

GUIDELINE:

The laws are [...] made by the king only at the [proposal] and with the advice of parliament. But no parliament has the power to make any law without his authority.

And as it is manifest that the king is over-lord of the whole land [...] and so the power flows always from himself... And therefore he has the authority to suspend any law upon causes only known to himself.

As likewise, a good king, although he is above the law, will frame all his actions to be according to the law.

James I, *True Law of Free Monarchies*, 1598.



The Detestable Ends of Popish Traytors. Engraving, anonymous, London, 1612. Note. The Pope and Catholics were considered a threat as the king was suspected of supporting them.

GUIDELINE:



Royal supporters versus Parliament supporters. Engraving, anonymous, circa 1646.

I shall begin first with my innocency. [...] I call God to witnesse, to whom I must shortly make an account, that I never did intend to encroach upon the rights of the two Houses of Parliament, [...] they began these unhappy troubles not I. So I hope that God will clear me of the guilt of these crimes laid against me.

[...] But I must tell you that the liberty and the fredome of the people is not in having a share in Government [...]. A subject and a sovereign are clear and different things [...].

Charles I's speech before his execution, *The Intelligencer*, February 5, 1649.

GUIDELINE:

Be it declared and enacted by this present Parliament, [...] that the people of England, are [...] a Commonwealth and Free State. And shall from henceforth be Governed [...] by the Supreme Authority of this Nation, The Representatives of the People in Parliament, without any King or House of Lords.

House of Commons, 19 May 1649.

The supreme legislative authority of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, [...] shall reside in [...] the Lord Protector [...], and the people assembled in Parliament.

Commonwealth Instrument of Government, 16 December 1653.



Defeat to my Enemies, the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell as king. Satirical engraving, anonymous, 1657, Hulton Archive.

**HIST** ◀ **REVOLUTIONS** ▶

**CS2** ◀ **The second British revolution, 1688** ▶

GUIDELINE:



The Church of England's supplication to His Majesty to protect her from Rome. Engraving, Langley Curtis, 1679, British Museum.

Those counsellors, who have now the chief credit with the King, have subjected these Realms to arbitrary government in an open and undisguised manner.

Those evil counsellors, did invent and set on foot the King's dispensing power. They pretend that, according to law, he can suspend and dispense with the execution of laws that have been enacted by the authority of the King and Parliament for the security and happiness of the subjects, and so have rendered those laws of no effect.

Declaration of the Prince of Orange, The Hague, October 10, 1688.

GUIDELINE:

We are greatly satisfied to find Your Highness ready and willing to give us assistance and contribute to our deliverance.

The people are so dissatisfied with the conduct of the government in relation to their religion and liberties that Your Highness may be assured nineteen parts of twenty of them are desirous of a change and would willingly fight for it. The greatest part of the nobility and gentry are as much dissatisfied and the most powerful would support Your Highness at your first landing.

Invitation to the Prince of Orange, secret letter sent by seven Protestant nobles, June 30, 1688.



The Revolution of 1688. Pack/deck of cards, anonymous, circa 1688-1689, British Museum.

GUIDELINE:

In our undertaking, we have nothing in mind but the preservation of the Protestant religion and the securing of the nation's laws, rights and liberties under a just and legal government.

We do invite all persons whatsoever, gentlemen and commons of all ranks, to come and assist us. So, we may prevent those miseries caused by arbitrary government and slavery, and a free and legal Parliament may redress all the violence and disorders, which have overturned the whole constitution of the English government.

Declaration of the Prince of Orange, The Hague, October 10, 1688.



The Crown offered to William and Mary by the Lords and Commons at Whitehall, February 13, 1689. Anonymous engraving.

**HIST** ◀ **REVOLUTIONS** ▶

**CS3** ◀ **A new British political regime, 1689** ▶

GUIDELINE:

When the king tries to set up his own arbitrary will as the law of the society, the people have not only a right to get out of this tyranny but also a right to prevent it.

To this it may be said, that the people being ignorant and always discontented, [...] no government will be able to subsist long [...]. To this I answer, Quite the contrary. The many revolutions which have been seen in this kingdom [...], still brought us back again to our old form of government where the power is held by king, lords and commons.

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*, London, 1690.

GUIDELINE:

The good of the society requires that the legislative and executive power are in distinct hands as they are in all moderated monarchies. It may be too great a temptation [...] for the same persons, who have the power of making laws, to have also in their hands the power to execute them [...].

[...] Hence it is evident, that absolute monarchy, which by some men is counted the only government in the world, is indeed inconsistent with civil society, and so can be no form of civil government at all.

