Your notes

KS3 History: revision notes

The English Civil War

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Charles I and Parliament

- Charles I became king in 1625. He believed in the **divine right of kings**: that God had chosen him and he shouldn't be questioned.
- Money: he raised taxes such as **Ship Money** without Parliament's agreement.
- Religion: **Puritans** feared he was bringing back Catholic ways; his wife Henrietta Maria was Catholic, and Archbishop Laud changed church services.
- Power: he ruled without Parliament from 1629 to 1640 (the **Personal Rule**). In January 1642, he tried to arrest five MPs in Parliament.

The war

- **Royalists** (Cavaliers) supported the king; **Parliamentarians** (Roundheads) supported Parliament. The war began in 1642.
- Key battles: Edgehill (1642), Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645), where Oliver Cromwell's **New Model Army** won a decisive victory.
- Guernsey mostly supported Parliament, but Castle Cornet was held for the king until 1651, one of the last Royalist strongholds to surrender.

Execution and Restoration

- Charles I was put on trial and executed on 30 January 1649. England became a republic (the Commonwealth).
- Oliver Cromwell became **Lord Protector** in 1653. Puritan rules closed theatres and banned Christmas celebrations.
- After Cromwell died, the monarchy was restored in 1660 with Charles II (the **Restoration**).

Key terms

Divine right of kings	The belief that kings are chosen by God and can't be questioned.

Ship Money	A tax Charles I made the whole country pay without Parliament's agreement.
Personal Rule	The years 1629 to 1640 when Charles I ruled without Parliament.
Puritans	Strict Protestants who wanted a simpler Church.
Royalists	Supporters of the king, also called Cavaliers.
Parliamentarians	Supporters of Parliament, also called Roundheads.
New Model Army	Parliament's professional army.
Interregnum	The period without a monarch, from 1649 to 1660.
Lord Protector	Oliver Cromwell's title as ruler from 1653.
Restoration	The return of the monarchy with Charles II in 1660.

Your notes

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What did Charles I believe about his power?
2. What was Ship Money?
3. What was the Personal Rule?
4. What were the king's supporters called?
5. What did Charles I try to do in January 1642?
6. Which battle in 1645 was a decisive victory for Parliament?
7. What was the New Model Army?
8. In which year was Charles I executed?

Answers

1. That God had given him the right to rule
2. A tax Charles I made the whole country pay without Parliament's agreement
3. The years 1629 to 1640 when Charles I ruled without Parliament
4. Cavaliers (Royalists)
5. Arrest five MPs in Parliament
6. Naseby
7. Parliament's professional, well-trained army
8. 1649

What to do next

Practise 13 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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