

THE
NATIONAL
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Civil War People

Why did people go to war
in 1642?

Key Stage 3 | Early Modern 1485 - 1750
Resource Pack



Introduction

The five videos in this series called 'Civil War People' have been updated to a greater quality from our focussed topic website [English Civil War](#). You can find them in our playlist here:

[https://www.youtube.com/
playlist?list=PLddhSH7bW0pVbE2sVQP_iARnD2W7LVsJi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLddhSH7bW0pVbE2sVQP_iARnD2W7LVsJi)

View our videos to find out how a Bishop, Puritan, Scotsman, Irishman or King Charles I himself possibly viewed the prospect of civil war in 1642. Their words help to provide information which supports the document activities. Look at the videos first! Then, explore a specific linked document activity for each character. Try and read the original document. Each document is provided with background information, questions, a transcript and a simplified transcript to help.

Please note that the document used in each activity can also be seen in the topic website [English Civil War](#) alongside other documents so you can expand your studies!

Suitable for:

KS3

Time period:

Early Modern

1485 - 1750

Connections to the Curriculum:

National Curriculum:
The causes and events
of the civil wars
throughout Britain

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Civil war person - Charles I

What rights did King Charles I claim in 1642?

Introduction

Charles I ruled his kingdom without calling Parliament from 1629-40. During this period, called the Personal Rule, he brought in many changes. These included range of new customs duties which usually had to be approved by Parliament. As result, Charles managed to increase his income from £600,000 to £900,000 per year.

Charles also sold monopolies and patents. These gave control of a particular trade to one individual or company. It meant that other traders either had to pay to take part in the trade or they might be forced out of it altogether. Charles I created a lot of bad feeling as a result.

Ship money also provided the king with valuable revenue. This was a tax usually paid in counties that had coastlines. It was used to pay for ships to protect the coast. Charles forced people in inland counties to pay ship money too. An MP called John Hampden fought a high profile court case against ship money in 1637, but lost.

Tasks

Watch video of our actor playing the role of Charles I

Document activity: Read the document background, the document and answer the questions which follow. You can use the transcript and simplified transcript to help.

Document activity

This document is a petition sent to Charles I and expresses the grievances of the City of London I on 24 September 1640, Catalogue ref: National Archives Rare Books Collection (John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263. Published in London, 1680-1701).

The citizens of London were also more politically active than any other part of the country and radical (wanting big changes). This helps to explain why the city sent several petitions to Charles during this period. London had more Protestant hardliners (Puritans) than other parts of the country. It is not surprising that London took the side of Parliament when war broke out in 1642.

Civil war person - Charles I

Questions

- Why did Londoners complain about: taxation; monopolies; religion?
- What was their greatest concern, according to the document, do you think?
- Does this source give clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?
- Can you explain how a petition was seems to be structured?
- According to the video character of Charles I, what was his justification for demanding the taxes mentioned in the petition?
- Do you think Charles I could have avoided conflict over these grievances? Give your reasons.
- How did the video character of Charles I describe his role as monarch?
- What makes this video an interpretation of Charles I? [Think about how the actor uses his voice, facial expressions and what is said].
- What are the differences between using a video actor and an original document to find out about the past?

Petition sent to Charles I National Archives Rare Books Collection (John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263. Published in London, 1680-1701)

To the King's Most Excellent M A J E S T Y.

The humble Petition of your Majesties Subjects the Citizens of L O N D O N.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

‘**B**eing moved with the duty and obedience which by the Laws
‘your Petitioners owe unto your Sacred Majesty, they humbly
‘present unto your Princely and pious wisdom, the severall pressing
‘grievances following; *viz.*

‘1. The pressing and unusual Impositions upon Merchandize, Importing, and Exporting, and the urging and Levying of Ship-money notwithstanding both which, Merchants Ships and Goods have been taken and destroyed both by Turkish and other Pirates.

‘2. The multitude of Monopolies, Patents, and Warrants whereby Trade in the City and other parts of the Kingdom is much decayed.

‘3. The sundry Innovations in matter of Religion.

‘4. The Oath and Canons lately enjoyned by the late Convocation whereby your Petitioners are in danger to be deprived of their Ministers.

‘5. The great concourse of Papists, and their Inhabitations in London, and the Suburbs, whereby they have more means and opportunity of Plotting and Executing their designes against the Religion established.

