British Civil War – Time Line and Events

[**1640**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1640.htm)

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| Apr 13 | [King Charles I](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/charles1.htm) summons the Short Parliament, bringing his eleven-year [Personal Rule](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/personal-rule.htm) to an end. |
| May 5 | The King dissolves the [Short Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/short-parliament.htm) when MPs refuse to grant him subsidies for war against Scotland. |
| Aug 28  | The Scots defeat the English army at the battle of Newburn.  |
| Oct 25 | The Treaty of Ripon ends the [Bishops' Wars](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/bishops-wars.htm). |
| Nov 3 | Desperately short of money, King Charles summons the [Long Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/long-parliament.htm). |
| Nov 11 | The [Earl of Strafford](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/strafford.htm) impeached by Parliament.  |
| Dec 7  | The House of Commons declares ship-money to be an illegal tax. |
| Dec 18 | Impeachment of [Archbishop Laud](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/laud.htm). |

[**1641**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1641.htm)

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| Feb 16 | The Triennial Act passed, guaranteeing that Parliament will be called at least once every three years. |
| Mar 22  | Opening of the trial of the Earl of Strafford.  |
| May 10 | The King reluctantly assents to the [act of attainder](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/impeachment-attainder.htm) against the Earl of Strafford. |
| May 12 | Execution of the Earl of Strafford. |
| Jul 5  | Parliament abolishes the courts of High Commission and Star Chamber; the Council of Wales and the North abolished; powers of the Privy Council suppressed.  |
| Sep 1  | The House of Commons passes a resolution for the destruction of altar rails, crucifixes and other 'innovations' introduced under the Laudian reforms.  |
| Oct 23 | News of the [Irish Uprising](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/irish-uprising-1641.htm) reaches London. |
| Dec 1 | The [Grand Remonstrance](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/grand-remonstrance.htm) presented to King Charles at Hampton Court. |
| Dec 27-9 | Riots at Westminster against bishops and papists.  |

[**1642**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1642.htm)

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| Jan 4 | The King fails in his attempt to arrest the [Five Members](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/five-members.htm) regarded as his leading opponents in Parliament. |
| Jan 10 | Popular support for Parliament forces the King and royal family to leave London. |
| Feb 12  | The King refuses to surrender control of the militia to Parliament.  |
| Mar 5 | Parliament passes the [Militia Ordinance](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/militia-ordinance.htm), despite the King's objections.  |
| Mar 19  | King Charles sets up his court at York. |
| Apr 23 | Sir John Hotham prevents the King and his entourage from entering [Hull](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1642-yorkshire.htm), the site of England's main northern arsenal. |
| Jun 1 | The [Nineteen Propositions](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/nineteen-propositions.htm) passed by Parliament, requiring the King to give up control of the militia and the right to appoint ministers. |
| Jun 18  | The King rejects the Nineteen Propositions. |
| Jul 2  | The fleet declares for Parliament and accepts the [Earl of Warwick](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/warwick.htm) as its Admiral.  |
| Jul 10  | The first military action of the English Civil War takes place when a Royalist raiding party approaches Hull to burn down buildings outside the town walls, but is driven away by gunfire from the defenders.  |
| Jul 12  | Parliament resolves to raise an army. The [Earl of Essex](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/essex.htm) commissioned Captain-General.  |
| Aug 22 | King Charles raises the royal standard at Nottingham Castle. King and Parliament now at war.  |
| Nov 29  | The King's army withdraws to Oxford which remains the Royalist capital for the rest of the war.  |
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[**1643**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1643.htm)

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| Feb 1 | Peace negotiations open at Oxford. |
| Apr 14 | Oxford peace negotiations break down. |
| Sep 15 | The [Marquis of Ormond](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/ormond.htm) signs a one-year cease-fire with the Irish Confederates, allowing troops stationed in Ireland to return to England and fight for the King. |
| Sep 25 | The signing of the [Solemn League and Covenant](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/solemn-league-covenant.htm) secures a military alliance between the English Parliament and the Scottish Covenanters. |
| Dec 8 | Death of [John Pym](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/pym.htm). |

[**1644**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1644.htm)

