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the cellar, and concealed a nice fat charge of gunpowder in the coal bin. Unfortunately for the leader, one of the conspirators warned a certain Lord by letter to stay away from a meeting at the House on the day set for the explosion. This led to the discovery of the plot and Guy Fawkes was tortured and hanged. On this day it is customary in England to dress up like Americans do on Halloween, and to carry an effigy of Fawkes through the streets and then to burn it.

“Remember, Remember,
the 5th of November,
The Gunpowder Treason
and Plot.” — goes a well-known rhyme.

The King was noted for persecuting witches and writing books, principally about the divine rights of Kings.

James was closely connected with the international catholic reactionary powers.

The first Stewarts had faced the alternative: either to give up absolute power and cooperate with new gentlemen and bourgeoisie or to support reactionary noblemen.

They preferred to struggle against the puritans, representatives of new revolutionary ideology.

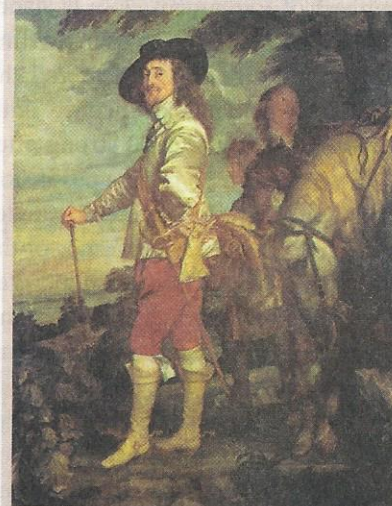
James I, and later his son Charles I were extravagant and wasteful.

Charles I Stuart (1625–1649) was in a constant conflict with Parliament.

The Parliament, when convened, refused to give the King financial support, and Charles I ruled for 11 years without Parliament (1629–1640). That Period of Personal Government, during which the King did not receive the usual financial aid and had to raise money as best as he could: pawned Crown Jewels, gave out honours, etc.; came to an end when he became involved in a war with Scotland for which he couldn't pay.

The King (Charles I) was forced to convene a meeting of the Great Council and later to call a Parliament.

And he had to concede to this Parliament almost all that it asked, so badly he was in need of money. Later his attempts to go back on his word and revoke his concessions and his refusal to hand over to Parliament control of the Army



Charles I



The five eldest children of Charles I, from left to right: Princess Mary (who married William of Orange), Prince James (James II); Prince Charles (Charles II), Princess Elizabeth and Princess Anne (who died as children)

brought about the Civil War which his policy and that of his father had made inevitable.

The battles of the Civil War, fought as three military campaigns took place not in London, but in the counties. The King's standard was first raised at Nottingham in 1642 and, when he could not get to London, Oxford became his temporary capital, with 70 peers and 170 Members of Parliament close at hand. Oxford fell in 1646, by which time Charles had already surrendered; he passed into the hands of the victorious **New Model Army** (22,000 strong after 1645), which went on to take possession of London and install their commander Sir Thomas Fairfax as Governor of the Tower. His second-in-command was **Oliver Cromwell**, a farmer in the past and a great military leader who had organized the New Model Army. Charles I was captured by the Scots who handed him over to the Parliamentarians. He escaped and made agreements with the Scots who were later defeated by the Parliamentarian Army (1648). The English Army demanded the death of the King.

Charles I was **brought to trial for High Treason**, his supporters were not allowed to be present. He was sentenced to death, "and in a hushed silence on a cold January morning the King of England met his death with a courage and dignity that commanded respect." He was beheaded in Whitehall on the **30 of January 1649**.

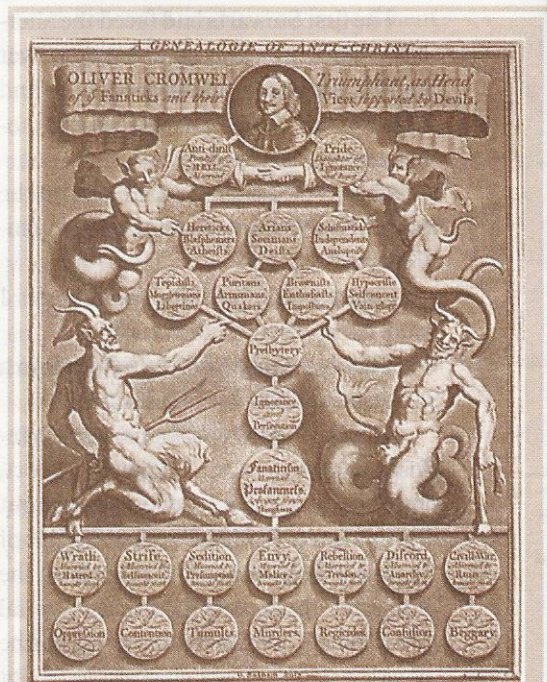
The House of Lords was abolished, some famous Royalists were captured and beheaded.

