of society, to give voice to the ideals of beauty, truth, and freedom.

The Romantic poets, however continued to appreciate the natural world and their works were rich in descriptions of natural elements and landscape. However, these were seldom described for their own sake since they mirrored the poet's mood and feelings.





# The novel of manners 49

Text bank  
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The changes in the social hierarchy of English society in the 19th century provided the background for the rise of the novel of manners. As industrial and business interests characterized the middle classes, the aristocracy lost power, so the standard markers for determining an individual's position in society proved increasingly unreliable. The novel of manners dealt with how these classes behaved in everyday situations, and described their codes of conduct. The undisputed master of the novel of manners was Jane Austen (☺ 4.17), whose novels of manners are based on the premise that there is a vital relationship between manners, social behaviour and character. They are usually set in the upper and middle levels of society, usually in the country with few insights into town life. They deal with the codes and conventions of daily behaviour through the description of visits, balls, and teas as occasions for joining up. They explore personal relationships, class distinctions and deal with the influence of money and property on the way people treat each other. Their main themes are marriage, the complications of love and friendship within this elaborate social world. A third-person narrator is employed and dialogue plays a central role, especially as a vehicle for irony. Passions and emotions are not expressed directly but more subtly and obliquely.

## Information store

- Set in upper- and middle-class society
- Influence of class distinctions on character
- Visits, balls, teas as occasions for joining up
- Main themes: marriage, the complications of love and friendship
- Third-person narrator
- Dialogue: the main narrative mode
- Passions and emotions not expressed directly
- Use of irony

*Novel of  
Manners*

## guided study

1. Answer the following questions about the features of the novel of manners.
  1. What led to the rise of the novel of manners in the 19th century?
  2. Why is it called the 'novel of manners'?
  3. What type of scenes are to be found in the novel of manners? Why?
  4. What are the main themes?
  5. What are the most important features of its narrative technique?



▲ The novels of manners by Jane Austen have been adapted into a great number of films and

television series. *Pride and Prejudice* has been the most reproduced of her works, with six films; the 2005

adaptation was directed by Joe Wright, starring Keira Knightley, Donald Sutherland, and Dame Judi Dench.