

History Knowledge Organiser – Britain and Rebellion - Year 5

Important Vocabulary for this topic:

- **Crusades** – Religious wars fought in the Middle-East, started by the European Church.
- **Magna Carta** – An agreement containing many rules which the Kings and Barons had to follow.
- **Taxes** - Money paid to the owner of the land in order to live there and gain their protection.
- **Parliament** – A group of people in charge of making laws, governing and representing the people.
- **Protestant** - Any branch of Christianity that is not Roman Catholic following the reformation.
- **Catholic** - A branch of Christianity led by the Pope in Rome.
- **Puritan** – English Protestants who wanted to simplify the church, removing some Catholic traditions.
- **Divine Right of Kings** – The belief that the King was chosen by God and so can do whatever they like.
- **Parliamentarians** – A supporter of parliament during the English Civil War.
- **Royalists** – A supporter of the Monarchy (Royal family) during the English Civil War.
- **New Model Army** - An army made of Parliamentarians, created to oppose King Charles I's army.
- **English Commonwealth** - England became a republic to be ruled by Parliament, not a Monarch.

Protestant Vs Catholics – The Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot!

England under **Elizabeth I** was mainly a **Protestant** country and **Catholics** were persecuted. This was because her father, **Henry VIII** broke away from the Catholic church creating his own Church of England. This was known as the **reformation**.

Following Elizabeth's death, Catholics were hopeful **James I** (1603 – 1625) would show more sympathy towards them, however in order to please the **Puritan** nobility of England, when he became king he quickly renounced any previous kindness towards Catholics and introduced harsh penalties for anyone who was openly Catholic. This caused a group of Catholics, including **Guy Fawkes**, to plot against him and attempt to assassinate him.

On **5th November 1605**, the group led by Guy Fawkes were planning to target the King and Parliament in the **Gunpowder Plot** where they planned to ignite barrels of gunpowder in tunnels below the Houses of Parliament. However, they were ultimately foiled, leading to the execution of Guy Fawkes and the other plotters.

English Civil War and The English Commonwealth

James I's heir, **Charles I**, was very **anti-parliament**, believing heavily in the **divine right of kings** to do as he pleased. Parliament disliked him and refused to help when he needed money to pay for his war campaigns in France and Spain. Eventually the parliament raised an army known as **The New Model Army**, which consisted of **Parliamentarians** who opposed Charles and his monarchy. They overthrew Charles in 1649, defeating the **Royalist** supporters and denounced the monarchy, starting a **Commonwealth** that was led by **Oliver Cromwell**. This was known as the **English Civil War**. However, the Commonwealth only lasted **11 years**, as **Charles II**, Charles I's son, restored the Monarchy becoming King in 1660 until his death in 1685.

The Feudal System and the Magna Carta

During **Richard I's** rule (1189 – 1199AD), he left England to lead armies in the **Crusades**. During his absence, Britain was controlled by the Lords. The Lords came under the King in the Feudal System put in place by William I years beforehand.

After Richard's death, his brother **John I** became king and he imposed more stringent rules on the barons and **taxed** them heavily to attempt to regain some of the money lost over the last decades, paying for the war abroad.

They disliked this and rebelled, forcing him to sign the **Magna Carta**, which diminished the King's power and a group of Lords were selected to serve as a rudimentary **Parliament**.

