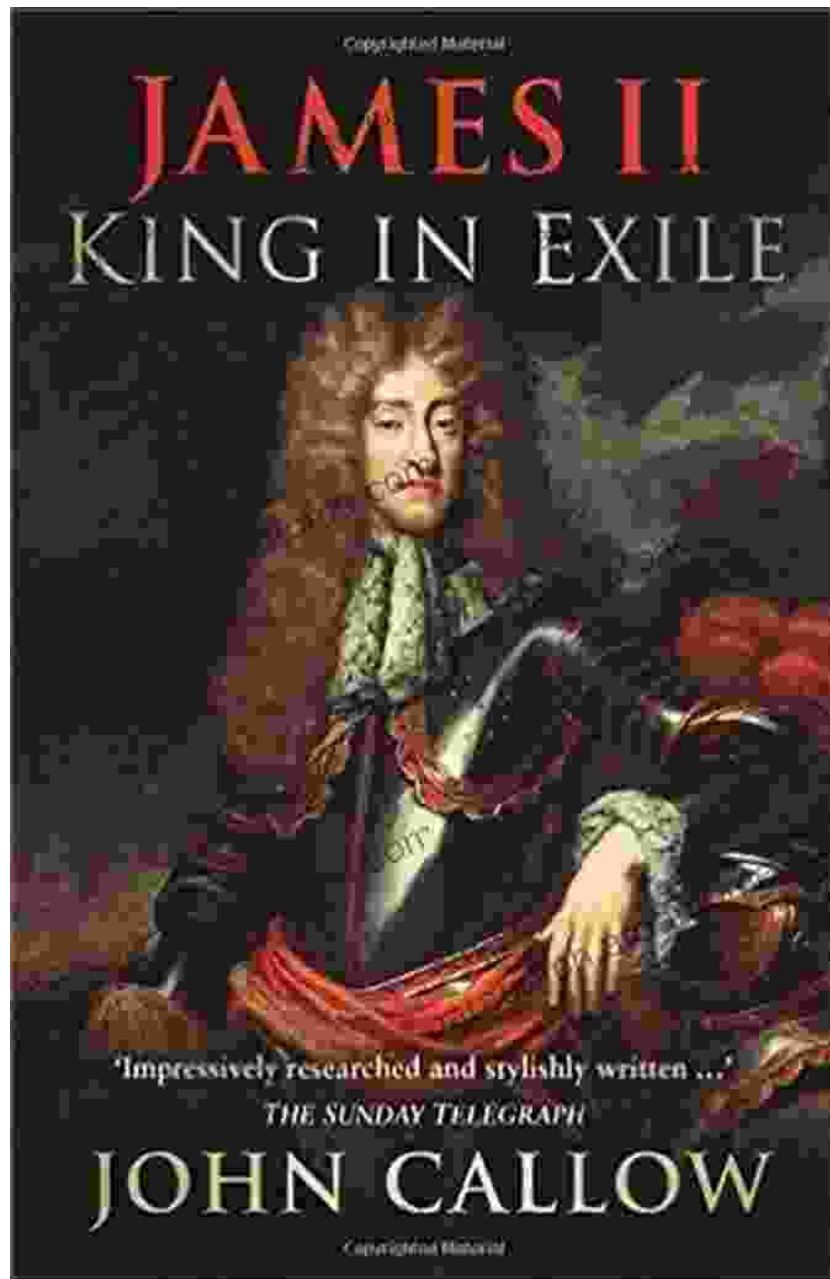


# James II: A Monarch in Exile, Uncovering the Intrigues and Hardships of a King Far from Home



In the tapestry of English history, King James II stands as a figure shrouded in controversy. Forced into exile following the Glorious Revolution of 1688,

James spent the remaining years of his life abroad, a deposed monarch yearning for the restoration of his throne.



### James II: King in Exile by John Callow

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 11931 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 538 pages



"James II: King in Exile" is a captivating historical work that delves into the life of this enigmatic king, exploring the intrigues, hardships, and unwavering determination that marked his exile.

### The Fall from Grace

James II, a devout Catholic, ascended the throne in 1685. However, his pro-Catholic policies and his perceived attempts to erode Protestant liberties sparked widespread discontent among his subjects.

In 1688, a group of Protestant nobles invited William of Orange, James's son-in-law, to invade England. William's invasion triggered the Glorious Revolution, which resulted in James's abdication and flight to France.

### Exile in France: A Life of Intrigue

James II and his family found refuge at the court of Louis XIV in France. However, exile was far from a life of ease. James constantly plotted and schemed to regain his throne, with the support of loyalist factions both at home and abroad.

The book meticulously documents James's efforts to rally support for his restoration. He sent agents to England, sought alliances with European powers, and even launched an ill-fated invasion attempt in 1690.

### **Hardships and Heartbreak**

Exile also brought personal hardships for James. Financial constraints plagued his court, and his family faced numerous challenges. His wife, Mary of Modena, suffered from ill health, and his children struggled to adjust to life away from their homeland.

The book provides a poignant account of James's grief and despair as he witnessed the deaths of several of his children during his time in exile. The loss of his two sons, Charles and James, in particular, dealt a devastating blow to his hopes for a restoration.

### **Death and Legacy**

James II died in exile at Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1701. Despite his failed attempts to regain his throne, he remained a symbol of legitimacy for many Catholics and Jacobites, who believed that his descendants had a rightful claim to the English crown.

The book offers a balanced evaluation of James's legacy. It examines his flaws as a ruler, such as his rigid adherence to Catholicism, but also

acknowledges his unwavering devotion to his faith and his desire to govern fairly.

"James II: King in Exile" is an illuminating and deeply moving account of a monarch who faced both triumph and adversity with unwavering resilience. Through meticulous research and vivid storytelling, the book sheds new light on a chapter of English history that continues to captivate and intrigue.

For anyone interested in the history of the British monarchy, the reign of James II, or the complex dynamics of exile, this book is an essential read. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of a king who never abandoned his belief in his divine right to rule.



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