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The unified kingdom of Alba retained some of the ritual aspects of Pictish and Scottish kingship. These can be seen in the elaborate ritual coronation at the Stone of Scone at Scone Abbey. In the late Middle Ages, it saw much of the aggrandisement associated with the New Monarchs elsewhere in Europe. The court remained at the centre of political life, and in the sixteenth century emerged as a major centre of display and artistic patronage, until it was effectively dissolved with the Union of the Crowns in 1707. For most of its history it was "annexed and united" to the English Crown. Cyfraith Hywel, also known as Welsh law, was the system of law practised in medieval Wales before its final conquest by England. There has been no geographical or constitutional basis for describing any of the territory of Wales as a principality since then, although the term has occasionally been used in an informal sense to describe the country, and in relation to the honorary title of Prince of Wales. In 1284 it was enlarged and given the additional duty of maintaining law and order in the Principality and the Marches of Wales. The Council was placed on a statutory basis in 1284 and played a central role in co-ordinating law and administration. It declined in the early 17th century and was abolished by Parliament in 1689. It was revived at the Restoration before being finally abolished in 1707. From 1707 there was no differentiation between the government of England and government in Wales. All laws relating to England included Wales and Wales was considered by the British Government as an indivisible part of England within the United Kingdom. The first piece of legislation to relate specifically to Wales was the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act 1880. A further exception was the Welsh Church Act 1914, which disestablished the Church in Wales which had formerly been part of the Church of England in 1534. In the practice was established that all laws passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom were designated as applicable to either "England and Wales" or "Scotland", thus returning a legal identity to Wales which had not existed for hundreds of years following the Act of Union with Scotland in 1707. Also in 1907 a new Council for Wales was established as a parliamentary committee. In 1908 the Welsh Office was established, based in London, to oversee and recommend improvements to the application of laws in Wales. This situation would continue until the devolution of government in Wales and the establishment of the autonomous National Assembly for Wales in 1999.

Pre-Civil War England[edit]

Further information: The event completely changed the course of English history. Until 1066, England was ruled by monarchs that were elected by the witan, meaning wise. There were various elements of democracy at a local level too, known as folkmoot. The Normans[edit] Henry I of England c. 1100. When he ascended to the throne he granted the Charter of Liberties, a series of decrees and assurances to the barons. Probably the most important statement in the charter is at the beginning, where the king admits "that by the mercy of God and the common counsel of the barons of the whole kingdom of England I have been crowned king of said kingdom". This represented a step away from absolute rule; the king had recognised that the right to rule came not only from God but also from the common counsel of the barons. He was the youngest brother of Richard I. His reign was fraught with conflicts; there was conflict between England and France, between England and the Pope and between the King and the barons. Eventually the barons forced John to sign the Magna Carta, a practical solution to the political crisis he faced in 1215, which established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. Henry was only nine years of age when he became king and so the country was ruled by regents until Henry reached the age of 16. Under pressure from the barons, led by Simon de Montfort, 6th Earl of Leicester, Henry had to accept constitutional limitations on the monarchy placed by Provisions of Oxford and Provisions of Westminster and the existence of the first representative English Parliament. The Ordinances of 1258 were a series of regulations imposed on King Edward I by the Lords and higher clergy to restrict the power of the king. The rebels came very close to their demands such as fair rents and the abolition of serfdom being granted by the king, but at the end the protesters were tricked out of such gains. The revolt remains as an important moment in history, but it failed to contribute to the written

