

What Did The Union Of Crowns Mean For Scotland?

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Introduction

The concept of the union among the crowns was the success of King James VI, who belonged to Scotland. The purpose of the union was to unite the three kingdoms into a single monarch to deal with foreign diplomatic relations. The unification was taken into consideration on the twenty-four of March sixteen hundred and three. The union was followed by the death of Queen Elizabethan I. Nature and the structure of the union reveals that it was dynastic and personal based unification with the separation of the Crown. King James tried to come up with a new system for the kingdom of Great Britain. States of Scotland and England will remain independent along with the sharing of the kingdom with Ireland. The policies and the personal styles of King James VI and Charles I in running the state business of Scotland were revolving around the affairs of financial, religious and the crises of the parliament. There were multiple reforms done by King James VI in order to save his rule and the kingdom.

Description

Comparison/ Contrast of King James I and King Charles I Policies

King James oversaw and ruled the state business of the two independent states of England and Scotland through his personal union. Both countries were having their own laws, parliaments and the system of the judiciaries. Regarding his personal life and information, his mother's name was Mary, and she was the queen of Scotland. He belongs to the family of King VII, who also ruled England and was the lord of Ireland. Such kind of attractive background and his personal position enabled him to accede to three kingdoms. He succeeded to the rule of Scotland at the age of thirteen months. His mother was convinced by the authorities to transfer the powers to him. After the end of four different regents, he did not completely rule over the kingdom (Blakeway, 2015). However, as with the death of Queen Elizabethan I, The king succeeded in the Tudor kingdom of Ireland and England. The ending of the life of the queen was normal, and it was without unusual happening.

The ruling era of the King James VI has lasted for the time of twenty-two years. The period after his monarchy was known as the era of Jacobean age in the history of English literature. At the age of fifty-eight, the king died in sixteen hundred and fifty-eight. With the advent of the union of the crowns, he

occupied the position in the state of England from the time of his rule, which he named as the king of Great Britain and England. He was of the view that there must be a single parliament for both counties of Scotland and England. The most important happening of his time was the colonization of the Americans and the plantations of ulsters.

Religious policy of King James I

Many people have observed the succession of King James I as a relief for them in performing their religious duties. Those subjects belonging to the Elizabethan side welcomed the king and hoped for a positive reformation. The protestant ruler, along with an offer of several children he made to the followers, offered a stable and secure succession. A number of religious entities consider him as their protector, and they can have numerous advantages. Catholics were also hoping positive for him as they considered that his mother's death would divert his attention to relax the persecution suffered by them. In the same way, puritans have also hoped for reformation in the Presbyterian Church. However, both branches of religion were disappointed by the later actions of King James I. He suspended the recusancy fines but later revoked his decision due to the severe criticism from parliament and fear of loss in income. This decision drove the minorities to get help from Spain to kill him. The plot of Gunpowder in the sixteenth hundred and five was the continuance of anger of the Christians who tried to fire the parliament at the time while James was present inside the legislative building.

The millenary petition and hopes of the Puritan society were also lived for a short period. He met with the protesting class and rejected their ideas with the warning of non-compliance to the prayer book, which would lead them to get out of the state. He wanted to politicize the church and gain control, which he could exercise through the bishops (Brown, 2016). The policy was the same as that of Queen Elizabeth I. He shows his stand over the appointment of authoritative members like Richard Bancroft as the new head of Canterbury. Many ministers have lost their jobs due to resistance against conforming to the Anglican prayer book. Some hardliners left their states to set up their own churches for religious duties. Some went to Holland, and others to North America.

Policies and Styles of King James I for Parliament

There was a persistently irritating atmosphere present in the reign of King James I in the parliamentary and king's circles. The problematic election of sixteen hundred four, wherein the Privy Council tried to change the results for the candidate who belonged to the court, which makes angry to the representatives of the House of Commons. Members of the house have protested against the bargaining and they consider that it was their right to debate about the election and related issues. The war of power between the House of Commons and the king lasted for a long time. House was highly sensible for its rights and had the fight with the Queen for the same purpose. On the contrary, the King was claiming that he had divine powers along with a higher status. He also claims that he is

a political philosopher and publishes work with the title of the true law of free monarchies.

With the resemblance of the parliament in the years of sixteen hundred and five, the unity of the protest unit concluded with the grants of Parliament for the debts of the king. There were a number of issues, and his background in Scotland, along with the active role of his friends, frustrated the relationship of the king with parliament. His desire for the union of the Anglo-Scottish constitution further aggravated the situation. The members of the parliament have bluntly rejected the idea that English institutions might improve through the implication of Scottish ideas. Edwin Sandy opined that the idea of the union could be achieved by abolishing the law of Scottish with the implication of the law of England (Blakeway, 2016). Still, some of the MPs did not agree because they feared that Scottish people were penniless and could swallow the resources of the state of England.

