

The Monmouth Rebellion

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Questions to Answer

Who was Monmouth ?

Why did he rebel ?

What happened ?



James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth

Who was Monmouth ?

Illegitimate Child of Charles II

Born 9 April 1649 in Rotterdam to Lucy Walter

Married Anne Scott, 1st Duchess of Buccleuch

Had 9 children

Fought in the Second and Third Anglo-Dutch Wars (1665 – 1667 and 1672 – 1674) and the Franco-Dutch War (1672–78)

Children of Charles II : 1

Child by Lucy Walter : James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth

Child by Catherine Pegge : Charles FitzCharles, 1st Earl of Plymouth

Children by Barbara Palmer née Villiers :

Charles FitzRoy, 2nd Duke of Cleveland

Henry FitzRoy, 1st Duke of Grafton

George FitzRoy, 1st Duke of Northumberland

Children of Charles II : 2

Child by Nell Gwyn : Charles Beauclerk, 1st Duke of St Albans

Child by Louise de Kérouaille : Charles Lennox, 1st Duke of Richmond

Child by Moll Davis : Lady Mary Tudor

Why did Monmouth (and others) rebel ?

James was a Roman Catholic and many Protestants opposed his succession

Monmouth, a Protestant, claimed to be rightful heir to the throne even though illegitimate

Attempts to exclude James from the succession via an Exclusion Bill in Parliament had failed

Plots to assassinate both Charles and James had failed - Monmouth not directly involved

Charles II succeeded by his brother, James II, on 6 February 1685

Brief Chronology

6th February 1685 : Death of Charles II and Succession of James II

17th May 1685 : Forces under Archibald Campbell, 9th Earl of Argyll land on Islay

11th June 1685 : James, Duke of Monmouth lands with forces at Lyme Regis, Dorset

18th June 1685 : Argyll's forces defeated at Muirdykes

6th July 1685 : Monmouth's forces defeated at Sedgemoor

15th July 1685 : Monmouth executed on Tower Hill

25 August 1685 : Bloody Assizes begin in Winchester

23rd September 1685 : Bloody Assizes end in Wells

Argyll's Rising

A group of largely Scottish exiles, led by Archibald Campbell, 9th Earl of Argyll

In support of Monmouth's claim to the thrones of England and Scotland

Hoped to gain support not just from family clans but also anti-Stuart Presbyterians

Monmouth involved in planning

Failed due to divided and incompetent leadership

Defeated at the Battle of Muirdykes

Monmouth's Landing

Landed at Lyme Regis 11th June 1685

Landed in South-West due to strong Protestant area and where Monmouth was well-known

Reports of sailing known to James II 10 days previously

News of Landing reached London on 13th June

Initial opposition to rebels left to local militias whilst James raised an army under John Churchill

Skirmish at Bridport led to many militia deserting and joining Monmouth

From Lyme Regis to Taunton

Royalist forces headed out from Exeter and from the East

Monmouth led troops North

Takes Axminster, forces swell to about 6,000

Takes Chard and moves on to Taunton where there is a coronation service

Royalist forces under Churchill move up to Chard and also invest Bristol

Taunton to Bristol

Moves East to Bridgwater, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet

Weather deteriorates

Royal Navy captures Monmouth's ships

Moves on to Pensford and skirmishes at Keynsham, crosses the Avon

Repulsed in an early attack against Bristol