

English Civil War



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| 1625 Charles I takes the throne | 1629 Charles dissolves (closes down) Parliament for 11 years. | December 1641 Parliament issues Charles with Grand Remonstrance. | 1642 Charles bursts into parliament to arrest 5 MPs- The civil war begins! | 1643 The Battle of Naseby | 1646 King Charles surrenders and is held on the Isle of Wight | 1647 Charles escaped and restarted the war. | 1648 Charles was beaten (again) | 30 th January 1649 Charles I was executed |
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| Key Words | Definitions |
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| Divine Right | The idea that God had chosen the King and going against the King was going against God. |
| Tyrant | A cruel and unfair ruler. |
| Parliament | A group of elected representatives who make laws and decisions on behalf of the people. |
| Civil War | a war between two or more groups in the same country |
| Roundhead/ Parliamentarian | Supporters of Parliament |
| Cavalier/ Royalist | Supporters of the monarchy |
| New Model Army | New professional army led by Oliver Cromwell against the King. |
| Propaganda | information used to spread ideas or a point of view |
| Civilian | a person not in the army |
| Dissolving | Closing down |
| Republic | a state without a monarch |
| Regicide | the act of killing a king |
| Martyr | someone that dies for their beliefs |
| Puritan | type of extreme Protestant who wanted to purify Christianity to the extreme - even banning fun! |
| Provenance | The origin of a historical source. The 5 Ws- Who made it? What is it? Why/when/where did they make it? |

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| Divine Right | This theory was popular with monarchs across Europe. Charles I believed strongly in the Divine Right of Kings. He felt, as King, he was not accountable to any earthly authority such as Parliament. As kings received their power from God, their authority was 'absolute'. |
| The main causes of the English Civil War. | <p>The causes of the Civil War included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power: King Charles I wanted more control and ignored Parliament (e.g. the 11 Years Tyranny). There were conflicts over his understanding of the Divine Right. Money: King Charles needed money for wars but couldn't get it from Parliament. Charles introduced the Ship Tax in 1634. Religion: Fear of Catholic influence led to tensions and mistrust, for instance due to Charles marrying French Catholic Henrietta Maria. Parliament issued a list of complaints called the 'Grand Remonstrance' in 1641. In response, Charles burst into the House of Commons to arrest 5 MPs, which was the final straw. |
| Cavaliers and Roundheads | On one side stood the supporters of Parliament, known as the Roundheads , led by Oliver Cromwell. The New Model Army was a professional parliamentary military force formed during the English Civil War, composed of disciplined, well-trained soldiers loyal to the Parliament, which played a crucial role in the conflict. They believed Parliament should be able to limit the power of the King and apply their own rules. On the other side stood the supporters of King Charles I, the Cavaliers , who had a reputation for being pleasure-seeking merry makers. |
| Experience of the Civil War | <p>Civilians could not escape the trauma of the war: taxes were raised, trade was disrupted and there were bad harvests.</p> <p>Violence: Soldiers sometimes looted or burned crops. Up to 130,000 ordinary people were killed indirectly, mainly as a result of disease carried by the troops.</p> <p>Seizing goods: Both Roundheads and Cavaliers seized goods such as horses and food from local people for their soldiers. They also charged heavy taxes. Civilians had no choice but to do as they were told.</p> <p>Women: Some women were spies during the war, such as Constance Stringer. They could go undetected because many believed women were not capable enough to spy.</p> |
| Witch craze | The Civil War coincided with a period of intense fear and superstition , leading to a witch craze particularly directed at women. Many innocent people, mostly women, were accused of witchcraft and executed. The chaos and uncertainty of the war contributed to this climate of suspicion and paranoia. Matthew Hopkins, known as the "Witchfinder General," was an English witch-hunter during the English Civil War era, particularly active in the 1640s. He is infamous for his role in persecuting individuals, primarily women, accused of witchcraft. |
| Propaganda | Both sides in the Civil War decided the best way to get people supporting them was to spread vicious rumours and gossip about the other side. The Roundheads made propaganda about Prince Rupert, showing him as a brutal and cruel military leader. They said he and his poodle, Boye, had magical powers (linked to witchcraft). The Cavaliers made propaganda about the importance of the king and natural order. They accused the Roundheads of being radical Puritans, and rebels creating chaos instead of stability. |
| Charles I's execution | In 1649, King Charles I was put on trial by the English Parliament, found guilty of high treason, and subsequently executed by beheading, marking a historic moment in which a reigning monarch was held accountable for his actions by his own subjects during the English Civil War. This event ultimately led to the establishment of the Commonwealth of England. |

How do historians use primary sources?

- Historians make claims about the past by a process of making inferences, often from a number of different types of sources.
- It is important to know the provenance of sources, as this will impact what can be inferred from the source.
- However, this does not mean a 'biased' source is not useful to an historian.
- Historians know that some clues could be a little one-sided, but they're still useful. They use those clues along with others to get a more complete picture of the past.