

Learning Curve
Education Service Workshops

Key Stage 3

The English Civil Wars:

Whose side are you on?



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Teacher's notes

Aims of workshop:

This videoconference aims to help students investigate and understand the causes of the English Civil Wars. Students will take part in a debate with actors playing the roles of Puritan Adam Wright and Royalist Bishop Richard Hyde, to discuss the different views of the causes behind these events.

Documents

- **Document: John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263. Published in London**
A petition from the citizens of London, September 1640
- **Document: SP 16/ 427/ 32**
A legal complaint made by Sir Richard Strode about 'ship money', August 1639
- **Document: by permission of the British Library, E.365 (6)**
An engraving of a protest in Edinburgh in 1637
- **Document: SP 45/ 10/ 225**
An announcement from Charles to the people of Scotland, May 1639
- **Document: SP 16/ 485/ 58**
Report of rebellion in Ireland, November 1641
- **Document: SP 16/ 474/ 8**
A document setting out the wishes of Parliament, December 1640
- **Document: SP 16/ 488/ 25**
Charles' I speech to Parliament demanding the five MPs but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642
- **Document: SP 16/ 488/ 52**
A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of the 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th January 1642

Resources

- **Resource 1:** This worksheet can be used to help students plan their arguments for debate
- **Resource 2:** [Video clips](#) of reconstructions using actors, giving their opinion about the causes of the English Civil Wars.

Preparation activity

Students must have completed this activity before the workshop, so that they are fully prepared for the session.

To prepare for the videoconference, divide the class into two for debate. Half of the students should assume the roles of Puritans, and the other half should take the roles of Royalists.

Give students a copy of the worksheet and a copy of *A petition from the citizens of London*, taken from Rushworth's collections. Students should identify the main arguments for the causes of the English Civil Wars in this document. Puritans will support the arguments set out in this document, whilst Royalists will object to these points.

The four main points of debate as listed in the Petition are:

- Taxes: Ship money and trade
- Religion
- Foreign affairs: Scotland, Ireland
- Parliament

For example:

Point 1: Taxes: Ship money and trade

A Puritan might argue:

- That ship money is outdated
- It should not include inland areas
- People should not be punished for refusing to pay unfair taxes
- Many MPs have fought against ship money, and that some officials will not collect it

A Royalist might argue:

- It is not a new tax, but a traditional tax
- It is for the protection of the Kingdom
- If people do not pay taxes, they should be punished
- How can the King make money if Parliament won't support the taxes

Once students have identified the main points for debate from the Petition, they should then be given opportunity to study the other documents included in this pack to further support their argument.

The workshop

The videoconference will introduce students to Puritan Adam Wright and Royalist Bishop Richard Hyde. They will begin the session by briefly explaining their position on the current situation with King and Parliament. They will then invite a student from each side, Puritan and Royalist, to start the debate, by putting forward their arguments. The actors will help students to develop these points, and will encourage interaction between the two sides.

Background information

The document *A petition from the citizens of London*, September 1640 is taken from John Rushworth's 'Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640'.

Rushworth joined the side of Cromwell in his criticism of King Charles I. In 1641, he became Secretary to the General of the New Model Army and Secretary to the Council of War. He accompanied General Fairfax was present at celebrations to mark the end of the Civil War in 1648. Rushworth was involved in organising the King's trial and later, his execution. After the death of Charles I, he became Oliver Cromwell's personal secretary. Rushworth's 'Historical Collections' was completed in 1659 and was dedicated to Richard Cromwell.

For further information about John Rushworth, visit:

<http://www.rushworth.com/jr/index.html>

Suggested follow-up activity

Students can visit the Learning Curve exhibition on the [English Civil Wars](#), where they will find further documents and video clips. They can evaluate the reliability of the video reconstructions, considering the points raised about the causes of war, and how well these points are backed up by the original sources.

Knowledge, skills, and understanding

- Knowledge and understanding of events, people, and changes in the past.
- Historical interpretation.
- Historical enquiry.
- Organisation and communication.

QCA Schemes of work

Unit 8 - Section 3: How do historians disagree about the cause of the civil wars?

Useful links

[Learning Curve exhibition: Civil War](#)

[More information on our workshops](#)

[Book a workshop](#)

Please note that some of 'The English Civil Wars' workshops are advertised and booked on the [Global Leap website](#)

Document: John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263.
Published in London, 1680-1701

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 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, Im-
porting, 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 where-
by Trade in the City and other parts of the Kingdom is much de-
cayed.