‘6. The seldom Calling, and sudden dissolutions of Parliaments, without the redress of your Subjects Grievances.

‘7. The Imprisonment of divers Citizens for non-payment of Ship-
Z Z Z Z Z Z Z money,

‘money, and Impositions, and the prosecution of many others in the Star-Chamber, for not conforming themselves to Committees in Patents of Monopolies, whereby Trade is restrained.

‘8. The great danger your Sacred person is exposed unto in the present War, and the various fears that seized upon your Petitioners, and their Families by reason thereof, which grievances and fears have occasioned so great a stop and distraction in Trade, that your Petitioners can neither Buy, Sell, receive, or pay as formerly, and tends to the utter Ruine of the Inhabitants of the City, the decay of Navigation, and Cloathing, and the Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Transcript: Petition sent to Charles I

A petition from the citizens of London, September 1640.

To the King's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Petition of your Majesties Subjects the Citizens of LONDON.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

Being moved with the duty and obedience by which the Laws your Petitioners owe unto your Sacred Majesty, they humbly present unto your Princely and pious wisdom, the several pressing grievances following; viz.

The pressing and unusual Impositions upon Merchandise, Importing and Exporting, and the urging and Levying of Ship-money, notwithstanding both which, Merchants Ships and Goods have been taken and destroyed both by Turkish and other Pirates.

The multitude of Monopolies, Patents and Warrants, whereby Trade in the City and other parts of the Kingdom is much decayed.

The sundry Innovations in matters of Religion.

The Oath and Canons lately enjoyed by the late Convocation whereby your Petitioners are in danger to be deprived of their Ministers.

The great concourse of Papists, and their Inhabitutions in London, and the Suburbs, whereby they have more means and opportunity of Plotting and Executing their designs against the Religion established.

The seldom Calling, and sudden dissolutions of Parliaments, without the redress of your Subjects Grievances.

The Imprisonment of divers Citizens for non-payment of Ship-Money and Impositions, and the prosecution of many others in the Star-Chamber, for not conforming themselves to Committees in Patents and Monopolies, whereby Trade is restrained.

The great danger your Sacred person is exposed unto in the present War, and the various fears that seized upon your Petitioners, and their Families by reason thereof, which grievances and fears have occasioned so great a stop and direction in Trade, that your Petitioners can neither Buy, Sell, receive, or pay as formerly, and tends to the utter Ruine of the Inhabitants of the City, the decay of Navigation, and Cloathing, and the Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Simplified Transcript: Petition sent to Charles I

[Extra explanations are in square brackets.]

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

The humble petition of your Majesty's subjects, the citizens of London.

Most gracious Sovereign,

Because of the duty and obedience which we owe to your sacred Majesty, we humbly present to your princely wisdom the following complaints:

The demanding and unusual taxes upon goods, importing and exporting, and the taking of ship money [a type of tax], despite merchants' ships and goods having been taken and destroyed by Turkish and other pirates.

The many monopolies, patents and warrants, causing trade in the city and other parts of the kingdom to decline. [Monopolies, patents and warrants were types of permission from the king granting the holder some kind of right that gave them a business advantage over others.]

The many changes in matters of religion.

The recent changes in church rules which mean we may be deprived of our ministers.

The great crowd of Catholics living in London and the suburbs, where they have more means and opportunity of plotting against the established religion.

The seldom calling and sudden ending of Parliaments, without sorting out your subjects' complaints.

The imprisonment of various citizens for non-payment of ship money and taxes, and the prosecution of many others in the Star Chamber for not following the rules regulating trade.

The great danger you are exposed to in the present war, and the various fears that we and our families have because of the war, have led to such a drop in trade that we cannot buy, sell, receive or pay as before. This tends to the utter ruin of the people living in the city, the decline of shipping and cloth making and the products of this kingdom.

Civil war person - Irishman

Why did Ireland support war against King Charles I in 1642?

Introduction

Charles I was ruler of England, Scotland and Ireland. English rulers had struggled to control Ireland for many years. In the early 1600s James I got Protestant settlers to live in Ireland and help him control the Irish, who were Catholics. These settlers had good land and many other privileges. Catholics faced discrimination and laws restricting their rights. The Catholic Irish resented the new settlers and in October 1641 they rebelled. Around 2000 Protestant settlers were killed, mainly in the north of Ireland. Ireland was always a concern for English rulers and for English Protestants. The fact that the Irish were Catholics made Protestants suspect them of plotting against them. Also, Ireland was seen as a possible base for England's Catholic enemies, particularly France and Spain. The chance of a rebellion which left Ireland under Catholic control was very worrying.

