

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER: THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL MEMORY

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Timeline of Events:

1625	Charles I becomes King
1642-1649	The Civil Wars
1649	Charles I beheaded
1649-1660	The Interregnum
1649-1653:	The Commonwealth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Rump (of the Long Parliament)
1653-1659:	The Protectorate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oliver Cromwell (1653-1658)• Richard Cromwell (1658-1659)
1659-1660:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military grandees
1660	Restoration of the Monarchy
1660-1688	The Restoration
	1660-1685: Reign of Charles II
	1685-1688: Reign of James II
1688	Glorious Revolution

Dramatis Personae:

Charles II (1630-1685): Son of Charles I. In exile on the continent during the Interregnum.

Returns to England when the monarchy is restored in 1660.

Clarendon (1609-1674): Henry Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. Charles II's Lord Chancellor.

Edward Montagu, Earl of Sandwich (1625-1672): Fought for Parliament during the Civil Wars.

Led the Navy during the Interregnum. During the Restoration, a Privy Councilor and an admiral.

George Monck, Duke of Albemarle (1608-1670): Royalist soldier during the Civil Wars. General during the Interregnum. Captain-General of the Army during the Restoration and a Privy Councilor.

James, Duke of York (1633-1701): Younger brother of Charles II. Catholic. Lord High Admiral of the Navy.

John Evelyn (1620-1706): Country gentlemen. Lifelong royalist. Diarist

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703): Distant relative of Montagu. Roundhead as a boy. Worked for Montagu during the Interregnum. During the Restoration, Navy's Clerk of Acts and later Secretary to the Admiralty. Diarist.

Charles II, Declaration of Breda

If the general distraction and confusion which is spread over the whole kingdom doth not awaken all men to a desire and longing that those wounds which have so many years together been kept bleeding may be bound up, all we can say will be to no purpose.¹

Charles II, Speech to the House of Commons regarding their delay in passing the Act of Indemnity and Oblivion

We must not think that God Almighty hath wrought the miracle to that degree that a nation so miserably divided for so many years, is so soon entirely united...we well foresaw, that the great violation which the laws of the land had for so many years sustained, had filled the hearts of people with a terrible apprehension of insecurity to themselves, if all they had said and done should be liable to be...punished by those laws which had been so violated; and that nothing could establish the security of the king and people, but a full provision, that the returning to the reverence and obedience should not turn to the ruin of any, who are willing and fit [to...] pay that subjection to it.²

The Act of Indemnity and Oblivion, 1660

All names and termes of distinction may likewise be putt into Oblivion...If any person or persons within the space of three yeares next ensuing shall presume maliciously to call or alledge of, or object against any other person or persons any name or names, or other words of reproach any way tending to revive the memory of the late Differences or the occasions thereof...³

Clarendon to the Convention Parliament, 1660

When he [Charles] hath been informed of any less kind or jealous Thing said amongst you, as your Windows are neverso close shut but that the Sound of your Words goes to the several Corners of the Town, His Majesty hath been heard to say no more but, "What have I done? I wish that Gentleman and I were better acquainted, that he knew me better."

They are now free from those Midnight Alarms, with which they have been terrified; and rise out of their Beds at their own healthy Hours, without being saluted with the Death of a Husband, a Son, and Friend miserably killed the night before....This enfranchisement is worth all they pay.⁴

The House of Commons to Charles II after the passage of the Act of Indemnity and Oblivion, 1660

But looking back over a long, black, prodigious, dismal roll, and catalogue of malefactors, we there meet not with men but monsters, guilty of blood, precious blood, precious royal blood, never to be remembered without tears; incomparable in all the kinds of villainy that ever was acted by the worst miscreants, perverters of religion; subverters of government; false to God; disloyal to the best of kings: and perfidious to their country: and therefore we found an absolute and indispensable necessity incumbent upon us, to except and set some apart for treacle, to expel the poison of sin and rebellion out of others, and that they might be made sacrifices to appease God's wrath, and satisfy divine justice.⁵

¹ J. P. Kenyon, *The Stuart Constitution, 1603-1688; Documents and Commentary* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966), 357.

² William Cobbett, *Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England* (London: R. Bagshaw, 1808), 4:72.

³ Great Britain, *The Statutes of the Realm*, ed by. John Raithby ([S.l: s.n.], 1810), 5:230.

⁴ Great Britain House of Commons, *Journals of the House of Commons* (HMSO, 1803), 8:238.

⁵ Cobbett, *Cobbett's*, 4:114.