



HISTORY OF ENGLAND, Week 27 Oliver Cromwell

Institute for the Study of Western Civilization



Oliver Cromwell
(1599-1658)
(1649)
by
Robert Walker
1607-1658
National
Portrait
Gallery
London

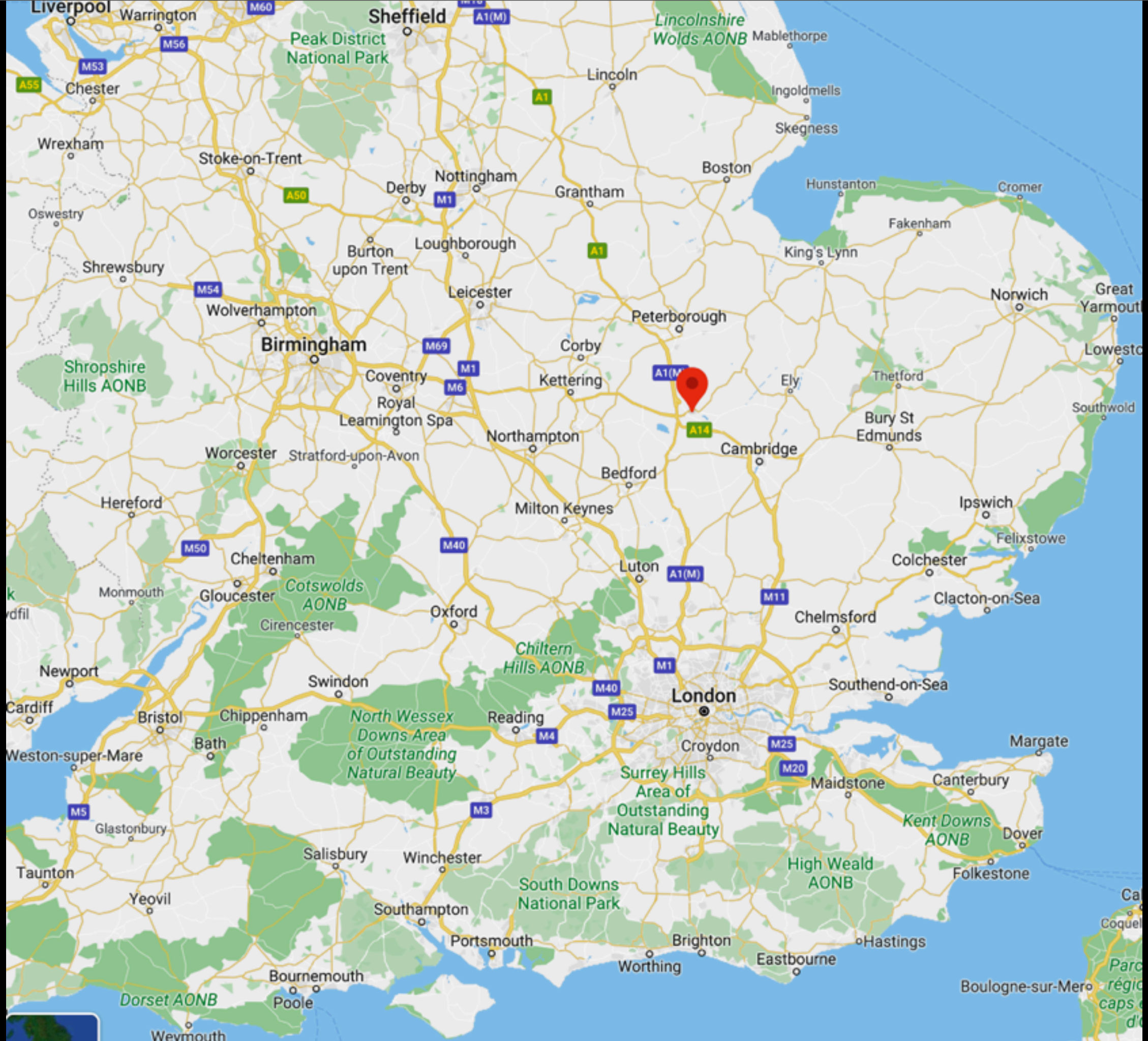




Cromwell is one of the most controversial figures in the history of the British Isles, considered a regicidal dictator by historians such as David Sharp, a military dictator by Winston Churchill, and a hero of liberty by John Milton, Thomas Carlyle, and Samuel Rawson Gardiner. His tolerance of Protestant sects did not extend to Roman Catholics; his measures against them in Ireland have been characterized by some as genocidal or near-genocidal, and his record is strongly criticized in Ireland. He was selected as one of the ten greatest Britons of all time in a 2002 BBC poll.



Born
Huntingdon.
near Cambridge.
Is MP from
Huntingdon 1628
and later MP for
Cambridge. He is
an excellent
Parliamentarian
and very skilled
and experienced
with Parliament
before becoming a
general. (In contrast to
James I and Charles I)





Huntingdon





Robert Williams Cromwell
1560-1617
4 generations from
Thomas Cromwell

Robert Cromwell and Elizabeth Steward. The family's estate derived from Oliver's great-great-grandfather Morgan ap William, a brewer from Glamorgan who settled at Putney near London, and married Katherine Cromwell (born 1482), the **sister of Thomas Cromwell**, who would become the famous chief minister to Henry VIII. The Cromwell family acquired great wealth as occasional beneficiaries of Thomas's administration of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Morgan ap William was a son of William ap Yevan of Wales. The family line continued through Richard Williams Cromwell), (c. 1500–1544), Henry Williams Cromwell), (c. 1524 – 6 January 1604) then to Oliver's father Robert Williams, Cromwell (c. 1560–1617), who married Elizabeth Steward (c. 1564 – 1654), probably in 1591. They had ten children, but Oliver, the fifth child, was **the only boy to survive infancy**.

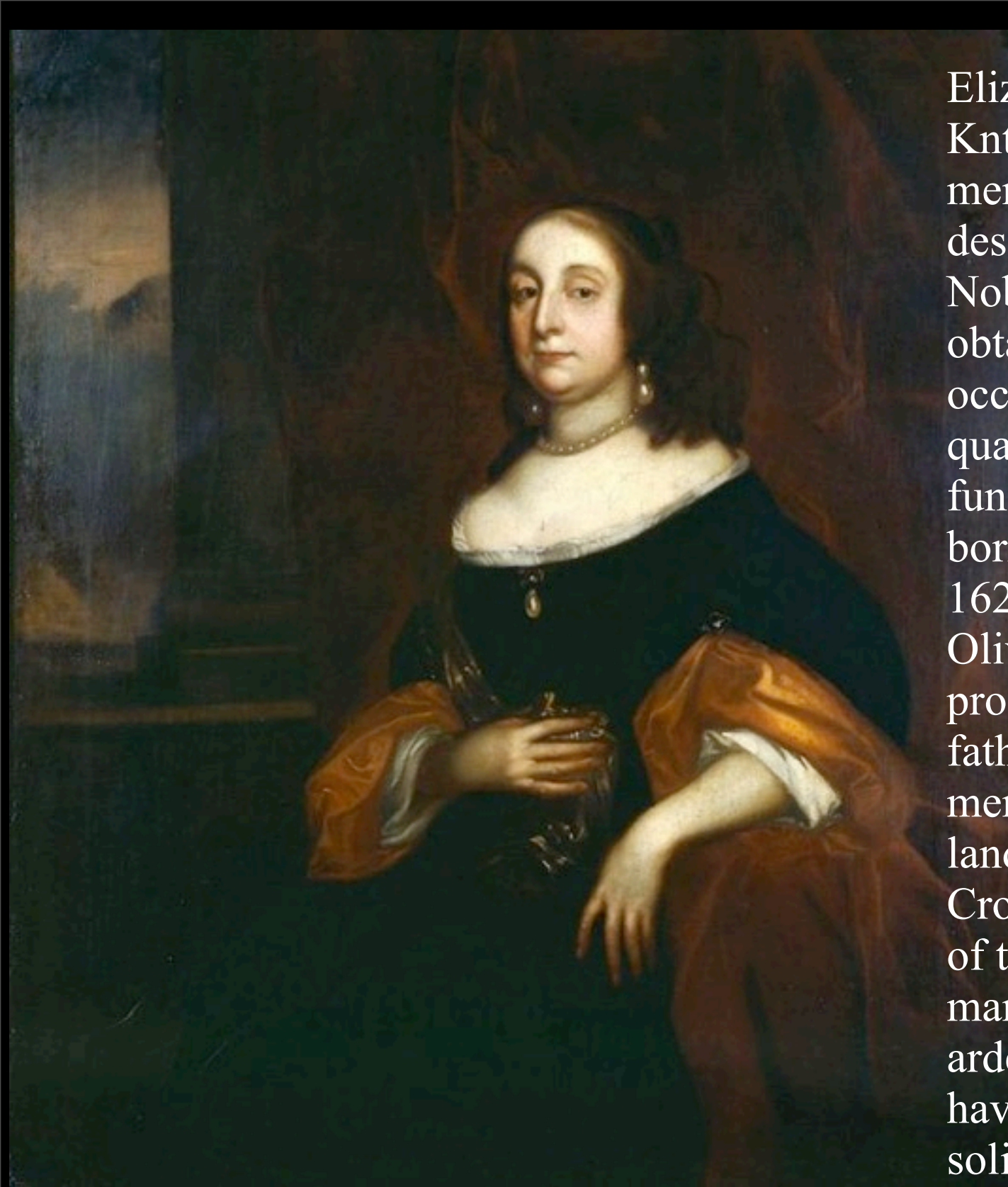
Money



Cromwell's paternal grandfather Sir Henry Williams was one of the two wealthiest landowners in Huntingdonshire. Cromwell's father Robert was of modest means but still a member of the landed gentry. As a younger son with many siblings, Robert inherited only a house at Huntingdon and a small amount of land. This land would have generated an income of up to £300 a year, near the bottom of the range of gentry incomes. Cromwell himself in 1654 said, "I was by birth a gentleman, living neither in considerable height, nor yet in obscurity". But his marriage connected him to some very wealthy people.



Oliver Cromwell lived in Ely for several years after inheriting the position of local tax collector in 1636. His former home dates to the 16th century and is now used by the Tourist Information Office as well as being a museum with rooms displayed as they would have been in Cromwell's time.