Rumours began to spread about Catholic plots inside England to murder key officials, take over important buildings and link up with the Irish rebels. Most of these supposed plots were untrue. However, they worsened relations between Charles I and his opponents. Charles's ministers were seen as too pro-Catholic. Charles I was even married to a Catholic.

Tasks

Watch video of our actor playing the role of the Irishman

Document activity: Read the document background, the document and answer the questions which follow. You can use the transcript and simplified transcript to help.

Document activity

This is an extract from a letter written by a gentleman called Thomas Wiseman to Sir John Penington, a senior commander in Charles I's navy. The document describes rebellion in Ireland, November 1641, Catalogue ref: SP 16/485/58.

The rebellion in Ireland horrified all English Protestants. Charles I and his MPs agreed that an army had to be sent to Ireland. However, this soon became a difficult issue. Leading opponents of Charles I, such as John Pym, did not trust the king. Pym feared that Charles I would use the new army to crush people like him, rather than the rebels in Ireland. He

Civil war person - Irishman

demanded that Parliament should be in charge of the new army and not the king. The argument was never solved. By the time the civil war started in 1642 Ireland was still in the hands of the Catholic rebels.

Questions

- What events were described in this source?
- How does the language in the letter reflect the writer's attitude to events?
- Did he feel that Parliament acted properly?
- Why did the Irish rebel according to this source?
- Does this source give us any clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?
- What reasons did the Irish video character give for rebellion in Ireland?
- Does our video of an Irishman support any of the information provided in this document? [Think about how the actor uses his voice, facial expressions and what is said].
- What makes the video an interpretation of the causes for rebellion in Ireland?
- What are the differences between using a video actor and an original document to find out about the past?

Letter to Sir John Penington

Catalogue Ref: SP 16/485/58

inhabitants; the treasure being thus diffus'd.
It spread apace through out the north of Ireland
where the Rebells first began, and in some
places in small bodies are of the papists opp.
in numbers; above 10 thousand men, wth both
much people the poor protestants, and yeate
fear whether they shall bee able, either to
supprese or resist them. O wherefore our
parl^y hath ordene my Lord of Lestons^t Lord
Lieutenant, & all others Comand^d here speedily
to reapechis^t & do furnish so shoufand
powys to raire along wth theire, wth the Cittie
of London aduantes for proceeding of man^e &
armes to serue that Kingdome. In some
blood the rebels haue shedd; & committed
greate outayes; and taken some castles and
places of strength, but if they had taken
Dublin, upon the earth Iu^t haue no refug^e
in a shott & sic they woul^d not haue left
a protestant alive in the whole Kingdome;
but God in his mercy hath preuented that
slaughter, & hath turned parte of it vpon
you selfe & the traytors^t gave out this

Iat & Tyrannie of the Law of Strafford
vpon you made them to it, and that
by the example of the Scotts; they
hoped to purchase such priuiledges; by
this means in their Religion, as
otherwise they never ^{expected} hoped to haue
greatest to thay. You see the

Transcript: Letter to Sir John Penington

...

The Treasone being thus discovered did spread a pace throughout the north of Ireland where the Rebellion first began and in severall places in severall bodies are of the papists upp in armes, above 10 thowsand men which doth much perplex the poorer protestants, and greate feare whether they shall bee able either to suppresse or resist them. Whereupon our parliament hath addressed my Lord of Leicester Lord Lieutenant & all other Comaunders here ever speedily to repare thither & doe furnish 50 thowsand pownds to carrie along with them which the Cittie of London advances for providing of men & armes to secure that kingdome. Some blood the villains have shedd & committed greate outrages; and taken some Castles and other places of strength, but if they had taken Dublin, upon the rack divers have confessed in a shorte time they would not have leefte a Protestant alive in the wholle kingdome but God in his Mercy hath prevaented that slaughter & hath turned parte of it upon themselves. The Traytors give out the Late Tyranie of the Lord of Strafford upon them moved them to it and that by the examples of the Scotts; they hoped to purchase such priviledges by this meanes in their Religion, as otherwise they never expected to have graanted to them.

...

Simplified Transcript: Letter to Sir John Penington

[Extra explanations are in square brackets.]