3. The fundry Innovations in matter of Religion.

4. The Oath and Canons lately enjoyed by the late Convoca-
tion 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 op-
portunity of Plotting and Executing their designs against the Re-
ligion established.

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

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

Z z z z z z z

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 Petiti-
oners, 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 de-
cay of Navigation, and Cloathing, and the Manufactures of this
Kingdom.

Transcript: John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263. Published in London, 1680-1701)

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 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.

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 Inhabitations 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 suddain 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: John Rushworth, Historical Collections, Vol III, 1639-1640, p.1263. Published in London, 1680-1701)

A petition from the citizens of London, September 1640

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:

(point 1) 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.

(point 2) 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.]

(point 3) The many changes in matters of religion.

(point 4) The recent changes in church rules which mean we may be deprived of our ministers.

(point 5) The great crowd of Catholics living in London and the suburbs, where they have more means and opportunity of plotting against the established religion.

(point 6) The seldom calling and sudden ending of Parliaments, without sorting out your subjects' complaints.

(point 7) 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.

(point 8) 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.

Document: SP 16/427/32

A legal complaint made by Sir Richard Strode about 'ship money', August 1639

Source a

THE PAPERS
We shew that whereas it is
enacted 34. Ed. 1. That we, taking
or shal be layd, or Levyed
by the King, or by the King, with
out the good will, and assent
of the Lord, and Commoners
And whereas 25. Ed. 3. its enacted
that from thenceforth none shall
be compelled to make any Levy
to the King agt his will,

Source b

... and notwithstanding con-
trary to the Law, and Libertie,
and how, worth 4. 10. 0. be-
ing the good of Sir Richard Strode
of Spintou St Mary in the
County Rut, by Col of an unlaw-
full, and unreasonable rate made
by Simon Held a Cant, & other,
way by Thomas how a Douglas
bles of the said Spanish taken, and
sold for the Kings Majesty, for
on 23. Marty last at New-
ingham in the said Spanish to
raye Rate made for the setting
forth of shipping without con-
sent in Parliament.
Rich. Strode

Transcript: SP 16/427/32

A legal complaint made by Sir Richard Strode about 'ship money', August 1639

Source a

We present that whereas it is enacted 34.Ed.1. that noe tallage or ayd shall be layd or levyed by the King, or his Heyrs, with out the good will, and Assent of the Lords, and Commons &c And whereas 25.Ed.3. its enacted that from thenceforth none shall be compelled to make any Loanes to the King against his will, ...

Source b

yet nevertheless contrary to the said Lawes, and Liberties, one Cow worth 4l 10s 0 being the Goods of Sir Richard Strode of Plimton St Mary in this county of Kent, by colour of an unlawfull and unreasonable Rates made Symon Hele, a Guard & others was by Thomas Row a Constable of the said parish taken, and sold for the Kings Majesties Service on 23d Marlij last at Newingham in the sayd parish to rayse Rates made, for the setting forth of Shipping without Consent in Parliament.

Richard Stroade

Simplified transcript

Source a

Laws were passed in the reign of Edward I that no tax shall be taken by the king or his heirs without the good will and agreement of the Lords and Commons. In the reign of Edward III another law said that no one shall be forced to make any loans to the king against his will, ...

Source b

Yet contrary to these laws and freedoms, one cow worth £4 10 shillings, belonging to Sir Richard Strode of Plimton St Mary in the county of Kent, because of unlawful and unreasonable taxes made by Symon Hele, a guard, and others, was taken by Constable Thomas Row and sold for the king's service on 23rd March at Newingham to raise money for shipping, without the consent of Parliament.

Richard Strode

Document: by permission of the British Library, E.365 (6)

An engraving of a protest in Edinburgh in 1637



Transcript

The Arch-Prelate of St Andrewes in Scotland reading the new Service-booke in his pontificalibus assaulted by men & women, with Cricketts Stooles Sticks and Stones

Simplified transcript

The archbishop of St Andrews in Scotland reading the new service book, assaulted by men & women with footstools, stools, sticks and stones.

Document: SP 45/10/225

An announcement from Charles to the people of Scotland, May 1639



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 concerne, Greeting. Whereas we are thus farre advanced in Our Royall Person with Our Armie, and the attendance of Our Nobilitie and Sentry 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 satisfacti- on in Parliament, as soone as the present disorders, and tumultuous proceedings of some there, are quieted; and will leave Us a faire way of coming 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 Pro- testation: That if all civill and temporall obedience be effectually and timely given and shew- 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 Troups, 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 superiour Officers of the same, respectibely to proceede against them as Rebels, 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.