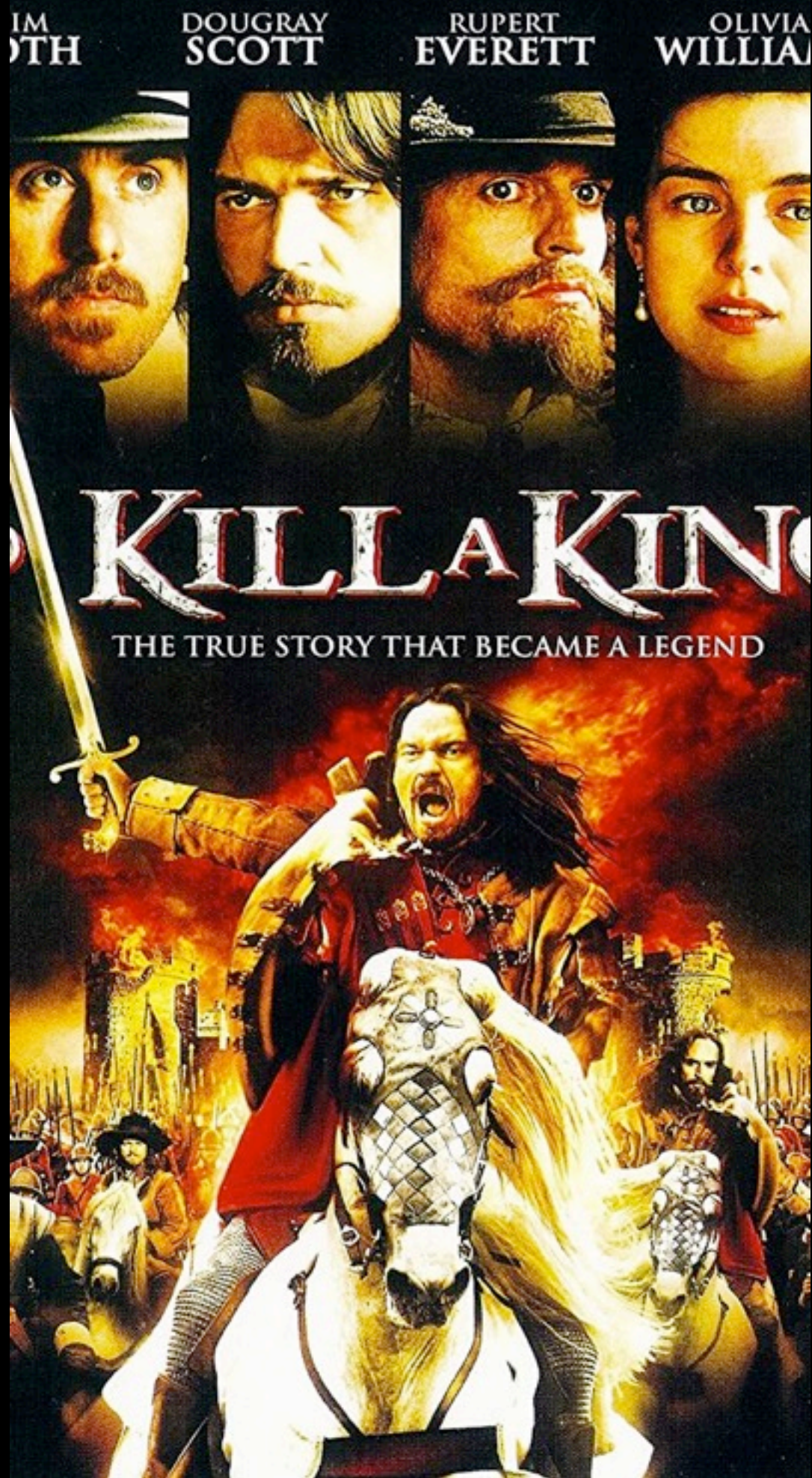


Elizabeth Bourchier Cromwell
1598-1665

Elizabeth was the daughter of Sir James Bourchier, Knt. of Felsted in Essex, a wealthy London leather merchant; and his wife Frances Crane, Harris described the Bourchiers as "an ancient family;" but Noble wrote that it was only in 1610 that Sir James obtained a grant of arms and added that the only occasion when the arms of the Bourchiers were quartered with those of the Protector was at his funeral. Elizabeth, the oldest of twelve children, was born on an unknown date in 1598. On 22 August 1620 at St Giles, Cripplegate, London, she married Oliver Cromwell. This marriage proved professionally advantageous for Cromwell, as her father brought him into contact with the wealthy merchant community of London, and the extensive lands Sir James owned in Essex later guaranteed Cromwell much support from the influential families of the local puritan gentry. At the time of his marriage, however, Cromwell had not yet become an ardent Puritan. The Cromwell's marriage seems to have been happy. Cromwell wrote Elizabeth solicitous love letters while away on his military campaigns, and some of these were published in an anthology of love letters edited by Antonia Fraser in 1976. Their marriage produced nine children, eight of whom reached adulthood.



CROMWELL FAIRFAX CHARLES MEET AT HAMPTON COURT



2003





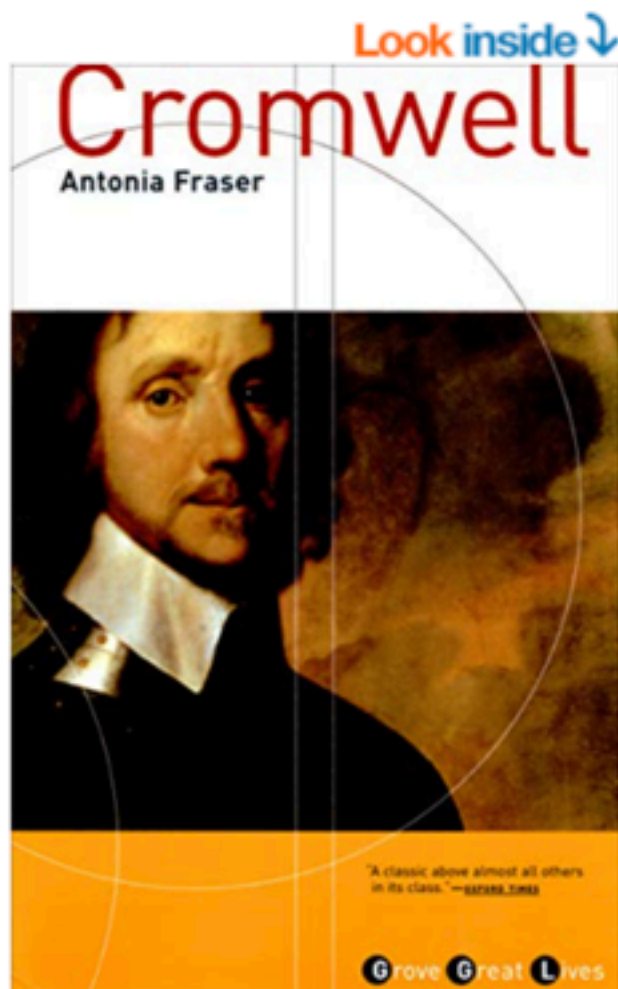
King Charles I
1600-1649



Sir Thomas Fairfax
3rd Lord Fairfax
1612-1671
Commander in Chief
of
Parliamentary forces
1645-1649
Cromwell his
subordinate who
steps forward
pushes the more
conservative Fairfax
aside.



Oliver Cromwell
(1599 – September 1658)
was an English general and statesman who led the Parliament of England's armies against King Charles I during the English Civil War and ruled the British Isles as Lord Protector from 1653 until his death in 1658. He acted simultaneously as head of state and head of government of the new republican commonwealth.



Cromwell Kindle Edition

by [Antonia Fraser](#) (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

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The national-bestselling author of *Mary Queen of Scots* delivers a masterful biography of the Puritan rebel Oliver Cromwell: “Rich and extraordinary” (*The New York Times*).

In *Cromwell*, award-winning biographer Antonia Fraser tells of one of England’s

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The **Puritan gentry**, were parliamentarians. A Puritan divine, Richard Baxter, claimed that ‘on the parliament’s side were the smaller part, as some thought, of the **gentry** in most of the counties, and the greatest part of the **tradesmen** and **freeholders**, and the **middle sort of men**, especially in those corporations [towns] and counties which depend on clothing and such manufactures’ But there were many gentry on Royal side and many workers too. **London** was all overwhelming for Parliament side.

PARLIAMENT

Lawyers
Doctors
Merchants
City men
University men

Port cities
supported Parliament

A portrait of Oliver Cromwell, a man with long, wavy brown hair and a mustache, wearing a white ruffled collar and a dark tie. The background is a soft, cloudy blue and white.

OLIVER CROMWELL
(1599 - 1658)

Timeline of the English Civil War

1625 Charles King of England

1625 Charles marries Henrietta Maria of France

1628 Parliament, and assassination of Duke of Buckingham

1629 Parliament returns: Petition of Right-sent home til 1640

1633 William Laud Arch of Canterbury (traditionalist hates Puritans)

1630-1640 Charles angers whole nation with massive taxes imposed w/o Parl.

1637, Charles and Laud impose Eng version of services on Scotland, rebellion

1639 War; Charles into Scotland, troops dont want to go, Charles has no money

1640 Charles forced to call Parliament-money; they make demands, sends home

1640 Nov.LONG PARLIAMENT, Charles has to call back, Root &Branch Petition

1641 LongPar continues, (Irish Rebellion)"**Grand Remonstrance**" Bishops Ex.

May: EXECUTION OF EARL OF STRATFORD

Dec Grand Remonstrance handed to King Charles

OUTBREAK OF WAR

1642 Jan Charles tries arrest 5 MPs Pym, Hampden, Holles,Haselring,Strode

1642 Parliament orders seize Arsenal at Kingston Upon Hull

1642 Henrietta goes Netherlands with Princess Mary

1642 June: King org army at York; besieges Kingston for arsenal(fails)

1642 Sept: **Battle of Powick Bridge**, Rupert leads Royals, successful

1642 Oct: **Battle of Edgehill**, first big battle of war

Timeline of the English Civil War

OUTBREAK OF WAR

- 1642 Jan Charles tries arrest 5 MPs Pym, Hampden, Holles, Haselring, Strode
Parliament orders seize Arsenal at Kingston Upon Hull
Henrietta goes Netherlands with Princess Mary
June: King org army at York; besieges Kingston for arsenal(fails)
Sept: **Battle of Powick Bridge**, Rupert leads Royals, successful
Oct: **Battle of Edgehill**, first big battle of war no victor (Rupert/Essex)
- 1643 **Battle of Braddock Down (Cornwall, defeat of Parliamentarians)**
Battle of Chalgrove Field - John Hampden killed
July first meeting of the Westminster Assembly
July Prince Rupert takes castle/port of **Bristol**
August, Church of Scotland ratifies Solemn League Covenant
Sept **Battle of Newbury (long battle Charles vs Essex)**
a draw both armies exhausted.
Sept Long Parliament and the Westminster Assembly
ratify the Solemn League and Covenant. Under the terms of the
deal with Scotland, the Committee of Safety is superseded by
the Committee of Both Kingdoms =Alliance-Scot-Eng

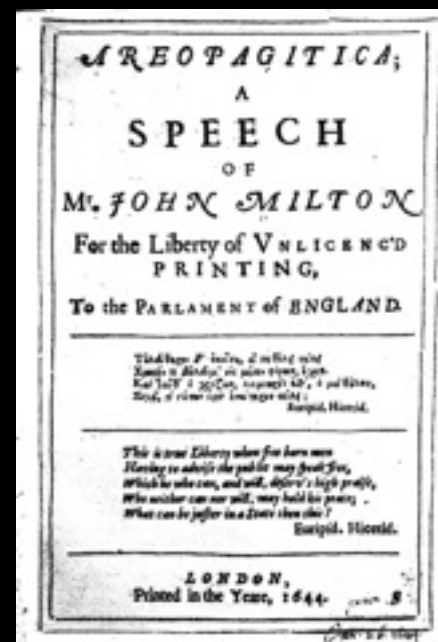
Timeline of the English Civil War

1644 Scots march South join Parliament's army threatening York.
Feb Siege of Newcastle, formal request surrender to Scots.

July 2, **Battle of Marston Moor** Prince Rupert vs Cromwell-Fairfax(wins)
biggest battle of Civil War; Cromwell brilliant cavalry officer
Royalists abandon the North after they lose this battle for York

Oct Siege of Newcastle ends storming of the city by Scottish soldiers
October, Second Battle of Newbury

November 23, first publication of Areopagitica by John Milton



The Shape of the Battle



Independents

Cromwell
Toleration

1645 Religious Divisions

Puritans
very mid
class

Presbyterians

Scotland
many MPs
democracy

"radical"

Puritans

Henry VIII
Bk of Common

Prayer
like the candles

High Church
Church of England

ie
the
most
modern

no
bishops

not
Puritans
majority

Archbishop Laud
smells like

the
most
democratic
many go to
colonies

RC
Charles

RC
old
country
families
esp North

John Milton Pure 100% Free Speech

Quakers



George Fox
founder of Quakers

Quakers, also called **Friends**, are a historically Christian denomination whose formal name is the **Religious Society of Friends** or **Friends Church**. Members of the various Quaker movements are all generally united by their belief in the ability of each human being to experientially access the light within, or "that of God in every one". Quakers were hated by Church of England bishops as well as Presbyterian church leaders...essentially everybody in the other organized churches.

