



Preparation of the Glorious Revolution - an analysis of philosophical writings

Romy Suckow

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Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: keine, University of Potsdam (Institut für Anglistik), 11 + 5 online entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: The Glorious Revolution of 1688 was a decisive event in the history of modern Europe and also of the English-speaking world; for it changed the character of English government, gave meaning to a political philosophy and contributed to the working out of a balance of power among nations (Ashley, 13). This revolution was successful; it undoubtedly contributed to the evolution of parliamentary democracy in England and of a balanced constitution in the United States of America. The Glorious Revolution lays claim to being the only political revolution that has not seen bloodshed, this is due to the fact that James II could not revolt to an invitation from the parliament to William of Orange (King of Holland) to assist in its administration. The importance of this revolution is highlighted by the commissioners' success in overturning the powers of the monarchy and establishing an elected parliament and a movement toward a constitutional monarchy. The first 'Bill of Rights', ensured this and indirectly invested in the rights of the individual to freedom from absolute power. As a precedent, the Glorious Revolution was an integral part of democratic development and the foundations for political revolution in England as well as in France and America.

The Revolution happened during a period of intense intellectual ferment. It was a period when Europe emerged from the middle ages and the Modern Mind was born. It is impossible to ignore the contribution of philosophical figures like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Robert Filmer. They are perhaps the most significant thinkers of the 17th century. They had different ideas at slightly different times.

In this paper I want to point out the causes and consequences of the Glorious Revolution; especially concerning philosophy. I will point out which events set the stage for the Revolution and will point out whether the events inspired political writing or whether political writing pushed forward the events.



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