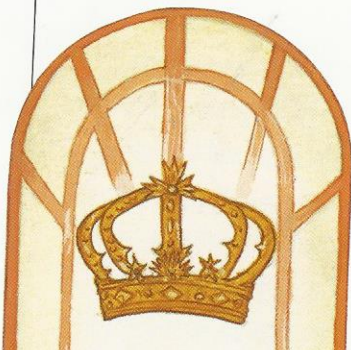


Charles I and War with Scotland



1600 Birth of Charles, second son of James VI of Scotland and Anne of Denmark.

1624–30 War with Spain.

1625 Charles succeeds his father as Charles I. He marries Henrietta Maria.

1626–29 War with France.

1628 Assassination of the King's favourite, the Duke of Buckingham.

1629 Charles dissolves parliament. He does not call another for 11 years.

1637 Riot in Edinburgh after Charles tries to force Scots to use a new Anglican prayer book.

1639–40 Bishops' Wars between Charles and the Scots.

1640 Short Parliament lasts from April to May. Long Parliament is summoned in November.

Like his father, James I, Charles I believed that he was chosen by God to rule his kingdom. He was also very stubborn and religious. Deeply held beliefs brought this mild-mannered king into conflict with his subjects.

In the early years of his reign, Charles summoned parliament three times. He needed to raise money for wars with Spain and France. But both wars were unsuccessful, and parliament refused to cooperate with the king until he agreed to a 'Petition of Right' in 1628. Among other things, this petition stated that the king could not impose taxes on his subjects without the consent of parliament. However, the king continued to try to raise taxes. In 1629, the third parliament of Charles's reign ended in confusion. Charles sent orders to dissolve parliament, but members of the House of Commons held the speaker down in his chair until three resolutions were passed condemning the behaviour of the king. This was revolutionary behaviour, and Charles did not call another parliament for 11 years.

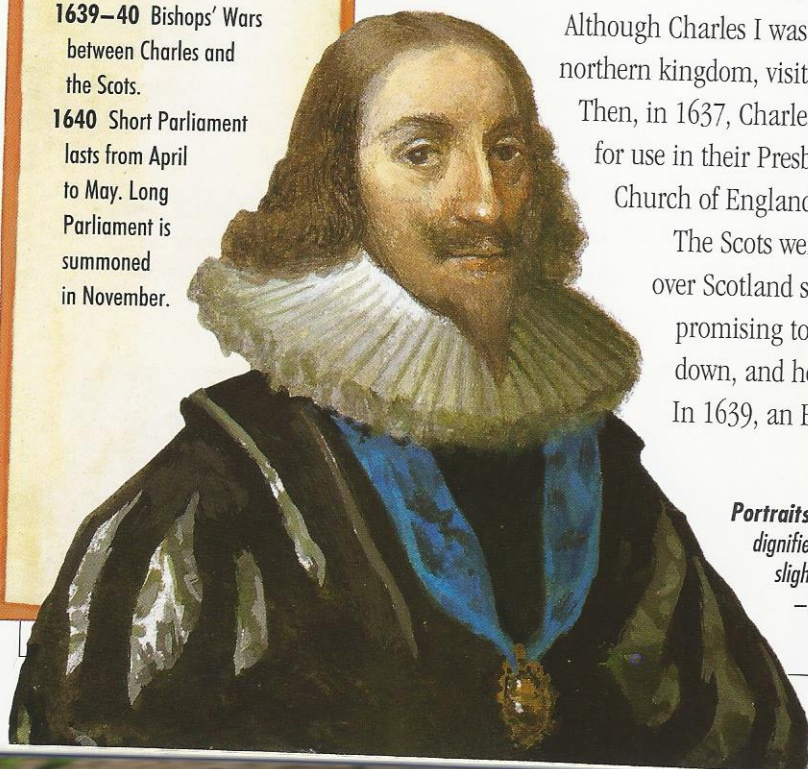
Although Charles I was king of Scotland as well as England he neglected his northern kingdom, visiting it only once in the first eight years of his reign.

Then, in 1637, Charles tried to force the Scots to accept a new prayer book for use in their Presbyterian kirk (church), based on the practices of the Church of England.