Levellers: After feb 1649 Levellers turn against Cromwell Admin.

The **Levellers** were a political movement during the English Civil War committed to popular sovereignty, universal male suffrage, equality before the law and religious tolerance. The hallmark of Leveller thought was its populism, as shown by its emphasis on equal natural rights, and their practice of reaching the public through pamphlets, petitions and vocal appeals to the crowd. Leveller views and support were found in the populace of the **City of London** and in some regiments in the **New Model Army** and **NOT in the Parliament** Their ideas were presented in their manifesto "Agreement of the People". In contrast to the Diggers, the Levellers opposed common ownership, except in cases of mutual agreement of the property owners. The Levellers were not a political party in the modern sense of the term. They were organized at the national level, with offices in a number of London inns and taverns such as The Rosemary Branch in Islington, which got its name from the sprigs of rosemary that Levellers wore in their hats as a sign of identification. From July 1648 to September 1649, they published a newspaper, *The Moderate* and were pioneers in the use of petitions and pamphleteering to political ends. They identified themselves by sea-green ribbons worn on their clothing. After Pride's Purge and the execution of Charles I, power lay in the hands of the Grandees in the Army (and to a lesser extent with the Rump Parliament). The Levellers, along with all other opposition groups, were marginalized by those in power and their influence waned. By 1650, they were no longer a serious threat to the established order.

Politics: 1648, 1649, 1650,



Cromwell had
enemies to the
LEFT
Levellers
Quakers

In 1660, English Quaker Mary Dyer was hanged near Boston Common for repeatedly defying a Puritan law banning Quakers from the colony.





John Milton

1608 to 1674

John Milton (9 December 1608 – 8 November 1674) was an English poet and intellectual who served as a civil servant for the Commonwealth of England under its Council of State and later under Oliver Cromwell. He wrote at a time of religious flux and political upheaval, and is best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost* (1667), written in blank verse, and widely considered to be one of the greatest works of literature ever written.

Milton at age 21

AREOPAGITICA;
A
S P E E C H
O F
Mr. JOHN MILTON
For the Liberty of V N L I C E N C ' D
P R I N T I N G,
To the PARLAMENT of ENGLAND.

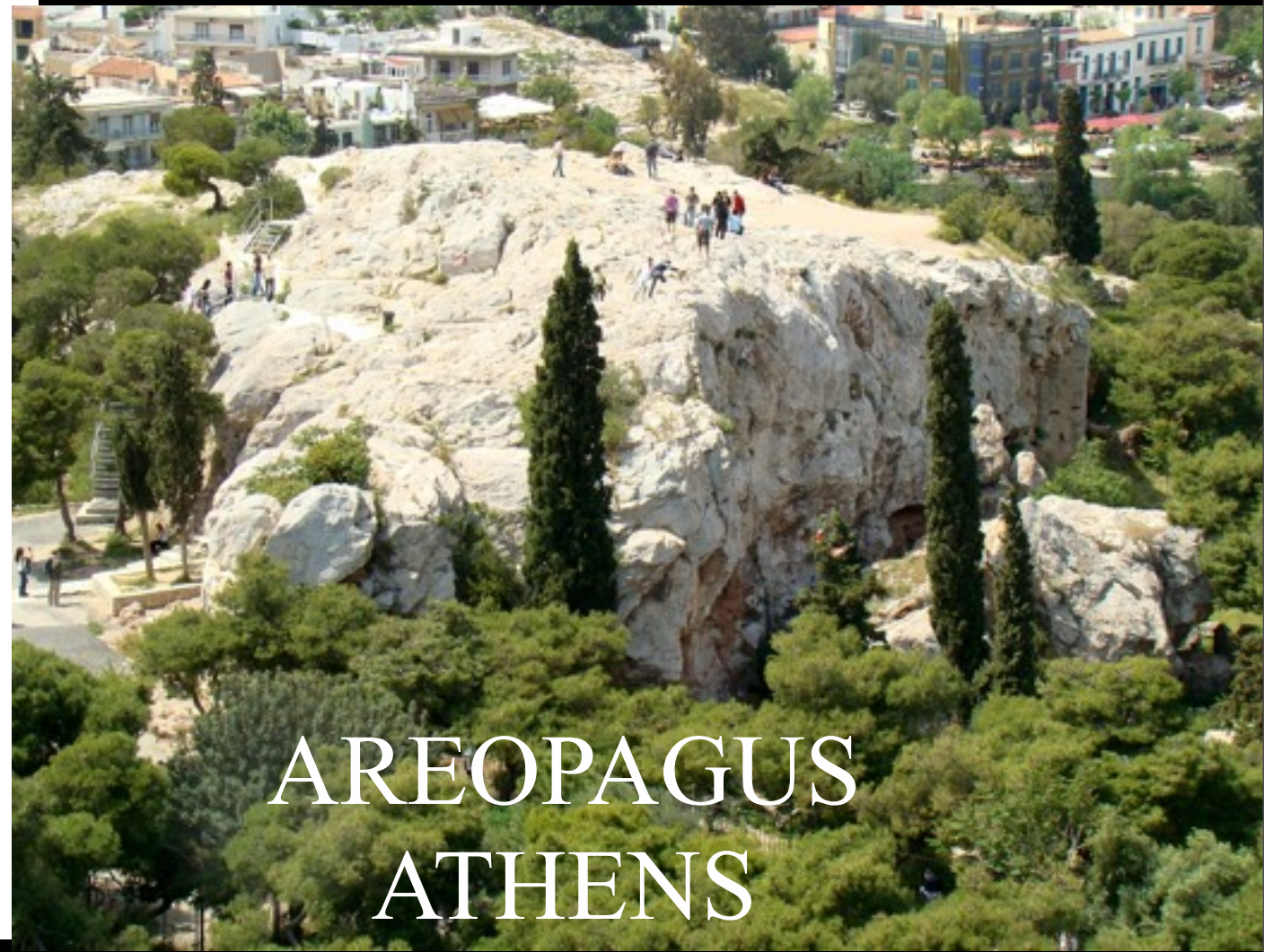
Τὴν δ' ἄρα πάλιν ἐκείνο, εἰ περὶ πόλιν
Χρῆσθ' ἢ βέλδ' μ' εἰς μέσσην εἴρην, ἔχον.
Καὶ ταῦθ' ὁ χρεῖζων, λαμπρὸς ἔσθ', ὁ μὴ θέλων,
Σιγᾷ, τί γὰρ τίς ἐστιν ἰσχυρὸν πόλιν;
Euripid, Hicetid.

*This is true Liberty when free born men
Having to advise the public may speak free,
Which he who can, and will, deserv's high praise,
Who neither can nor will, may hold his peace;
What can be juster in a State then this?*
Euripid. Hicetid.

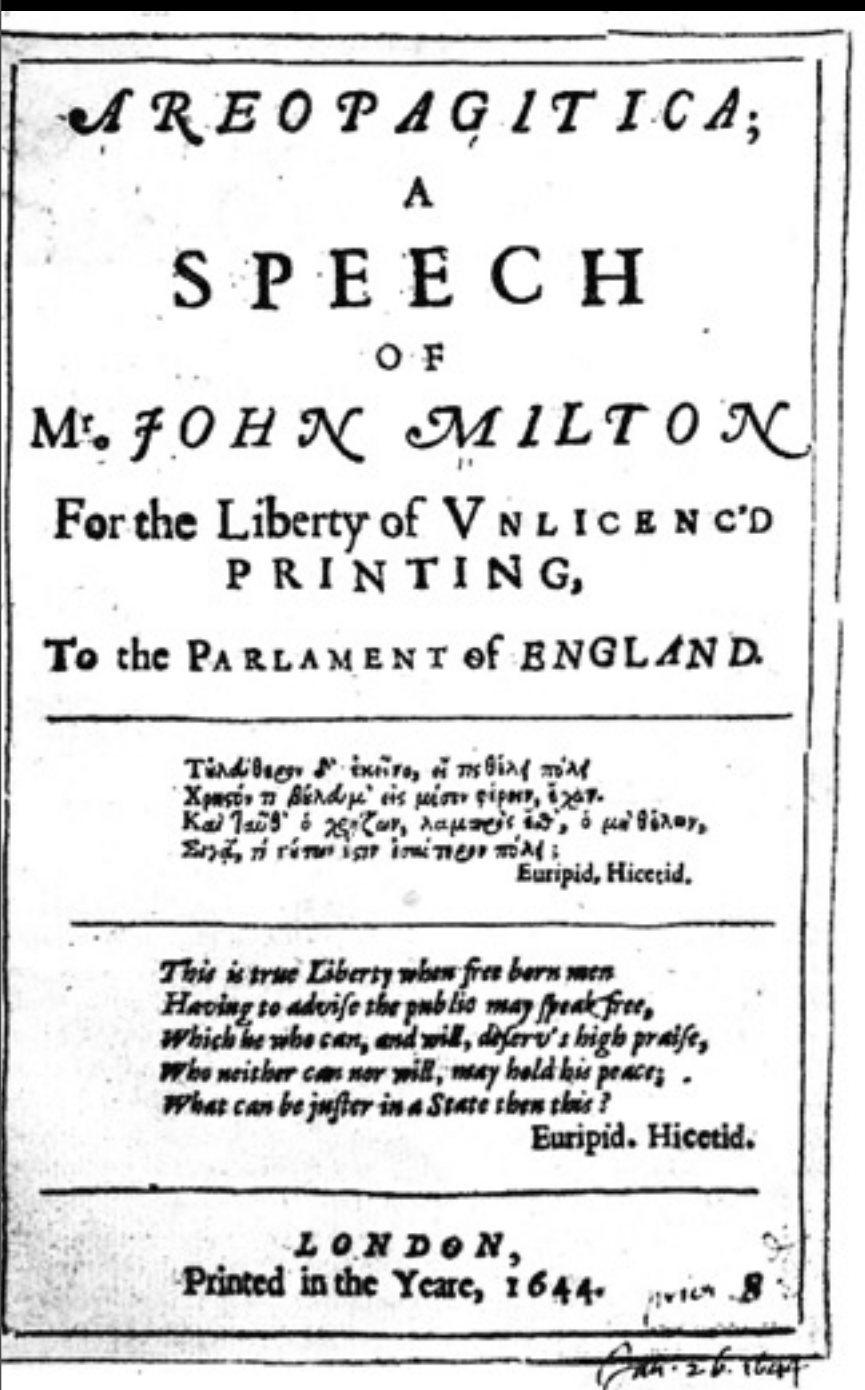
L O N D O N,
Printed in the Yeare, 1644.

John. 2. 6. 1644

Nov 23, 1644
First publication
of John Milton's
Areopagitica



AREOPAGUS
ATHENS



“Areopagitica” in favor of freedom of the press in middle of reign. It is one of the greatest books ever written. “Yet in time the Areopagitica became the classic literary defense in English of intellectual liberty and freedom of publication. With Locke's Letters on Toleration and Mill's essay On Liberty it expressed the profoundest moral conviction that has underlaid the political thought of the English speaking peoples, but in eloquence and passion the Areopagitica far surpassed the other two. “Areopagitica and Education,” Milton, George H. Sabine,



"Christian and Humanist, Protestant, patriot and heir of the golden ages of Greece and Rome, he faced what appeared to him to be the birth-pangs of a new and regenerate England with high excitement and idealistic optimism."

