THE "GLORIOUS" REVOLUTION OF 1688
MAIN HEADINGS

- WHAT WAS IT AND WHY WAS IT GLORIOUS?
- THE REIGN OF JAMES II
- THE REVOLUTIONARY SETTLEMENT
- THE HISTORICAL MEANING OF THIS REVOLUTION
WHAT WAS IT AND WHY “GLORIOUS”

Deposition of reigning monarch: that is, James II
Who did the dirty deed?

- William of Orange; Prince of Holland; husband of Mary Stuart, daughter of James II
- But he was invited by a group of aristocrats and others
William and Mary: the happy couple
What was it... again?

- Bloodless
- And, most importantly, it was glorious because it was seen as defending Protestant Liberty against Catholic, and Absolutist tyranny
The Reign of James II
1685-1688

- James a Catholic
- England a Protestant country
- Catholicism seen as religion of arbitrary power
The Reign of James II

James’ policies:
- To be independent of Parliament
- To restore civil rights to Catholics
- To expand the royal prerogative
- To suborn the judiciary, universities and local governments
- To demand the obedience of the Church of England
Thus, the man had to go; especially as a child was born on 10 June 1688
But what to do when he had gone?
The Revolutionary Settlement

- William and Mary declared joint monarchs
- The Declaration of Right
- Toleration Act
Presenting the Declaration of Rights
The Meaning of the Revolution

- Glorious but Conservative
- Designed to preserve existing religion and institutions
- But ended the long standing struggle between monarch and Parliament in favor of Parliament.
- No possibility now of Royal Absolutism—in contrast to those unfortunate Europeans.