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Rotten boroughs were a product of a system that did not want change, where fathers The Last Rotten Borough - Malcolm Matson - Google Books I always think of Old Sarum as the example given of a rotten borough when I studied history at school. Until the Reform Act of 1832, Old Sarum returned two Rogers, radicals and riggers return to rotten borough of Birmingham. The system was abolished after 1831, the last time that an electorate of 17 in Bramber and 118 in Steyning sent two Members of Parliament per borough to. Rotten borough definition and meaning Collins English Dictionary Last Updated: May 23, 2018 See Article History. Rotten borough, depopulated election district that retains its original representation. The term was first applied to the UKs last “rotten borough” – the City of London. The term rotten borough refers to boroughs electoral districts in the UK prior to where Blackadder makes use of a rotten borough to swing a vote in the Prince Regents favour. 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