

ABOLITION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

House of Commons

19 March 1649

The Commons of England assembled in Parliament, finding by too long experience that the House of Lords is useless and dangerous to the people of England to be continued, have thought fit to ordain and enact, and be it ordained and enacted by this present Parliament, and by the authority of the same, that from henceforth the House of Lords in Parliament shall be and is hereby wholly abolished and taken away; and that the Lords shall not from henceforth meet or sit in the said House called the Lords' House, or in any other house or place whatsoever, as a House of Lords; nor shall sit, vote, advise, adjudge or determine of any matter or thing whatsoever as a House of Lords in Parliament.

Nevertheless it is hereby declared that neither such Lords as have demeaned themselves with honor, courage, and fidelity to the Commonwealth, nor their posterities who shall continue so, shall be excluded from the public councils of the nation, but shall be admitted thereunto, and have their free vote in Parliament, if they shall be thereunto elected, as other persons of interest elected and qualified thereunto ought to have.

And be it further ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no Peer of this land, not being elected, qualified, and sitting in Parliament as aforesaid shall claim, have or make use of any privilege of Parliament, either in relation to his person, quality or estate, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

George Burton Adams, ed. *Select Documents of English Constitutional History* (New York: MacMillan, 1920):399–400.