David Daiches, English Lit

Milton at age 21

Timeline of the English Civil War

1645

Jan 6, 1645 PARLIAMENT ESTABLISHES **NEW MODEL ARMY**

Jan 10, Execution of Archbishop William Laud

Com of Both Kingdoms orders creation of **New Model Army**

Jan Long Parliament appoints commissioners meet with the king's (Uxbridge)

April 3, Parliament passes **Self denying Ordinance** get rid of Earl Manchester

June, **Battle of Naseby** major defeat of Royalists

Charles /Rupert VS Thomas Fairfax/Cromwell (no Manchester)

Charles loses troops, baggage, docs that prove he trying to bring in RC Irish

Royalist cause never assembles army like this one again

Sept Prince Rupert surrenders **Bristol Castle**, his uncle turns on him.

New Model Army Jan 6 1645



The **New Model Army** of England was formed in 1645 by the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War, and was disbanded in 1660 after the Restoration. It differed from other armies in the series of civil wars referred to as the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in that it was intended as an army liable for service anywhere in the country (including in Scotland and Ireland), rather than being tied to a single area or garrison.

Timeline of the English Civil War

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Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell

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Timeline of the English Civil War

New Model Army+Parliament on the March

1646

Jan Siege of Dartmouth ended with surrender of Royalist garrison.

Feb Siege of Chester ended with surrender of Royalists after a 136 day siege

February, Battle of Torrington victory for the New Model Army

March, Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold the last pitched battle of the First Civil War is a victory for the New Model Army

May **Charles surrenders to Scottish army** at Southwell, Nottinghamshire

April Siege of Exeter ended with the surrender of Royalist garrison.

June, Siege of Oxford ended with surrender of Royalist garrison.

July after a 65 day siege Wallingford Castle, the last English royalist stronghold, surrenders to Sir Thomas Fairfax.

Four Powers Emerge: Scots, King, New Model Army, Parliament

1647

Feb: Scots sell Charles to Parliament for 400,000pounds

Charles says they sold him too cheap

Charles journeys Holdenby House hand to Parliament&army

June, Geo Joyce & troop of New Model Army seizes the King from his Parliamentary guards at Holdenby House and place him in 'protective custody'.

Army & Parliament split,

Army full of "Independents"=total religious toleration

(Cromwell & Thomas Fairfax)

Parliament full of Presbyterians, wealthier, and many want peace with King plus the more moderate Lords who are still part of Parliament

Four Powers Emerge: Scots, King, New Model Army, Parliament

1647 NEW MODEL ARMY MARCHES INTO LONDON; TOTAL CONTROL

Charles to Hampton Court Aug, Sep, Oct (meets w/Cromwell Fairfax)

August, Army offers the Heads of Proposals

August Montrose escaped from the Highlands

October, "An Agreement of the People for a firm and present peace upon grounds of common right", presented to the Army Council



CROMWELL FAIRFAX CHARLES MEET AT HAMPTON COURT

KING CHARLES ESCAPES FROM HAMPTON COURT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Begins to secretly negotiate with the Scots etc

Nov 1647



Second Civil War: NewModelArmy (Cromwell-Fairfax versus

Charles I and Scots

1648

New Model Army against Scots

May Battle of St. Fagans

May(?) – 11 July Siege of Pembroke

June Battle of Maidstone

June – 28 August Siege of Colchester

August – 19 August **Battle of Preston (in the north)**

Oliver Cromwell New Model Army vs Royalists & Duke of Hamilton (Scot)

Defeat of Royalists ends 2nd Civil War

Cromwell lose only a hundred or so troops.

August, On the evening of the surrender of Colchester, Royalists

Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle were shot by Fairfax

September, Treaty of Newport

Nov, leaders in the army draft the Remonstrance of the Army

December – **Pride's Purge**, when troops under Colonel

Thomas Pride removed opponents of Oliver Cromwell from

Parliament by force of arms resulting in **Rump Parliament**



BATTLE OF PRESTON

August 19, 1648

Scotland

vs

New Model Army

Oliver Cromwell

in Command



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THREE POWERS IN ENGLAND IN 1648:

1. King (Royalists)
2. Parliament
3. New Model Army

CROMWELL AND FAIRFAX HAD A FOOT IN BOTH



DEC PARLIAMENT, LONDON

Pride's Purge

after Purge
200
members
left



December 6, 1648

December – **Pride's Purge**, when troops under Colonel Thomas Pride removed opponents of Oliver Cromwell from Parliament by force of arms resulting in **Rump Parliament**. (Fairfax not informed of this

TRIAL OF KING CHARLES I JAN 1649



Dec-Jan 1648-1649



1. No one wanted to execute the king. Much of England hated it and never forgave the executioners.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



2. Charles never negotiated in good faith.
He never gave anything; never intended to.
He believed in Divine Right of Kings.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



3. England, English Parliament did not believe in Divine Right of Kings and had specifically disallowed any such claim by a king since the Magna Carta.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



4. All the Tudors had acknowledged some role in gov. for the Parliament. Henry VIII had given away massive power to Parliament to get his "divorce."

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



5. The Stuarts brought in a foreign idea that was never acknowledged by the Eng Parliament nor most of the Eng nobility.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



6. Since Charles would not negotiate with Parliament, nor acknowledge its authority, the trial and execution of the king was the only way left for Parliament to establish that the king was indeed under the law and not above it.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



7. The execution of the king had a lasting effect. Charles II came back on the throne well aware of what had happened to his father. His brother forgot and lost his throne because of it. In 1688, all the achievements of Cromwell were reconfirmed with the Bill of Rights etc.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



8. Many freedoms such as press and speech were greater under Cromwell than under Charles II. Charles reinstituted book licensing (censorship) that Milton had defeated during the Republic.

Dec-Jan 1648-1649



9. Cromwell was not a power mad dictator. He refused again and again to accept "King." His authoritarian moves came as he became exasperated with the incompetent Parliament.

1649

- 15 January, "An Agreement of the People of England, therewith incorporated, for a secure and present peace, upon grounds of common right, freedom and safety" presented to the Rump Parliament
- 20 January 1649, The trial of Charles I of England by the High Court of Justice begins
- 27 January 1649, The death warrant of Charles I of England is signed
- 30 January 1649, Charles I of England executed by beheading - the Rump Parliament passes Act prohibiting the proclaiming any person to be King of England Ireland, the Dominions thereof
- 5 February 1649, Parliament abolishes the House of Lords.

IN SCOTLAND: The eldest son of Charles I, Charles, proclaimed King of Scots in Edinburgh, Scot.

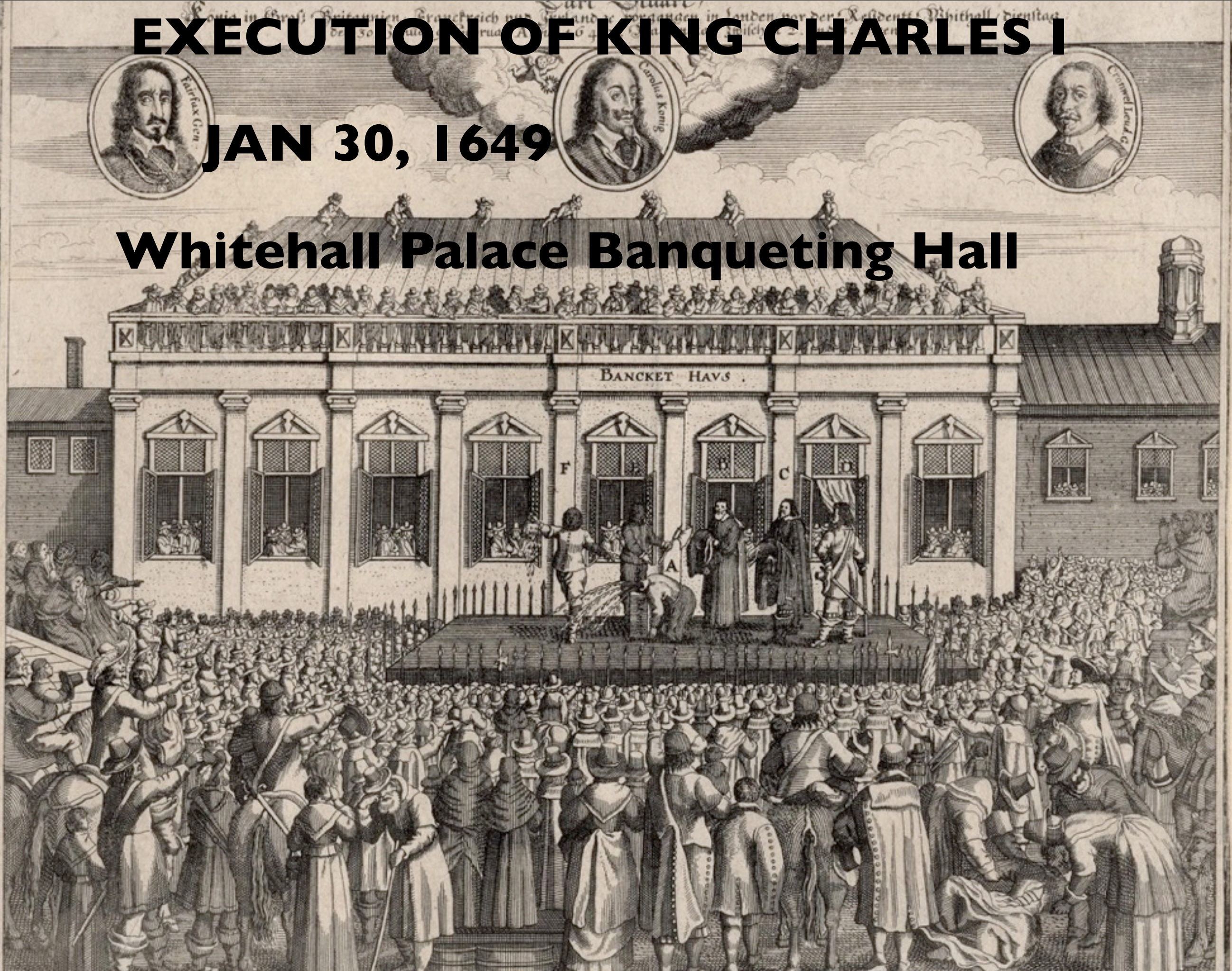
- 7 February 1649, The Rump Parliament votes to abolish the English monarchy.
- 9 February 1649, publication of **Eikon Basilike**, allegedly by Charles I of England
- 14 February 1649, the Rump Parliament creates the English Council of State
- February Charles II proclaimed king by Hugh, Viscount Montgomery and other Irish Royalists at Newtownards in Ulster. Ireland
- 9 March 1649, Engager Duke of Hamilton, Royalist Earl of Holland, and Royalist Lord Capel were beheaded at Westminster
- 17 March 1649, an Act abolishing the kingship is formally passed by the Rump Parliament.
- 24 March 1649, The capitulation of Pontefract Castle which, even after the death of Charles I, remained loyal to Charles II
- 1 May, "AN AGREEMENT OF THE Free People of England. Tendered as a Peace-Offering to this distressed Nation" extended version from the Leveller leaders, "Lieutenant Colonel John Lilburne, Master William Walwyn, Master Thomas Prince, and Master Richard Overton, Prisoners in the Tower of London, May the 1. 1649."