The Scots were furious at the king's behaviour. People from all over Scotland signed a declaration called the National Covenant promising to defend their kirk. But the king would not back down, and he decided to go to war against the rebellious Scots. In 1639, an English army marched north towards Scotland.



The reign that led England to civil war was marked by a stormy relationship with parliament. At the heart of the problem was Charles's belief that he was answerable to no one but God.



Portraits of King Charles I made him look more impressive and dignified than he was in real life. He was a small, shy man, with a slight stammer. But he was a good horseman, and he loved art – he brought the finest painters of the time to England, including Anthony van Dyck and Peter Paul Rubens.



The official introduction of the new prayer book in Scotland was on 23 July, 1637. A protest was organized at a service in St Giles's Cathedral in Edinburgh. The congregation planned to stage a walk-out, but as the minister began to speak the first words of the service, a more violent reaction erupted. A woman stood up and hurled her three-legged stool across the cathedral. The rest of the congregation joined in and soon the riot had spilled out on to the streets.

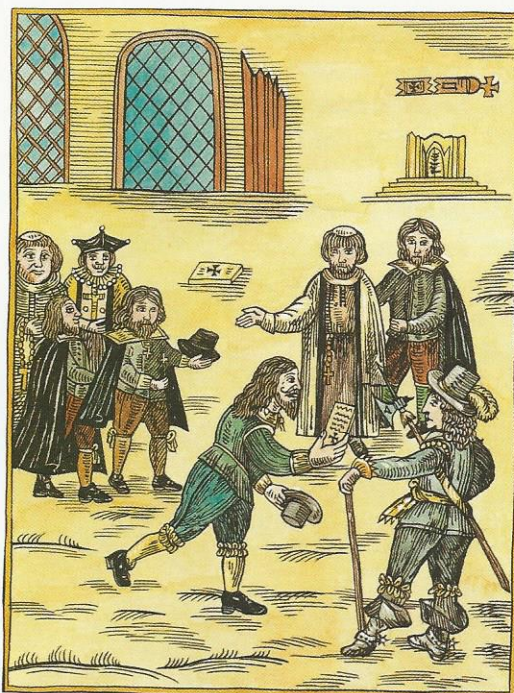
However, Charles lacked confidence in his troops – and enough money to pay for them – and he was forced to make peace. The first Bishops' War ended before a shot was fired.

The king desperately needed money to raise a bigger army. For the first time in 11 years he called parliament, but MPs were unwilling to grant the king the funds he needed. The parliament lasted only three weeks and became known as the 'Short Parliament'. Meanwhile, Scottish armies marched into the north of England and seized Northumberland and Durham. And so the second Bishops' War ended with victory for the Scots. They knew that Charles had little choice but to agree to their demands.

In 1640 he called parliament once again.

HENRIETTA MARIA

In 1625, Charles I married Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry IV of France and Marie de Medici. The first years of the marriage were difficult as Charles was still deeply under the influence of the Duke of Buckingham. But after the Duke's death, Charles came to love and rely on his wife.



A Scottish nobleman presents King Charles I with a petition. The Scots wanted the king to give up his attempt to force a new prayer book upon them. Charles was advised and backed by William Laud, his Archbishop of Canterbury. Laud disapproved of traditional Scottish practices in the Presbyterian kirk where there was no set form of service or prayer book.

Civil War

1641 Triennial Act is passed in House of Commons stating that parliament must be summoned every three years (February). King's authority to dismiss Long Parliament is removed (May).

'Grand Remonstrance' – a list of grievances against the king is passed by the House of Commons (23 November).

1642 Charles attempts to arrest five MPs in the House of Commons and one peer in the House of Lords (4 January).

'Nineteen Propositions' – set of proposals for peace rejected by King Charles. Royalists and Roundheads rally support in preparation for First Civil War.

1642 First battle, at Edgehill near Warwick (23 October).

1644 Parliamentary victory at Marston Moor.

1645 The battle of Naseby.

1646 Royalists surrender Oxford. Charles escapes and takes refuge with the Scots.

1649 Trial of King Charles in Westminster Hall (20 January). Charles is sentenced to death. Execution of king (30 January). Government of the Commonwealth declared (May).

Supporters of the king were known as Royalists.

This officer wears a buff coat – a thick leather jacket – and a metal breastplate. In the early battles of the civil war, Royalists also wore red sashes around their waists to distinguish themselves from Roundheads, who wore orange sashes.