The treason [rebellion], being discovered, spread quickly throughout the north of Ireland, where the rebellion first began. In several places groups of the Catholics are up in arms, more than 10,000 men. This worries the poorer Protestants, and there is great fear whether they shall be able either to stop or resist them. Our Parliament directed my Lord of Leicester, Lord Lieutenant, and all other commanders here to quickly go there. It provided £50,000 to carry along with them, which the city of London advanced for providing men and arms to secure that kingdom. The villains have shed some blood and committed great outrages and taken some castles and other strongholds. But if they had taken Dublin, various people have confessed upon the rack [under torture] that they would not have left a Protestant alive in the whole kingdom. But God in his Mercy has prevented that slaughter and has turned part of it upon the rebels. The traitors said that the harsh rule of Lord Strafford over them drove them to it and also the example set by the Scots [the Scottish rebellion]. By this means they hoped to gain privileges in their religion, which otherwise they never expected to have granted to them.

Civil war person - Scottish covenanter

Why did Scotland go to war in 1642?

Introduction

In the 1500s England and Scotland had broken away from the Roman Catholic Church and become Protestant countries. Throughout the 1630s Charles and his Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, brought changes to the organisation of the church and also to the way people worshipped in church. The Scots did not like Laud's new prayer book or his other ideas. They also disliked an Englishman making decisions about the church in Scotland.

In 1637 Laud and Charles insisted that Scotland should use the prayer book that they had brought into the Church of England. When the prayer book was first used in July 1637 there was a riot in Edinburgh. Scottish opponents of Charles I signed a Covenant (an agreement) criticising him. In February 1638 Scottish rebels formed themselves into a National Assembly. They signed a Covenant or an agreement banning the new prayer book and got rid of other changes brought in by Laud. Charles I refused to allow this challenge to his authority and took an army to Scotland to crush the rebels.

He did not have enough money for a large, well-equipped army. To get the money he needed, he would have to ask his Parliament. However, Charles did not like working with Parliament. He ruled without it from 1629-40. By the time he did call Parliament in 1640, many MPs were anxious to tell the king why they were unhappy about many aspects of his rule. Plus his conflict with the Scots dragged on until October 1640.

Tasks

Watch video of our actor playing the role of the Scottish Covenanter

Document activity: Read the document background, the document and answer the questions which follow. You can use the transcript and simplified transcript to help.

Document activity

This is an extract from a proclamation, or order, made by Charles I at Newcastle on 14 May 1639 telling people in Scotland what he wanted them to do. He was trying to end rebellion in Scotland. Charles had been facing rebellion from his subjects in Scotland since 1637. The Scots refused to accept changes that Charles wanted to make to the church in Scotland. Charles

Civil war person - Scottish covenanter

raised an army to fight the Scots in 1638. By May 1639, when this proclamation was made, Charles did not have enough money to continue the fight. This meant he had to try and reach an agreement with the Scottish rebels. Catalogue ref: SP 45/10/225.

Questions

- What did Charles I offer the Scots?
- What did the Scots have to promise in return?
- How would you describe the king's attitude towards the Scots?
- Does this source give us any clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?
- What problems did the Scottish rebellion cause for Charles I?
- What criticisms does the video Scottish Covenanter make of Charles I's religious policy in Scotland?
- What makes this video an 'interpretation' of a Scottish Covenanter? [Think about how the actor uses her voice, facial expression and what is said.]
- What are the differences between using a video actor and an original document to find out about the past?
- Find out more about the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. How does it differ from the Church of England at this time?

Proclamation of Charles I

Catalogue Ref: SP 45/10/225

¶ By the King.



HARLES by the grace of God, King of ENGLAND,
SCOTLAND, FRANCE, and IRELAND, Defender of the
Faith, &c.

