

Why did people want the king back in 1646?

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 3

A report of discussions in Parliament concerning Cheshire's attempt to be neutral, 9 January 1643

(Catalogue ref: SP 9/245/12)

What is this source?

These extracts are from a newspaper that supported the Parliamentary side.

The Royalists also had their newspapers or journals. These were the first newspapers in English history.

What's the background to this source?

The vast majority of people in England did not want to go to war in 1642. On 23 December 1642 the political nation (gentry and lords) of Cheshire went further than most counties. They signed the Bunbury Agreement. Both Royalist and Parliament supporters agreed that Cheshire would be neutral in the war. It would not help or hinder either side.

There were quite a lot of attempts to remain neutral during the Civil War. In the South West there were local groups of civilians, known as the Clubmen, who fought to keep Royalist and Parliamentary forces out of their areas in 1644-45. However, they were not successful due to lack of training and equipment.

It's worth knowing that ...

Deputy Lieutenants were important officials who represented king or Parliament in their local areas. The Militia Ordinance was an order sent out by Parliament in 1642. It ordered local officials to raise troops to fight for the Parliamentary cause.

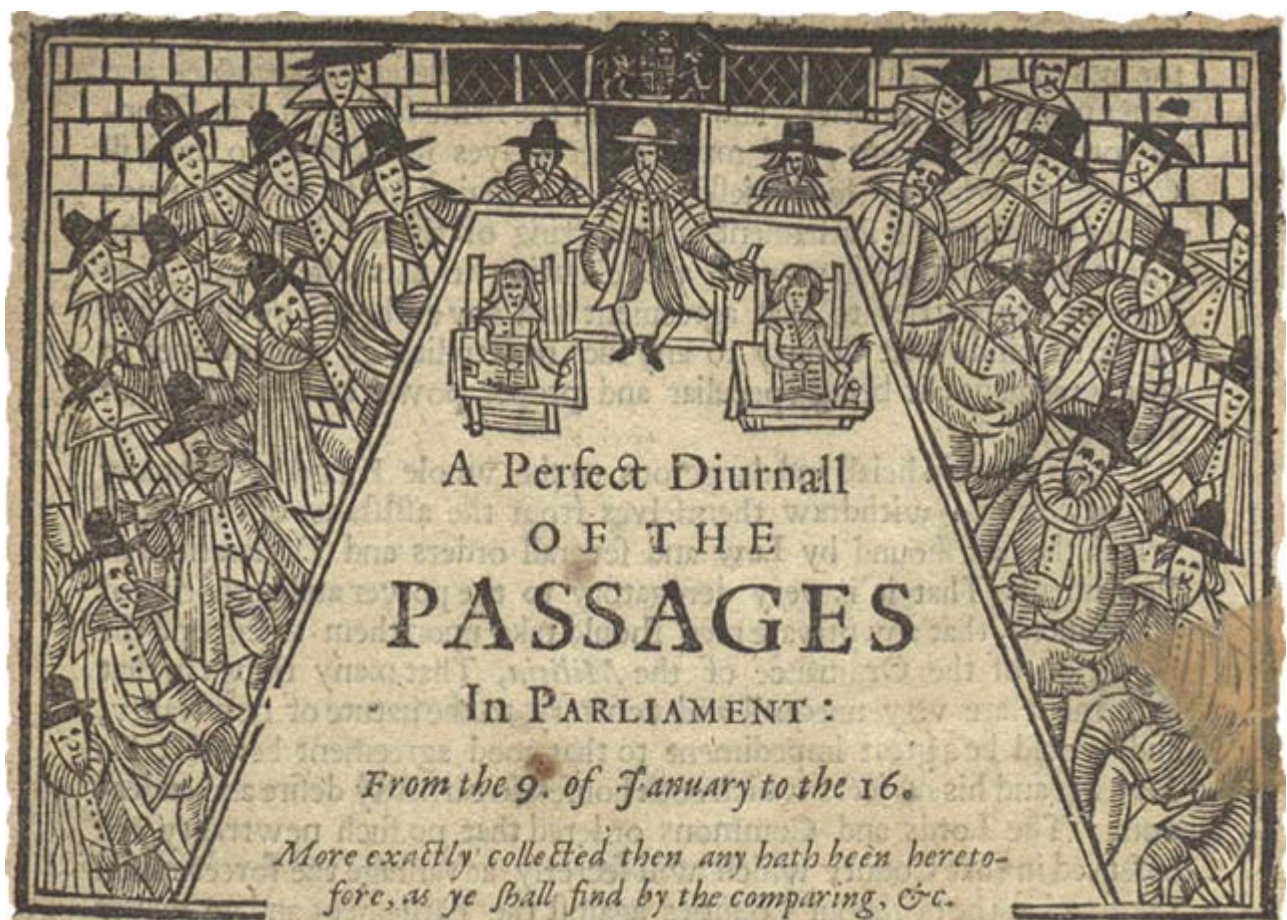
Charles I sent out a similar order to raise troops. His order was called the Commissions of Array.




Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. According to this document, what mistakes had the Deputy Lieutenants of Chester made?
2. What was the agreement that was made in Cheshire? (Use the notes if you cannot work this out from the source.)
3. What was Parliament's reaction to the Cheshire agreement?
4. What reasons did Parliament give for its views?
5. How do you think the people of Cheshire might have felt when they read this journal?
6. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

Source 3





 Vnday, the Parliament having taken into consideration certaine Articles, dated 23. *Decemb.* last between some of the Deputy Lievtenants of the County of *Chester* well-affected to the peace of the Kingdome, and others who have declared themselves in sundry actions opposers of the proceedings of Parliament, and furtherers of the warre raised against them, and of many injuries and oppressions lately exercised upon the good subjects inhabitants of that County, and be-

Lords and Commons have made a Declaration to this effect *viz.* That none of the parties to that agreement had any authority by any act of theirs to binde that County to any such newtrality as, is mentioned in that agreement, it being a peculiar and proper power and Priviledge of Parliament.

That it is prejudiciall and dangerous to the whole Kingdome that any County should withdraw themselves from the assistance of the rest to which they are bound by Law and severall orders and Declarations of Parliament. That it is very derogatory to the power and authority of Parliament, that any private men should take upon them to suspend the execution of the Ordinance of the *Militia*, That many things in that agreement are very unequall and contrary to the nature of newtrality, and would be a great impediment to that good agreement betwixt his Majestie and his subjects which both houses do earnestly desire and endeavour: The Lords and Commons ordered that no such newtrality bee observed in that County which will secretly advantage the forces raised there and in the neighbour Counties against the Parliament and no wayes benefit *Cheshire*, but most dangerous to them by keeping that County without any defensive forces,