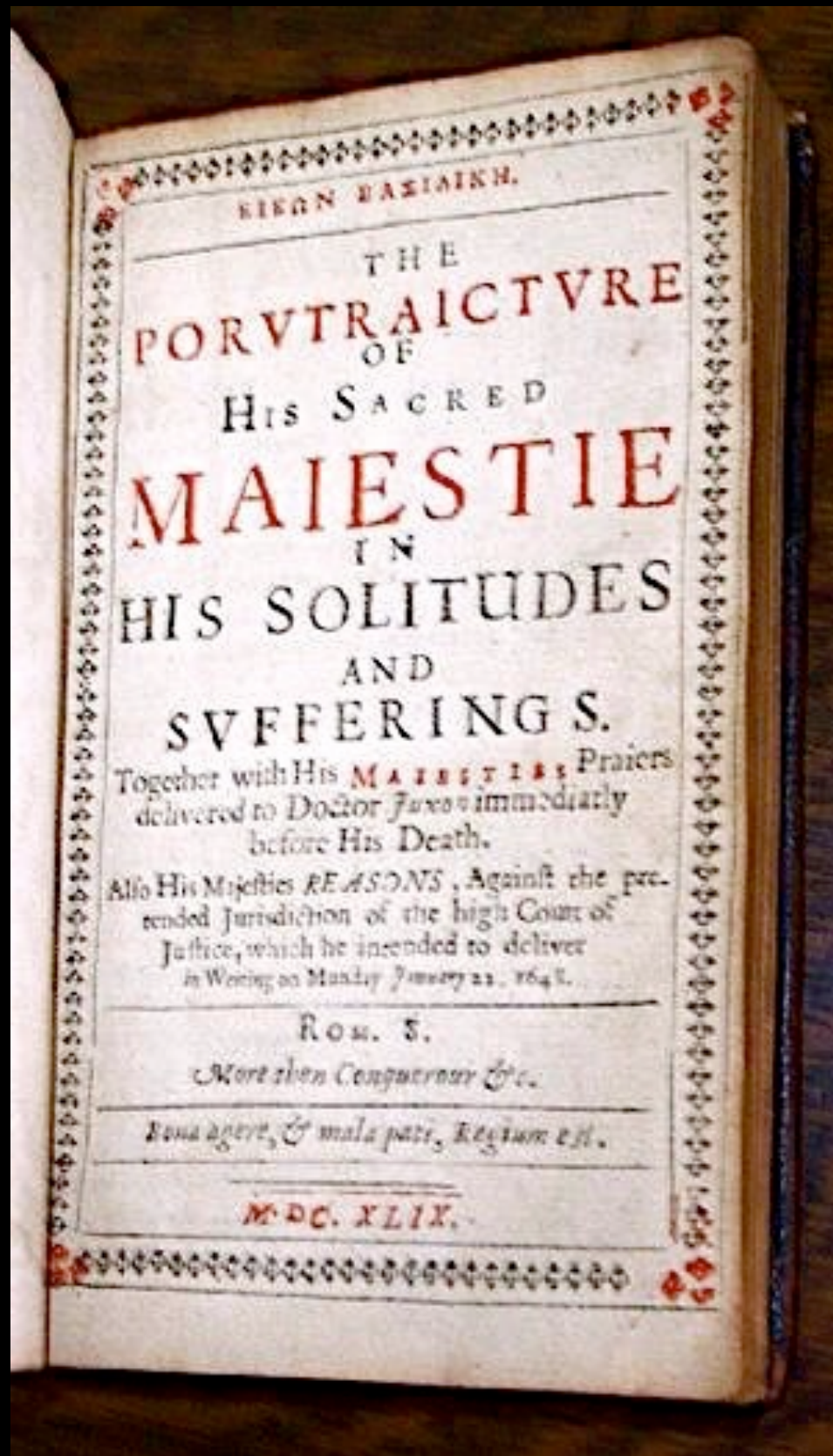
October 1649, first publication of **Eikonoklastes** by John Milton, a rebuttal of Eikon Basilike

EXECUTION OF KING CHARLES I

JAN 30, 1649

Whitehall Palace Banqueting Hall





The *Eikon Basilike*

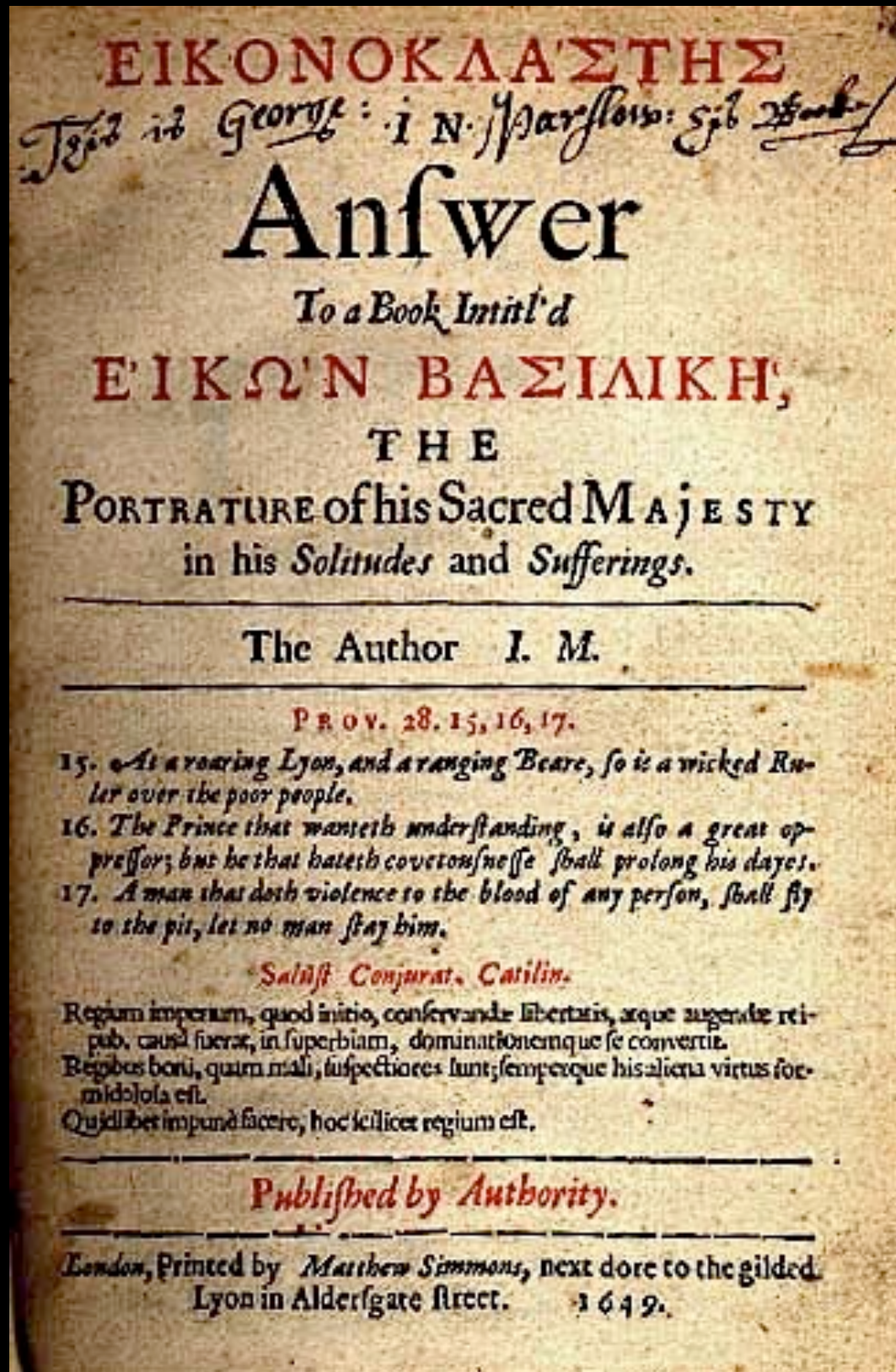
(Greek: Εἰκὼν Βασιλική, the "Royal Portrait"), *The Pourtrature of His Sacred Majestie in His Solitudes and Sufferings*, is a purported spiritual autobiography attributed to King Charles I of England. It was published on 9 February 1649, ten days after the King was beheaded by Parliament in the aftermath of the English Civil War in 1649.

The book a huge success and goes through 35 editions just in 1649.

Feb 1649 Eikon Basilike

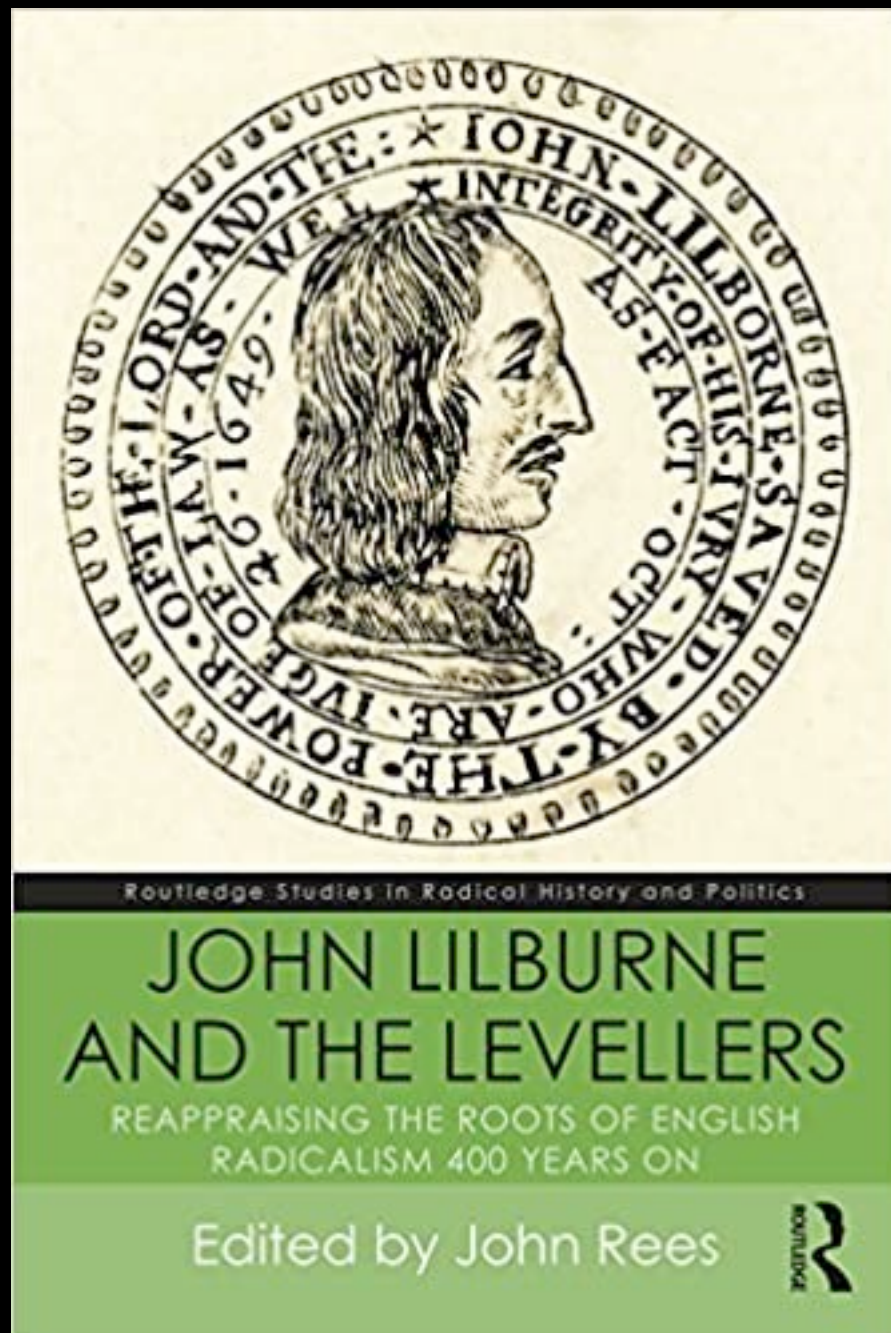


- *IMMOTA, TRIVMPHANS* — "Unmoved, Triumphant" (scroll around the rock);
- *Clarior é tenebris* — "Brighter through the darkness" (beam from the clouds);
- *CRESCIT SUB PONDERE VIRTVS* — "Virtue grows beneath weights" (scroll around the tree);
- *Beatam & Æternam* — "Blessed and Eternal" (around the heavenly crown marked *GLORIA* ("Glory")); meant to be contrasted with:
 - *Splendidam & Gravem* — "Splendid and Heavy" (around the Crown of England, removed from the King's head and lying on the ground), with the motto *Vanitas* ("vanity"); and
 - *Asperam & Levem* — "Bitter and Light", the martyr's crown of thorns held by Charles; contains the motto *Gratia* ("grace");
- *Coeli Specto* — "I look to Heaven";
- *IN VERBO TVO SPES MEA* — "In Thy Word is My Hope";
- *Christi Tracto* — "I entreat Christ" or "By the word of Christ";
- *Mundi Calco* — "I tread on the world".