A Council of State was created to govern the country, which consisted of forty one members. The House of Commons reshuffled its members, and expelled those who had opposed the King's death.

But the troubles were not easy to stop. There was mutiny in the Army, a rebellion in Ireland, the Scots declared the son of the executed King — their King (1651) Charles II.

Oliver Cromwell ruthlessly crushed the Irish, checked the Scots, and established his authority in the Army and in the country. Admiral Blake defeated the Dutch and made England again the mistress of the seas.

In 1653 Oliver Cromwell together with the New Model officers expelled the **Rump** (the Remnants of the Parliament) and established a military dictatorship. On December 16th in Westminster Oliver Cromwell publicly accepted the title of **Lord Protector of a United Commonwealth of England, Scotland, Ireland and the colonies**.



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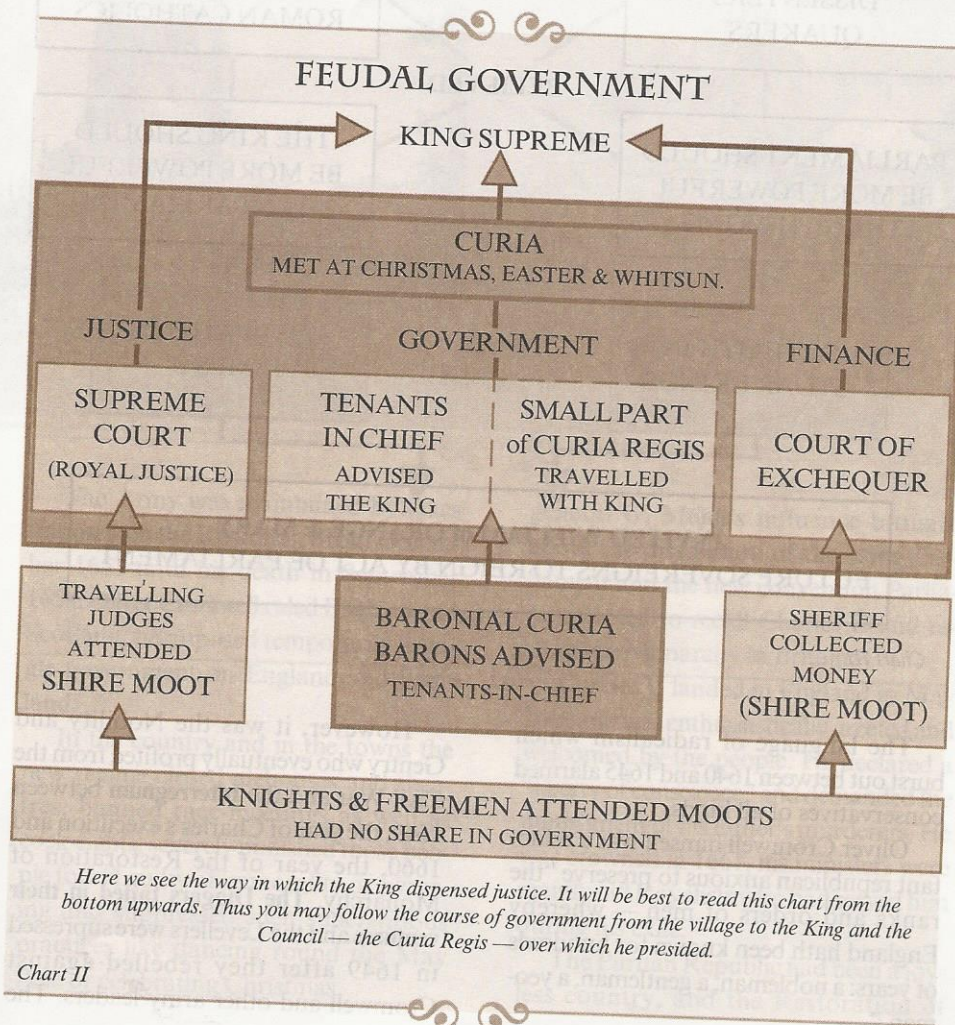
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He didn't dare to take up the title of King, as there was opposition to that in the Army.