To all Our loving Subjects whom it shall or may conerne; Greeting. Whereas we are thus farre advanced in Our Royall Person with Our Armie, and the attendance of Our Nobilitie and Gentry of this Kingdome, and intend to be shortly at Our good Towne of Barwicke, with purpose to give Our good people of Scotland all just satisfaction in Parliament, assoone as the present disorders, and tumultuous proceedings of some there, are quieted; and will leave Us a faire way of comming like a gracious King to declare Our good meaning to them. But finding some cause of Impediment, and that this Nation doth apprehend (that contrarie to their professions) there is an intention to invade this Our Kingdome of England. We doe therefore to cleare all doubts, that may breed scruples in the mindes of Our good Subjects of either Kingdome, reiterate this Our just and reall Protestation: That if all civill and temporall obedience be effectually and timely given and shewne unto Us, we doe not intend to invade them with any hostility. But if they shall without Our especiall Authoritie and Command raise any armed Troupes, and dray them downe within ten miles of Our Bordez of England, we shall then interpret that as an Invasion of Our said Kingdome of England, and in that case doe expressly command the Generall of Our Army, and Our superiour Officers of the same, respectiuely to proceede against them as Rebells, and Invaders of this Our Kingdome of England, and to the utmost of their power to set upon them and destroy them, In which they shall doe a singular service, both to Our honour and safety.

Given at Our Court at Newcastle the fourteenth day of May, in the fifteenth
yeer of Our Reign.

¶ God save the King.



Transcript: Proclamation of Charles I

By the King

Charles by the grace of God, King of ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE and IRELAND, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all our loving Subjects whom it shall or may concern, greeting. Whereas we are thus farre advanced in Our Royall Person with Our Armie, and the attendance of Our Nobilitie and Gentry of this Kingdome, and intend to be mostly at Our good town of Barwicke, with purpose to give Our good people of Scotland all just satisfaction in Parliament, assoone as the present disorders, and tumultuous proceedings of some there are quieted; and will leave Us a fair way of comming like a gratiouse King to declare Our good meaning to them. But finding some cause of Impediment, and that this Nation doth apprehend (that contrarie to their professions) there is an intention to invade this Our Kingdom of England. We doe therefore to cleare all doubts, that may breed scruples in the mindes of Our good Subjects of either Kingdome, reiterate this Our just and reall Protestation: That if all civill and temporall obedience be effectually and timely given and shewn unto Us, we doe not intend to invade them with any hostility. But if they shall without Our special Authoritie and Command raise any armed Troupes, and draw them downe within ten miles of Our Border of England we shall then interpret that as an Invasion of Our said Kingdome of England, and in that case doe expressly command the Generall of Our Army, and Our Superior Officers of the same, respectively to proceede against them as Rebels, and Invaders of this Kingdome of England, and to the utmost of their power to set upon them and destroy them, In which they shall doe a singular service, both to our honour and safety.

Given at Our Court at Newcastle the fourteenth day of May, in the fifteenth yeer of Our reign.

God save the King.

Simplified Transcript: Proclamation of Charles I

By the King

Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

To all our loving subjects, greetings. We have advanced with our army and our nobles and gentry of this kingdom. We intend to be mostly at Berwick, to give our good people of Scotland all justice in Parliament, as soon as the present disorderly actions of some there are quieted. We will come like a gracious King to declare our good will to them. But we find there is a barrier. This nation knows (unlike their claims) there is an intention to invade England. So to clear all doubts, that may breed worries in your minds, we repeat our just and real demand. If all civil obedience is effectively and quickly given to us, we do not intend to invade with any hostility. But if they raise any armed troops without our authority, and bring them down to within ten miles of the border of England, we shall then interpret that as an invasion of our kingdom. In that case, we command the general and senior officers of our army to proceed against them as rebels and invaders of England, and to the utmost of their power to set upon them and destroy them. In this they shall do a great service to both our honour and safety.

Given at our court at Newcastle, the 14th day of May, in the 15th year of our reign.

God save the King.

Civil war person - Puritan

Why did the Puritans support war against King Charles I in 1642?

Introduction

Some of Charles I's loudest critics were the Puritans. Puritans were extreme Protestants. Like Archbishop William Laud, they believed that the Church of England in the 1630s needed changing. Unlike Laud, they believed churches and services should be much simpler. They were bitterly opposed to the Catholic Church. They worried that Laud's changes were making the Church of England too much like the Catholic Church. They disliked the bishops because the Catholic Church also had bishops. They disliked the bishops because it was the bishops who put Charles's religious policies into action. They hated Laud and he hated them. In 1637 William Prynne and two other Puritans published a pamphlet criticising Laud. He had them arrested, their ears cut off and their faces branded with red-hot irons. This treatment created a lot of sympathy for the Puritans. It also increased hatred between the Puritans and the bishops.

