






# Why was there a Civil War?



Charles I became King in 1625 on the death of his father James I. He was not a popular King. He did a number of things that many people did not like. These were mainly to do with power , money  and the Church . The disagreements caused by his actions were the main cause of the Civil War in 1642.



Charles I



Soon after he became king he married Princess Henrietta Maria of France who was a Catholic. Many people at this time were Puritans and their church services were simple and had very little ceremony. Parliament did not want to see the Church of England return to Catholicism and were worried that the King's children would be brought up in the Catholic faith.



Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings. He thought that he had been sent by God to be King and that he could rule without having to take account of what anybody else, even his own Parliament, thought.



Charles angered parliament by choosing the Duke of Buckingham as his advisor in preference to parliament. Parliament did not like Buckingham and thought he had too much power over the King. They tried to get rid of him by bringing a charge of treason against him, but Charles put a stop to this by dismissing parliament in 1629.



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Charles liked to spend large amounts of money on himself. Without a parliament to grant him money he had to find other ways of raising it.

He did this by introducing extra taxes. It had always been the custom for people living on the coast to pay 'ship money' to defend the coastline in times of war, but in 1634 Charles decided that this should be paid all the time, and the following year he made people living inland pay too. This angered many people.



Charles started to make changes to the Church of England that were seen as a return to Catholicism. Henry VIII had ordered the removal of decoration in churches when he established the Church of England but Charles ordered that they should be decorated again. He also introduced a new English Prayer Book in 1637. He demanded that the new prayer book be used in Scottish churches but this was so unpopular that it caused riots and Charles was forced to send an army to fight the Scots.



Charles could not afford to fight Scotland and in 1640 he had to recall parliament to ask for money. Parliament took advantage of this return to power and in 1641 presented Charles with a list of grievances called the **Grand Remonstrance**. Not all Members of Parliament were in favour of this.



Many people in Ireland were Catholics and they were afraid that Parliament would pass laws against their religion. This was the cause of another rebellion in 1641.



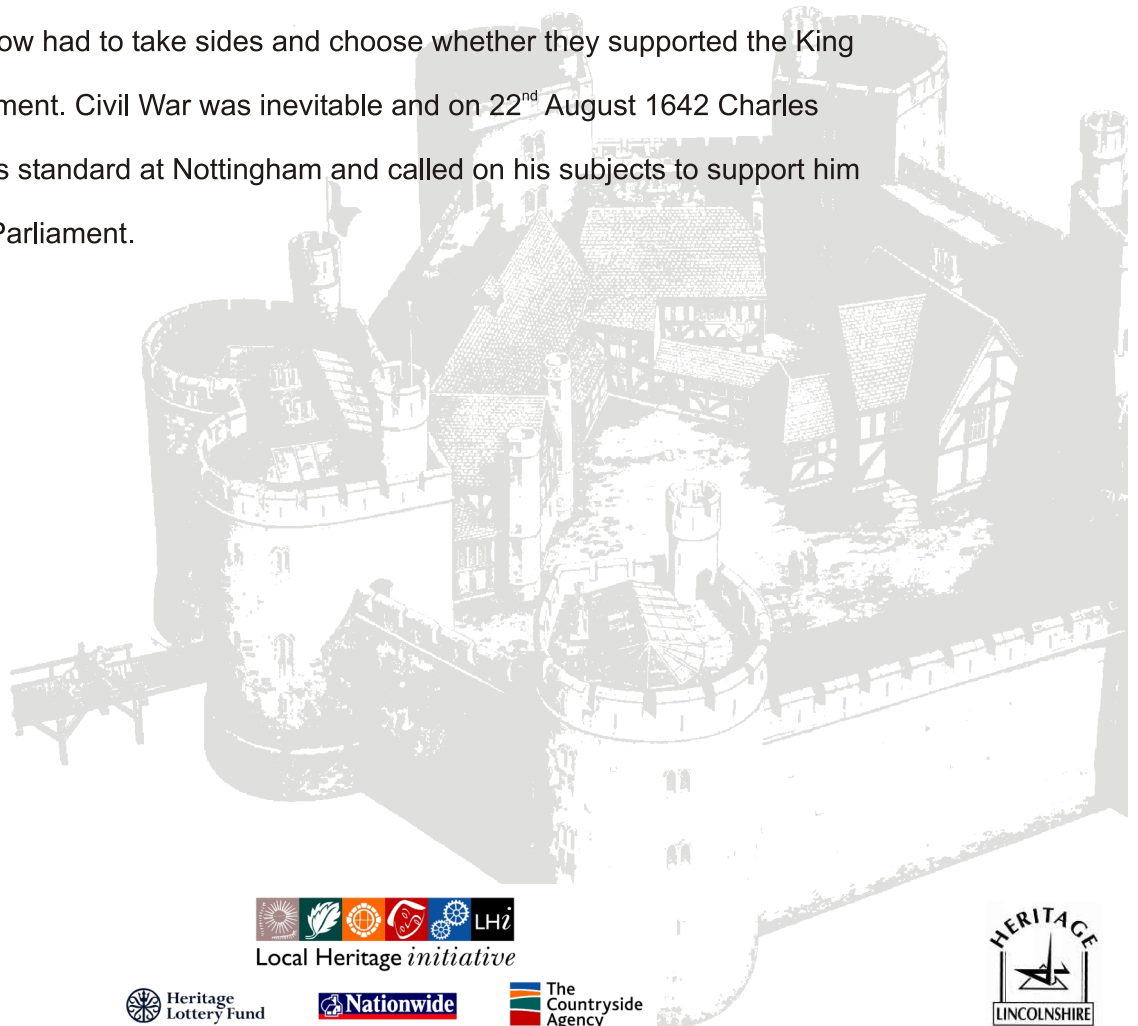
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In January 1642 Charles stormed into the Houses of Parliament with 400 soldiers and demanded the arrest of 5 leading MPs. The MPs had been warned that this was going to happen and they had already left. This was probably the biggest mistake Charles made during his reign.



In June 1642 Parliament made a new set of demands called the **Nineteen Proposals** that called for some of the King's powers to be taken away from him and given to Parliament. Many MPs thought that the Nineteen Proposals had gone too far. This division in Parliament meant that people now had to take sides and choose whether they supported the King or Parliament. Civil War was inevitable and on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1642 Charles raised his standard at Nottingham and called on his subjects to support him against Parliament.



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