Imprinted at Newcastle by Robert Barker, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the
Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1639.

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Transcript: SP 45/10/225

An announcement from Charles to the people of Scotland, May 1639

An announcement from Charles to the people of Scotland, May 1639

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 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 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 Troups, 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

An announcement from Charles to the people of Scotland, May 1639

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 (that contrary to 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.

Document: SP 16/ 485/ 58

Report of rebellion in Ireland, November 1641

The Treason being thus discover'd
did spread a panic through out the north of Ireland
where the Rebellion first began, and in several
places in several bodies and of the papist oppo-
site armies; about 10 thousand men, with both
much people, the poor protestants, and great
fears whether they shall be able, either to
suppress or resist them. Whereupon our
parliament hath ordered my Lord of Londonderry
Lieutenant, & all other Councils to use speedily
to repair thither. & do furnish 50 thousand
pounds to raise along with them, with the City
of London adventures for providing of men &
arms to serve that Kingdom. In some
places the Villains have shed, & committed
great outrages; and taken some Castles and
places of strength, but if they had taken
Dublin, upon the earth I'm? have sufficed
in a short time they would not have left
a protestant alive in the whole Kingdom.
But God in his mercy hath prevented that
slaughter, & hath turned parts of it upon
their selves. The Traitors and out-
laws

late Tyrant of the Lord of Strafford
upon God moved them to it, and that
by the example of the Scots; they
hoped to purchase such privileges; by
this means in their Religion, and
otherwise they would ^{expect} have
granted to them

Transcript: SP 16/ 485/ 58

Report of rebellion in Ireland, November 1641

The Treason being thus discovered did spread apace through out 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 suppress or resist them. Whereupon our parlament hath addressed my Lord of Leicester Lord Lieutenant & all other Comaunders here ever speedily to repara thither & doe furnish 50 thowsand powns 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 leeffte a Protestant alive in the wholle kingdome but God in his Mercy hath prevaented that slaughter & hath turned parte of it upon them selves. 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

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.

Document: SP 16/474/8

A document setting out the wishes of Parliament, December 1640

1. whatsoever is declared by y^e 2 houses binds y^e Archbishops
y^e B^{is} of y^e Councell and all other Courts of Justice.

2. y^e y^e King hath not power to lay any imposition upon forayne
(much lesse home-borne) commodities though wth consent
of y^e merchants without Consent of Parliament.

3. y^e y^e clergy though by y^e Kings Consent and wth his Confirmation
can make no Constitutions or Canons to bind y^e clergy (much
lesse the laity) without Consent of Parliament. *ex Confreg²*
y^e King alone can not doe it without such consent. *See Ord^{er} of the
Commons Journall
11 p^{er} 1st*

4. y^e of right we ought to have Parliament once or twice a
year.

5. y^e dissolving of Parlt^{ment} suddaynly without redressing y^e
grievances Complaynd of is a great grievance.

Transcript: SP 16/474/8

A document setting out the wishes of Parliament, December 1640

1. whatsoever is declared by the 2 houses binds the starchamber the Lords of your Councell and all other Courts of Justice.
2. that the king hath not power to lay an imposition upon forayne (much lesse home bred) commodities though with consent of the merchants without Consent of Parliament.
3. that the clergy though by the Kings Consent and with his Confirmation can make no Constitution or Canons to bind the clergy (much lesse the laity) without consent of Parliament. Ex consequenti the King alone can not doe it without such consent.
4. that of right we ought to have Parliaments one or twice a yeare.
5. that dissolving of Parliaments suddaynly without redressing the greivances Complayned of is a great greivance.

Simplified transcript:

1. Whatever the two Houses of Parliament agree binds the Star Chamber, the Lords of your Council, and all other Courts of Justice.
2. The king does not have the power to tax foreign (or home made) goods, even with the consent of the merchants, without the consent of Parliament
3. The clergy, even with the king's consent, can make no laws or rules to bind the clergy (or the ordinary people) without consent of Parliament. The king alone cannot do this without Parliament's consent.
4. Of right, we ought to have Parliaments one or twice a year.
5. Dissolving of Parliaments suddenly, without setting right the complaints, is a great cause of complaint.

Document: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5M.P's but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642.