The Puritans were a small minority, but they were very powerful and influential. Most came from the gentry or merchant class. They were usually well educated and successful in business. They were very determined because they believed God was on their side. The leading opponents of Charles I (including John Pym and John Hampden) were Puritans. They too were prepared to fight for their beliefs.

Tasks

Watch video of our actor playing the role of the Puritan

Document activity: Read the document background, the document and answer the questions which follow. You can use the transcript and simplified transcript to help.

Document activity

This is a report to William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, from some of his informers. Laud had a network across the country that sent him regular reports about what people were saying. Throughout the 1630s Charles I and William Laud tried to change the organisation of the church and how people worshipped in church. As a result, Laud made many enemies.

Civil war person - Puritan

Laud punished some of his critics harshly. For example, in 1637 William Prynne, Henry Burton and John Bastwick printed pamphlets attacking Laud. All three men were Puritans. They believed that Laud's changes were making the Protestant Church of England too much like the Catholic Church of Rome. Laud had their ears cut off and their faces branded with a hot iron.

Laud and Charles tried to increase the power of the church in England and Scotland. They also wanted everyone to worship in the same way. Both of these things alarmed many Protestants, particularly the hard-line Protestants known as Puritans. On the other hand, many approved of Laud's policies. They just disliked the way he clamped down on free speech and treated his critics badly.

Both England and Scotland split from the Roman Catholic Church in the 1500s and became Protestant. In the 1600s the Protestants were still very suspicious of any changes to their church in case the Protestant Church became too much like the Catholic Church.

Questions

- What did James Machison think of Archbishop Laud?
- Does the document suggest that others felt the same way? Explain your answer.
- How do you think Machison would have felt if he had seen this report about him?
- What does this source infer about the attitude of the government towards the people at the time?
- Does this document give us any clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?
- Why does our puritan video character oppose the actions of Archbishop Laud and Charles I?
- What makes this video an 'interpretation' of a Puritan? [Think about how the actor uses his voice, facial expressions and what is said].
- What are the differences between using a video actor and an original document to find out about the past?

Report to Archbishop Laud

Catalogue Ref: SP 16/422/113



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So the most Rewrntd Father in god
William Lord Archbushope of Cant: his
grace etc / 200

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W^m whose names are here underwritten are bound
most humbly to certify your Grace that upon the
last day of this instant May one Jaude Marston
of Burnham in the County of Bucty gent did give any
rebutation or cause offered unto him did speake these
words of yo^r Grace followinge þis I dare not say my
Lord of Canterbury for he hath byn the occasion of
this strife betwixt the Scotts and vs and I can
not yf hee heard mo^r in þe words wee contyning
þe were spoken in derogation of yo^r Grace shoues þ^e
þe gildes bound to certify yo^r Grace therof And
for the truth wherof wee shall be ready to justify
the same by oþer whon wee shall be required
þerefore M^r þis þridde mon^þ wee do most humbly
þyse to yo^r Graces most reverend Consideracion

Dated Ultimo Maij
1639.

1639

D. G. J. Schlesier
20. 10. 1822

Samuel: Hull

Edward Bray

Col. Morris

Gab: Yorks³
10 affid.

John affeſtſid

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Transcript: Report to Archbishop Laud

Report to Archbishop Laud from informers, 31 May 1639, Catalogue ref: SP 16/422/113

To the most Reverend ffather in god, William Lord, [Laud] Archbishopp of [Canterbury] his grace etc.

Wee whose names are here underwritten are bound most humbly to certify your Grace that uppon the last day of this instant May one James Machison of Burnsham in the County of Bucks gent without any provocation or cause offered unto him did speake theis words of your Grace followinge vizt (I care not for my Lord of Canterbury for hee hath byn the occation of this strife betweene the Scotts and us and I care not yf hee heard mee) which words wee conceivinge to bee spoken in derogation of your Grace thought ourselves bound to certify your Grace thereof, And for the truth whereof wee shalbee ready to iustify the same by oath when wee shall bee thereunto required Which nevertheles wee most humbly leave to your Grace's most reverend consideration.

Dated ultimo May 1639

R.J. Duseley

Samuel Hutt

Edward Bray

Gab [Gabriel] Yongs

Simplified transcript: Report to Archbishop Laud

To the most Reverend father in god, William Laud Archbishop of Canterbury his grace.

