

Windsor Castle and the Crisis of the Monarchy



- OCR GCSE History "Personal Rule to Restoration"
- AQA GCSE History "Restoration England 1660-1685"
- AQA A Level History "Stuart Britain and the Crisis of the Monarchy 1603-1702"
- AQA A level History "English Revolution" 1625-1660"

As the home of Royalty for centuries, Windsor Castle has been a central location in English history.

In the English Civil War Windsor Castle was in the frontline of a contest of arms between England's King and its Parliament.



Johannes Vorstermann "A View of Windsor Castle 1678-80"



Anthony Van Dyke (1635) "Charles I"

King Charles I believed he was divinely ordained but his attempts to express power through military and religious changes were frustrated by Parliament.

In 1642 King Charles I left Windsor as Civil War broke out. The Castle was swiftly garrisoned by Parliament and Charles only returned in late 1648 as a prisoner.

A week later he became the first and last English monarch to be executed. His remains are buried in St George's Chapel.

England was governed by the Commonwealth from 1653-1659. the son of Charles I, (the future Charles II), was invited back from exile. This is known as "The Restoration." However, the terms of his return reduced his power from that held by Charles I, and so he expressed his kingship through image, ceremony and patronage of the arts. He remodelled Windsor Castle as a modern palace. Such actions helped reinforce his image as a divinely chosen King.



Samuel Cooper 1667 "Charles II"

The Royal Collection is brimming with fascinating sources which can help us learn about the English Civil Wars and the Restoration. See if you can decipher this collection of sources to help you understand this exciting part of history better. You can also find many more sources and more detailed close up images of the Sources highlighted in this paper on the RCT website: www.rct.uk/collection

[The Royal Collection \(rct.uk\)](http://www.rct.uk)

Timeline of the English Civil Wars and the Restoration



Charles I



Oliver Cromwell



Charles II

English Civil Wars

Interregnum/
Commonwealth

Restoration

- 1629 **The Personal Rule**—Charles I dissolves Parliament and rules the country personally.
- 1641 **The Long Parliament begins**—Parliament gains the upper hand and passes an act to prevent the King dissolving Parliament, and condemns his supporters.
- 1642 **Failed arrest of Five members**—Charles fails to arrest five MPs in the House of Commons. He flees London to his stronghold at Windsor Castle.
War begins—Charles raises his Standard at Nottingham.
- Battle of Edgehill**—Inconclusive first battle of the Civil War
- Windsor Castle captured**—Windsor castle is captured by Parliamentary troops and becomes a Parliamentary garrison.
Prince Rupert fails to recapture Windsor Castle.
- 1644 **Parliamentarian garrison** provides support for war effort and damages Castle and Chapel furnishings and the park.
- 1645 **New Model Army** assembled and formed at Windsor Castle
Battle of Naseby—New Model army instrumental in Parliamentary victory over the King.
- 1649 **Charles I executed**
- 1650 **Commonwealth/ Interregnum** begins.
Oliver Cromwell Protector of England.
- 1659 **Treaty of Breda**—Charles II invited back to England.
- 1660 **Restoration**—Charles II's Coronation.
- 1661 Charles II reinstates the Order of the Garter at Windsor
- 1668 Prince Rupert appointed Constable of the Castle
- 1673 Parliament passes the **Test Act**— All Catholic office holders to denounce Catholicism. Heir to the throne James, Duke of York has to resign all offices.
- 1674 **Treaty of Westminster**—Dutch concede supremacy of the sea to Great Britain.
Renovation of Windsor Castle—Charles II, distressed by politics in London, moves Court to Windsor where he rebuilds new apartments.



Windsor Castle and the events of 1642—1650



Wenceslaus Hollar (1638) *“Windsor Castle from the North East”*

On 10th February 1642 Charles I left Windsor Castle. He went to Nottingham and raised his standard against Parliament. At the battle of Edgehill the battle was inconclusive but, by abandoning London and Windsor, he lost a strategic foothold over the most important arsenals and garrisons. With Windsor empty, a force of Parliamentary London trained bands was able to secure the Castle, which became an arsenal against the King.



