REVISION: INITIAL CHRONOLOGY

**1629-40**: Charles’ Personal Rule

**1640-42**: The slide into Civil War

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**1629-40 (Charles I’s Personal Rule)**

* Charles had been “unwillingly driven out of course”, always intended to recall Parliament “when such as have bred this interruption shall have received their punishment”.
* All normal systems of government continued in new system of ‘Thorough’.
* Areas for concern included finance, military, religion and appointments of new Councillors without the guidance of Parliament.

Advisors:

* Several opponents of Buckingham rejoined the King, including Dukes of Arundel and Bristol, Sir Thomas Wentworth and Sir Richard Weston.
* William Laud appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633, Arminian tendencies alarmed Puritan faction.
* Further concern over Sir Richard Weston (Lord Treasurer), Sir Francis Cottingham (Chancellor of the Exchequer) and Sir Francis Windebank (Secretary of State), all were suspected of secret Catholicism.
* In December 1634 the King received an emissary from the Pope, first since Reformation, and Henrietta Maria’s open Catholicism sparked fears over the religion of any heirs, especially considering Catholic celebrations after building of her chapel.
* Sir Thomas Wentworth became Earl of Strafford, and then Lord Deputy of Ireland

Finance:

* End of war with France in 1629 and Spain in 1630 eased financial burdens of the 1620s for the coming decade.
* Revenue increased from 1630-34 by use of impositions, tonnage and poundage, and higher efficiency; a loophole allowed for the granting of monopolies to companies, not to individuals, eg Popish Soap Monopoly, brought £29,000 per year.
* Distraint of Knighthood of 1278 was reintroduced to fine those who refused a knighthood but continued to hold land (a knighthood incurred further feudal dues).
* Forest laws were enforced and defined, attempts at businesses on restricted land made illegal, and new boundaries were set by the King. Fines also set for building near London without permission.
* Ship money revived in 1634, levied inland in 1635 and became annual in 1636. Accused of violation of the Petition of Right by John Hampden (supported by Viscount Saye and Sele).
* Court case with Hampden was won by King, but considered a moral victory for Hampden.

The Church:

* William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, initiated vigorous campaign to restore wealth of the Church to pre-Reformation levels, imposing uniformity of worship; was a personally unpopular man with close friendship with Buckingham.
* As Bishop of London, Laud enforced visitations to crack down on clerical nonconformity, and improved the fabric of St Paul’s Cathedral, described as “making a seat for the priest’s arse to sit in”, and supported attack on impropriated tithes, which culminated in dissolution.
* As Archbishop of Canterbury, Laud pursued and extended policies in London, instituting metropolitan visitations, regaining impropriated tithes and using Court of Star Chamber to enforce his will as in the case of Prynne, Bastwick and Burton, who circulated pamphlets attacking the episcopacy, and criticising Laudian doctrines. Punished with pillory, branding and ear-cropping before life imprisonment in 1637.
* Popular demonstrations against Laudian doctrines and tyranny were inspired by the Puritan martyrdom of Prynne, Bastwick and Burton, and of Alexander Leighton, who circulated a petition calling for abolition of episcopacy and was flogged, mutilated and imprisoned for life.
* Heavy recusancy fines discredited those who accused Laud and therefore Charles of seeking reversal of Reformation.
* Church offered strongest link between Charles and the localities, so control as Supreme Governor for the monarch was political, not just religious.

Ireland and Scotland:

* Charles needed to assert his authority, sent Wentworth as Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1632, and by 1635 this was very successful, defeating political opposition and avoiding corruption by concentrating power on a trusted few.
* Irish industry encourages, as was Irish exportation, trebled Irish army and developed Navy for maritime trade.
* Religious problems remained in Ireland, many resisted Laudism. Archbishop of Armagh criticised Court of High Commission and Wentworth for self-promotion.
* Policy of taking land as Crown lands was ruthless and ineffective, when Wentworth was removed to deal with Scotland, instability began that ended in rebellion in 1641.
* In Scotland, imposition of Canons in 1636 and Liturgy in 1637 infuriated Presbyterians; attempts to regain Crown lands worsened situation.
* Riots broke out on first reading of Liturgy in Edinburgh, Laud became scapegoat for all negative religious reform.
* Attempts at compromise failed, First Bishops War began when Charles sent 20,000 men in half hearted invasion ending in Pacification of Berwick in 1639.
* Wentworth advised Charles to call Parliament, Laud warned they would be hostile to his needs.

Chronology of Personal Rule:

1629 -Parliament are dismissed (10th March)

-Peace declared with France

-Charles sells monopolies and raises finance through forest laws and feudal payments

-Catholic faction grows at Court through the Queen

1630 -Peace declared with Spain

1631

1632 -Wentworth appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland

1633 -Charles’ coronation in Scotland (18th June)

 -Laud created Archbishop of Canterbury

 -Book of Common Prayer introduced to England

1634 -Charles levies ship money from coastal areas

 -First emissary from the Pope received since Reformation

1635 -Charles extends ship money inland

1636 -Charles makes ship money annual

 -Canons imposed in Scotland

1637 -John Hampden’s case against ship money fought in court

 -Prynne, Bastwick and Burton tried and mutilated (30th June)

 -Book of Common Prayer and Liturgy introduced to Scotland

1638 -Scottish Assembly raise National Covenant

 -First Bishops’ War begins

1639 - Pacification of Berwick signed (18th June)

-Wentworth recalled from Ireland

1640 -Short Parliament is called, dismissed (13th April-5th May)

 -Convocation of the Clergy grants £20,000, passes the Etcetera Oath of 17 Canons

 -Second Bishops’ War is fought

- Treaty of Ripon is signed (26th October)

 -Queen and Strafford approach Spain and Pope for a loan

 -Council of Peers in York advise Charles to consult Parliament

 -Long Parliament is called (3rd November)

The Bishops’ Wars:

* Prayer Book introduced in Edinburgh to riot and led to formal opposition in the National Covenant (a national petition signed by a great number); Charles decided in 1638 to use force.
* Charles led poorly trained, poorly funded body of 20,000 militia men to Berwick, and while minor skirmishes continued, Pacification of Berwick agreed in April before open fire.
* Pacification of Berwick allowed all religious discussion to be under Scottish Parliamentary control, Scotland abolished episcopacy, and declared itself free of royal religious control.
* Charles called the Short Parliament on Wentworth’s advice, hoping that a common enemy will unite them in the Scots, but they demand redressing of their grievances, and he dissolves them within three weeks. Wentworth said “Pity me, for no man ever came to so lost a cause”.
* Charles kept open the Convocation of the Clergy for long enough to grant £20,000 and pass the Etcetera Oath, officially known as 17 Canons.
* Scots invaded Northumberland and County Durham after defeat of Strafford’s Irish Army at Battle of Newburn, and Charles is forced to allow this and sign Treaty of Ripon, which requires payment of £850 a day to Scotland to support their army as it presides over Northumberland, until a Parliamentary settlement is decided upon.
* Charles recalled the Long Parliament of 1640, marking the end of the Personal Rule.

A tyranny? (Whig interpretation)

* Illegal raising of revenue
* Prerogative courts
* Censorship of religious dissenters
* Refusal to consult Parliament
* Disagreement with Scotland

Possible questions:

1. Whose fault was the decline into war?
2. How effectively did Charles finance the Personal Rule?
3. Was it a tyranny?

Or a Personal Rule? (Revisionist interpretation)

* Never intended to be permanent
* Pursued policy of Thorough, kept ancient systems in place
* Parliament had attacked Royal Prerogative with Three Resolutions
* Parliament were often not called
* Effectively managed; ship money welcomed in coastal areas and navy was hugely modernised
* Lord Weston the strongest Lord Treasurer in a long time; efficiency of revenue collection grew

**1640-42 (The slide into Civil War)**

The Long Parliament:

* On its opening, Henry Slingsby said “Great expectance there is of a happy Parliament where the subject may have a total redress of all his grievances”
* Posed problems that could only be settled with compromise and good will.
* Met on 3rd November 1640, as all other suggestions to solve the Scottish problem had failed or been rejected, eg. Strafford’s idea of involving the Irish army.
* Parliamentary grievances included: ‘evil councillors’ Strafford and Laud, arbitrary actions of Personal Rule, the use of feudal revenue, Laudism, and the existence of a Personal Rule at all.

‘Evil councillors’:

* Strafford was a man of ability with many enemies, particularly among Parliament as he had been a vehement critic of Buckingham, but joined sides with the King after Parliament was dissolved.
* John Pym and Sir Henry Vane both disliked Strafford; Pym denounced him as an apostate for betraying the principles he had in the early 1620s.
* Several articles of impeachment failed, and much relied on Vane’s evidence that he heard Strafford’s intention to ‘reduce this kingdom’ with the Irish army. Vane was deaf, and this was in the context of the Scottish crisis, furthermore, two witnesses were required under the 1352 Statute of Treason.
* The House fell back on an Act of Attainder (Parliamentary declaration of a subject’s guilt without trial) to remove Strafford in April 1641. Pym declared that “The Earl of Strafford hath endeavoured by his words, actions and counsels to subvert the fundamental law of England and Ireland, and to introduce an arbitrary and tyrannical government”
* Charles was very distressed by his failure to protect Strafford, but fear for his own and his family’s safety made him sign both Strafford’s Attainder Act, and the Own Consent Act (May 1640), stating that the Long Parliament couldn’t be dissolved against its will.
* Strafford was executed on 12th May 1641; Charles reportedly commented that “my lord of Strafford’s condition is better than mine.”
* Laud was imprisoned and impeached in December 1640, but no specific Articles of Impeachment were laid against him until 1643, when he was accused of subverting religion and the rights of Parliament. He remained in the Tower of London until his execution in the midst of the Civil War, in January 1645.

Reversal of the Personal Rule:

* The Triennial Act of February 1641 prevented a personal rule of more than three years’ duration, and set up a mechanism whereby Parliament could be called without the authority of the King in this case. Possible loopholes in prorogation or summary dissolution were closed by Own Consent Act in May 1641.
* Earl of Bedford, Francis Russell died in May 1641; he was a moderate with the possible ability to broker peace between the two parties, as he was respected by both.
* Acts announced that collection of tonnage and poundage without consent of Parliament was illegal in June 1641 and that ship money was illegal in August 1641. Monopolies were suppressed, forest boundaries were restored and Distraint of Knighthood was reversed, meaning that even if it were legally possible, financially the King could not support a Personal Rule by any means.
* The prerogative courts that gave Charles coercive power were abolished in 1641, and the power of the Privy Council to commit was subject=t to ‘habeas corpus’; censorship was relaxed.
* Charles approached Scotland in attempt to broker peace, but when Scottish extremists tried to capture Covenant leaders, trust of royalists was broken.
* Determination to eradicate Laudism proved divisive in Long Parliament. Pym’s reluctance to tackle religion led to Laud’s imprisonment, rather than execution. Actions to reduce Laud’s impact were universally supported in Parliament, altar rails were removed, altars moved from east end of church, aspects of ceremony were scrapped and popular heroes like Prynne, Bastwick and Burton were given amnesty. Everyone wanted reform, no one could agree on its nature. In December 1640, the Root and Branch Petition was introduced (to abolish episcopacy throughout the church), and iconoclasm promoted a sense of lawless vandalism. Fear of extremism grew among the moderates, and support slowly grew for the King as one of two authorities under threat; the monarchy and the church. Concern began to grow that Charles would raise a Scottish or Irish army against Parliament; tension increased with the Irish Rebellion of October 1641.
* Irish Rebellion made up of Irish Catholics afraid that Long Parliament’s anti-High Church approach would lead to the attempted elimination of Catholicism. Had terrible impact on King’s popularity, as it was waged in his name, and exaggerated reports came in of savage massacres of Protestants. It was rumoured that London Catholics planned a revolt, and by November 1641, there were concerns over two issues Charles would not compromise; the right to choose his own advisors and the right to raise and command armies to serve outside their own counties.
* Grand Remonstrance of November 1641 was designed by Pym to flush out King’s supporters, and to consolidate his party within Parliament. Three sections; part one analysed the root of the problem of corruption and assessed that a “malignant and pernicious conspiracy” of Catholics and evil counsellors had cut the King off from the public. Part two summarised the success of Parliament’s reformative work so far, and part three resolved to reduce the power of the bishops and to urge the King to choose advisors Parliament approved of. It was printed and published by Pym without the permission of the House of Lords as was customary, and increasing support for the King was shown in the narrow passing of the Remonstrance, by only eleven votes. Charles responded with promises to investigate, but insisted he keep his own ministers.
* When the Commons impeached twelve more bishops and threats of impeachment were held against the Queen in January 1642, Charles attempted to arrest Pym, Hampden, Haselrig, Holles and Strode, breaching Parliamentary privilege and embarrassing the King. The Speaker refused to hand them over, stating “Sire, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as the House is pleased to direct me.” Anti Catholic hysteria grew to match that of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. The King lost hope of compromise.
* The House of Lords excluded all Bishops from Parliament in February 1642, and in March 1642 the Militia Ordinance was passed against the King’s will, placing the Militia under Parliamentary control.
* By April, the King was denied entry to Hull and made York his centre for recruitment, rejecting the Nineteen Propositions of June 1642 (insisted that Parliament decide Charles’ children’s education and marriage.) Both sides began recruiting and Charles raised his royal standard at Nottingham on 22nd August 1642.