15 of 25
Gentlemen: I am sorry for this occasion ~~to~~ ^(coming)
unto you; yesterday I sent a serg^t wth arms & upon
a very important occasion, to apprehend some that
by my commaund, were accused of high Treason, where-
unto I did expect obedience and not a message.
And I must declare unto you here, ^{that altho} no King that ever was
in England, shall be more Carefull of yo^r priviledges, ~~to~~
maintaine them to the uttermost of his power than I shall ~~be~~.
yet you must know y^t in Cases of Treason no person hath a
priviledge; And therefore I am come to know, if any of
those persons that were accused are here.
Then ~~fasting his eyes upon all the Members in the House, said,~~
~~I doe not see any of them; if thinke I should know them~~
^{for} I must tell you gent: that so long as these persons, that I haue
accused (for noe slight crime, but for Treason), are here, I
cannot expect that this House, can be in the right way, that
I doe heartily wish it: Therefore I am come to tell you,
that I must have them, where so ever I finde them;
then his ma^{ties} said is Mr Pym. here to wh noe body gave
Answer ~~well~~, since I see All ~~the~~ ^{the} Birds are flowne I
doe expect from you, that you shall send them unto mee, as
soone as they returne hither: ~~I must tell you in the word of a~~
King: I never did intend any force, but shall proceed ag^t them
in a legall & faire way: for I never ~~intended~~ ^{meant} any other.
And now since I see I cannot doe what I came for. I thinke
this noe unfit occasion. to repeat what I haue said formerl^y.
that what so ever I haue done in favour, ~~to~~ ^{to} the good of
my subjects I doe meane to maintaine it.
I will trouble you noe more. But tell you I doe expect as
soone as they come to the house, you will send them to mee
otherwise I must take my owne course to finde them.

Transcript: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5 MPs, but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642

N.B. Any words printed in italics, were crossed through in the original document

Gentlemen: I am sorry for this occasion of coming into you; yesterday I sent a sergeant at armes uppon a very important occasion, to apprehend some that by my Command, were accused of high treason, where unto I did expect obedience and not a message.

And I must declare unto you here, that albeit noe King that ever was in England, shall bee more Carefull of your previledges, to mentaine them to the uttermost of his power then I shall doe, yet you must know yet in Cases of Treason noe person hath a previledge, And therefore I am come to know, if any of those persons that were accused are here.

Then casting his Eyes uppon all the members in the House, said for I doe not see any of them I thinke I should know them

I must tell you Gent. That soe long as these persons, that I have Accused (for noe slight crime, but for Treason), are here, I Cannot expect that this House, can bee in the right way, that I doe heartily wish it: Therefore I am come to tell you that I must have them, wheresoever I finde them

Then his Majie said is Mr Pyme here to wh noe Body gave answers well Since I see All the Birds are flown I doe expect from you that, you shall send them unto mee, as soone as they returne hither but I assure *must tell* you in the word of a King: I never did intend any force, but shall proceed against (agt) them in a legall and faire way: for I never meant *intended* any other:

And now since I see I Cannot doe what I Came for. I thinke this noe unfit occasion to Repeat what I have said formerly that what soever I have done in favour and to the good of my subjects I doe meane to mentaine it.

I will trouble you noe more But tell you I doe expect as soone as they come to the House, you will send them to mee otherwise I must take my owne Course to finde them.

Simplified transcript: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5 MPs, but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642

N.B. Any words printed in italics, were crossed through in the original document

[Extra explanations are in square brackets]

Gentlemen, I am sorry that I have had to come to you at the House of Commons. Yesterday I sent a Sergeant at Arms [a man responsible for keeping law and order in the House] to arrest some MPs who were accused of high treason [a crime against the King or country]. I expected them to be brought to me. I did not expect to receive a message.

As King, I know about your rights [Charles I is talking about the MPs' parliamentary privileges, as the King should not have come to the House of Commons to arrest the MPs]. But in cases of treason, nobody has any privileges. I have come to see if any of the people accused of this crime are here.

The King looked around at the members in the House, and said; I do not see any of those people accused of high treason here.

I must tell you Gentlemen that this House will not be in order until I have these people. I will take them wherever I find them.

Then his Majesty said; is Mr Pym here? Nobody answered.

I can see that all the birds have flown [Charles I is talking about the accused MPs not being present in the House of Commons]. I expect you to send them to me as soon as they return. In the word of a King, I assure you that I do not intend any force. I will try them in a legal and fair way.

I will repeat what I said, that whatever I have done for the good of my subjects, I do mean to maintain it.

I will trouble you no more. I expect you to send these people to me as soon as they return to the House. Otherwise I will take my own actions to find them.