Some MPs have used certain derogatory remarks about the Scottish nationals and their role in the affairs of the kingdom. The use of the word cattle for the people of Scotland was insulting remarks for the king, but King James was a genius about the issues of his native companions. In the same way, the issue of finances was already creating a number of problems for the king. The issue of finances was one of the key factors that created distances between the parliament and the office of the king. The king had already given a number of gifts and pensions to the Scottish people and courtiers.

Financial policies of King James I

The king was forced not to make the union between Scotland and England, which would further make the situation more tense and problematic. The conflicts between the states will hamper the financial situation of the Crown. Regardless of his love and generosity for the Scottish, he will have to face quarrels over the collection of taxes and income from the region. Certain critics with historical and philosophical backgrounds have criticized the financial dealings and management of the king. Before the era of King James, the Queen had the same problem with finances, which shows that fundamental flaws are there in the system of the Crown.

Two aspects are generally considered as the most important part in generating the financial hurdles for the state. The increased prices have left the Crown's income inadequate for the expenses of the state. The second primary cause of the problems of finances was the mismanagement and the expensive lifestyle of King James, which expanded the problem of finance in the country.

The sale of the land of the crown by the Queen before the time of James for the purpose of war with Spain made the income inadequate (Whatley, 2014). The king then inherits a debt of around one lac euro. The expenses of the king were multiple to the Queen, and he had to feed and manage the expenses of his family along with the children of the Prince of Wales. Regarding the policies to tackle inflation, the Queen also failed to assess the basic principle of reduction in the inflation rate. King James had a sophisticated system of taxes. This was revealed through the process of the parliament's decisions that extra taxes would not fulfill the intended income of the king.

King Charles I's Role and Policies

The crises and the financial issues are also increasing due to the factor the Charles I was active in gaining the powers from King James. The king became older, and he was facing a number of health hazards, which allowed Buckingham and Charles to snatch the rule of the kingdom. The actions of Charles have created problems for the political strategy of the king by the secret visit of Charles to Spain a try to save the proposed marriage. However, numerous problems were created after the blunder and unnecessary action of Charles, which agitated the king. As the king was old Charles had devised the naval strategy to war with Spain with the consent of MPs. The deception and defeat in war agitate the MPs who meet in-house in Sixteen hundred twenty-five. The responsibility for the failure lies on Charles since he had a policy of defective strategy and he was the responsible man for defeat. He has played a significant role in the events that occurred in the Sixteen twenty-five to sixteen hundred thirty.

War and foreign policy of King Charles I

Unlike the father of King Charles, who knew better about war and political planning, he was not an expert in his strategy. Regarding the problems of diplomacy and the art of dealing, he was relying on the foolish advice of Buckingham. The duke considers himself the primary expert in foreign relations because he was free from the restraints of King James I. The lack of confidence and acute planning let him devise policies that ensured that a big disaster was hovering around the kingdom. Buckingham took the worst step after the defeat of the war from Spain with the marriage of King Charles to the sister of the French king. The female was also allowed to practice Catholic beliefs. They did not stop here and provide ships for the suppression of those Protestants who were residing in France. MPs became fearful and tense when Buckingham's destructive diplomacy initiated the war with France. The situation became worse when an expedition for the help of a rebellious protestant sent by Buckingham failed to manage, and severe loss was made to the kingdom.

King Charles's Policies and Role of Parliament

The problems and the issues of Buckingham were increasing, and a number of complaints were received by the King. Charles then realized the fact that unless he had his friends, he could not have good relations with the parliament along with the money he received through the legislative decisions. He was also frustrated over the matter of the invitation by the parliament to his close official for an explanation of the accounts. He chooses to use other channels for the generation of the money. He ordered for the force loans that were to be collected from the JPs without the consent of legislative bodies. The loans were compulsory for everybody, and those who were not given were threatened with imprisonment and conscription by law enforcement agencies. However, with the assassination of his friend parliament tried to have better relations with the king.

The resemblance of the MPs in sixteen hundred twenty-nine, legislators have celebrated the death Buckingham infuriated the angry king. The bill was designed by the parliament to enhance the powers of the king for the collection of taxes; King Charles immediately rejected the offer and argued that he would not accept the role and control of parliament in the collection and generation of state revenue. The most important aspect of the tension between the members of the parliament and the king was the beliefs and the religious views of King Charles regarding the position of the Church.

Conclusion

Concluding the comparison and contrast of King Charles and King James I, it is worth mentioning that the former has a destructive role in the kingdom, while the latter has positive and beneficial services for the union. The Crown requires kings and leaders like King James I with honor and wisdom. The Rift and the confrontation between the states of Scotland and England can be overcome through collaboration and balance and by providing rights to both states. The idea of the union was great for Scotland but failed to qualify due to inappropriate financial management and governance.

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