Anthony Van Dyke (1635) *“Charles I”* RCIN 404420. Oil on canvas.



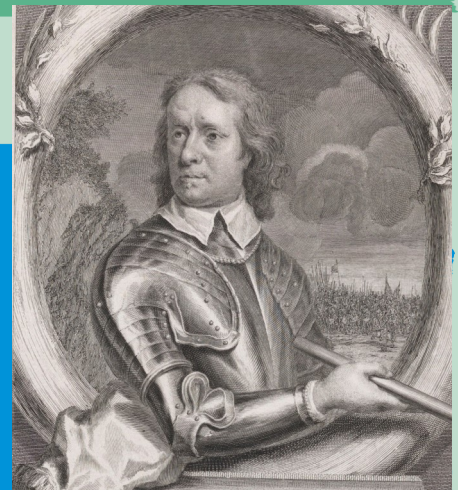
The Most Illustrious and High born Prince Rupert Prince Elector Palatine of the Rhine”.

Anonymous (1640) RCIN 611163. Engraving

Prince Rupert, cousin to the King recognised the strategic and symbolic importance of Windsor Castle as a base from which to move garrisons and arsenals to up the Thames from London and attempted to assault the Castle. The assault failed.

Windsor Castle was used as an important garrison and refortified with modern sconces. The fort supported Parliament’s campaigns in Oxfordshire by providing fresh troops to the two battles of Newbury. During this time the interiors of the Castle and Chapel were damaged and the original deer of the park hunted by Parliamentary soldiers.

In 1645 Oliver Cromwell suggested the creation of the New Model Army, a standing trained force. Windsor Castle and its grounds were used to assemble the force which marched on to defeat the King at the decisive battle of Naseby.



George Vertue (1732) *“OLIVER CROMWELL LORD PROTECTOR of England Scotland and Ireland.”*



Edward Bower (1648) "Charles I at his trial." RCIN 405913 Kept at St James' Palace.

After his defeat by Parliamentary forces Charles I surrendered to the Covenanters. He then secured their allegiance and made another attempt to regain authority. Parliament defeated him again at the battle of Worcester in 1650 and the King was captured. His son and heir Charles fled into exile.

Oliver Cromwell recorded that he used St George's Chapel to pray before making the unprecedented and fateful decision to execute the King.

Charles I returned to Windsor Castle before being taken to the Banqueting House of Whitehall where he was beheaded.

Oliver Cromwell was named as Protector of England and formed the Commonwealth.

During this time Windsor Castle remained a garrison and a prison for Royalist sympathisers and political prisoners.



William Fairthorne (1658) "Oliver Cromwell between two pillars" rcin60228

THINK:

You will now examine the sources to better answer the questions.

Think:

- **What?** - What is the Source? Is it a painting, a letter, a cartoon?
- **When?** - When was the source produced? Is it Primary or Secondary?
- **Who?** - Who produced the Source?
- **Why?** - Why do you think the source was produced, based off your own knowledge of the historical context and authors.

A portrait of a King and a Protector

Source 1

Anthony Van Dyke. "King Charles I with Monsieur Pierre Antoine Bourdin" (1632) RCIN 405322

Oil on canvas painting.



Source 2

Pierre Lombart (1655) "Oliver Cromwell" RCIN 601864 Engraving.



These two Sources are very similar and illustrate the changes in England between 1632 and 1655. Source 1 was painted in 1632 and may have been hung in the King's London residence in St James's Palace.

- Based on the timeline, can the context of history tell us why Charles would commission such a painting? How does this painting represent the King's ambitions at this particular time?
- Compare the painting (Source 1) and the engraving. (Source 2) Write down what you see in both, what is different?
- What do you think Charles is saying about himself in the painting and therefore what do you think the artist of the engraving in Source 2 is saying about Cromwell?

A portrait of Royal Children

Source 3

Anthony Van Dyke (1642) "The Five eldest children of Charles Ist." RCIN 404405 Oil on canvas.



This painting by Anthony Van Dyke shows the King's eldest children depicted from left to right: Mary, James (future James II), Charles (future Charles II) Elizabeth and Anne.