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| Jan 19  | The [Scottish invasion](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1644-north.htm): the Army of the Covenant crosses the River Tweed and marches into England.  |
| Jan 22  | [King Charles](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/charles1.htm) formally opens the [Oxford Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/oxford-parliament.htm).  |
| Feb 16  | The [Committee for Both Kingdoms](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/committee-both-kingdoms.htm) formed to co-ordinate the Parliamentarian and Scottish armies. |
| Apr 20  | Allied Parliamentarian and Scottish armies besiege [York](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1644-york-march-marston-moor.htm).  |
| May 16 | Prince Rupert marches for the relief of York. |
| Jul 2 | [Battle of Marston Moor](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1644-york-march-marston-moor.htm#marston): Royalist power in the north of England ended. |
| Aug 30 | The [Marquis of Montrose](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1644-5-montrose-scotland.htm) raises his standard in Scotland. |
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| Nov 25  | [Oliver Cromwell](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/oliver-cromwell.htm) presents his complaints against the leadership of the [Earl of Manchester](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/manchester.htm) in the House of Commons.  |
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[**1645**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1645.htm)

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| Jan 10 | Execution of [Archbishop Laud](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/laud.htm). |
| Jan 29 | Opening of the [Uxbridge Treaty](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/uxbridge-treaty.htm) negotiations between representatives of the King, Parliament and the Scots. |
| Feb 17 | [New Model Army](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/new-model-army.htm) Ordinance passed by the House of Lords. |
| Apr 30  | [Sir Thomas Fairfax](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/fairfax.htm) marches from Windsor with the main body of the New Model Army to raise the siege of Taunton.  |
| Jun 14 | [Battle of Naseby](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1645-leicester-naseby.htm#naseby): the New Model Army inflicts a crushing defeat on the King's army. |
| Sep 11 | Fall of [Bristol](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1645-langport-bristol.htm#bristol) to the New Model Army. Prince Rupert in disgrace. |

[**1646**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1646.htm)

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| May 3  | The New Model Army besieges Oxford.  |
| May 5 | King Charles surrenders to the Covenanter army at Newark. |
| Jun 24 | Surrender of Oxford. |

[**1647**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1647.htm)

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| Jan 30 | The Scots surrender the King to Parliament. |
| Aug 6 | The Army occupies London. |
| Oct 28 | Beginning of the [Putney Debates](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/putney-debates.htm) between the [Levellers](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/levellers.htm) and the army Grandees. |
| Nov 11 | The King escapes from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight. |
| Dec 25  | Riots in London, Ipswich and Canterbury against Parliament's suppression of Christmas celebrations.  |
| Dec 26 | The King signs the [Engagement](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/engager.htm) with the Scots. |
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[**1648**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1648.htm)

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| Feb 22  | [Colonel Poyer](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/poyer.htm) refuses to obey Parliament's order to disband his troops until their arrears are paid.  |
| Mar 23 | Colonel Poyer declares for the King in Pembroke. |
| Apr | Pro-Royalist riots in London and Norwich  |
| May 12  | Pro-Royalist rioters sieze the county magazine at Bury St Edmunds.  |
| May 21 | Rebellion against Parliament breaks out in Kent. |
| Aug 17 | Battle of [Preston](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1648-preston.htm); Hamilton's Engagers defeated by Cromwell. |
| Sep 18 | Presbyterian MPs attempt a treaty with the King at [Newport](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/treaty-newport.htm). |
| Dec 2 | The Army occupies London. |
| Dec 6 | [Pride's Purge](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/prides-purge.htm). |

[**1649**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1649.htm)

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| Jan 6 | The [Rump Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/rump-parliament.htm) assumes full legislative powers. |
| Jan 20 | [Trial of Charles I](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/trial-king-charles.htm) begins. |
| Jan 30 | King Charles beheaded. |

[**1649**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1649.htm)

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| Feb 5 | [Charles II](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/charles2.htm) proclaimed in Edinburgh. |
| Feb 13 Mar 28May 19Sep 20 | Parliament sets up the [Council of State](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/council-state.htm) to rule in place of the Monarchy and the House of Lords.Arrest of [Leveller](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/levellers.htm) leaders for sedition.England declared a "Commonwealth and free state", with the House of Commons as supreme authority in the landAct outlawing the publication of unlicensed books, pamphlets and newsbooks passed |
| Aug 15  | [Oliver Cromwell](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/oliver-cromwell.htm) arrives in [Ireland](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1649-52-cromwell-ireland.htm). |
| Sep 11 | Storming and massacre of [Drogheda](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/ireland-1649-drogheda.htm#drogheda). |

[**1650**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1650.htm)