Chronology of the Slide into Civil War

1640 November -Long Parliament called (3rd)

 December -Laud imprisoned and impeached

 -Root and Branch Petition first introduced

1641 January -Habeas Corpus Act abolishes prerogative courts

 February -Triennial Act

 March

 April -Act of Attainder signed against Strafford

 May -Own Consent Act passed

 -Earl of Bedford, Francis Russell dies (9th)

 -Strafford executed (12th)

 June -Collection of tonnage and poundage without Parliament’s consent made illegal

 July

 August -Ship money declared illegal

 -Charles approached Scotland for peace, but suspicion of Royalists hinders

 September

 October -Irish Rebellion began in Charles’ name

 November -Grand Remonstrance issued and published

 December

1642 January -Twelve bishops impeached, the Queen threatened with impeachment

 -Charles marches to Parliament in Five MPs Attempt (4th)

 February -Bishops excluded from House of Lords by Clerical Disabilities Bill

 March -Militia Ordinance passed, placing Militia under Parliamentary control (5th)

 -Commissions of Array passed, both are now recruiting troops

 April -King denied entry to Hull and made York centre of recruitment

 May

 June -Nineteen Propositions made and rejected

 -Earl of Essex made Commander of Parliamentary forces

 July

 August -Charles raised the Royal Standard at Nottingham (22nd)

**1642-6 (The First Civil War)**

* Parliament appointed the Earl of Essex, Robert Devereaux, to Commander of their 10,000 troops in June 1642.
* Militia Ordinance gave Parliament the power to appoint Lord Lieutenants who raised the county militias. King needed another way to raise troops, with Commissions of Array, succeeded in 11 of 42 counties who declared for the King, 24 declared for Parliament and 7 continued to avoid the choice or declared their neutrality by October 1642.
* Initially, Charles held the advantage, with more experienced generals and more supporters from the higher social classes, but Parliament grew in experience, numbers and efficiency, controlling the Navy and wealthy areas of the country.
* Charles travelled from Nottingham to Wellington where he passed the Wellington Declaration of September 1642, declaring his intention to uphold “the Protestant religion, the laws of England, and the liberty of Parliament”.
* Essex’s forces moved in September 1642 to Coventry, placing them between the Royalist force and London, and thwarting Charles’ primary aim to take London.
* First major skirmish took place at the Battle of Powick Bridge, where Prince Rupert’s cavalry troop defeated a Parliamentary cavalry detachment in Worcester on 23rd September 1642.
* A Royalist council of war decided in late September 1642 to travel towards London, where it was expected that Parliament’s Essex would intercept them, as he did at Edgehill on 23rd October 1642, the first pitched battle of the war and an inconclusive one that both claimed as victories.
* EDGEHILL: after the initial engagements, the Royalists held a winning position, as some of the Parliamentary cavalry had deserted to the King under Faithfull Fortescue, and so had some infantry. However, Rupert’s cavalry after first charge failed to regroup and pursued fleeing Parliamentarians to their baggage train, which they looted. The battle ended inconclusively, both sides exhausted, though the Earl of Lindsey (Charles’ general) was killed.
* Had the King taken London at this point he would probably have won the war, as Essex withdrew to Warwick leaving it open. Charles moved to Oxford instead to set up a permanent base, allowing Essex to reach London and mobilise London troops.
* Charles’ force of 7,000-12,000 met Parliament’s force of 24,000 at Turnham Green on 13th November 1642, Charles withdrew to Oxford for the winter and no engagement took place, losing the opportunity for a swift Royalist victory.
* Parliament offered Charles the Oxford Treaty of January 1643, which was a slightly milder version of the Nineteen Propositions, and he rejected it.
* Tussles in the Midlands gave the Parliamentarians Lichfield in March 1643, but Royalist forces won the Battle of Adwalton Moor in June 1643, and gained most of Yorkshire.
* The West of England was predominantly taken by Royalists, and so Rupert took Bristol.
* Oliver Cromwell, an emerging officer, created his troop of ‘Ironsides’ in 1643, a disciplined unit that helped win the Battle of Gainsborough in July 1643.
* Pym signed Solemn League and Covenant with Scots in June 1643, agreeing to reform the Church ‘according to God’s holy word’ in exchange for their military support.
* The Royalist summer ended in the Siege of Gloucester of August 1643. After the fall of Cirencester to the Royalists, Gloucester was one of few Parliamentary strongholds left, and Charles besieged it for over three weeks before the Earl of Essex arrived with reinforcements from London and the Royalists were forced to withdraw.
* First Battle of Newbury was fought on 20th September 1643. Charles’ forces were blocking Essex’s path back to London, so Essex gave a surprise dawn attack and won due to Royalist lack of ammunition and Essex’s superior tactics.
* Clarity of the Royalist purpose to take London declined as the war continued, as did episcopacy, which was slowly dismantled.
* The Scots set foot in England first in January 1644, ready to support the Parliamentarian efforts at Marston Moor.
* MARSTON MOOR: was fought on the 2nd July 1644, to the west of York. At this point the King held most of the North, excluding Hull, and in the south west and Bristol, but the way south and to London was blocked by Oliver Cromwell’s Eastern Association forces. Charles had made a political mistake in making a treaty with the Irish. Parliamentary and Scottish forces laid siege to York and the battle began when Rupert’s relieving forces arrived. Fighting began in the evening in the midst of a storm, but the Royalists weren’t ready, expecting it to commence the next morning. Parliament won decisive victory, but didn’t take full advantage, resuming Siege of York, which was captured on 16th July, gaining the North for Parliament.
* Second Battle of Newbury fought on 27th October 1644, Sir William Waller, the Earl of Manchester and Essex led Parliamentary force of 20,000, while Charles and Maurice had almost half that number. An indecisive result clarified the Parliamentary need to strengthen command.
* Parliament regrouped and rallied in 1645, passing the Self-Denying Ordinance on 9th December 1644 which excluded all MPs from command and built the meritocratic New Model Army in their place under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell as his second.
* The King still had reason to hope in the months preceding Naseby, as his forces were doing well in the west around Bristol, and although Chester lay under siege, Prince Rupert had successfully taken Pontefract in Yorkshire and Scottish Royalists were succeeding in several battles. However, war-weariness began to alienate neutrals, as seen in the development of Clubmen to defend areas from battle. Oxford was besieged by Parliament, then was abandoned to defend Leicester, and the King was convinced by hardliners to engage the New Model Army at Naseby.
* NASEBY: at dawn on 14th June 1645, battle began, and Rupert’s men were pitted against Ireton’s, but got distracted by baggage trains again. By the time the cavalry returned the battle was lost, as Cromwell had forced the remaining cavalry into retreat before attacking infantry. The King lost all artillery and critically his writing cabinet, with evidence of Irish, French and Pope correspondence.
* New Model Army pursued the King’s Lieutenant of Horse, Lord Goring, to Langport, and defeated him in July 1645. The Royalist cause in the west was lost.
* Bristol fell in September 1645 from Rupert’s command and Charles relieved him of command, and surrendered on 5th May 1646 to the Scots at Southwell.