THINK

- Describe what you see in the painting.
- Who do you think is the most important child in this painting and why?
- Why do you think the dog was included in the painting?
- What message is trying to be conveyed in this painting?

A Parliamentarian Newspaper article.

Source 4

John Johnson (1642) "*Exceeding Joyfull Newes out of Surrey*" The Thomason Tracts E127. British Library.

"Prince *Rupert* with part of His Majesties Forces, being the most bloody and mischievous of all his Cavallers, drew towards Windsor, in his thoughts aspiring to the taking in that Royall Castle, the ancient Seat of our English Kings, the place where the celebration of the most Noble Order of the Garter, has been solemnized ever since it's first institution: so with some six thousand, most horse, passing through the fruitfull County of Buckingham, which he plundered with all hostility and rapine possible, he passed over the Thames, and came upon the Towne, which being utterly indefensible he was without resistance Master of, and from thence made his approaches towards the Castle, which commanding the River, he and his malignants considered as a place of much importance, intending if they could surprise it, to put into it an able Garrison, and so cut off all trafficke out of the West to London, by stopping their Barges from passing further; but thinking to finde as easie admittance into the Castle as they had into the Towne, they were deceived in their expectation, and saluted with a lusty volley of Musket-shot from the walls and works, the City of London having sent thither before to secure the place, a strong Garrison of able souldiers, Prince *Rupert* galloped with this unexpected resistance, sent one with a Trumpet to treat with them within for the surrendring the Castle, promising them faire quarter; but if they resisted, threatening them with all the terrours of death and destruction: The Commander within answered, That he was to defend that fortresse for the King and Parliament, and so would doe against him and all the world, being neither to be mollified by his faire promises, nor terrified with his threatenings, that for any other he should expect none, but what came to him out of the mouth of the Cannon."



THINK

- Explain in bullet points what is happening in the article.
- How reliable is this version of events and why?
- What does this source tell us about the role Windsor Castle had during the Civil Wars?
- Examine the use of language in the article, is it persuasive, inflammatory, inclusive or alienating? Who do you think is the audience?

The King gets the last word.

King Charles I (1649) “Eikon Basilike—the portraiture of his sacred majestie in his solitudes and sufferings” RCIN1098508



This engraving is from the frontispiece of Charles I's autobiography "The Eikon Basilike." It was written by Charles himself, during captivity, awaiting judgement and was likely available just before and after his execution. The highly symbolic engraving by Marshall is one of eight variations. The Parliamentarians attempted to suppress the publication of the book but it circulated widely encouraging Royalist sympathies during the Commonwealth.

THINK

- Can you decipher the symbolism? What is the artist trying to convey about King Charles's execution?
- Why was it important for the King to write an autobiography and why do you think Cromwell wanted to censor this book?

Latin	English
<i>Beatum et Eternum</i>	Blessed & Eternal
<i>Coeli Spectum</i>	Heavenly vision
<i>Splendidam at gravem</i>	Splendid but heavy
<i>Asperam at Levem</i>	Rough but light
<i>Mundi Calco</i>	I trample the world
<i>Immota Triumphans</i>	Unmoved triumphant.
<i>Clarior et tenebris</i>	Shining more brightly from darkness

<i>Crescit Sub Pondere Virtus</i>	Virtue grows under burdens
<i>Vanitas</i>	Vanity
<i>In vero tuo spes mea</i>	In your word is my hope
<i>Christi Tracto</i>	In the path of Christ
<i>Gratias</i>	Grace



Windsor Castle and the events of 1650—1680.



Hieronymus Janssons 1660 "Charles II dancing at a ball in Court" RCIN400525

After the Execution of Charles I England was declared a Republic, the Monarchy and the House of Lords abolished.

In 1653 Oliver Cromwell ran the country as Lord Protector of England in what is known as the Protectorate.

In 1658 upon the death of Oliver Cromwell his son Richard stepped up to run the Protectorate but faction divisions resulted in the New Model Army replacing him. M.P Monk sent secret correspondence to the exiled Charles Stuart (eldest son of Charles I) who responded with the Declaration of Breda, the terms in which he would accept the Throne.

