

Charles I and Scotland

KS3 History - Lesson 3 of 6

Enquiry: Why did the Civil War break out in 1642?

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First Bishops' War

In 1638 Scotland's **National Covenant** rejected Charles I's religious reforms. The majority of Scottish people followed a form of Protestantism called **Presbyterianism**. As a result Scotland disliked Charles I's Catholic-seeming policies. Charles tried to reassert his authority by force. He chose to use his own funds rather than call back Parliament. Charles' lack of money meant that he could only afford inexperienced soldiers armed with bows and arrows. Plus, many of these soldiers were sympathetic to the Scottish and disliked having to fight Protestants when they could be fighting Catholics in the Thirty Years War. The Covenant's army was far superior and had high morale, which meant Charles decided to stop any conflict. The Pacification of Berwick was drawn up which agreed Charles would return to Scotland and discuss a solution.



Short Parliament

The Earl of Stafford persuaded Charles to send another army to Scotland to reassert his authority. Charles desperately needed Parliament to raise taxes and increase his war funds. Parliament was called in April 1640 after 11 years of Charles' personal rule. Charles expected Parliament to quickly grant him money. Once Parliament was in session, however, the members of Parliament flooded Charles with **petitions**. These petitions protested against the religious reforms and the changes to ship money. There was progress as Charles agreed to remove ship money in return for a short-term loan from Parliament. This agreement, however, was short lived as Parliament continued to protest. Charles became angered once more and dissolved Parliament in May, after just three weeks of them being in session. This became known as the 'Short Parliament'.



Second Bishops' War

Without the money from Parliament, Charles used the Earl of Strafford to gain 8,000 extra Irish troops to fight the Covenanters. This caused many English soldiers to become demoralised when for Charles. Not only did the English troops remain poorly armed, underfunded, and underfed but now they had to fight alongside the Irish Catholics, which caused much outrage. Charles' troops were once again defeated, as they retreated the **Covenanters** invaded Northumberland and Durham. The Treaty of Ripon ended the conflict. In this treaty, Charles agreed to pay the Scottish £850 a day so that they would not invade any further south.



Glossary

National Covenant – A movement that rejected Charles I's and William Laud's attempts to force the Scottish Church to follow the English Church's reforms.

Presbyterian – Extreme protestants based in Scotland.

Petitions - A formal written request appealing to the authority to make changes, (typically this is signed by many people).

Covenanters – Term given to the soldiers fighting to protect the presbyterian faith in Scotland.



Comprehension Questions

1. What was the aim of the National Covenant?
2. Why was Charles I's army unenthusiastic?
3. What caused Parliament to be cut short in May 1640?
4. How did Charles' extra 8,000 troops in the Second Bishop War cause him a problem?
5. Why were protests against Laud's reforms punished so harshly?