Chronology of First Civil War:

1642 August -Royal Standard raised at Nottingham

 September -Wellington Declaration made

 -Essex’s forces block route to London

 -Battle of Powick Bridge (23rd)

 October -Battle of Edgehill (23rd)

 November -Battle of Turnham Green (13th)

 December -Parliament establish Eastern Association

1643 January

 February -Oxford Treaty offered and rejected

 -Weekly Assessment Ordinance introduced

 March

 April -Sequestration Ordinance introduced

 May -Compulsory Loans Ordinance introduced

 June -Battle of Adwalton Moor

 -Solemn League and Covenant signed

 July -Battle of Gainsborough

 -Excise Ordinance introduced

 August -Siege of Gloucester

 September -First Battle of Newbury fought (20th)

October

 November

 December

1644 January -Scots arrive in England

 February

 March

 April

 May

 June

 July -Battle of Marston Moor (2nd)

 -York captured by Parliamentarians (16th)

 August

 September

 October -Second Battle of Newbury (27th)

 November

 December -Self Denying Ordinance passed (9th)

1645 January -Uxbridge Propositions made and rejected

 February

 March

 April

 May

 June -Battle of Naseby (14th)

 July -Goring defeated at Langport

 August

 September -Bristol fell to Parliament

 October

 November

 December

1646 January

 February

 March

 April

 May -Charles surrendered at Southwell to the Scots (5th)

**1646-49 (The Search for Settlement)**

* Charles surrendered to the Scots who asked him to sign the Solemn League and Covenant in exchange for their support, but he deliberated long enough for them to be paid off by Parliament for their help and surrender him to Parliamentary forces.
* Parliament offered him the Newcastle Propositions in July 1646, but these were on terms only slightly milder than the Uxbridge Propositions of January 1645, and Charles delayed, then refused them. He was held at Holdenby House until Cornet Joyce captured him.
* At the close of the war, Army wanted their arrears pay, indemnity against war crimes, and not to be sent on a foreign mission, but Parliament tried to disband them as cheaply and quickly as possible in spring 1647; army responded with New Model Army Petition.
* In April 1647 regiments elected ‘Agitators’ to speak to officers on their behalf about reforms of the army, law and religion.
* Cornet George Joyce and troop of cavalry seized the King from his guard in Northampton on 2nd June 1647. Solemn Engagement of the Army was called on 5th June 1647 to discuss grievances with King, Heads of Proposals offered July 1647 once approved by Army Council.
* Parliament was divided. Presbyterians (once the peace party who had called for speedy end to the war and resolution with King), wished for a Presbyterian nation under Charles, and disbanded army. These were Denzil Holles, Earls of Manchester and Essex. Independents (once the war party who wished for religious tolerance and a Parliamentary victory), wanted the King’s power severely reduced, religious tolerance despite Scots’ attitude and were sympathetic to the Army’s concerns. These were Lord Saye and Sele, Sir Arthur Haselrig, Henry Ireton and Cromwell
* Charles became aware of the friction between the Army and Parliament, and sought to utilise it to play the two off against each other for the best settlement.
* The Putney debates in late October of 1647 were interrupted by the King’s flight, but not before extremist Levellers had raised the issues of universal manhood suffrage and even basic socialism to the horrified Grandees of the army.
* Charles fled his New Model Army lodgings in Hampton Court on 11th November 1647, and sought refuge with General Harrison, whom he expected to be sympathetic. Harrison imprisoned him in Carisbrooke Castle, where he signed the Engagement with the Scots that if they would return him to power he would abide by Presbyterianism for three years on the 26th December 1647.
* Four Bills were offered to the King and rejected in December 1647.
* Parliament passed the Vote of No Addresses on 17th January 1648, ending negotiations with the King for his Engagement with the Scots.
* Parliament voted not to alter the ‘fundamental Government of the Kingdom, by King, Lords and Commons’ on 28th April 1648, a move to subdue radical independents within the Commons.
* Royalist and Scottish troops rose in July 1648 (supported by those neutralists who were weary of waiting for settlement), starting the Second Civil War; most uprisings were crushed by forces loyal to Parliament, but those in Kent, Essex, Cumberland, Wales and Scotland proved difficult. At the Battle of Preston on the 17th August 1648, the Scots were defeated and the Second Civil War ended.
* Parliament revoked the Vote of No Addresses in August 1648 to reopen negotiations with Charles, which infuriated the Army grandees; Ireton and Army Council issued a remonstrance on 16th November 1648 calling for the King’s trial for tyranny. Remonstrance was ignored throughout November, then Parliament voted to continue negotiations on 5th December 1648.
* Colonel Pride purged Parliament of those who called for negotiation, mostly Presbyterians and Moderates, on 6th December 1648. The Rump was left to sit.
* Cromwell allegedly attempted a final compromise with the King on 23rd December 1648, which failed. On 1st January 1649, the Commons voted to establish a High Court of Justice to trial the King, which the Lords refuted. On 4th January 1649, the Lords were excluded from the trial.
* Trial began on 20th January 1649 in Westminster Hall, presided over by Chief Judge Bradshaw. Charles refused to recognise the authority of the court, or to give a plea, which he is asked for thirteen times. Charles argues that he will answer to his charges before a full Parliament, but not before the Rump. He tells his son that “Parliaments, in their right form, will never hinder or diminish your greatness”. They charge him with undermining the principles of England and spilling his people’s blood, and he is executed on 30th January 1649. On the scaffold he says “truly I desire [the people’s] liberty and freedom as much as anybody... that their liberty and freedom consist in having of government... not for having a share in government”