Eikonoklastes (from the Greek εἰκονοκλάστης, "iconoclast") is a book by John Milton, published October 1649. In it he provides a justification for the execution of Charles I, which had taken place on 30 January 1649. The book's title is taken from the Greek, and means "Iconoclast" or "breaker of the icon", and refers to *Eikon Basilike*, a Royalist propaganda work. The translation of *Eikon Basilike* is "icon of the King"; it was published immediately after the execution. Milton's book is therefore usually seen as Parliamentary propaganda, explicitly designed to counter the Royalist arguments.

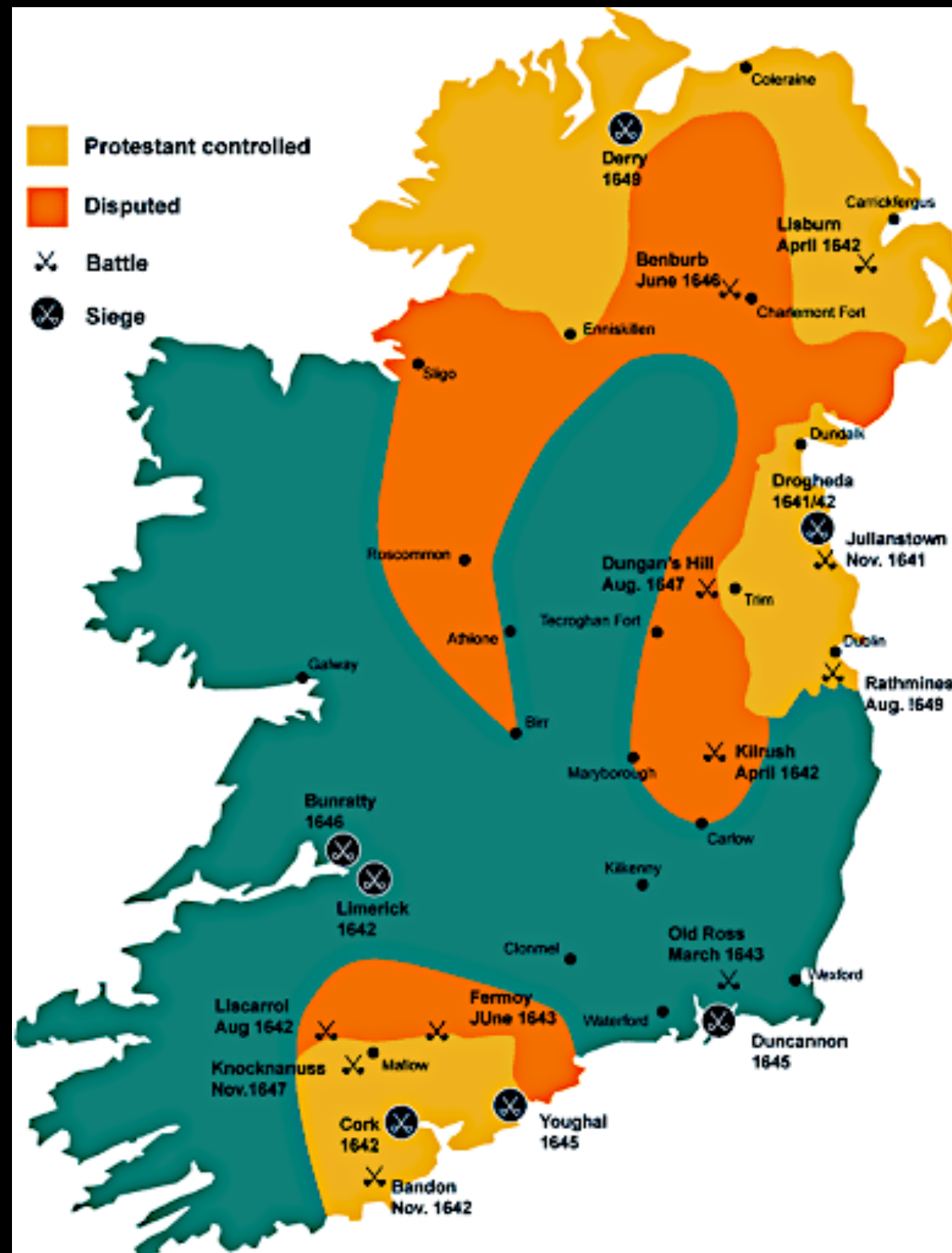
John Lilburne and the Levellers



In Feb and March Political, as well as religious, radicals were in the ascendant. John Lilburne, one of the levellers who had helped to promote agitation in the New Model Army, had turned against the new administration. In *'England's New Chains Discovered'* he lambasted Cromwell and the army grandees for dishonesty and hypocrisy; he accused them of being 'mere politicians' who wished to aggrandize themselves while they pretended 'a waiting upon providence, that under the colour of religion they might deceive the more securely'.

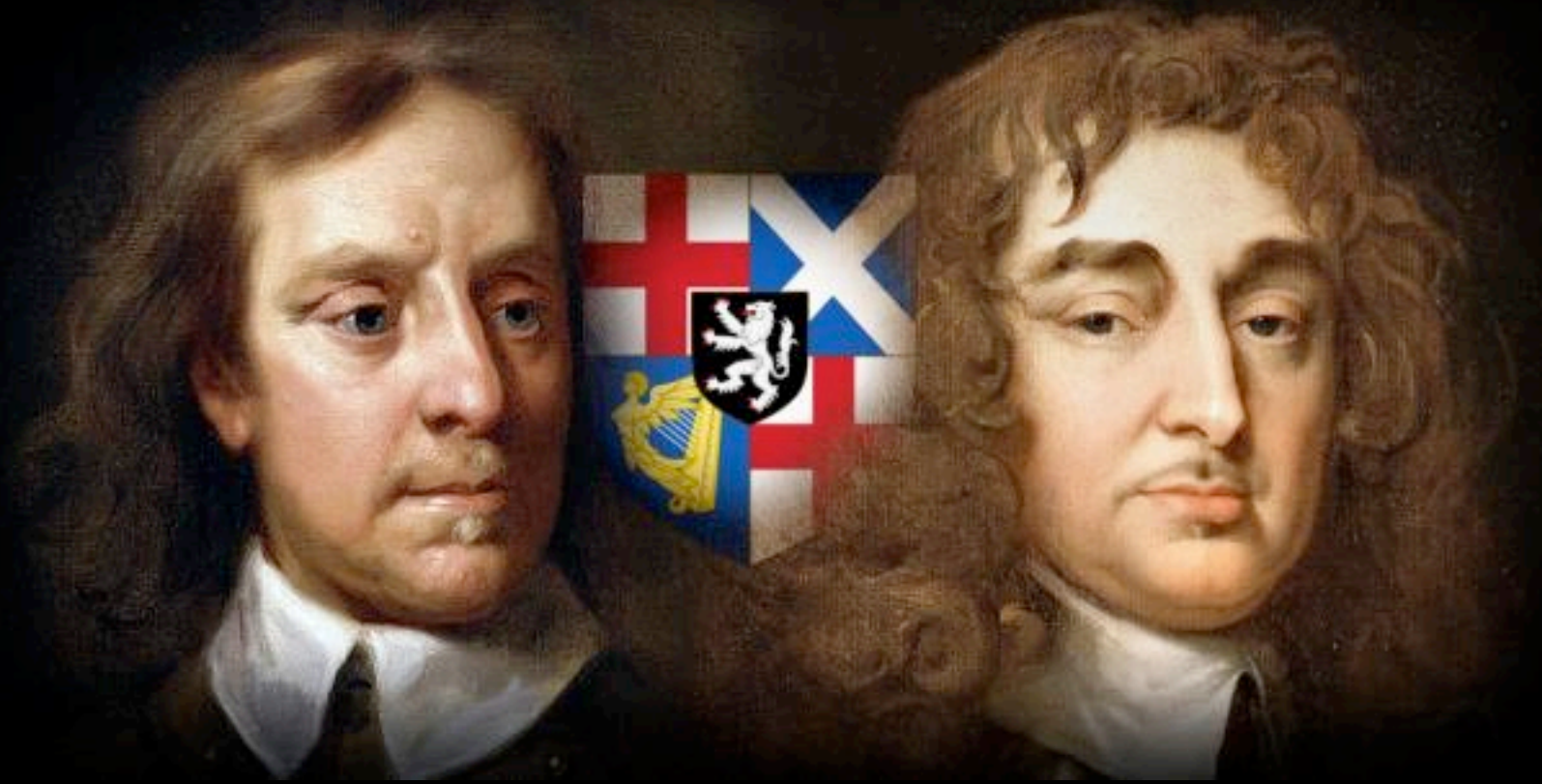
Cromwell was incensed at the pamphlet and was overheard saying at a meeting of the **Council of state**, ‘I tell you, sir, you have no other way to deal with these men but to break them in pieces ... if you do not break them, they will break you.’ **By the end of March Lilburne and his senior colleagues had been placed in the Tower** on the charge of treason. The levellers, however, were popular among Londoners for speaking home truths about the condition of the country. When thousands of women flocked to Westminster Hall to protest against Lilburne’s imprisonment the soldiers told them to ‘go home and wash your dishes’; whereupon they replied that ‘we have neither dishes nor meat left’. When in May a group of soldiers rose in mutiny for the cause of Lilburne, Cromwell and Fairfax suppressed them; three of their officers were shot. As Cromwell said on another occasion, ‘Be not offended at the manner of God’s working; perhaps no other way was left.’

July 1649 Cromwell Goes to Ireland



1650: Home to England then to Scotland

At the end of May 1650, he sailed for England, leaving behind him Henry Ireton as lord deputy of Ireland; when he landed at Bristol, he was given the welcome for a returning hero.



