

# Summer Enquiry Unit 1 Knowledge Organiser – The English Civil War

## Enquiry Questions:

1. Why did the English Civil War start?
2. What was the impact of the English Civil War on the English people?



Ancient

Medieval

Early Modern

Modern

3600 BC – 499 AD

500 – 1499 AD

1500 – 1799 AD

1800 – present

## Background Knowledge:

- In 1625 Charles I became King of England. He was part of the Stuart dynasty.
- Charles I took over a Protestant country, but one that was divided over religion between Catholics and extreme Protestants call Puritans
- The King believed he had the right to rule on his own (Divine Right of Kings) but needed money from Parliament for his wars. To get this money Parliament had to set taxes. Parliament wanted to advise the king in return for giving him money

## Key Words

Early Modern	The period of History between 1500 and 1799AD
Stuarts	The ruling family of England between 1603 and 1714
Parliament	The name of the group of people and the building for where laws were approved and taxes were set.
MPs	Members of Parliament – the men who made decisions over taxation and felt they should advise the King
Revolution	A very important change
People	How individuals have motivated people to try and force change
Ideas	How different ways of thinking have inspired people to do things differently
Events	How things that happen have meant that change needed to happen
Catholic	A type of Christianity which has the Pope as the head of the Church in Rome.
Protestant	A type of Christianity that places emphasis on the teachings of the Bible. In England the King is the head of the Church.
Lutherism	A type of Protestantism that shares some of the rituals and practices of Catholicism
Puritanism	A type of extreme Protestantism that rejects everything that is linked to Catholicism
Divine Right of Kings	The belief that the Monarch's power is given to them by God and cannot be challenged
Monarch	A ruler of a country e.g. King or Queen
Civil War	A war between two or more groups from the same country
Petition of Right	A document that Parliament got Charles I to give up some of his powers in 1628
Eleven Years of Tyranny	The period of 11 years between 1629 and 1640 when Charles ruled without Parliament
Ship Money	A tax used by Charles to raise money when parliament was closed.
Five Members Coup	Where Charles tried to arrest 5MPs who opposed him in 1642. This event triggered the English Civil War
Bishops' War	The war between Charles I and Scotland that began when Charles forced his religious changes on Scotland
Henrietta Maria	Charles I's Catholic French wife.



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## Second Order Concepts:

- **Causation – What is responsible for changes such as revolution?**
- **Change and continuity- How did peoples lives change as a result of the English Civil War**

### People

Charles I helped caused the English Civil War as he was the main reason why trust between the King and Parliament reduced. This lack of trust resulted in a war in 1642.

Charles personality increased the likelihood of a civil war as he was not good at speaking in public, this meant that MPs in Parliament were not able to understand what the King wanted. It also meant that some people in Parliament thought he was not a good leader. The King also refused to listen to Parliament's views. King Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings, that the King's power comes from God and cannot be challenged by anyone. This meant that when Parliament tried to restrict his power with the Petition of Right in 1628 Charles refused to accept the changes and closed Parliament down for 11 years.

During these 11 years Charles was forced to raise money using tricks that had not been used for hundreds of years. He charges Ship Mooney and fined people for knighthoods. This angered the public and Parliament.

Charles can also be blamed as he made the decision to make religious changes in England and Scotland to promote his religious views. By forcing the Scottish to accept his religious changes he started a war which eventually meant he needed Parliament to return. Charles would then try and arrest 5 MPs when they issued a list of demands against Charles. This started the English Civil War

### Ideas

Ideas were a significant cause in the outbreak of the English Civil War. Religion was central to many of these ideas. Protestant English people had a great fear of Catholics due to the actions of previous rulers who had been Catholic such as Mary I. Also England was surrounded by Catholic countries so anyone who was Catholic was suspected of being disloyal.

Charles I religion made some people suspect he liked Catholics or was even a secret Catholic himself. Charles French wife Henrietta Maria was a Catholic and Charles supported a type of Protestantism called Laudism, which had similarities with Catholicism. When Charles made William Laud (the person who invented Laudism) Archbishop of Canterbury many people became very angry, thinking that Catholicism was about to return to England.

Another idea that helped cause the English Civil War was the Divine Right of Kings. Charles I believed that his power came from God and that this could not be challenged by anyone. However Parliament felt that they had the right to advise the King to change his actions. This led to Charles and Parliament to clash.

### Events

Events played a key role in causing the English Civil War. When Parliament was closed for Eleven Years Charles had to use tricks to raise money to fight his wars against France and Spain.

This angered MPs and many people in England as they did not want to pay the King money for things that they thought were unlawful.

One key event that led to the English Civil War was Charles decision to force his religious changes on Scotland. Scotland was even more opposed to Catholicism than England so when Charles forced these changes they rebelled. Needing money to fight this war Charles had to call Parliament after 11 years. Parliament demanded that Charles sacked his advisers and change the religion to be more Protestant. Charles initially agreed but then decided to take action against Parliament and try and arrest 5 MPs in Parliament. This was a final break in the relationship between Charles and Parliament and led to the English Civil War.

