

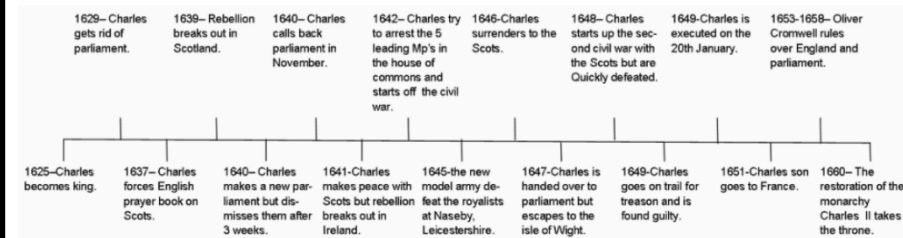
100% Sheet

Contested power: Who 'turned the world upside down' in the English Civil war?

Background information

The Stuart era began when James I, who was also James VI of Scotland, succeeded Elizabeth I. James's ascension joined the two long-warring nations of England and Scotland. The Stuart period witnessed religious and political conflicts, which shifted power from the monarchy to parliament. Meanwhile, discoveries and innovations transformed science, architecture and everyday life.

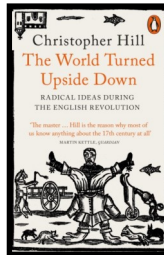
Timeline



Secondary interpretation/ debate about period

"Seven years of fighting between Charles' supporters and Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentarians claimed the lives of thousands, and ultimately, of the King himself. Charles was convicted of treason and executed on 30 January 1649 outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall. As a King, Charles I was disastrous; as a man, he faced his death with courage and dignity. His trial and execution were the first of their kind, and truly **turned the world upside down** "

Christopher Hill, author of 'The World Turned Upside Down;



Key knowledge 1:

Who were the Stuarts?

- James I united the crowns of England and Scotland
- Guy Fawkes' attempt to blow up Parliament in 1605 produced an anti-Catholic reaction, which gave James a temporary popularity which soon dissipated.
- James was a strong advocate of royal absolutism, and his conflicts with an increasingly self-assertive Parliament set the stage for the rebellion against his successor, Charles I.



Key knowledge 2:

What was the significance of the English Civil War?

- Charles' regime had become unpopular due to his 'personal rule', dubious use of finance and suspicious religious policies (influenced by his wife Henrietta Maria)
- Royalist and Cavalier forces formed, numbering each around 60-70,000 men.
- Charles, with his headquarters in Oxford, enjoyed support in the north and west of England. Parliament controlled the wealthier areas in the south and east of England .
- Until Marston Moor, the war was fairly even, but the emergence of the New Model Army, a modern fighting force, led to Charles' execution on January 30th 1649

Key knowledge 3:

How popular was the 'Protectorate'?

- Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell's actions in both England (Puritan government) and Ireland (at Drogheda & Wexford) were deeply unpopular. Upon his death, the monarchy was restored