3 English Revolutions: Final Exam

1. Is the “Glorious Revolution” a revolution? Should we understand the events of 1688 as simply a palace coup or a Dutch invasion, or transformative for England’s political, social, religious, and economic institutions? If 1688 was a revolution, how should we understand it? Was it a radical break with trends, or was it a culmination of various forces? In what ways is the “Glorious Revolution” connected to the Reformation and the English Revolution (the civil wars)? Give a historical reconstruction, drawing on the end of the Interregnum through the Restoration up to the events of 1688 and its aftermath, to justify your claims. **(1000 word limit)**
2. The following is from the ‘Introduction’ of Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan*:

*Nature (the art whereby God hath made and governes the world) is by the art of man, as in many other things, so in this also imitated, that it can make an Artificial Animal. For seeing life is but a motion of Limbs, the begining whereof is in some principall part within; why may we not say, that all Automata (Engines that move themselves by springs and wheeles as doth a watch) have an artificiall life? For what is the Heart, but a Spring; and the Nerves, but so many Strings; and the Joynts, but so many Wheeles, giving motion to the whole Body, such as was intended by the Artificer? Art goes yet further, imitating that Rationall and most excellent worke of Nature, Man. For by Art is created that great LEVIATHAN called a COMMON-WEALTH, or STATE, (in latine CIVITAS) which is but an Artificiall Man; though of greater stature and strength than the Naturall, for whose protection and defence it was intended; and in which, the Soveraignty is an Artificiall Soul, as giving life and motion to the whole body; The Magistrates, and other Officers of Judicature and Execution, artificiall Joynts; Reward and Punishment (by which fastned to the seat of the Soveraignty, every joynt and member is moved to performe his duty) are the Nerves, that do the same in the Body Naturall; The Wealth and Riches of all the particular members, are the Strength; Salus Populi (the Peoples Safety) its Businesse; Counsellors, by whom all things needfull for it to know, are suggested unto it, are the Memory; Equity and Lawes, an artificiall Reason and Will; Concord, Health; Sedition, Sicknesse; and Civill War, Death. Lastly, the Pacts and Covenants, by which the parts of this Body Politique were at first made, set together, and united, resemble that Fiat, or the Let Us Make Man, pronounced by God in the Creation.*

Hobbes was an outlier in English society and his ideas were generally reviled. And yet he was widely read and was deeply challenging. Contextualize this quote from Hobbes in the greater problems/crises/concerns that racked English elites, theorists, and policy-makers. What was the problem of sovereignty? What issues tore apart the English commonwealth and remained unsolved? What solutions were on offer (both in England and in Europe more broadly) and which did various English elites pursue or advocate? What role did religion/theology have in all of this? Contextualize your answers with plenty of examples from the lecture (feel free to use any part of English history we’ve studied, but keep the majority of it confined to the Restoration, the Glorious Revolution, and the post-revolutionary period [1660-1715]) **(1000 word limit)**

1. Why was the creation of the Bank of England (1694) a major event in English history? What problems did the Bank address? What were its historic predecessors? How was the Bank a product of changes in English society (e.g. political, social, economic, religious, etc.)? How did the Bank transform and develop the English state, its empire, and its global economic presence? Make use of the statistical data from class in your argument. In a brief conclusion, assess whether the British Empire was possible without the Bank. **(600 word limit)**
2. Compare the various historical reconstructions of James II’s reign: why do historians differ about James’ reign? What methodological differences do they have and how may this impact the kinds of conclusions they draw? Focus your answer on a specific disagreement about James II. In conclusion, offer your own judgement: do you think James’ reign was a success or a failure, and was his fall from power inevitable? **(500 word limit)**