

The English Parliament was one of the few representative bodies that continued to function successfully during the widespread decline of such institutions and the emerging trend towards the formation of absolutist regimes in Europe. The Parliament which previously had a bourgeois opposition to absolutism later became the natural organizational centre of the struggle against the feudal-absolutist regime. In England, in the pre-revolutionary period (meaning before the English bourgeois revolution which began in 1640) the crisis acquired an open form of political confrontation between the absolute monarchy and the modernizing layers of society in the reign of the first kings of the Stuart dynasty, James I and Charles. It revealed her strengths and weaknesses.