



Why did people go to war in 1642?

Case study 2: 1640-42 - Source 7

A pamphlet published by Parliament, 9 June 1642

(Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. II, 1640-1642, p.618. Reprinted in 1803 by Order of the House of Commons)

What is this source?

These are sections of a pamphlet published by Parliament. The Civil War was fought on the battlefields, but also through propaganda (in the form of pamphlets like this) which promoted the ideas of one side or the other.

The new technology of printing made it possible to produce leaflets like this in large numbers.

What's the background to this source?

By 1642 relations between Charles and Parliament were a disaster.

In January 1642 Charles lost patience with Parliament and tried to arrest five leading MPs and one Lord. This destroyed any trust that was left between the two sides. Charles left London and began to recruit an army. Parliament did the same.

It's worth knowing that ...

The war officially began on 22 August 1642. Although we talk about Charles fighting Parliament, we should remember that the country was divided in many ways.

In 1640 most MPs were united in criticising Charles. By 1642 some MPs were now on the king's side as they felt that the opponents of Charles had gone too far. Many of Charles's supporters stood by him out of loyalty rather than because they believed he was in the right. The great majority of people did not want war at all.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. According to this source, what had the king been doing?
2. According to this source, was the king to blame for the troubles affecting the country?
3. What actions was Parliament taking?
4. How did the source try to reassure people about Parliament's actions?
5. Does this source give us any clues about why the kingdom went to war in 1642?



Source 7

Propositions
for bringing
in Plate, &c.

WHEREAS it appears that the King, seduced by wicked Counsel, intends to make War against his Parliament; and, in pursuance thereof, under Pretence of a Guard for his Person, hath actually begun to levy Forces, both of Horse and Foot; and sent out Summons, throughout the County of *York*, for the Calling together of great Numbers; and some ill-affected Persons have been employed in other Parts to raise Troops, under the Colour of his Majesty's Service, making large Offers of Reward and Preferment to such as will come in: And that his Majesty doth with a high and forcible Hand, protect and keep away Delinquents; not permitting them to make their Appearance, to answer such Affronts and Injuries as have been by them offered unto the Parliament: And those Messengers which have been sent from the Houses for them, have been abused, beaten, and imprisoned; so as the Orders of Parliament, which is the highest Court of Justice in this Realm, are not obeyed;

1. They the said Lords and Commons do *Declare*, That whosoever shall bring in any Proportion of ready Money or Plate, or shall underwrite to furnish and maintain any Number of Horse, Horsemen, and Arms, for the Preservation of the publick Peace, and for the Defence of the King, and both Houses of Parliament, from Force and Violence, and to uphold the Power and Privileges of Parliament according to his Protestation, it shall be held a good and acceptable Service to the Commonwealth, and a Testimony of his good Affection to the Protestant Religion, the Laws, Liberties, and Peace of this Kingdom, and to the Parliament and Privileges thereof.