Chronology of search for settlement

1646 May -Charles surrenders to Scots

 June

 July -Newcastle Propositions offered

 August

 September

 October

 November

 December

1647 January

 February -Parliament attempts to disband Army

 March

 April -Army nominate ‘Agitators’

 May

 June -Cornet Joyce takes King from Holdenby House (2nd)

 -Solemn Engagement of the Army called with King (5th)

 July -Heads of Proposals offered

 August

 September

 October -Putney Debates

 November -King flees to Harrison on Isle of Wight (11th)

 December -Four Bills offered

 -Charles signs Engagement with the Scots (26th)

1648 January -Vote of No Addresses passed (17th)

 February

 March

 April -Parliament vote not to alter ‘fundamental Government’ (28th)

 May

 June

 July -Royalist and Scottish troops rise in Second Civil War

 August -Battle of Preston is fought and Second Civil War ends (17th)

 -Vote of No Addresses is revoked

 September

 October

 November -Army Remonstrance issued (16th)

 December -Parliament vote to continue negotiations (5th)

 -Pride’s Purge (6th)

 -Final compromise attempted between Cromwell and King (23rd)

1649 January -Parliament vote to establish High Court of Justice (1st)

 -Lords excluded from trial (4th)

 -Trial of Charles I began (20th)

 -Charles I executed (30th)