Cromwell VS Charles II

Cromwell vs Charles II 1650



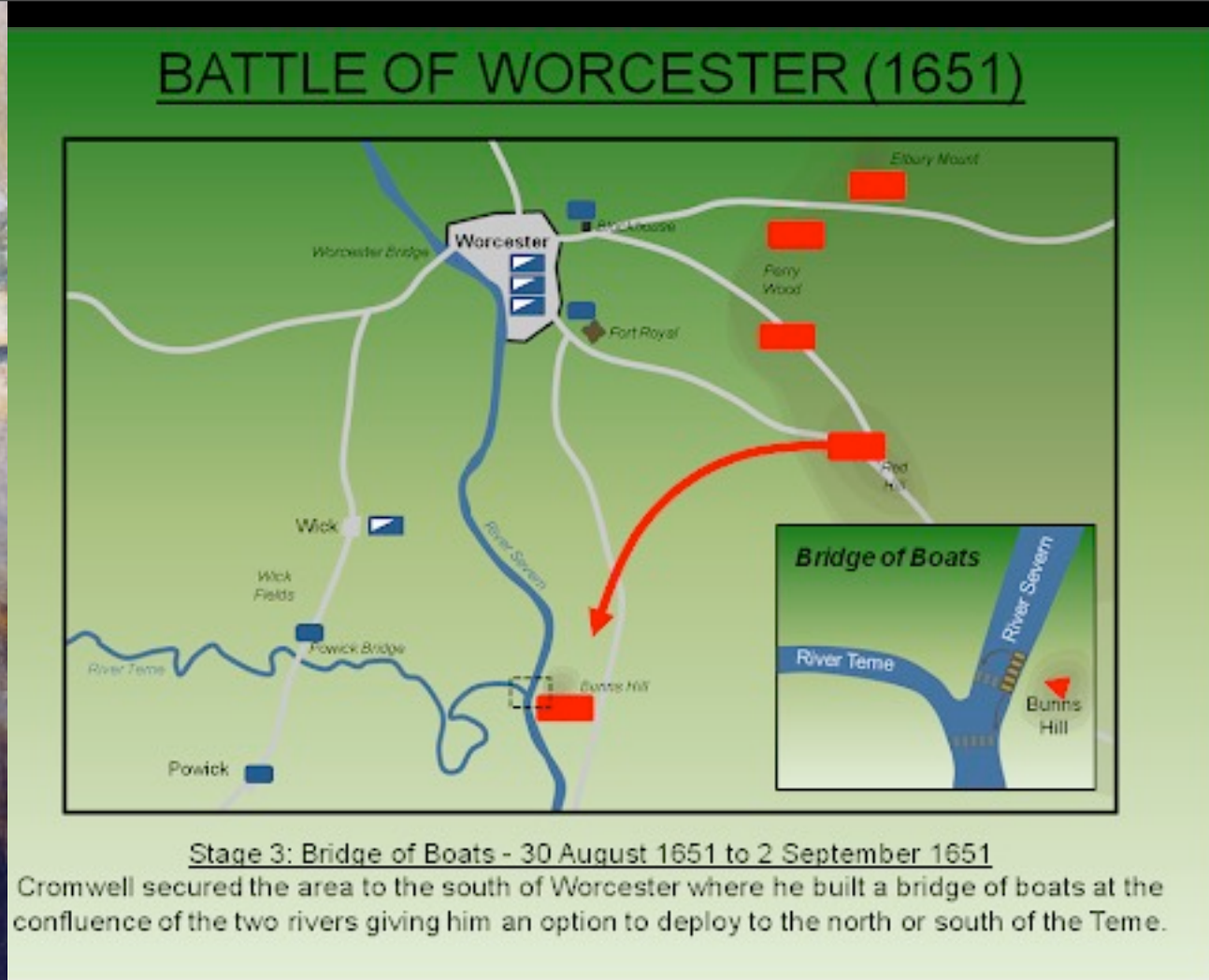
Charles comes to Scotland

Charles II needed to find support wherever he could, and the chance of a Scottish army was not one to be missed. So aboard ship on 23 June, just before landing in Scotland, he signed a solemn oath to uphold the national covenant and to ensure that Presbyterianism became the official religion of England as well as of Scotland. He swore this in bad faith, having no regard for the Presbyterian cause or its proponents, but his immediate interests were of more importance. One Scottish negotiator, Alexander Jaffray, later concluded that 'he sinfully complied with what we most sinfully pressed upon him'.

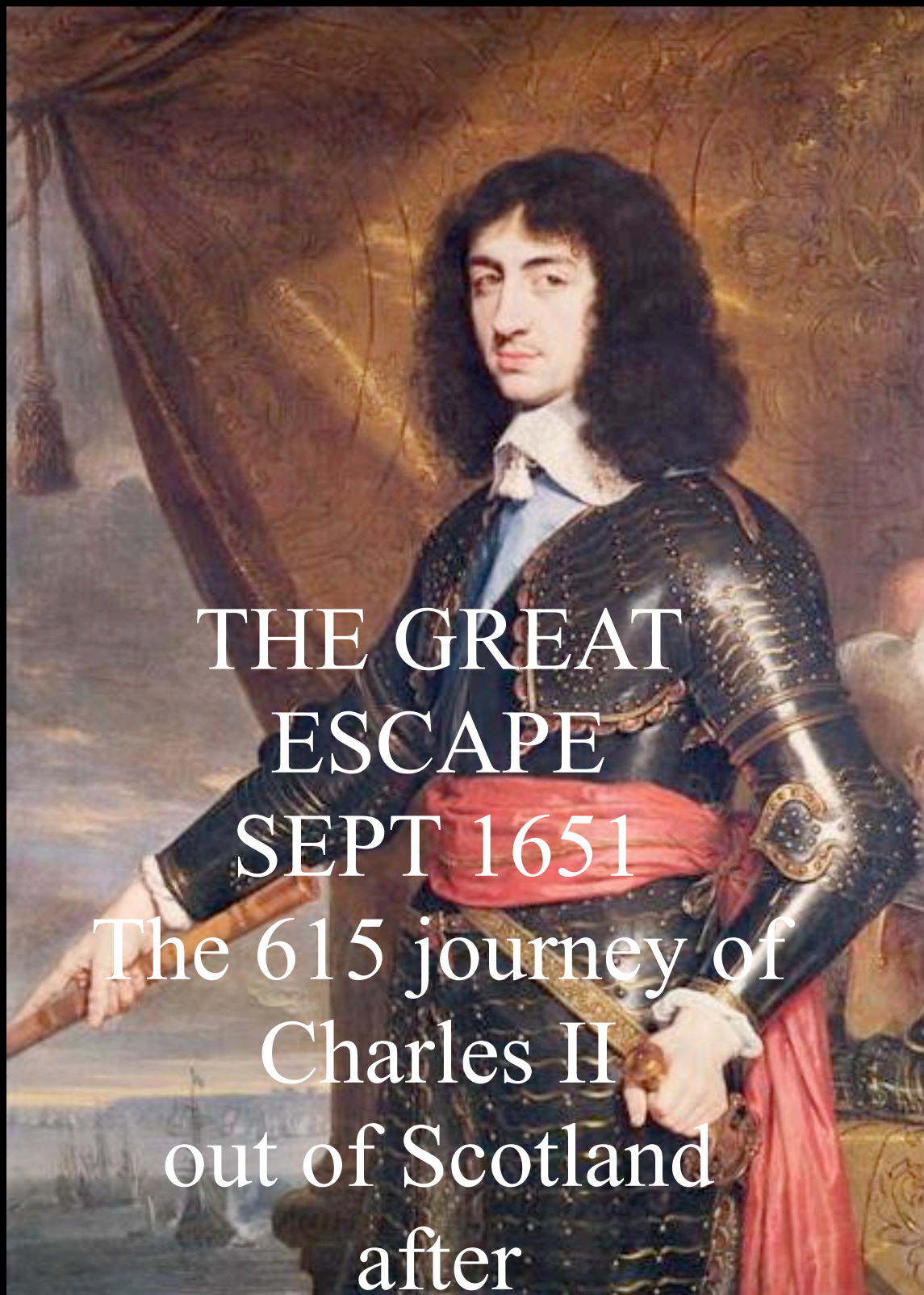


Cromwell in Scotland 1650 1651

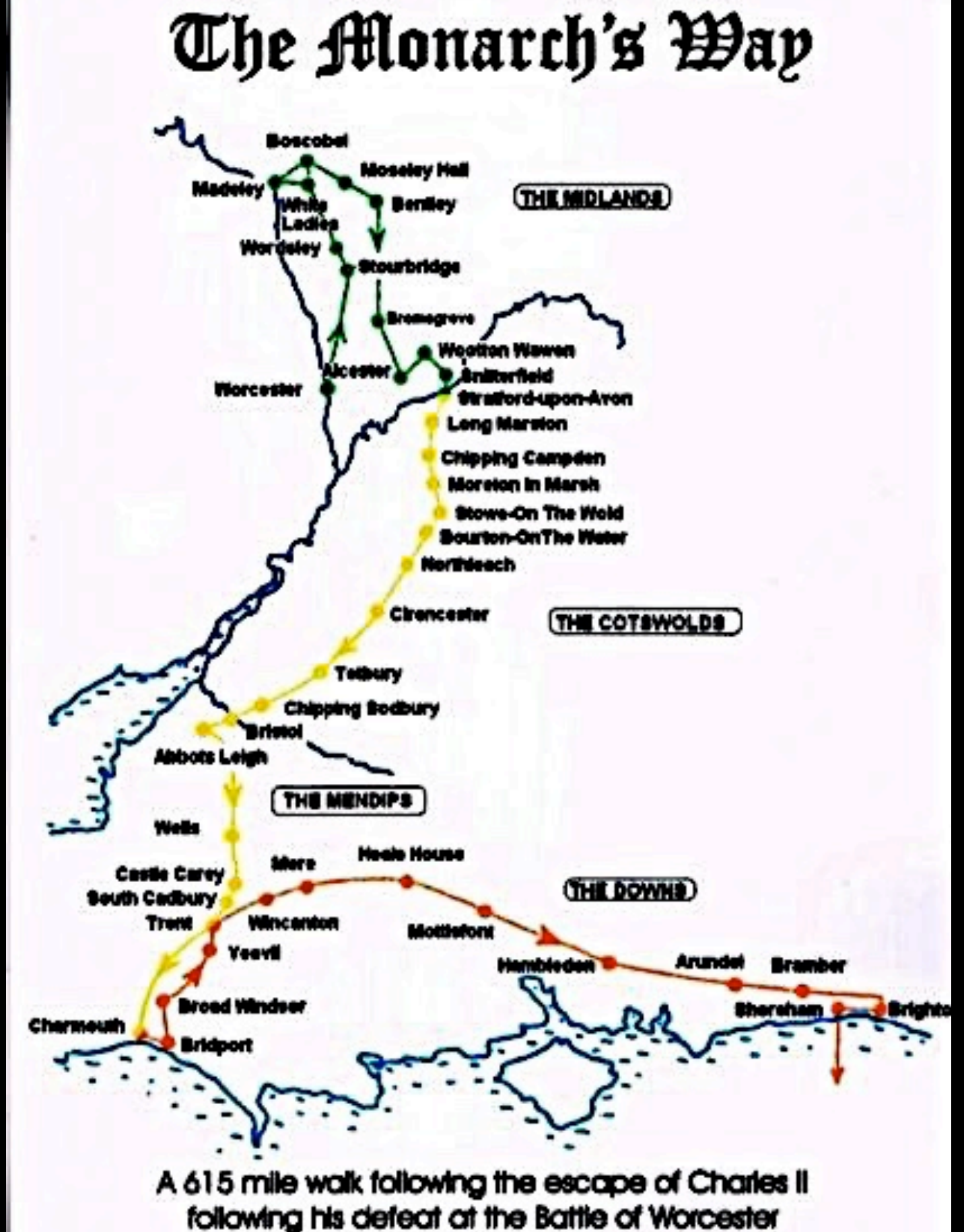
Battle of Dunbar, Scotland September 3, 1650. Cromwell wins. The English called out, 'The Lord of Hosts!' while the battle cry of the Scots was 'The Covenant!' The Scots were routed after a brief resistance; 3,000 were killed and 10,000 captured. Very few English casualties were reported. A witness informed John Aubrey that, after the battle, Cromwell 'did laugh so excessively as if he had been drunk; his eyes sparkled with spirits'. The whole of southern Scotland now fell to the English. Other consequences followed. With the apparent judgement of God against them, the Presbyterian ministers lost much prestige and authority; never again would the covenanting movement maintain its previous power over Scotland.