We whose names are here written below are bound most humbly to certify your Grace that on the last day of May, James Machison of Burnham in the County of Buckinghamshire, gentleman, without being provoked, said of your Grace: "I care not for my Lord of Canterbury for he has been the cause of this conflict between the Scots and us, and I care not if he heard me." As these words were critical of your Grace, we thought we should tell you of them. We are ready to swear by oath if your Grace thinks it is necessary in his opinion.

Dated last day of May

Civil war person - Bishop

Why was there opposition to changes made to the Anglican Church by 1642?

Introduction

In 1633 Charles appointed William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury. Charles and Laud held similar views on the Anglican Church (the Church of England). They both wanted the clergy (ordinary priests) and bishops (senior churchmen) to have more power and importance. For example, Charles appointed a bishop, Bishop Juxon, as Lord Treasurer. He also tried to force nobles who had taken over church lands in the 1500s to give them back to the church.

By the 1630s most churches in England were plain and undecorated. Most services were simple. They involved readings from the Bible with a priest preaching and teaching. Laud was concerned that many ordinary people found the services dull. He brought in services that involved more music and ceremony. Priests were allowed to wear decorated robes. Paintings, crosses, statues and stained glass windows were allowed in the churches. Laud also brought in a new prayer book.

Many ordinary people, nobles and gentry approved of these measures. By 1640 they felt that churches were attractive, but not too showy. They felt that church services were serious, but not too dull and boring. The church dealt harshly with people or groups who had different or extreme religious ideas. The gentry approved of this because it meant that everyone knew their place in society. Many people liked their new Anglican Church and were prepared to fight to defend it.

On the other hand, Laud's changes also caused a huge amount of opposition. Many local lords and gentry did not want to give lands back to the church. They also disliked clergy being given important jobs in the government instead of them. The loudest critics of all were the Puritans. Puritans were extreme Protestants.

Tasks

Watch video of our actor playing the role of the Bishop

Document activity: Read the document background, the document and answer the questions which follow. You can use the transcript and simplified transcript to help.

Civil war person - Bishop

Document activity

This report was sent from Shrewsbury to Sir John Coke on 4 May 1639 by a local judge. Coke was Secretary of State to Charles I, Catalogue ref: SP 16/420/48.

In 1639 Charles I's kingdoms were very tense. Charles was facing a major rebellion in Scotland. There was also tension in England. One of the biggest concerns was religion. The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, was bringing in changes to the English church that some people were against.

During the 1630s Charles I and William Laud brought in new types of church services. Charles also gave greater power and wealth to the church. To some Protestants (especially hard-line Protestants, called Puritans), his actions seemed to be making the Church of England more like the Roman Catholic Church. They began to criticise Charles. Charles I had no time for opponents of his policies.

Charles ordered his officials to look out for people who might oppose him. The person being reported in this source was probably a Puritan who was against the changes that Charles and William Laud were bringing into the church.

Questions

- What is the judge sending to Sir John Coke?
- Do you think the alehouse keeper and his wife really found the poem in the road?
- Try to guess, what does this poem mean when it talks about bishops? Which 'bishop' might it be referring to?
- What does this poem mean when it says: 'we are of great might, we mean to make you a bloody fight'? Who will fight whom?
- Does this source give us any clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?
- According to our bishop video character, why did puritans say that the church was no longer a 'place of simple worship' and under Archbishop Laud?
- What makes this video an 'interpretation' of a bishop? [Think about how the actor uses his voice, facial expressions and what is said].
- What are the differences between using a video actor and an original document to find out about the past?

Report to Sir John Coke

Catalogue Ref: SP 16/422/113



(Ho: S:)

164

48

May it please ys to be adverstised that this m[is]liefed note (having
the time of receipt indorsed upon it of myne owne hand
writing) was deliuied to me at Shrewsbury by one Mr:
Thomas Jones a young attorneye living there who
receaved it that day off one Doug an old housekeeper
who receaved it off his ~~wife~~ wife who upon her ex-
amination alldgith she found it in a roome neare leading
towards Shrewsbury the writer is not yet to be discouered
nor any abbotter therethrough Now S: I being a Justice of
peaces in the towne and County of Salop and obseruing
towards the end of his Maj: proclamation against the
Scots that things of that nature are to be sent to
one off his Maj: Secretaries hand according to
my duty sent it to yd house and will god --
willing doe my best endeavor to discouer the
writer And soe I seal my hand and rest

