Lesson Plan: Diverse Views of the Glorious Revolution in England
Grades: 9-12

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The Dutch Republic and Britain

Introduction:

Typical high school and Advanced Placement world history textbooks portray the Glorious
Revolution as a harmonious event where William of Orange is persuaded to come and rescue
Britain from reverting back to Catholicism under the absolutist-style regime of James II. The
glorious aspect of this so-called revolution is the relatively peaceful transfer of power from
the monarch to Parliament that ensues after William and his wife Mary, the eldest daughter of
King James II, are invited to jointly rule England and its empire. However, many scholars
share an alternate interpretation of the events of 1688-90 and conversely view the ascension
of William of Orange to the British throne as an invasion motivated by realpolitik and a
personal lust for power.

Guiding Questions:
• What are the two contrasting views of the Glorious Revolution?
• What motivations support the two divergent views of a single historical event?

Learning Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students will be able to evaluate alternative perceptions of a
historical event and postulate the motivation behind the varying views.

Background:

The larger historical context surrounding the Glorious Revolution is complex and resplendent
with high drama, wherein war, political rivalry, economic competition, and religion all play a
role. William of Orange, known as Prince William in Britain, was the stadholder, or military
and political leader of the Dutch Republic, a technically non-hereditary position that had been
held by his family members on and off for a century. He came to power in 1672 during the
Year of Disaster when the Dutch Republic was embroiled in the third Anglo-Dutch War while

simultaneously facing an invasion of the Republic by Louis XIV of France, supported by the principalities of Munster and Cologne. While William was immensely popular with half of his constituents, the Orangists, who had violently pressured the States General - the representative oligarch government of the Republic - to allow William to assume the stadholder position that had been vacant since the death of his father twenty-two years earlier, William struggled to maintain support from conservative forces within the government who resisted his style of leadership that had the appearance of a monarchy within am ostensibly republican form of government. The Treaty of Westminster of 1674 ended the third Anglo-Dutch War, and direct military conflict with the other adversaries of the Dutch Republic who resented the small nation's economic success and political autonomy subsided, yet economic challenges remained. Louis XIV was determined to destroy the Dutch economy, and another war seemed inevitable. For William and the Republic, it was imperative that England not join ranks with the French. When presented with the gravity of the situation, William's former detractors, many of whom were members of the States Party faction (the group that had left the stadholder position vacant) and wealthy burghers or nobles from the trade-dependent state of Holland, agreed to support William's plan for another war with France.

Unfortunately, an English/Dutch alliance against France seemed unlikely from the onset and became impossible after the succession to the English throne changed following the birth of a son to James II and his second wife Mary of Modena. The birth of a male heir not only meant that William's wife Mary would not now be next in line to the throne, but the new crown prince would be brought up in the household of a Catholic Queen and James II. The latter was sympathetic to Catholic toleration, was much impressed by Louise XIV's style of absolute monarchy and was willing to work with France to reduce Dutch economic power. William saw the English throne as his birthright and was actually in the line of succession for the British throne. His mother was the elder sister of Charles II and James II, and since James's elder daughters were the product of a marriage to a commoner, William considered himself to be the rightful heir. Nevertheless, to ensure his position, he married the presumed heir to the throne, Mary Stuart, the eldest daughter of James II and his Protestant first wife. William's ascension to the British throne was jeopardized by the birth of a son to James II. The fact that baby James Francis Edward Stuart was baptized as a Catholic was reason enough for the Protestant powers in Parliament to contemplate another overthrow of the Stuart dynasty. In addition, based on Mary of Modena's previous history of having babies that did not survive infancy, rumors were circulating that the baby was not actually hers, but rather an imposter

who had been smuggled in. Doubters were numerous and even included Princess Anne. Ultimately, King James II issued a public statement affirming his parentage of the newborn. However, at this point the child's paternity was irrelevant, since plans rooted in larger political issues were in action for a serious regime change.

Preparation Instructions:

For this activity, students will need computer and Internet access. Alternatively, a class set of the documents can be printed for students to examine in class.

Lesson Activities:

Activity 1. Compare and contrast two diverse accounts of the Glorious Revolution. Students will compare and contrast two diverse accounts of the Glorious Revolution by completing the modified *Venn Diagram Handout*.

- Here is the official version of the events from the British House of Commons.
    - http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/guides/factsheets/general/g04/
- This is the BBC account of the events.
    - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/glorious_revolution_01.shtml

Activity 2. Analyze documents related to the Glorious Revolution. Students will analyze the following documents by completing the *Document Analysis Guide*.