**1649-58 (Healing and Settling the Nation/ The Cromwellian Republic)**

* All that remained of Parliament was the Rump, 71 MPs who survived Pride’s Purge and chose to stay after the execution of the King. 43 had signed his death warrant. Another 83 resumed their seat in following months, so 211 members sat between January 1649 and April 1653, when Cromwell dissolved them.
* The framework of government was first issue at hand, debated in February 1649 and legally established in March 1649, when the monarchy was abolished and the House of Lords dissolved. New government was declared a commonwealth, consisting of an executive, a Council of State and a parliament. Council of State was 41 members, of whom 34 were MPs, 5 were peers. Most radical army officers were excluded, and the Council began meeting in February 1649.
* Cromwell appointed as Commander of Army in Ireland in March 1649; authority needed reestablishment after the Irish Rebellion which had been unchecked for eight years. Ireland was the most likely route for a back door invasion if England. Massacre of the Protestant people also facilitated revenge.
* Cromwell ordered his troops to behave honourably, executed two soldiers for theft, declaring independence from City of London financially. Bloody attacks first at Drogheda (3rd-11th September) then Wexford (2nd-11th October), reports were sent of indiscriminate slaughter; at Wexford nearly 2000 Irish soldiers were killed to terrorise other garrisons into submission. Cromwell spent ten days negotiating Wexford’s surrender, then enemy officer surrendered without permission; civilians died escaping in boats. In nine months the back of the resistance was broken, but dysentery reduced English effective force to 1/5 original size. By April 1650 Cromwell felt situation secure and returned to England.
* Scots declared Charles II as King of Britain on 6th February 1649, it was thought that they were preparing to invade England for the third time in eleven years, so the Rump launched a pre-emptive attack. As Fairfax refused to fight his former allies, Cromwell led the English against David Leslie’s army of Scots (they had fought together at Marston Moor).
* Scots had the initial advantage due to experienced, disciplined, large force, and led by Leslie who destroyed everything Cromwell might need, then fell back on own supplies; sickness depleted Cromwell’s numbers and Leslie cut off the English line of retreat at Dunbar. At Battle of Dunbar on 3rd September 1650, Cromwell surprised Scottish forces in dawn attack and had huge victory, only lost 20 men roughly to Scots’ 3000, and 10,000 Scottish POWs. Battle of Worcester on 3rd September 1651 marked end to the problems in Scotland, as Cromwell won by forcing Leslie to invade England on his terms. Cromwell returned to England and resumed his seat.
* In the meantime, the Rump dwindled in activity. Of 211 members 60-70 were active, and average attendance was 50-60. Legislative committees went from 152 to 12 from 1649 to 1653, and acts passed diminished from 125 in 1649 to 10 in 1653. 3% legislation devoted to religion, 51% to security and finance.
* However, they did: create an executive power in the Council of State (13th February 1649) that excluded radicals like Ireton and Harrison, repeal all statutes compelling church attendance (like the Act of Uniformity, repealed 1650), convert all legal proceedings from Latin to English, introduce and enforce strict observance of the Sabbath (Blasphemy Act August 1650), prescribe death penalty for adultery (Adultery Act May 1650), fornication and incest, introduce the unpopular Oath of Allegiance, pass the Navigation Ordinance of October 1651 (decreeing that English ships be used when trade was English, driving out Dutch middlemen) and satisfy the wage demands of the army. By 1653 both Spain and France recognised the legitimacy of the new Commonwealth under the Rump, who provided a connection with the constitution.
* They didn’t: pass legislation or propaganda encouraging godly reformation, abolish tithes, or make arrangements for their own dissolution as promised under army control.
* Rump had promised to hand over power to Army Council (who would establish new Parliament) by 20th April 1653, but they voted for free elections, meaning those hostile to Cromwell and religious reform would return. Cromwell dismissed them with the military support of 5th Monarchist General Harrison on 20th April 1653 with “Drunkards! Whoremasters! You have sat here too long for the good that you do! In the name of God, go!”
* Cromwell introduced the Nominated Assembly on 4th July 1653, nominated entirely by Oliver Cromwell and his Army Council. Huge focus on religion, inspired by the Jewish Sanhedrin assembly and selected from collection of the “godly” to reform the nation. Named for Praise-God Barebone, its London representative. Cromwell considered the collapse of the Rump as God’s providence, and so pursued more religious route of government “I do think something is at the door. We are at the threshold”.
* Total number of Nominated Assembly was 140, with 129 from England, 5 from Scotland, 6 from Ireland. Described by writer as "Pettifoggers, Innkeepers, Millwrights, Stockingmongers and such a rabble as never had hopes to be of a Grand Jury", focus on low class, but in fact 116 members were gentry, 119 were JPs in their community, 40 had attended university, 40 were trained as lawyers, 24 had sat in previous parliaments and 67 would later be elected as MPs. Popular misconception was that they were all 5th Monarchists, due to presence of Thomas Harrison, Praise-God Barebone and John Carew. In fact constituted of moderates, only 13-14 Fifth Monarchists.
* Discussed in committees: reform of law of debt, humane treatment of the insane, civil registration of birth, death and marriages and greater protection of travellers on highways. Passed thirty statutes along these lines in five months. A loud and active minority of extreme sectarians held back discussion by refusing to abandon discussion of the abolition of all organised religion and law.
* Dissolved itself on 12th December 1653, returned power to Cromwell to avoid radical reform. Cromwell was aware of the problems and not too disturbed by the dissolution; he had the Instrument of Government in the offing from Lambert.

Chronology of early Commonwealth

1649 -Scots declared Charles II King of Britain (6th February)

-Council of State created (13th February)

- House of Lords dissolved and Monarchy abolished (17th & 19th March)

 -Rump began meeting (February)

 -Cromwell appointed Commander of Armies in Ireland (March)

 -Siege of Drogheda (3rd-11th September)

 -Sack of Wexford (2nd-11th October)

1650 -Cromwell returns from Ireland (April)

 -Adultery Act (May)

 -Blasphemy Act (August)

 -Battle of Dunbar fought (3rd September)

 -Act of Uniformity repealed

1651 -Battle of Worcester fought (3rd September)

 -Navigation Act (October)

1652 -First Anglo-Dutch War begins

1653 -Rump voted for free elections (19th April)

 -Rump were forcibly dissolved (20th April)

 -Nominated Assembly first sat (4th July)

 -Nominated Assembly dissolved itself (12th December)

 -Instrument of Government introduced (16th December)

* Instrument of Government adopted 16th December 1653, decreed that Cromwell become Lord Protector, who would be granted £200,000 per year and Crown lands, must call parliament in times of war, hold control of militia and navy, have power of pardon, govern according to his own will with that of parliament and a council, direct foreign policy, summon Parliament under the Great Seal of England, and have twenty days’ consent time for new laws before they pass anyway. The Council would elect a new Lord Protector on Cromwell’s death.
* Parliament had to be called first 3rd September 1654 and then every three years for five months, power to make laws but not adapt the constitution, made up of 460 members, with 30 each for Scotland and Ireland; vote given to all who earned £200 per year, except Royalists, Catholics and Irish rebels, given power to nominate new members of Council of State.
* Council of State would advise the Lord Protector, between 13-21 members, select own new members from Parliament’s nominees and elect Lord Protector after Cromwell’s death.
* Annual provision for standing army of 30,000 men and constant provision for a navy.
* Christianity professed for three nations, liberty of worship given to those within Protestantism who did not disturb the peace, godly reformation to be achieved through “good conversation”.
* In the six months preceding the First Protectorate Parliament, Cromwell and his Council passed the Triers Ordinance of March 1654 (set up a central commission to review the godliness of all new ministers), the Ejectors Ordinance of August 1654 (set up county commissions to expel ungodly ministers and schoolmasters), banned cock-fighting, horse-racing, duels, swearing and drunkenness, reformed the court of chancery to be more accessible, changed punitive system so traitors only beheaded, not disembowelled, ended the Anglo Dutch War in Treaty of Westminster (8th May 1654), created High Court of Justice to try treason cases, particularly Royalist, and responded to petitions by cutting taxes and abolishing the Oath of Engagement.
* The First Protectorate Parliament met on 3rd September 1654, but spent five months endlessly debating Cromwell’s legitimacy and the dissolution of the Rump. Debates were led by Sir Arthur Haselrig and John Bradshaw, who attacked the constitution and started rebuilding it. Cromwell stuck by Four Fundamentals, asked all MPs to take Oath of Recognition accepting them:

1) Government must be by a single person and parliament

2) Parliament cannot be perpetual

3) There must be liberty of conscience in religion

4) Control of the army must be split between parliament and the Lord Protector

* Bradshaw and Haselrig demand return of the Rump, 80 MPs refuse to sign Oath of Recognition, and demand control of tax, army, successor and right to declare war.
* Cromwell dissolves Parliament on the 22nd January 1655, without a single act passed and after five lunar months in desperation. At this point Cromwell has alienated Royalists (Civil War), Earls of Manchester and Essex (Self-denying ordinance), Presbyterians (Pride’s Purge), Levellers (Putney Debates), Independents (King’s execution), Republicans (expulsion of Rump), 5th Monarchists (dissolution of Barebones).
* Cromwell introduced the Major Generals in August 1655 after the Sealed Knot’s Penruddock royalist rising of March 1655 was crushed, divided England into ten regions, each ruled by a Major General of the Army. Ireland and Scotland, respectively led by Henry Cromwell and George Monck were not included and were left as they were. Aims were to strengthen local security and prevent uprisings through militias paid for by the Decimation Tax on Royalists, to improve efficiency and to promote godliness.
* Problems were that Major Generals were inconsistent and vaguely led, and some left all responsibility to subordinates in difficult regions, eg. James Berry too radical and supportive of Quakers, William Butler severe persecutor of sectaries (suggested Naylor stoned to death),in comparison to Phillip Skippon, who left control of London to his deputy.
* Cromwell called Second Protectorate Parliament on 17th September 1656 for first session, ended on 26th June 1657. The Major Generals acted as a vetting process in the new elections. Cromwell needed money for war with Spain in the New World so Major Generals suggested he call them for financial support, which they granted.
* James Naylor (a Quaker) case began in October 1656, after he rode through Bristol on a donkey with a crowd of followers, imitating Jesus’ ride through Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and divided the Parliament; Cromwell defended his freedom of conscience while Parliament tried him in Westminster on 16th December 1656 and found him guilty of blasphemy. Naylor narrowly avoided execution, was pilloried and whipped through Bristol and London, had the letter ‘B’ branded on his forehead and his tongue pierced with a hot iron before two years hard labour.
* It became clear that Parliament were not as lenient to religious sects as declared by Instrument of Government. Desborough (a Major General) presented the Militia Bill on 29th January 1657 to maintain the Decimation Tax and therefore the Major Generals’ rule, and it was denied by 124 votes to 88. Cromwell was left wondering how to continue his rule and torn between Radical Cromwellians who proposed the “good old cause”, such as Fleetwood, Lambert, Desborough and the Conservative or new Cromwellians, proponents of civilian government like Lord Broghill.
* The Humble Petition and Advice was presented to Cromwell on 23rd February 1657, proposing to offer him hereditary monarchy, assert Parliamentary control over taxation, provide an independent advisory council, safeguard Triennial calling of Parliament and reduce the size and cost of the army. Cromwell considered for weeks before rejecting the Crown on the 8th May 1657, saying “I would not seek to set up that which providence hath destroyed and laid in the dust, and I would not build Jericho again”, and accepting a modified Humble Petition and Advice on the 25th May 1657, which named him as Lord Protector, created a Privy Council, Upper Chamber and House of Commons, and which gave him the right to name his successor.
* Compromise pleased no one as the Radical Cromwellians accused him of becoming King in all but name, while Conservatives are suspicious of his rejection of the Crown. Cromwell justified with pragmatism and providence, but it lost him the support of Army officers like Lambert, who refused to sign the Humble Petition and Advice and was forced to resign in July 1657, and served to highlight the clash of interests between military and civilians. Also failed to satisfy Cromwell’s interests, as it established broad Protestant state church and anti-sectaries attitude. Cromwell said “I am hugely taken with the word settlement, with the thing and with the notion of it”.
* In the second session of the Second Protectorate Parliament, which was open from 20th January 1658 until 4th February 1658, and had no barrier to previously excluded MPs, such as Haselrig and Henry Vane, who had opposed legitimacy, and as Cromwell had placed many of his supporters in the new Upper House, he had little support in the Commons. On 11th February 1658, Cromwell was forced to dismiss 6 publicly critical officers, as disillusionment had spread to the rank and file, and although on the 4th June 1658 a victory at the Battle of the Dunes seemed to be divine providence again, in August 1658 Cromwell’s son in law and daughter died. Cromwell himself died on 3rd September 1658, and the Protectorate passed to his son Richard.

Chronology of Protectorate

1653 December -Instrument of Government adopted (16th)

1654 January

 February

 March -Triers Ordinance

 April

 May -Treaty of Westminster ends Anglo Dutch War (8th)

 June

 July

 August -Ejectors Ordinance

 September -First Protectorate Parliament opens (3rd)

 October

 November

 December

1655 January -First Protectorate is dissolved (22nd)

February

 March -Penruddock’s rising

 April

 May

 June

 July

 August -Major Generals are introduced

 September

 October

 November

 December

1656 January

 February

 March

 April

 May

 June

 July

 August

 September -Second Protectorate Parliament is called for first session (17th)

 October -James Naylor case began (Palm Sunday)

 November

 December -Naylor found guilty of blasphemy (16th)

1657 January -Desborough presents Militia Bill (29th)

 February -First Humble Petition and Advice presented to Cromwell (23rd)

 March

 April

 May -Cromwell rejects the Crown (8th)

 -Cromwell accepts modified Humble Petition and Advice (25th)

 June -Second Protectorate Parliament ends first session (26th)

 July -Lambert forced to resign

 August

 September

 October

 November

 December

1658 January -Second Protectorate Parliament is called for second session (20th)

 February -Second Protectorate Parliament ends second session (4th)

 -Cromwell is forced to dismiss 6 officers (11th)

 March

 April

 May

 June -Battle of the Dunes fought (4th)

 July

 August -Cromwell’s son-in-law and daughter die

 September -Cromwell dies (3rd)