This map shows the main battles of the English Civil Wars. The pink shading shows the areas held by the Royalists after the Battle of Marston Moor (1644).

Parliament met in November 1640. This was the beginning of the 'Long Parliament', so called because it was not officially dismissed for 20 years. Once again, MPs condemned the king for his actions. They also removed William Laud and another of the king's most powerful advisers, the Earl of Strafford, from office. Charles was powerless to prevent the execution of Strafford in 1641. Laud was executed in 1645.

The king was forced to agree to other parliamentary reforms, too. These included a requirement that parliament should meet every three years, and that it should be dismissed only by its own, and not the king's, consent. MPs also tried

to force Charles to hand over command of the army. Charles refused and, on 4 January 1642, he went with 400 men to the House of Commons to arrest five MPs for treason. But the MPs were warned and they escaped. Both sides began to prepare for war. The king's followers, known as Royalists, were initially based in York. Parliamentarians controlled London and the southeast.

The king formally declared war by raising his standard at Nottingham on 22 August 1642.

The first objective for King Charles was to regain control of the capital, London. The Royalist and Parliamentary armies met at Edgehill in Warwickshire in October 1642, but the fighting ended inconclusively. Then the Royalists marched towards London, but they got only as far as Turnham Green before being forced to turn back.

This was the closest the Royalist army came to capturing London.



Parliamentarian soldiers were nicknamed 'Roundheads' partly because of the short haircuts worn by their supporters, but the name was also a term of political abuse. The peak of their helmet was hinged to allow it to be taken on and off.

THE NEW MODEL ARMY

The 'English pot' helmet made up part of the Roundhead uniform. The new infantry wore red coats which is the origin of the famous name of redcoats given to later British armies.



In the summer of 1644 the Scots invaded England once again. Parliamentary leaders had negotiated with the Scots, promising to set up a Presbyterian kirk in England in return for their help against the Royalists. At the Battle of Marston Moor on 2 July, the combined Parliamentary and Scots forces defeated the king's army. However, the advantages gained were all but lost as the Parliamentarians quarrelled among themselves about how to continue the campaign against the king. In parliament, MPs listened

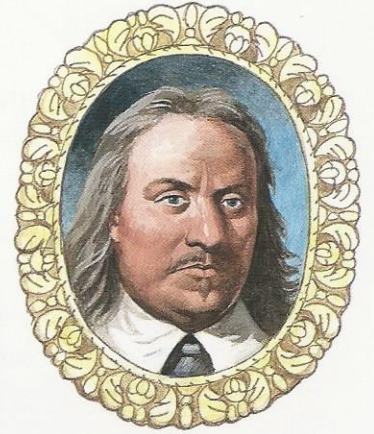
to the arguments of Oliver Cromwell, the Puritan MP for Cambridge. He said that the only way to end the war was to improve the military training and resources of the Roundhead armies. And so the Roundheads set up the 'New Model Army'.

The highly trained and well-disciplined New Model Army defeated the Royalist forces at Naseby on 14 June, 1645. This was the first of a series of Roundhead victories that led to the surrender of the Royalist headquarters in Oxford in 1646. Charles escaped, but was quickly handed over to parliament. However, the victorious Roundheads were still deeply divided. Parliament was suspicious and fearful of the New Model Army – particularly after the army kidnapped the king and held him under guard at Hampton Court.

During 1648, there were Royalist uprisings across the country, but they were not co-ordinated and were easily put down by the army. The king's final hope of a military solution was dashed when the Scots were defeated by the New Model Army at the Battle of Preston in August.

The king was brought to trial in January 1649. He stood accused of making war on his own people. The trial lasted for five days, and Charles was sentenced to death as a tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy.

Charles I left London on 10 January, 1642. He headed for Hull where there were large stores of military supplies, but he was unsuccessful in his attempt to take the city. At the same time, Queen Henrietta Maria went to the Netherlands to raise money for the Royalist cause by pawning the crown jewels.



Oliver Cromwell was born on 25 April 1599 in Huntingdon. He was first elected as an MP in 1628. He was a Puritan, but he preached 'liberty of conscience', believing that people should be allowed to follow their own faiths and beliefs.