Document: SP 16/488/52

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642

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The Declaration agreed upon by the Committee of the

House of Commons appointed to sit in the Guildhall in London, to consider of the safety of the Kingdom, and of the City of London. And of the preserving the Priviledges of Parliament.



Master Wilde Serjeant at Law, sitting in the Chaire of that Committee. 6. Jan. 1642.

Whereas the Chambers, Studies, and Truncks of M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, Members of the House of Commons, upon Munday the 3. of this instant January, by colour of His Majesties Warrant have been sealed up by Sir William Kilegrey, and Sir William Flemen and others; which is not only against the Priviledge of Parliament, but the common Liberty of every Subject: Which said Members afterwards, the same day were under the like colour, by Serjeant Frances, one of His Majesties Serjeants at Arms, contrary to all former Precedents and Priviledges of Parliaments demanded of the Speaker, sitting in the House of Commons to be delivered unto him, that he might Arrest them of High Treason: And whereas afterwards the next day His Majesty in His Royall Person came to the said House attended with a great multitude of men armed in warlike manner, with Halberts, Swords, and Pistolls, who came up to the very door of the house, and placed themselves there, and in other places and passages neer to the said house, to the great terrour and disturbance of the Members thereof, then sitting, and according to their dutie, in a peaceable and orderly manner, treating of the great Affairs of England and Ireland: And his Majesty having placed himself in the Speakers Chair, demanded of them the Persons of the said Members to be delivered unto him, which is a high Breach of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and inconsistent with the Liberties, and Freedom thereof. And whereas afterwards his Majesty did issue forth severall Warrants, under his own hand, for the apprehension of the Persons of the said Members, which by Law he cannot do, there being not all this time, any Legall charge or Accusation, or due Proceses of Law issued against them, nor any pretence of charge made known to that house; all which are against the Fundamentall Liberties of the Subject, and the Rights of Parliament. Whereupon we are necessitated, according to our duty, to declare, That if any Person shall arrest M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, or any of them, or any other Member of Parliament, by pretence or colour of any Warrant issuing out from the King only, is guilty of the Breach of the Liberties of the Subject, and of the Priviledge of Parliament, and a publike enemy to the Commonwealth. And that the Arresting of the said Members, or any of them, or of any other Member of Parliament, by any Warrant whatsoever, without a Legall proceeding against them, and without consent of that house, whereof such Person is a Member, is against the Liberty of the Subject, and a Breach of Priviledge of Parliament; And the Person which shall Arrest any of these Persons, or any other Member of the Parliament, is declared a publike enemy of the Common-wealth.

Notwithstanding all which we think fit further to declare, that we are so farre from any endeavour to protect any of our Members, that shall be in due manner prosecuted according to the Laws of the Kingdom, and the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament for Treason, or any other misdemeanor, That none shall be more ready and willing then we our selves, to bring them to their speedy and due tryall, Being sensible that it equally imports us, as well to see Justice done against them that are criminous, as to defend the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and Parliament of England.

London, Printed for Joseph Hunscoott. 1642.

Transcript: SP 16/488/52

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of the five members; printed leaflet from Parliament, 12th January 1642

The Declaration agreed upon by the Committee of the House of Commons to sit in the Guildhall of London, to consider of the safety of the Kingdom, and of the City of London. And of the preserving the Priviledges of Parliament.

Master Wilde Serjeant at Law, sitting in the Chaire of that Committee. 6. Jan. 1641.

