

The British Civil Wars, 1637-1652: Contexts and Consequences

[British History Online](#)

British History Online is a not-for-profit digital library based at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. It brings together material for British history from the collections of libraries, archives, museums and academics. These primary and secondary sources, which range from the medieval period to the twentieth century, are easily searchable online.

[The English Civil Wars and Commonwealth](#)

List of primary documents covering the Civil Wars and the Commonwealth. The database is arranged in date order from 1626 and clearly shows the author and title of the source.

[Irish History: Letters from Ireland, 1649 and 1650](#)

The website is a database of transcriptions of letters from Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War. The letters are written to a number of different people in Ireland, including the Governor of Kilkenny, The Speaker of the Parliament, Commander in Chief of the town of Wexford and Cromwell's brother [in-law] Richard Mayor.

[Parliament: The Civil War](#)

The official site of the Houses of Parliament has brief information on (and images of) a small selection of key texts from the Civil War, including the death warrant of King Charles, the Petition of Right of 1628 and the Earl of Strafford's petition to the House of Lords during his trial.

[The Cromwell Association](#)

This Archive contains transcripts of 205 letters from Oliver Cromwell between 1635 and 1657 which covers the build up to the Civil War, the Civil War itself and the first seven years of the English Republic.

[Mistis Parliament: The British Civil Wars and Interregnum](#)

A meeting place for the six members in a history tutorial on the English Civil Wars at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, in the spring

semester of 2010. For now, it's mostly a storehouse of websites and other resources, with emphasis on politics, religion, women, and print culture.

[National Archives: The Civil War:](#)

This site is primarily a site aimed at school pupils studying the Civil War but it does contain a number of documents that are useful for higher level study. The site has documents from before the civil the war and after it, including letters of complaint over Ship Money, Petitions from London citizens in 1640 and a record of Charles's disputes with Parliament. All document have been digitalised, in their original form, but there is an also a transcription that is easier to read.

[Royal Collection Trust](#)

Database provides a detailed history of the British Monarchy. As well as an online collection of books, scholarly material is also digitalised.

[The Hartlib Papers](#)

This database provides access to the extensive papers of Samuel Hartlib (c. 1600-62), held by the University of Sheffield. These include the king's ship money case and the verdict of the judges.

[Trinity College Dublin](#)

The 1641 Depositions (Trinity College Dublin, MSS 809-841) – see lecture notes.

[Online Library of Liberty](#)

The website gives access to the full transcription of the Putney Debates that took place in 1647 between New Model Army officers and Leveller supporters.

[British Library: William Laud](#)

A digital copy of a collection of letters from William Laud, edited in 1841 by John Bruce. The letters are varied and range from 1634 to 1665. They include letters to King Charles I and letters that relate to Laud's reforms of the Church of England.

[Project Gutenberg: The Diary of John Evelyn](#)

Project Gutenberg has made a fully digitalised copy of John Evelyn's diary, available online. Evelyn was a notable diarist who recorded the reign of Charles I, the English Civil War and Charles's execution.

[The National Portrait Gallery](#)

The National Portrait Gallery has made available 332 portraits of King Charles I by a wide range of artists including Sir Anthony Van Dyck.

[The National Gallery](#)

The National Gallery had made available 25 of Anthony Van Dyck's paintings which include portraits of King Charles I and of members of the king's court and peerage, for example, the Earl of Warwick.

[The Royal Collection: Anthony Van Dyck](#)

The Royal Collection has a collection of 27 Anthony Van Dyck paintings. The paintings are dated between 1620 and 1637. The collection contains portraits of King Charles I and his Court.

[The British Museum: Charles I](#)

The British Museum has a large collection of primary source material relating to this period, including printed images and coins.

[The Wenceslaus Hollar Digital Collection](#)

Wenceslaus Hollar was an artist who lived in England, in the Earl of Arundel's household, during the Civil War. He worked on a variety of projects, in which he depicted the situation in England with his religious prints, map and portraits. All of Hollar's work has been made available to view online.

[University of Leicester: Fairclough Portrait Collection](#)

This collection contains a selection of engraved portraits of 17th-century subjects, printed during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, with a particular focus on the Civil War and Commonwealth period. All portraits are freely accessible online.

[The British Library: The History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars](#)

The British Library has a fully digitalised copy of Edward Hyde, earl of Clarendon's, *The History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars*, books V and VI

covering 1641-43. The book was first published in 1702 but was written between 1646 and 1671. It is one of the most important primary sources from the period, written by one of the king's councillors who served him at the royalist court at Oxford.

[The British Library: Civil War News Stories](#)

The British Library has a small online exhibition of broadsides from the Civil War. Broadsides were printed sheets that depicted current events, such as a battle. In the 1640s, censorship temporarily collapsed and there were newspapers published by both sides. Parliamentarians had the 'Weekly Intelligencer', while Royalists published a series of mercuries such as the 'Mercurius Aulicus', which championed the King.

[Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service: Lichfield and the Civil War](#)

Lichfield and the Civil War is an online exhibition which contains original documents that are related to the Civil War in the Hampshire County of Lichfield. The exhibition has both the original copy but also a written transcription.

[Battlefields Trust](#)

Database contains primary documents relating to battles near London in the early stages of the war.

[The University of Adelaide: Leviathan](#)

The University of Adelaide has made available a digital copy of Thomas Hobbes; Leviathan, or the Matter, Form, and Power of a Commonwealth, Ecclesiastical and Civil. This was published in 1651 but written during the Civil War. The book contains Hobbes's theories on the need for strong authority.

[Map of Early Modern London](#)

A digital map of London from 1633 allows users to see a bird's eye view of the City. The map is complete and has illustrated notes of landmarks in the city.

[Archontology](#)

Archontology is an educational non-commercial resource created and maintained for the purpose of promoting archontology, the study of historical offices and important positions in state, international, political, religious and other organizations and societies. The link directs you to a section on England from 871 to 1707, and has links to primary source databases.