

1. The British Problem and the Causes of the English Revolution
  - a. Was it a Revolution?
    - i. "Puritan Revolution"
    - ii. "the Great Rebellion"
    - iii. "Civil Wars"
  - b. Older arguments:
    - i. Whig/constitutional
    - ii. Marxian/social
    - iii. localist/neutralist
  - c. Newer arguments:
    - i. Revisionist/functional explanation
    - ii. Multiple Kingdoms Crisis
      - (1) the Scottish problem
        - (a) 1637
      - (2) the Irish Problem
        - (a) October 1641
2. Long Parliament and Reform, 1640-42
  - a. Dismantling of Prerogative Government
    - i. attack on Laudian Bishops
    - ii. abolition of the prerogative courts (Star Chamber) and financial innovations of 1630s
    - iii. Triennial Act (15 Feb. 1641) and Act against Dissolution (10 May 1641)
  - b. Search for a Settlement collapses
    - i. Crown attempt to win men over by place
    - ii. Stafford's trial and execution
      - (1) Strafford's defence at his trial: "These gentlemen tell em they speak in defence of the commonwealth against my arbitrary laws. Give me leave to say I speak in defence of the commweal against their arbitrary treason."
      - (2) 21 April 1641, only 59 MPs opposed Strafford's attainder.
      - (3) But Charles signs Strafford's attainder; Strafford executed 11 May 1641
    - iii. John Pym and others escalate demand for parliamentary nomination of the king's ministers
    - iv. by end of June 1641, Pym and select committee established to examine the Army "plot"
  - c. Resurgence of Loyalism
    - i. "There could be no civil war before 1642 because there was no royalist party. The origins of the English civil war are really concerned less with the rise of opposition than the resurgence of loyalism." John Morrill
    - ii. "root and branch" abolition of episcopacy heavily opposed
    - iii. growth of middle group of constitutional royalists
    - iv. Irish rebellion (news reaches Parliament, Nov. 1641) reinvigorates collapsing radicals in Parliament
    - v. Grand Remonstrance, a grab-bag of grievances—religious, constitutional,

economic (Nov. 1641) passed by only a handful of votes: 148 Noes, 159 Ayes

- (1) vote to print it without taking it to House of Lords even closer.
- (2) Sir Edward Dering exclaimed; "I never dreamed that we should remonstrate downwards, tell stories to the people, and talk of the King as a third person."

- vi. Dec. 1641, Militia Bill, Parliamentary militia first broached, established in 1642; Charles sets up Commission of Array in return.
- vii. radicalness increased by return of radical Nonconformists from exile, including from New England

3. 1642: Reform to War

a. "Arrest" of the 5 Members, an abortive coup, 4 Jan. 1642

- i. King had earlier (April-May 1641) threatened to use army to resolve deadlock in Westminster (Army Plot)
- ii. King sends in armed guards to arrest five members
  - (1) "The king commanded the soldiers to stay in the hall ....Then the king came upwards, towards the chair, with his hat off, and the Speaker steeped out to meet him ...Then he called Mr. Pym and Mr. Holles, by name, but no answer was made. Then he asked the Speaker if they were here or where they were. Upon that the Speaker fell on his knees, and desired his excuse for he was a servant to the House, and had neither eyes, nor tongue, to see or say anything but what they commanded him. then the king told hi, he thought his own eyes were as good as his, and then said, his birds were flown." –J. Bruce, ed., *Notes of Proceedings in the Long Parliament by Sir Ralph Verney* (Camden, 1845)
- iii. Charles leaves London a week later

b. The Paper War

- i. from King's answer to Grand Remonstrance onwards, Royalist propaganda attempts to appeal to a moderate center
- ii. April 1642, debate over refusal of entrance by Sir John Hotham of Hull
- iii. June 1642, 19 Propositions and King's answer

c. Call to Arms

- i. issue of control of militia (important ever since Army Plot fear of April/May 1641)
- ii. Parliament's Militia Ordinance of 5 March 1641, delayed until May 1642
- iii. King's offers own Militia Bill, but vetoes it when altered by Parliament out of recognition
  - (1) establishes own Commissioners of Array
- iv. Two sides?
  - (1) neutrals