Whereas the Chambers Studies, and Truncks of M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, Members of the House of Commons, upon Munday the 3. of this instant January, by colour of His Majesties Warrant have been sealed up by Sir William Kilegrey, and Sir William Flemen and others; which is no only against the Priviledge of Parliament, but the common Liberty of every Subject: Which said members afterwards, the same day were under the like colour, by Serjeant Frances, one of His Majesties Serjeants at Arms, contrary to all former Presidents and Priviledges of Parliaments demanded of the Speaker, sitting in the House of Commons to be delivered unto him, that he might Arrest them of High Treason: And whereas afterwards the next day His Majesty in His Royall Person came to the said House attended with a great multitude of men armed in a warlike manner, with Halbets, Swords, and Pistolls, who came up to the very door of the house, and placed themselves there, and in other places and passages neer to the said house, to the great terrour and disturbance of the Members thereof, then sitting, according to their dutie, in a peaceable and orderly manner, treating of the great Affairs of England and Ireland: And his Majesty having placed himself in the Speakers Chair, demanded of them the persons of the said Members to be delivered unto him, which is a high Breach of the rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and inconsistent with the Liberties and Freedom thereof. And whereas afterwards his Majesty did issue forth severall Warrants and Officers, under his own hand, for the apprehension of the Persons of the said Members, which by Law he cannot do, there being not all this time, any Legall charge or Accusation, or due Processes of Law issued against them, nor any pretence of charge made known to that house; all which are against the Fundamentall Liberties of the Subject, and the Rights of Parliament. Whereupon we are necessitated, according to our duty, to declare, That if any person shall arrest M. Hollis, Sir Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M. Hampden, and M. Strode, or any of them, or any other Member of Parliament, by pretence or colour of any Warrant issuing from the King only, is guilty of the Breach of Liberties of the Subject, and of the Priviledge of Parliament, and a publike enemy to the Commonwealth. And that the Arresting of the said Members, or any of them, or of any other Member of Parliament, by any Warrant whatsoever, without a Legall proceeding against them, and without consent of that house, whereof such Person is a Member, is against the Liberty of the Subject, and a Breach of Priviledge of Parliament; And the Person which shall Arrest any of these Person, or any other Member of the Parliament, is declared a publike enemy of the Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding all which we think fit further to declare, that we are so farre from any endeavour to protect any of our Members, that shall be in due manner prosecuted according to the Laws of the Kingdom, and the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament for Treason, or any other misdemeanour, That none shall be more ready and willing then we our selves, to bring them to their speedy, and due tryall, Being sensible that it equally imports us, as well to see Justice done against them that are criminous, as to defend the just Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and Parliament of England.

London, Printed for Joseph Hunscott, 1642

Simplified transcript: SP 16/488/52

A committee considering the safety of the kingdom after the arrest of 5 members; it is a printed leaflet from parliament, 12th Jan 1642

[Extra explanations are in square brackets.]

The Declaration agreed by the Committee of the House of Commons, in the Guildhall of London, to consider the safety of the Kingdom and of the City of London. And to protect the Privileges of Parliament [particular rights given to MPs sitting in Parliament].

The committee meets here on the 3rd January, because of the King's Warrant [an order to arrest the five MPs involved in the Grand Remonstrance]. This is not only against the Privileges of Parliament, but also against the common freedom of every subject. Sergeant Frances, one of the King's Sergeants at Arms, demanded of the Speaker sitting in the Houses of Commons [Chief Officer of the House who makes sure that the rules are followed], that the five MPs should be delivered to him so he could arrest them for High Treason. This is against all of the Privileges of Parliament. The next day, the King came to the House of Commons along with many armed men carrying halberds [a weapon with an axe-like blade and steel spike], swords and pistols [small guns]. Some came up to the door of the House of Commons, whilst others stood in the corridors near to the House. This caused great terror and disturbance for the MPs in the House, who were all carrying out their duties in a quiet and peaceful way. The King sat in the Speaker's chair, and demanded that the five MPs be brought to him. This is against the rights and privileges of Parliament. Afterwards the King sent several warrants signed by him for the arrest of the five members. Again, he cannot do this, as no proper charge has been brought against them. We declare that if anyone tries to arrest M. Hollis, Air Arthur Haslerige, M. Pym, M, Hampden, M. Strode or any other MP with a warrant from the King, is guilty of a breach of liberties [freedom] and of the privileges of Parliament, and is a public enemy of the commonwealth.

We are not trying to protect any MPs that should be prosecuted for Treason or any other crime, in accordance with to the laws of our kingdom. We want to see justice done against those that are criminals, in order to defend the rights and freedom of the subjects, and of the Parliament of England.

London, Printed for Joseph Hunscott, 1642



Worksheet: The English Civil Wars: whose side are you on?

- Complete the boxes below for your role in the debate!
- During the debate, you will be asked to read out your argument for your team.
- Remember to read out all you have written from boxes 1 and 2 and to speak with confidence!

You can use the documents, your schoolbooks, or other sources to support your argument.

Team: (Royalist/Puritan)

Point of Debate: (taxes, religion etc)

My argument:

(BOX 1)

As a (Royalist/Puritan) I argue that ...

(BOX 2)

To support my argument I have chosen ... (name the document(s), book, source etc that you have chosen to support your argument)

It supports my argument because ...(give a few details about your document etc and a quote to explain how it supports your argument)

I also argue or want to question ... (during the videoconference write down any other arguments or questions you may have)