Limits on Absolutism: The Development of the British Parliamentary System

- **1215** Magna Carta
  - attempts to limit power of the king
  - Judgment by peers for all freemen.
  - Justice could not be denied, delayed, or sold.
  - Taxes levied only with advice of a “Great Council.”

- **1295** Model Parliament
  - Under King Edward I.
  - Established the “power of the purse” concept.

- **1640-1688** Restoration
  - Restored the Stuart monarchy to the British throne.
  - HABEAS CORPUS ACT guaranteed a statement of charges, bail, and a fair & speedy trial for every Englishman.
  - Charles II → didn’t interfere with Parliament.
  - James II → claimed divine-right again and proclaimed himself a Catholic.

- **1688** “Glorious” Revolution
  - Bloodless.
  - James II abdicates & leaves England.
  - Parliament invites William of Orange and wife Mary (Charles II’s Protestant daughter) to take British throne WITH CONDITIONS!

- **1653-1660** Puritan Republic
  - Oliver Cromwell, “Lord Protector.”
  - Calvinist state.
  - Instrument of Government → first modern written Constitution!

- **1642-1653** English Civil War
  - Cavaliers v. Roundheads
  - Divine-right monarchy abolished.
  - Parliament only has power to tax.
  - Religious issues continue [Ireland]

- **1649** Execution of Charles I
  - Developed later

- **1660** Restoration
  - Stuarts return to power.
  - Habeas Corpus Act guarantees rights of citizens.

- **1649** Execution of Charles I
  - Developed later

- **1689** Bill of Rights
  - Parliament is now stronger than the monarchy.
  - Act of Toleration
  - 1701 Act of Settlement
  - 1707 Act of Union

- **1689** William & Mary
  - New leaders: William of Orange & Mary II, Dutch Protestants.
  - No parliament, governed by Instrument of Government.

- **1689** Act of Toleration
  - Religious tolerance.

- **1701** Act of Settlement
  - Assurance of the Protestant succession.

- **1707** Act of Union
  - Union of England & Scotland.

- **1714** Queen Anne
  - First queen in line of succession.

- **1720** Bubble Act
  - Speculative bubble.

- **1725** South Sea Bubble
  - Another speculative bubble.

- **1754** First War of American Independence
  - Prelude to the American Revolutionary War.

- **1763** Peace of Paris
  - End of the French and Indian War.

- **1775** American Revolutionary War
  - Prelude to independence from Britain.

- **1783** Treaty of Paris
  - Official recognition of the independence of the United States.

- **1793** French Revolution
  - A new era of political and social change.

- **1800** American presidential election
  - First popular vote for president.

- **1815** Battle of Waterloo
  - End of the Napoleonic Wars.

- **1832** Reform Act
  - Expansion of the franchise.

- **1848** French Revolution
  - Revolt against the Second帝制

- **1857** Indian Mutiny
  - Rebellion against British rule.

- **1870** Franco-Prussian War
  - Prussia overthrow France.

- **1885** Indian independence
  - British rule ends.

- **1914** World War I
  - Beginning of the modern world wars.

- **1945** World War II
  - End of the modern world wars.

- **1960** Civil Rights Act
  - Addressing civil rights issues.

- **1975** European Union
  - Formation of the European Union.

- **2001** September 11 attacks
  - September 11 terrorist attacks.

- **2010** Obama presidency
  - Modern American leadership.

- **2014** Ferguson protests
  - Social justice issues.

- **2018** Supreme Court decision
  - Political and social issues.

- **2020** Presidential election
  - Election for modern leadership.

- **2022** Midterm elections
  - Political and social issues.

- **2023** Global issues
  - Modern political and social issues.

- **2024** presidential election
  - Election for modern leadership.

- **2025** Global issues
  - Modern political and social issues.