Shrewsbury this
4th of May
1639

At yd houses command

Lord blesse this our xvj day
and yole out all the Bishoppes eyas
and now we are of greate might
We mon to make you a bloody fight



1639 375 B

Transcript: Report to Sir John Coke

A rude poem sent to Sir John Coke, 4 May 1639, Catalogue ref: SP 16/420/48

[The letter]

May it please you to be advertised that this inclosed note (haveing the time of receipt indorsed upon it of mine owne hand writing) was delivered to me at Shewsbury by one Mr Thomas Jones a young utter barrister liveing there who recaved it that day of one Tong an Alehousekeeper who received it of his wife who upon her examinacion alledgedeth she found it in a comon road leading towards Shrewsbury the writer is not yet to be discovered nor any abbetter thereof. Now Sir I being a Justice of Peace in the towne and County of Salop [Shropshire] and observing towards the end of His Majesties proclamation against the Scotts that things of that nature are to be sent to one of his Majesties Secretaries have according to my duty sent it your hand and will God willing doe my best endeavor to discover the Arthor. ...

[The note]

Lord blesse this our potata pie

And peeple out all the Bishope eyes

And now we are of great might

Wee mene to make you a bloody fight

Simplified transcript: Report to Sir John Coke

A rude poem sent to Sir John Coke, 4 May 1639

[The letter]

May it please you to know that this enclosed note (with the time of receipt on it in my own handwriting) was delivered to me at Shrewsbury by Mr Thomas Jones, a young trainee lawyer living there. He received it that day from Tong, an alehouse keeper, who got it from his wife, who said she found it in a road leading towards Shrewsbury. The writer is not yet found, nor anyone who helped the writer. Now Sir, I am a Justice of the Peace in the town and county of Shropshire. Seeing towards the end of His Majesty's announcement against the Scots that things of this nature are to be sent to one of His Majesty's secretaries, according to my duty, I have sent it to you. God willing, I will do my best to discover the author. ...

[The note]

Lord bless this our potato pie

And pull out all the Bishop's eyes

And now we are of great might

We mean to make you a bloody fight

Civil War People: Why did people go to war in 1642?

Character	Reasons given for the outbreak of the Civil Wars
Charles I	
Scottish Covenanter	
Irishman	
Bishop	
Puritan	

Quiz

Watch the all videos, then answer the quiz questions.

1. Archbishop Laud's changes to the Church of England were unpopular with Puritans for three of the four points. Find the odd one out:
 - A. Churches were decorated with candles and crosses.
 - B. The services are no longer simple
 - C. There was less music and singing
 - D. The churches seemed to be becoming more "Catholic".
2. Which group was behind the execution of the Earl Strafford?
 - A. Presbyterians
 - B. Catholics
 - C. Puritans
 - D. Clubmen
3. Pick two points which show that events in Scotland caused the outbreak of war:
 - A. The Scots rebelled against the English Prayer book
 - B. Scotland supported the Irish Rebellion.
 - C. The Scots were against a system of bishops.
 - D. The Scots forced the King to call parliament to demand more taxes to raise an army.
4. What was the main reason for the Irish rebellion?
 - A. The Irish wanted to end the settlement of Protestants in Ireland.
 - B. The Irish were acting as spies for the Pope.
 - C. The Irish wanted to bring back the Catholic faith in England.
 - D. They wanted to unite the Catholics living in England and seize power.

Quiz

5. Pick two reasons why some people felt Charles I could not be trusted:
 - A. Charles I believed in his rights as king
 - B. He was acting above the law in his attempt to arrest 5 members of the House of Commons
 - C. Charles I was misled by his advisers
 - D. Charles I had demanded ship money and other taxes without asking Parliament

6. The differences of opinion shared by the characters in the video show us that the causes for the outbreak of war in 1642 were
 - A. Straight forward.
 - B. Mostly based on different religious viewpoints
 - C. Due to the fact that Charles chose his ministers unwisely.
 - D. Based on a wide range of factors

Quiz answers:

1. B - The services are no longer simple
2. B - Catholics
3. A - The Scots rebelled against the English Prayer book.
C - The Scots were against a system of bishops.
4. A - The Irish wanted to end the settlement of Protestants in Ireland.
5. C - Charles I was misled by his advisers
D - Charles I had demanded ship money and other taxes without asking Parliament
6. D - Based on a wide range of factors



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

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The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our Onsite Workshops are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our Online Workshops allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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