



# Key Players during the 1715 Jacobite Rising



## James VII (1633-1701)

James spent more than a third of his life in exile. In 1648 he escaped the civil war in England, fleeing to The Hague and then Paris, and passing the next decade serving with distinction in the French and Spanish armies. In 1660 the Stuarts were restored under James's brother Charles II.

Influenced by the lives of Catholics he met on the continent James gradually converted to Catholicism, causing a political crisis in the late 1670s. To diffuse the situation he was banished to Brussels before taking up a successful role in Edinburgh as the King's High Commissioner from 1679 to 1682.

After becoming king in 1685 James introduced religious toleration for Catholics and Protestant dissenters and, going against previously established laws, placed many Catholics in positions of authority.

James's Catholicism made his position as king untenable and he escaped to France in 1688 following the invasion of William of Orange. James attempted to regain his crown through war in Ireland but was defeated by William at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. He spent the remainder of his life in pious exile at the palace of Saint-Germain-en-Laye near Paris.



I was chosen by God to bring the subjects of these kingdoms back from the Protestant faith.

I spent much of my early life in exile, and Divine Providence so ordered events that I passed most of those twelve years in Catholic kingdoms, by which means I came to understand their religion. I have observed many divisions among Protestants and I am convinced that only the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, can be an infallible judge to resolve the controversies of this world.

Now Providence has graciously granted me a son to continue the Catholic faith, although my own daughter has spread the most wicked rumours about his legitimacy.

I will not renounce my faith, though I am usurped on the throne by my daughter Mary and my son-in-law and nephew William. My other daughter Anne has also abandoned me. As for Mary, at first I had wholly attributed her part in the revolution to obedience to her husband, but the act of being crowned is in her power. If my daughter is crowned while I and my infant son the Prince of Wales are both living, the curse of an outraged father will light upon her, as well as that of God who has commanded duty to parents.