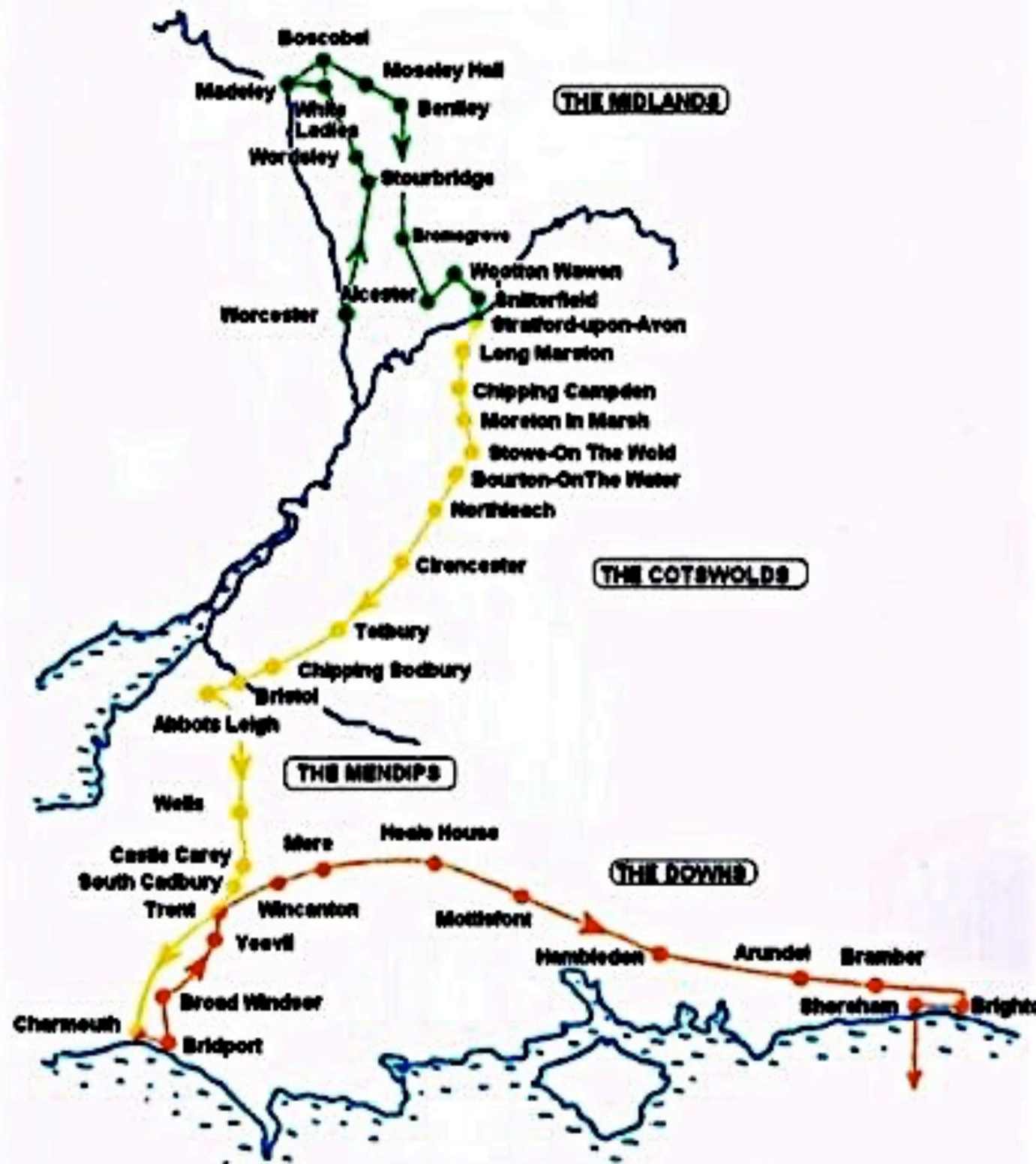
The battle of Worcester was Oliver Cromwell's greatest triumph. It was the culmination of a campaign which ran like clockwork and finally ended the long and bloody English Civil War (1642-1651). Some even believe that Cromwell engineered the preceding invasion of England by the royalist army of Prince Charles (the son of the executed King Charles I) by letting him slip behind his own parliamentary force in the north. Cromwell then allowed the Scottish and English royalists to pass unchallenged down the western side of the Pennine mountains while simultaneously arranging a series of military rendezvous and creating supply dumps down eastern England ahead of his own march southwards. Cromwell ensured royalist recruitment drives in Charles's wake were broken up and defeated. And then, isolating Charles and his army in Worcester, Cromwell tightened his cordon. On September 3, 1651, Cromwell's professional New Model Army stormed the royalist positions from the east and south. By the end of the day, Worcester was in Cromwell's hands and his enemies were scattered. While Prince Charles escaped into exile, the royalist cause was doomed. It was a remarkable battle and campaign.



THE GREAT
ESCAPE
SEPT 1651
The 615 journey of
Charles II
out of Scotland
after
Cromwell defeats
the Royalist-Scots
Army



The Monarch's Way



A 615 mile walk following the escape of Charles II following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester

The wanderings of the young king have become the stuff of legend; he made his secret way through

England for **forty-two days**, and was

concealed in **eighty-two different** hiding places; **forty-five people**, by the smallest count, knew who he was and where he was. Yet not one of them betrayed him.

ROYALIST SENTIMENT IN ENGLAND

The image of the king still burned brightly in some loyal hearts. It was noted that many of those who preserved him were Roman Catholic.



The
story of the
Great
Escape
feeds
the
public
admiration
of Charles.

In the course of his peregrinations he was disguised as a laborer; he hid in a barn, in a wood and on a farm. He adopted the disguise of the son of a tenant farmer, and was recognized in silence by the butler of the manor where he rested. He stayed in a 'priest hole', devised to protect visiting Jesuits, and lay concealed among the boughs of an oak tree in the grounds of Boscobel House. He dressed as a country man, in a worn leather doublet, and as a servant in a grey cloak. Posters were pasted in villages and market towns asking for the capture of 'a tall, black man, over two yards high'; the 'black' referred to his somewhat swarthy complexion. On one occasion he was surprised by the sound of bells and sight of bonfires, arranged after a false report of his death.



CROMWELL
NOW
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN
ANY
ENGLISH
KING

1652

Cromwell returned in triumph to London bearing with him, like a Roman emperor, the prisoners whom he had taken. He was granted an income of £4,000 per year, and the palace at Hampton Court was bestowed upon him. There could be no doubt that he was the first man of the state.



England in 1653

The condition of England was enough to cause dismay. The late **wars** had badly injured trade, with a consequent steep increase in **unemployment**; bands of beggars roamed the land in numbers not seen since the last century. The country gentry and other landlords were devastated by the various **taxes** imposed upon them; those who favoured the royalist cause found their lands in danger of confiscation or sale. The **prisons** were filled with debtors. The **Church** was in confusion, with radical sectaries and orthodox believers still engaged in recrimination and complaint. **Episcopacy had been abolished** but no other form of national Church government had taken its place; it was said that the mass of the people could not find ministers to serve them. Many called, without success, for legislation to abolish burdensome taxes, to simplify and improve the judicial process, to ease the public debt and to lower the cost of living.

The Rump Parliament 1648-1653



Cromwell dissolves the Long Parliament.
After a contemporary Dutch print.



1653 Cromwell Closes the Rump Parliament

In 1653, after learning that Parliament was attempting to stay in session despite an agreement to dissolve, and having failed to come up with a working constitution, Cromwell's patience ran out. On 20 April he attended a sitting of Parliament and listened to one or two speeches. Then he stood up and harangued the members of the Rump. This speech does not survive but has often been paraphrased, for instance in the *Book of Days*:

You have sat too long for any good you have been doing lately ... Depart, I say; and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!

He then declared "you are no Parliament" and called in a troop of soldiers, under the command of Major-General Thomas Harrison, ordering them to clear the chamber. According to Charles Dickens in *A Child's History of England*^[9] and Hilaire Belloc,^[10] he then turned to the Speaker's Mace, the symbol of parliamentary power, declared it a "fool's bauble", and ordered the troops "here, carry it away". Cromwell's motives are uncertain, but may lie in his disapproval of Sir Henry Vane's scheme for a redistribution of constituencies that retained sitting members of Parliament and continued to fill vacancies with recruiter elections.

ONE MORE TRY

Barebones Parliament, Assembly, July 1653

Barebone's Parliament, also known as the **Little Parliament**, the **Nominated Assembly** and the **Parliament of Saints**, came into being on 4 July 1653, and was the last attempt of the English Commonwealth to find a stable political form before the installation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. It was an assembly entirely nominated by Oliver Cromwell and the Army's Council of Officers. It acquired its name from the nominee for the City of London, Praise-God Barebone. The Speaker of the House was Francis Rous. The total number of nominees was 140, 129 from England, five from Scotland and six from Ireland. After conflict and infighting, on 12 December 1653 the members of the assembly voted to dissolve it.



The tragedy of Oliver Cromwell was he never found a constitutional basis for his own rule. There was just no basis in it, no Magna Carta, no constitution, no law. It was just him through Parliament. There was not legitimacy. You could not explain to people why he had the power. There were suggestions made he was a king. Truly they made him Lord Protector. But he wasn't king. Nobody beforehand treated him as if he were. There was not agreement about what his legal constitution was. Remember Parliament in 1650. Everybody was mad at him. They didn't want the king killed.



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In addition they had no succession plan.
Who came after? How to do it?
Nobody had a plan. So?



WHAT DID CROMWELL ACCOMPLISH

1. He healed the division between the far left and the far right. He had enough fighting in so he could hold right and left off and most of all keep the peace. Peace is what the people wanted mostly. He gave them a decade of peace after tragedy.



2. He promoted the distribution of freedom in England.

He was unselfish and he didn't want to accumulate money. He was not avaricious.

Even with the various actions that strike us as authoritarian he protected basic ideas of English freedom of the press. In the 60's the English people never found that with Charles II.

They soon wished for Good Old Oliver.



3. Some legislation was extremely enlightened and progressive.

He should be proud of the first **legislation** for the protection of Jews in any society since the Crucifixion. Anyone who hurt them was arrested.



4. He dramatically improved the foreign standing of England after a decade of terrible happenings. The various governments of England were strong. It was a complete turnaround. When Charles II came back people who experienced the terrible first part of his reign wished for the good old days of Oliver Cromwell. He didn't become a Hitler or Stalin.



5. He established that the king was under the law. That lesson stuck with everyone (except James brother of Charles II)

Westminster Abbey

1658



GETTY IMAGES



HISTORY OF ENGLAND, Week 27 Oliver Cromwell

Institute for the Study of Western Civilization