All in all, in four years of struggle, around 100,000 Englishmen were killed. Feelings ran high and extraordinary radical opinions were expressed both during and after the Civil War. There was a confrontation of political and religious views within the ranks of the revolutionary forces. Presbyterians had become conservative and royalist. Independents, who were represented in the New Model Army, were split.

The more extreme republicans in the New Model Army, the **Levellers**, as they were called, had a Manifest of their own, called the Agreement of the People, and they rallied together to defend the right of common people, **they demanded the abolition of titles, and legal, political, etc.; equality in everything but property** (John Lilburn).

The **Diggers**, a far smaller and still more radical group, **opposed the private ownership of Property altogether** and struggled "to set the land free" they insisted, that "the poorest man hath as true a title and just right to the land as the richest man".



After the strong rule of the Tudors came that of the Stuart Kings, and the idea held by them that Kings ruled by Divine Right roused the people to demand power to rule themselves through Parliament. Thus the Civil War began, and Charles I was beheaded.

PARLIAMENT — IN STUART TIMES

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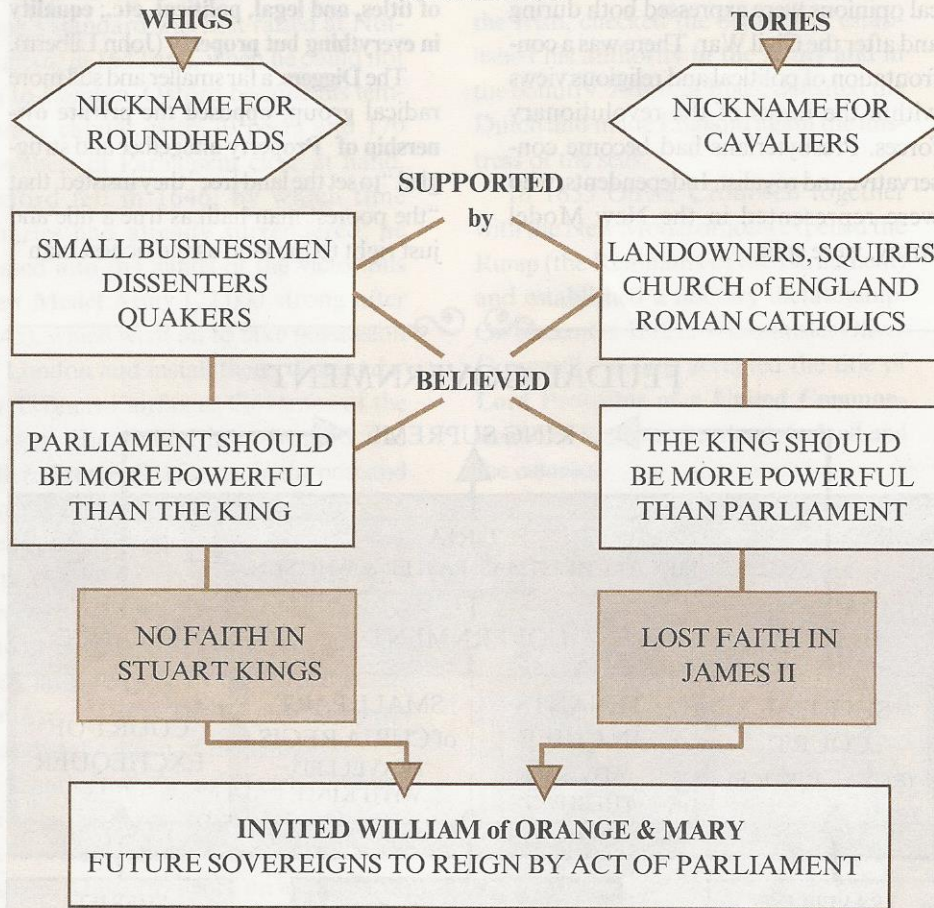


Chart III

The language of radicalism which burst out between 1640 and 1645 alarmed conservatives of all kinds.