**1658-60 (The Road to Restoration)**

* Richard Cromwell became Lord Protector in September 1658, and is instantly divided between the hopes of several interest groups.
* Army hope for Richard to be malleable, and for return to Instrument of Government with maintained standing army, Conservative Cromwellians hope for continuation of Humble Petition and Advice, and for maintenance of Parliament’s power, Sectaries hope for freedom of conscience, Rumpers hoped for return of the Commonwealth of 1653 and Royalists hoped simply for the failure of the current system in order to reinstate the monarchy. Richard not well equipped for so much responsibility, as he didn’t have Oliver’s standing with the army, or a strong education. Pragmatist, not an idealist, had been passed over for membership of Barebone’s in 1653 despite younger brother Henry having one.
* Lack of army unity amongst leaders, Fleetwood and senior officers felt they could maintain the Protectorate and control Richard, while lower ranks sided with sectaries who were unhappy with Protector with Presbyterian sympathies, and called for a return to the Rump Commonwealth of 1653. Total owed to army was £900,000, Protectorate grew more into debt, and general poverty came with economic depression as series of poor harvests continued.
* Richard Cromwell appointed Fleetwood as General of the Army, but retained his own authority as Commander in Chief in October 1658.
* Cromwell called a reasonably hostile lower house of conservative Cromwellians and Commonwealth’s men, following the advice of his Privy Council; call was sent on 3rd December 1658, and the Third Protectorate Parliament met on 27th January 1659.
* Third Protectorate Parliament recognised Richard as Lord Protector by 223 votes to 134, indicated a willingness to vote supplies and began to discuss the reduction of the army and the establishment of local militia, but divisions resurfaced over whether to return to the Rump Commonwealth or maintain the Protectorate and on what terms.
* Protectorate Conservatives had the majority against Republican minority and Presbyterian MPs. Presbyterian MPs attempted to introduce a resolution that the Council of Officers could only act on Parliament’s orders and would give up control of the militia, Republican minority react by launching attack on legitimacy of the Protectorate. Articles of impeachment were brought against William Butler for his actions as a Major General on 12th April 1659. Fleetwood and Desborough, recognising their loss of control in Parliament, demanded that Richard Cromwell dissolve it, which he did on 22nd April, after being informed that the army might not support his cause if not. Richard stated that “I would not have a drop of blood spilt for the preservation of my greatness, which is a burden to me”.
* On 5th May 1659 the Army Council recalled the Rump Parliament to mask what was otherwise naked arbitrary rule. Richard retired from his position on 25th May 1659, and the Protectorate ended.
* Both the army and the Rump perceived one another as a regrettable necessity, as the army needed the Rump to clothe a naked military rule, while the Rump needed the army to maintain control during difficult times. The Rump failed to deal with army arrears and denounced their intervention in politics, and appeared too radical as they tried to curb the army’s influence by putting local militia into the hands of extreme sectaries like Fifth Monarchists. A large amount of propaganda from radical forced created fears of a religious uprising, and fear that Levellers were reorganising began to spread.
* A series of Royalist-Presbyterian uprisings took place in the summer of 1659, including Booth’s rising of August 1659, when Sir George Booth held large parts of the country in defiance of the Rump, but did not openly advocate Charles II’s return, due to weakness of monarchists at this point. The Rump vs the army came down to Haselrig vs Lambert, and after Lambert issued a petition to the Upper House to limit the Rump, and Haselrig responded by attempting to remove him, regiments loyal to Lambert occupied London and dismissed the Rump by force on 13th October 1659. Again.
* The dismissal of the Rump revealed the army’s unwillingness to concede power, and they attempted to mask this by creating the Committee of Safety on 26th October 1659, composed mostly of generals and some civilians.
* The Rump, angry and desperate for military power, called on General George Monck, a pragmatist who had once been a Royalist and was eager for settlement. Monck took London in the name of the Rump on 3rd February 1660, easily dismissing Lambert’s troops along the way. Internal divisions within the army discouraged challenges, and the navy as led by Edward Montagu, declared to support Monck, meaning that the army’s power was no longer viable.
* The Rump, now returned to power, purged the army and attempted to restrict Monck’s political influence.
* Monck arranged the recall of the Long Parliament as before Pride’s Purge on 21st February 1660; they declared him Commander in Chief and Edward Montagu Commander of the Fleet in March 1660. Lambert made a final attempt to save the Republican cause in March 1660, but only a small number of the army would challenge Monck, and they were defeated, ironically, at Edgehill. Elections were held in March 1660, and although officially no known Royalists could stand, over 60 monarchists took seats.
* In April 1660, the Convention Parliament gathered and discussed terms for Restoration. The King, under counsel of Edward Hyde and the Duke of Buckingham, kept quiet and transferred from the Catholic France to Protestant Netherlands, indicated his political and religious beliefs in communication and sent the Declaration of Breda on the 4th April 1660, offering that “those wounds which have so many years together been kept bleeding, may be bound up”.
* On the 8th May 1660, England renounced itself as a Republic, then on 14th May, a parliamentary deputation visited Charles II to invite him to the throne. He rode through London on 29th May 1660, his 30th birthday.
* The Convention Parliament of 1660 resolved to restore and reconcile England to its former monarchy, inviting Charles to return to London unconditionally and focussing on immediate problems. However, the Cavalier Parliament sprung from the free elections promised by the Declaration of Breda and met on the 8th May 1661 focused on retribution, forcing Charles to establish limits on tolerance as a result of Venner’s Fifth Monarchist Rising from 1st-4th January 1661.

Chronology of the Road to Restoration:

1658 -Richard Cromwell becomes Lord Protector (3rd September)

 -Richard Cromwell appointed Fleetwood as General of the Army (October)

 -Third Protectorate Parliament called (3rd December)

1659 -Third Protectorate Parliament met (27th January)

 -Articles of Impeachment brought against William Butler (12th April)

 -Richard Cromwell dissolved Third Protectorate Parliament (22nd April)

 -Army recalled the Rump (5th May)

 -Richard Cromwell retires (25th May)

 -Booth’s Rising (August)

 -Army dismiss the Rump (13th October)

 -Committee of Safety created (26th October)

1660 -Monck takes London (3rd February)

 -Long Parliament recalled (21st February)

 -Lambert defeated at Edgehill (March)

 -Convention Parliament gathered (April)

 -Declaration of Breda (4th April)

 -England renounced Republicanism (8th May)

 -Parliamentary deputation visit Charles and offer throne (14th May)

 -Charles II rides through London (29th May)