body of the constitution. Henry VIII died in 1547, leaving three children as potential heirs. The Act also required all office-holders, including the clergy, to take an oath of allegiance acknowledging the Queen as the supreme governor of the Church of England. The monarchy had to get the consent of Parliament in all issues, but with the threat of war looming from Spain, Parliament showed great loyalty toward Queen Elizabeth, who was a strong leader. However, after the Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588, Parliament felt safer and thus it decreased its loyalty to the monarchy. Parliament consisted of two levels of administration: The House of Commons had grown sharply, doubling in size due to the prosperity of the middle-class during that time. There were a number of vocal Puritans in the House of Commons although the extent to which they influenced the Commons is disputed, Sir John Neale identified a unified bloc of 43 members, whereas revisionists have suggested that this is an exaggeration who began asking for more rights for the Puritans, but Elizabeth I was strong enough to ignore their demands. James I would later have problems with them. John Aylmer, a Greek scholar, saw an immediate resemblance of the Tudor constitution to that of the classical republic of Sparta. It was the Greek scholars, such as Aylmer, that popularised the Greek classical political terminology and influenced English and later British constitutionalist thought. They brought forward the idea of mixed government from Classical antiquity and applied it to their form of government. This was a major step towards creating a single British state, although the Kingdom of Great Britain did not come about until a hundred years later. James VI faced a fractious religious England since it contained Anglicans of the Church of England, Puritans, Separatists who wanted to break from the Church of England, and also many Roman Catholics, although many did not declare their continuing allegiance to Rome, which was the cause of much mistrust. James VI was a believer in the Divine Right of Kings, which stated that Kings were chosen by God and should therefore be absolute and answerable only to God. This was corroborated by his Presbyterian belief in predestination, and such a birthright as kingship made him almost explicitly a part of the elect. Though he was Presbyterian Calvinist, Huguenot, Puritan, he was against the Presbyterian idea of allowing the congregation people to elect their presbyters church officials since it undermined his absolutism according to the Divine Right. Thus he was often at odds with the Puritans, who were English Presbyterians. He did concede to the Puritans by commissioning the "King James Bible", an English language translation and interpretation of the Bible. Then James VI began fighting with the Roman Catholics, but eventually gave them rights after his secretly Catholic wife probably persuaded him to, exempting them from having to pay tithes to the Anglican Church, but this caused a great decrease in Anglican Church revenue, so he quickly took those rights away. The actions of King James VI were unpopular during his reign. Charles I believed in the Divine Right of Kings, like his father, and thus continued to fight with parliament. Parliament demanded more power over the taxes. Now Parliament wanted to re-evaluate these taxes annually, which would give it more control over the king. Charles I did the same at first and later just ignored its annual evaluations. Charles acquired much of his money with forced loans from the rich. He also received a lot of money through taxes. One important tax that Charles collected was the Ship Money tax that required the counties bordering the sea to fund a navy to protect the English coastline. To get even more money, Charles placed the Ship Money tax on the interior counties as well - which angered the English people, because now Charles was creating new taxes without the consent of the Parliament which was against the unwritten law. This meant that 5 of 12 jurors were against their king, which did not look good or bode well for Charles I. But Charles I was at war with France and Spain, and this war was costing a lot of money; he was forced to call upon Parliament to raise new taxes for him. Parliament would not grant Charles new taxes more money until he had signed the Petition of Rights that established conditions in which Charles had to submit to the law of the Parliament: The king could not establish martial law in England during times of peace. The king could not levy taxes without the consent of the Parliament. The king could not arbitrarily imprison people. The king could not quarter soldiers in private homes. After Charles got the taxes from Parliament, he dissolved Parliament and broke the tenets of the Petition of Rights which, under the divine right theory, he considered void. He and the Parliament could not agree on anything, so after three weeks, Charles I dissolved the Parliament. Then he desperately needed new taxes, so Charles I called a Parliament again and it would only help him if he agreed to some terms, which ultimately made Charles I a constitutional monarch. It was called the Long Parliament "â€", because it was not officially

dissolved by its own vote until He reluctantly placed them under arrest and put them in The Tower , executing Wentworth in for which Charles I never forgave himself since he was close to Thomas Wentworth and William Laud in It was considered an "extralegal" court. It dealt with odd cases and punishments. Charles I had to abolish the High Court, which was the same as the Court of the Star Chamber, though it dealt with religious heresy. Charles I had to accept the Grand Remonstrance and allow the circulation of its copies, and it was a document that outlined hyperbolically the crimes that officials had accused Charles of committing since the beginning of his reign. Charles I was also never to do any of those crimes again. Charles I, most importantly, had to agree never to dissolve a Parliament without the consent of the Parliament. This caused a political division in Parliament, so Charles I took advantage of it. The five ringleaders had been tipped off, so they had left Parliament and Charles I was left with only shame for storming Parliament. They were known as the Cavaliers. In response to Charles I raising an army, they did so as well. They called their army the New Model Army and they made its commander Oliver Cromwell , who was also a member of Parliament. The New Model Army was composed mostly of Presbyterians. The Scots were paid for their help and sent back to Scotland. The Presbyterian Roundheads were interested in freedom to practice their religion and not in making the Presbyterian religion the state religion. Cromwell proposed that Parliament reinstate the bishops of the Church of England and King Charles I as a constitutional monarch, but allow for the toleration of other religions. Though at the end of the war, the people of England could accept Charles I back in office but not religious toleration. They also wanted the New Model Army dissolved since it was a provocative factor. Charles I then made the same deal that the Roundheads had made with the Scottish and Parliamentary Presbyterians. He solicited the help of Scotland and the Presbyterians and in return he promised to impose Presbyterianism on England. The New Model Army would not allow this deal to be made because it would give Charles I military power once more. Thus a "new" civil war broke out in This time, Scotland, the Parliamentary Presbyterians and the royalists were on the side of Charles I. The New Model Army and the rest of Parliament were against him. The new Parliament constituted a Rump Parliament , which was a Parliament in which the minority Presbyterians carried on in the name of the majority that was kicked out.

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