

behemoth or the long parliament

Book Concept: Behemoth or the Long Parliament

Concept: A captivating blend of historical fiction and political thriller, "Behemoth or the Long Parliament" explores the tumultuous years leading up to and including the English Civil War. Instead of focusing solely on the well-known figures, the narrative centers on a fictional family caught in the crossfire of shifting allegiances, religious fervor, and political machinations. The story weaves together real historical events with a compelling fictional family saga, revealing the human cost of political upheaval and the complexities of choosing sides in a time of profound change.

Ebook Description:

Imagine a world torn apart by religious zeal and political ambition, where survival depends on choosing a side, but every side holds its own horrors. Are you fascinated by history but struggle to connect with the dry facts and dates? Do you crave a story that brings the past to life, making you feel the weight of past decisions and the consequences that ripple through generations? Then "Behemoth or the Long Parliament" is for you.

This gripping novel plunges you into the heart of 17th-century England, where the simmering tensions between King and Parliament erupt into bloody conflict. Follow the fortunes of the Ashworth family, caught between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, as they navigate treacherous political landscapes, betrayals, and personal sacrifices. Discover a hidden history woven into the tapestry of a nation's struggle for power.

Author: [Your Name]

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Article: Behemoth or the Long Parliament: A Deep Dive

Introduction: Setting the Stage: England on the Brink (H1)

The early 17th century in England was a powder keg primed to explode. Years of absolutist rule under James I, followed by the even more contentious reign of Charles I, created a volatile

atmosphere. Religious tensions between Catholics, Anglicans, and Puritans were simmering, exacerbated by economic hardship and a growing sense of resentment toward the crown. Charles I's belief in the "Divine Right of Kings" clashed violently with the growing power and influence of Parliament, representing the burgeoning middle class and their desire for representation and accountability. This period witnessed the clash between tradition and change, personal ambition and national destiny. The stage was set for a conflict of monumental proportions. This introduction sets the scene, examining the key political, religious, and social factors that contributed to the escalating crisis. It introduces the key players, both historical and fictional, and establishes the setting for the unfolding drama.

(H2) Chapter 1: The Seeds of Discontent: Rising Tensions and Family Divisions

The Ashworth family, our fictional protagonists, are introduced here. They are a moderately wealthy family whose fortunes are tied to the land and their loyalty to the crown. However, the growing political divisions begin to fracture their unity. Older generations cling to tradition and loyalty to the king, while younger members, exposed to new ideas and the growing dissatisfaction with royal rule, find themselves questioning the established order. This chapter explores the internal conflicts within the family, mirroring the broader national divisions. We see the impact of the Ship Money tax, the growing religious dissent, and the increasing influence of parliamentary opposition on the Ashworths' lives and relationships. The chapter ends with a pivotal decision that forces the family to choose a side.

(H2) Chapter 2: The Long Parliament: A House Divided

The Long Parliament (1640-1660) is a pivotal point in English history. This chapter dives deep into the political maneuvers, debates, and power struggles within Parliament. It explores the key figures, like John Pym and Oliver Cromwell, and their roles in challenging the king's authority. We see the Ashworths grappling with the escalating conflict, their loyalties tested as Parliament makes bold moves against the crown. This chapter explores the key legislation passed by the Long Parliament, such as the Triennial Act and the Militia Ordinance, and the king's increasingly desperate attempts to regain control. The chapter culminates in the outbreak of the English Civil War.

(H2) Chapter 3: The Civil War Begins: Choosing Sides

With the outbreak of the Civil War, the Ashworth family is irrevocably divided. This chapter focuses on the battles, sieges, and the human cost of war. We follow the different family members as they fight on opposing sides, experiencing the brutality, betrayal, and moral dilemmas of war firsthand. This chapter explores the major battles of the First English Civil War, such as the Battle of Marston Moor and the Siege of Colchester, and highlights the diverse range of individuals involved in the conflict, from seasoned soldiers to reluctant conscripts.

(H2) Chapter 4: The Crucible of Conflict: Loss, Betrayal, and Resilience

This chapter showcases the resilience and adaptability of the Ashworth family amidst the chaos of war. It examines the impact of the conflict on their lives, their relationships, and their beliefs. The narrative explores themes of loss, survival, and the moral ambiguity of war, reflecting the experiences of ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances. This chapter could include fictionalized accounts of real historical events, adding depth and authenticity to the story while also developing the family narrative.

(H2) Chapter 5: The Aftermath: A Nation Reforged

The final chapter explores the aftermath of the Civil War, the execution of Charles I, and the establishment of the Commonwealth under Cromwell. The Ashworth family confronts the consequences of their choices and the reshaped landscape of England. This chapter examines the political and social transformations that occurred after the war, analyzing the impact on different segments of society. The long-term consequences of the conflict, including the establishment of a republic and the eventual restoration of the monarchy, are discussed, providing context for the family's final reckoning.

(H2) Conclusion: Echoes of the Past: Lessons from the Long Parliament

The conclusion reflects on the broader significance of the Long Parliament and the English Civil War, drawing parallels between the events of the 17th century and contemporary issues. It explores the enduring legacy of this period and the lessons learned about the importance of political balance, the dangers of absolutism, and the ongoing struggle for individual liberty. This section offers a thought-provoking reflection on the narrative, inviting readers to consider the themes explored within the novel and their relevance to our own time.

FAQs:

1. Is this book suitable for readers unfamiliar with 17th-century English history? Yes, the book is written to be accessible to a wide audience, regardless of prior historical knowledge. The historical context is seamlessly woven into the narrative.
2. What is the central theme of the book? The central theme is the impact of political upheaval on ordinary people, exploring themes of loyalty, betrayal, resilience, and the enduring human cost of conflict.
3. Is the book primarily historical fiction or a political thriller? It's a blend of both, offering a captivating story while accurately depicting the historical context.
4. Are the characters based on real historical figures? The main characters are fictional, but the supporting characters and events are grounded in actual historical events and individuals.
5. How much violence is depicted in the book? The book realistically portrays the violence of the period, but it's not gratuitous. The focus remains on the human story.
6. Is the book suitable for young adults? It's best suited for mature young adults (16+) due to the mature themes and historical context.
7. What makes this book different from other books about the English Civil War? The focus on a fictional family caught in the crossfire offers a more personal and emotionally engaging perspective than many purely historical accounts.
8. What kind of research went into writing this book? Extensive research was conducted to ensure historical accuracy in the depiction of events, people, and the social context of the time.

9. Will there be a sequel? The possibility of a sequel is being explored depending on reader response.

Related Articles:

1. The Rise and Fall of Charles I: Exploring the reign of King Charles I and the factors leading to the English Civil War.
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Weekly Worm Character Discussion #45: Behemoth - Reddit

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Feb 1, 2022 · 36 votes, 36 comments. trueI tried SOS but only got Trolls who will lost 15-20min of their lives :/....

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