



Why did Britain become a republic?

Case study 2: New government - Source 5

A picture showing Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester, 1651

(Cromwelliana: A chronological detail of events in which Oliver Cromwell was engaged from the year 1642 to his death 1658. Published by Machell Stace, Westminster, 1810)

What is this source?

This picture is an engraving showing Cromwell fighting at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

The engraving was made by carving the lines of the design onto a hard surface, covering the surface with ink and then printing the design onto paper.

What's the background to this source?

This was a battle between Oliver Cromwell's forces and the Scottish army led by the son of Charles I (also called Charles).

- In the first Civil War Charles I faced several enemies - Parliament, the New Model Army and the Scots. However, these enemies were divided and Charles played them off against each other.
- In 1648 Charles allied with the Scots against Parliament and the army in the second Civil War. He was defeated and executed in 1649.
- England then became a republic, with no monarch. However, Scotland did not. The Scots declared Charles I's son to be their new king, Charles II.
- Charles II invaded England with a Scottish army. Royalist supporters in England joined him.

It's worth knowing that ...

Cromwell defeated Charles II at the Battle of Worcester. This battle destroyed Royalist resistance to Cromwell. It also brought Scotland under English control.

No monarch had ever achieved so much control over England, Scotland and Ireland as Cromwell.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. Can this picture be described as propaganda? Explain your answer.
2. What does the picture say about Cromwell?
3. Do you think Cromwell actually fought in the battle? Test out your views by looking at a detailed account of the Battle at <http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1651-worcester.htm>



Learning Curve

Civil War



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