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| Mar 26May 1 | A new High Court of Justice set up with powers to condemn to death anyone acting against the interests of the CommonwealthCharles signs the [Treaty of Breda](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/treaty-breda.htm), securing an alliance with the Scottish Presbyterians. |
| May 27  | Cromwell leaves Ireland, having secured most of Ulster, Leinster and Munster for the Commonwealth. |
| Jun 23 | Charles arrives in Scotland and takes the Covenant. |
|   | Cromwell appointed commander of the army to invade Scotland. |
| Jul 22 | Cromwell crosses the border into Scotland. |
| Sep 3 | Battle of [Dunbar](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1650-dunbar.htm); Cromwell routs the Scots. |
| Dec 24 | Edinburgh surrenders to Cromwell. |

[**1651**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1651.htm)

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| Jan 1 | Charles II crowned at Scone. |
| Aug 1 | Cromwell advances on Perth, deliberately leaving the road to England open. |
| Aug 5 | Charles and his Covenanter allies invade England. |
| Sep 3 | Battle of [Worcester](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1651-worcester.htm); Cromwell defeats Charles and the Scots. |
| Oct 13 | Charles escapes to France. (By hiding in an Oak tree) |

[**1652**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1652.htm)

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| Jan 17  | Parliament appoints commissioners to investigate reform of the legal system.  |
| Aug 2  | Petition of Army officers calls for religious and financial reforms, the dissolution of the present Parliament and elections for a new representative. |
| Aug 12 | Parliament passes the Act for the [Settlement of Ireland](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/settlement-ireland.htm). |

[**1653**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1653.htm)

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| Jan 28  | The Council of Officers appeals to the Army for support in ensuring political and religious reform.  |
| Apr 20 | Cromwell dissolves the [Rump Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/rump-parliament.htm#dissolution). |
| Dec 12 | The Nominated Assembly surrenders its powers to Cromwell. |
| Dec 16 | Cromwell installed as Lord Protector. |

[**1654**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1654.htm)

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| Apr 8  | General [Monck](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/monck.htm) appointed commander of Commonwealth forces in Scotland.  |
| Apr 12 | Ordinance for the [union of England and Scotland](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/settlement-scotland.htm). |
| Aug 28 | Commission of Ejectors appointed to expel inadequate ministers and schoolmasters. |
| Sep 3 | [First Protectorate Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/protectorate-parliament-1.htm) assembles. |
| Oct | Petition of the Three Colonels (Alured, Okey and Saunders), protesting that the [*Instrument of Government*](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/instrument-government.htm) gives Cromwell greater powers than the King. |
| Dec 25 | The [Western Design](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/anglo-spanish-war-western-design.htm) launched — English attack on Spanish colonies in the West Indies. |

[**1655**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1655.htm)

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| Jan 22 | Cromwell dissolves the First Protectorate Parliament. |
| Oct 15  | The Council of State declares its support for Cromwell's policy of [war with Spain](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/anglo-spanish-war.htm).  |
| Oct 24 | Commercial treaty signed between the Protectorate and France. |
| Oct 31  | [Rule of the Major-Generals](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/rule-major-generals.htm) proclaimed in England and Wales. The country is divided into 12 districts under military jurisdiction. |

[**1656**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1656.htm)

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| Apr 2  | [Charles II](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/charles2.htm) signs an alliance with Spain against the Protectorate. |
| Sep 17 | [Second Protectorate Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/protectorate-parliament-2.htm) assembles. |
| Oct 1  | Parliament approves the war with Spain.  |

[**1657**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1657.htm)

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| Feb 23 | The [*Humble Petition and Advice*](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/humblepetition.htm)presented to Parliament despite opposition from the Army. Offer of the Crown to Cromwell. |
| May 8 | Cromwell formally refuses the Crown. |
| May 25 | A revised version of *The Humble Petition and Advice*, avoiding mention of the royal title, passed by Parliament. |
| Jun 26 | Cromwell's second installation as Lord Protector under a new constitution in a ceremony reminiscent of a royal coronation. |

[**1658**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1658.htm)

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| Sep 3 | Death of Oliver Cromwell; his son Richard accepted as his successor by the Council of Officers and the Army. |
| Sep 4  | [Richard Cromwell](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/richard-cromwell.htm) proclaimed Oliver's successor in London and throughout England.  |

[**1659**](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/timelines/1659.htm)

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| May 7  | Richard forced by the Council of Officers to reinstate the [Rump Parliament](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/rump-parliament.htm#recalled). |
| May 19  | Parliament elects a new [Council of State](http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/glossary/council-state.htm). |
| May 24  | Resignation of Richard Cromwell: end of the Protectorate. |