



The English Civil War

1642-1651



Background

- + James I of England
 - First cousin twice removed from Elizabeth I
- + Was known as James IV of Scotland.
- + Used to Scotland's weak parliament.
 - Taken aback by England's parliament putting restrictions on him in exchange for money.
- + Had extravagant lifestyle
- + Dreamed of uniting England, Scotland and Ireland into single kingdom.
- + England was relatively peaceful during his reign.
- + Believed in "divine right of kings"
 - Called kings "little gods on Earth"



Background

- + Charles I of England
- + Not trusted due to marrying a Catholic.
- + Disbanded parliament in 1629.
 - Era of personal rule
- + Would arrest whomever he wanted for whatever “offense”.
- + Unrest in Scotland caused him to recall parliament.
 - Disbanded it again.
- + New parliament formed in 1641.
- + Long parliament
 - Hostile towards Charles I
 - Wanted to discuss grievances directed to king
- + Tensions increased
 - Wrested more power from king
 - Triennial Act
- + Charles attempts to arrest members of parliament – ends in failure



First English Civil War

- + Began in 1642
- + The country was divided between Parliamentary and Royalist factions
- + Charles attempted to take an armory in Hull, but was turned away
- + Parliament secured strategic towns
- + Many battles fought and lands changed hands many times.
- + Eventually Charles was captured by the Scots and turned over to parliament.

Second English Civil War

- + After a brief period of peace, Royalists began to gain strength and launched a second civil war.
- + The war was brief, lasting only about a year.
- + Those who began the war were shown no mercy as they caused another horrible war.



Fate of King Charles I

- + Charles was eventually arrested by parliament.
- + He tried to play nice, but it was too late.
- + Tried and convicted of treason.
- + Beheaded in 1649.



Third English Civil War

+ Ireland

- Controlled by the Irish Confederacy.
- In constant war since 1641 with the Parliamentarians.
- Signed treaty with Royalists in 1649.
- Cromwell invaded and crushed the last remaining Royalists.

+ Scotland

- Covenanters gave Scottish crown to Charles II, son of Charles I.
- Charles II now greatest threat to English Republic.
- Cromwell invades Scotland and crushes Charles' army.

+ Charles II flees to France.

Rise of the English Republic (Commonwealth)

- + Established in 1649.
 - After Second Civil War and Charles I execution.
- + Established by the Rump Parliament.
- + Power centered in parliament.
- + In 1653 Oliver Cromwell named Lord Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
- + Rump Parliament dismissed and Protectorate Parliament created.
- + Eventually limited rights of certain individuals (Catholics, Royalists)

Oliver Cromwell

- + Military commander of Parliamentarian forces.
 - No formal training, but followed standard military tactics.
 - Good leader and moral authority.
- + Invaded Ireland and Scotland to solidify parliament's power.
- + Named Lord Protector in 1653.
- + Established the First Protectorate Parliament.
- + Died in 1659 and power went to his son Richard.

Decline of the Commonwealth

- + Richard Cromwell named Lord Protector after his father's death.
 - Served only a short while before being removed.
 - This caused instability.
- + Rump Parliament recalled.
- + An attempted invasion of Scotland failed.
- + General George Monck moved south to London and contacted Charles II.
 - Created the Convention Parliament.
- + Charles II named rightful king by Convention Parliament.