

# 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