Oliver Cromwell himself was a reluctant republican anxious to preserve "the ranks and orders of men — whereby England hath been known for hundreds of years: a nobleman, a gentleman, a yeoman."

However, it was the Nobility and Gentry who eventually profited from the Civil War and the **Interregnum** between 1649, the year of Charles's execution and 1660, the year of the Restoration of Monarchy. **The Diggers failed in their ventures** and the Levellers were suppressed in 1649 after they rebelled against Cromwell and other army leaders. The

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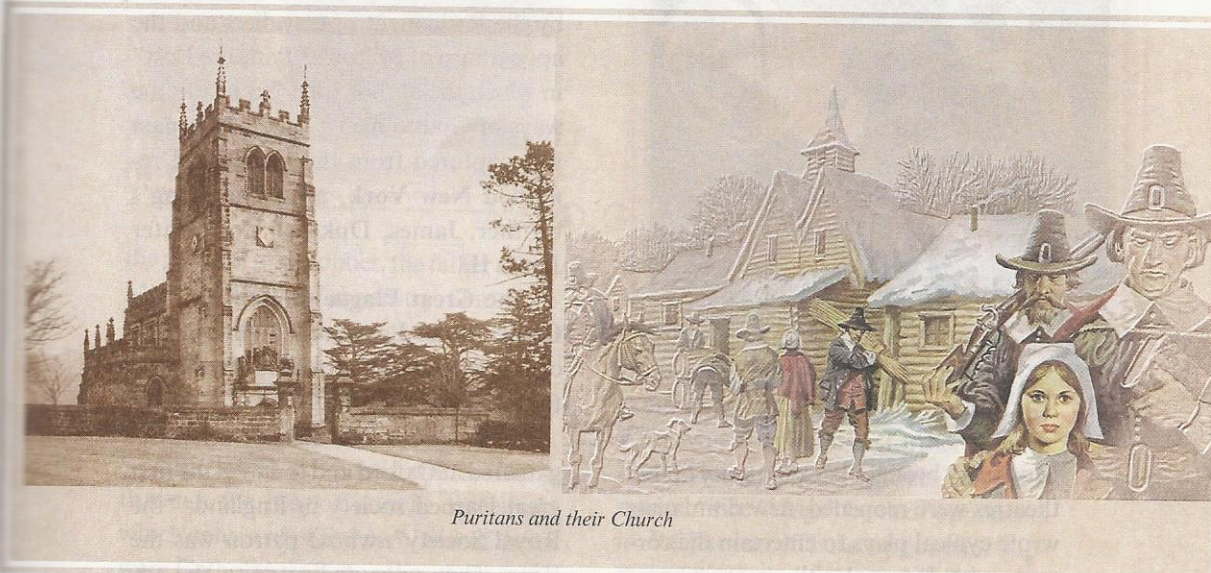
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Commonwealth, with Cromwell as Lord Protector, the period when England was a republic, is also described as Interregnum.

From 1655 England was divided not only into **parishes**, where the justices of the peace remained, but into **districts**, each with a soldier, **Major-General** exercising authority in the name of "godliness and virtue".

Oliver Cromwell was a unique blend of country gentleman and professional soldier, of religious radical and social conservative. He was at once the source of stability and the ultimate source of instability. With his death the republic collapsed as his son and successor Richard lacked his qualities and was deposed 6 months after the beginning of his rule.

The generals began to fight for power,



Puritans and their Church

The Army was maintained by taxes imposed on the Royalists. From December 1653 until his death in September 1658, **Oliver Cromwell** ruled England and Scotland, he imposed temporarily a single government on England and Scotland.

In the country and in the towns the new regime closed alehouses and theatres, banned race-meetings as well as cock-fights, severely punished those people found guilty of immorality or swearing and suppressed such superstitious practices like dancing round the May Pole or celebrating Christmas.

general **G. Monk's** influence brought about the dissolution of the Long Parliament and the new convention Parliament voted to recall Charles II and restore the Monarchy in Britain.

Charles II landed in England in May 1660 and was enthusiastically greeted and welcomed by the people. He declared a "liberty of conscience" and demanded the punishment of his father's murderers. He was crowned in 1661, his ministers were mainly old Royalists who had served him during his exile.

The Puritan Republic had been a joyless country, and the Restoration of