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*, London, 1690.

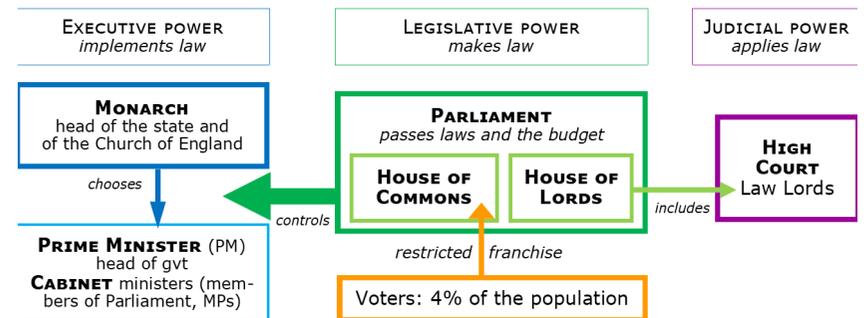
GUIDELINE:

The legislature is not only the supreme power, but is unalterable in the hands in which the community have placed it. [...] This legislature that the public has chosen and appointed [...] cannot transfer the power of making laws to any other hands. It was delegated to them from the people, and they aren't free to pass it on.

Only the people can decide the form of the government with his consent, i.e. the consent of the majority, given directly by themselves or through representatives they have chosen.

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*, London, 1690.

The British limited monarchy, 1689: a diagram



**HIST ◀ REVOLUTIONS ▶**

**CS4 ◀ The American revolution, 1775-1783 ▶**

GUIDELINE:

The Bostonians Paying the Excise-Man, or Tarring & Feathering. Engraving, Philip Dawe, 1774, U.S. National Archives. Note. Excise: tax



Let the Restrictions on our Trade be removed, and we will cheerfully contribute [financially] when constitutionally required, excluding every Idea of taxation for raising a Revenue on the Subjects in America, without their Consent. It is a fundamental Principle of the British Constitution, that every Man should have a Representative Share in the Formation of those Laws, by which he is bound. Otherwise, the Regulation of our internal Policy by a British Parliament, [...] is oppressive to these colonies. Address to the inhabitants of Great Britain, Continental Congress, July 8, 1775.

GUIDELINE:



The First Blow for Liberty: the Battle of Lexington, April 1775. Engraving, A. H. Ritchie, U.S. National Archives.

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. [...] We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America [...] in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown [...]. Declaration of Independence, First Continental Congress, July 4, 1776.

GUIDELINE:

Nothing could have afforded Me so much Satisfaction as to have been able to inform you that the Troubles in My Colonies in North America, were at an End [...]. But they have now openly renounced all Allegiance to the Crown, and all political Connection with this Country. [...] I doubt not that My faithful Commons will grant Me such Supplies [to fight] to promote the true Interests of all My Subjects. No people ever lived under a milder Government, than those now revolted Provinces. Speech to Parliament, King George III, October 31, 1776.



The victorious general Washington while Britannia deplores her loss of America. Engraving, Daniel George, *Weatherwise Town and Country Almanach*, for the year of Our Lord, 1784.

**HIST ◀ REVOLUTIONS ▶**

**CS5 ◀ A new American political regime, 1777-1787 ▶**

GUIDELINE:

Should the thirteen United States be reduced to one great republic, governed by one legislature, and under the direction of one executive and judicial? As the federal legislature will most certainly lessen and ultimately subvert the state authority, this form of government will lead to tyranny. The United States should continue thirteen confederated republics, under the direction and control of a supreme federal head for certain defined national purposes only to protect state and individual liberties. Brutus [Robert Yates], *The Antifederalist Papers*, October 18, 1787.

GUIDELINE:

How can we maintain the necessary partition of power among the three departments, as laid down in the Constitution? In order to have that separate and distinct exercise of the different powers of government, which is essential to the preservation of liberty, it is evident that each department should be separately elected by the people. Each department should also be as independent as possible from the others and be given the constitutional means to resist encroachments of the others. "The Proper Checks and Balances", Publius [John Hamilton or James Madison], *Federalist Papers* n°51, February 8, 1788.

GUIDELINE:

In a republic the government is delegated to a small number of citizens elected by the rest whereas in a democracy it is extended to the greater number of citizens. [...] In the republic, the public views are refined and enlarged, by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens. Their wisdom will best discern the true interest of their country, and their patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations. "The Union as a Safeguard", James Madison, *The Federalist Papers* n°10, November 23, 1787.

**The US federal republic, 1787: a diagram**