- Selections from the Invitation to the Prince of Orange, June 30, 1688
    - www.jacobite.ca/documents/16880630.htm
        - Members of Parliament invite William of Orange to take the British throne.
- Declaration of the Prince of Orange, October 10, 1688
    - www.jacobite.ca/documents/16881010.htm
        - William informs the world of his magnanimous action to save the British nation.
- Correspondence between Marquess dÁlbeville, the English Ambassador at The Hague, and Charles Middleton, Secretary of State to James II, 9 October 1688.
    - "There is not in Christendom a better army of the number, you may think what you please, they dont (sic) believe they will meet with great opposition."
    - British Library, London, Department of Manuscripts. ADD. 41816, fo. 224. D'Albeville to Middleton, 9 Oct. 1688. Quoted in Jonathan Israel, *The Dutch*

Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995, p. 850.

- Correspondence between Marquess dÁlbeville, the English Ambassador at The Hague, and Charles Middleton, Secretary of State to James II, 15 October 1688.
  - o "an absolute conquest is intended under the specious and ordinary pretenses of religion, liberty, property and a free Parliament, and religious, exact, observation of the laws; this, and [drawing England into] war against France, they make account, will be but a work of a month's time."
  - British Library, London, Department of Manuscripts. Add. 41816, fo. 232. D'Albeville to Middleton, 15 Oct. 1688. Quoted in: Israel, Jonathan. *The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995, pg. 849.
- Painting: Departure of William III from Hellevoctsluis, 19 October 1688
  - o http://collections.nmm.ac.uk/collections/objects/11817.html
    - ▪ This painting is by Abraham Storck is located at the National Maritime Museum in London.
- Painting: William III Landing at Brixham, Torbay, 5 November 1688
  - o http://collections.nmm.ac.uk/collections/objects/14568.html
    - ▪ This painting is by Jan Wyck is located at the National Maritime Museum in London.
- *London Gazette*. 12 Nov 1688.
  - o http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/2398/pages/2
    - On November 6 and 11, the Prince of Orange was marching to London and seizing the king's money.
- *London Gazette*. 22 Nov 1688.
  - o http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/2402/pages/2
    - The Prince of Orange has forbid prayers for King James II.
- Letter of Lord Churchill to King James II, November 1688
  - o www.jacobite.ca/documents/1688churchill.htm
    - ▪ Churchill explains his support for William of Orange.
- Declaration of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, December 11, 1688
  - o www.jacobite.ca/documents/16881211.htm
    - ▪ This is a thank you to William of Orange for rescuing Britain from "Popery and slavery."

- *London Gazette*. 31 Dec 1688.
  - http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/2414/pages/2
    - William claims to have come to secure the peace
- Act Establishing the Coronation Oath, 1689
  - www.jacobite.ca/documents/16890409.htm
    - William and Mary, along with all successive monarchs, were required to promise that they would be Protestant and govern according to the statutes of Parliament.
- *London Gazette*. 27 May 1689.
  - http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/
    - Oath of Allegiance to William and Mary.
- English Bill of Rights (16 December 1689)
  - http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/england.asp
    - In addition to delineating the rights of British citizens, this document contains a list of grievances against James II.
- Protest of King James II and VII against the Treaty of Ryswick, June 8, 1697
  - www.jacobite.ca/documents/16970608.htm
    - James makes the claim that William of Orange occupied Britain by force.
- Song: The Boyne Water
  - www.bartleby.com/250/42.html
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boyne_Water
    - This Protestant folksong believed to have been written in the 17th century celebrates William of Orange's victory over James II in the Battle of the Boyne.
    - For a detailed history of the song go to: http://vclvm54.isis.unc.edu/mediawiki/index.php/Boyne_Water_(1)
- Profile: The Orange Order
  - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/1422212.stm
- Website: Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland
  - www.grandorangelodge.co.uk/
    - Northern Ireland unionist/loyalist organization.

Assessment:

Students will respond to the following essay prompts:

- Compare and contrast the two views of the Glorious Revolution.

- Evaluate the motivations behind the two divergent views of the Glorious Revolution.

Extending the Lesson:

Students will create either three open-ended questions or talking points based on the document readings and participate in a Socratic Seminar.

Compare and Contrast Accounts of the Glorious Revolution

Perspective from the House of Commons	Similarities	Perspective from the BBC Article

Various Views of the

Glorious Revolution

Instructions: In the left column, identify the document. In the center column, summarize the main idea from each document. In the right column, respond to the document (reflect, analyze, interpret, evaluate, or question) and determine which account of the Glorious Revolution is being supported.

	Document	Main Idea	Response
1			
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	Document	Main Idea	Response
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