Charles II was crowned King in 1662

Charles II began his rule by reinstating the traditions of Royalty including the reinstatement of the Order of the Garter and he began healing the "King's illness". His Court was mainly centred at St James's Palace and was notorious for its parties, he earned himself the colloquial title "the Merry Monarch"

His foreign policy had mixed success, his marriage to Catherine of Braganza secured new territories for Britain in Bombay and in the First Dutch War New Amsterdam (New York) was captured, but Britain suffered an embarrassing defeat in the 2nd Dutch war. In Charles' reign Hudson's Bay was secured and the seeds of the British Empire were sown.

In 1668 Prince Rupert was made Constable of the Castle and began repairing the damage done to the property by the Parliamentary soldiers and succeeding squatters. The Round Tower became his lavish Headquarters filled with his armour collection and even had an alchemy laboratory.



Samuel Cooper 1667 "Charles II" RCIN 420643



Peter Lelys (1663-5) "James II when Duke of York" RCIN407810

In 1674 it was revealed that Charles' brother and the heir presumptive James, Duke of York was a Roman Catholic. The King distressed by politics in London chose to reside further outside the capital at Hampton Court and Windsor. He also greatly admired the French architecture of Louis XV's Palaces so ordered the restoration of Windsor castle. Hugh May was chosen as an architect who began to restore the castle in baroque style, extending the North Terrace including a new building called "The building of the Star"

The King busied himself commissioning artists to refurbish the State Apartments. He chose an Italian Catholic painter; Antonio Verrio to repaint ceilings, the Dutch designer and carpenter Grinling Gibbons to decorate the rooms with intricate woodwork. Between them this team redesigned the interiors into baroque décor.

Charles II spent a great deal of his time using the castle for ceremonial events. Healing the "King's illness" in his redecorated Royal Chapel, receiving important guests, entertaining his mistresses, enjoying bawdy plays and Playing bowls in The East Terrace.

He died in 1685.



Johannes Vorstermann "A View of Windsor Castle 1678-80" RCIN405265

Monarchy Overthrown

Source 6

Engraving from: Walker. C (1649) "Anarchie Anglicarna" RCIN602249



This engraving was to be the frontispiece of Clement Walker's royalist book "**Anarchie Anglicarna.**" It shows Oliver Cromwell ordering the felling of "The Royal Oak" and the debris being fed to pigs below.

THINK

- Can you decipher the symbolism in this image and work out its meaning? What is the engraver trying to say about Oliver Cromwell's regime?
- Sources 6 & 7 are very similar, compare and contrast how the different sides in this ideological conflict portray the Commonwealth.

The Lord Protector of the Commonwealth

Source 7

William Fairthorne (1658) "Oliver Cromwell between two pillars" RCIN 602228



A rare engraving in the Royal Collection depicting Oliver Cromwell as Lord protector. He holds an open Bible in his left hand and a sword with three Crowns in his right. He stands on the body of the whore of Babylon and a serpent of error and faction. He stands between two pillars, one represents the fundamentals of English Society, the other represents a personification of the three Kingdoms; England, Scotland and Ireland kneeling to the Protector. Around him are biblical scenes and cartoons of plots against the State.

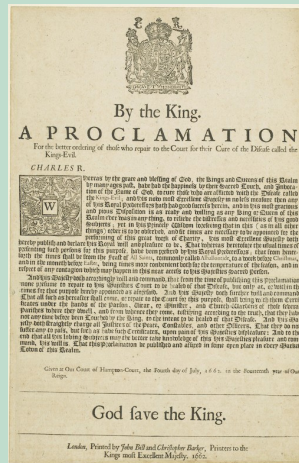
THINK

- Using historical context can you explain what the symbols are trying to convey to the reader?
- Examine the source, is this cartoon supportive or critical of Cromwell's regime? explain your answer.

www.rct.uk/collection/search#/collection/602228/oliver-cromwell-between-two-pillars

The new King in demand

Source 8



John Bill & Christopher Barker (1662) "A proclamation for the better ordering of those who repair to the Court for their Cure of the Disease called the Kings-Evil. RCIN 751272. Historical Document, Paper.

"Whereas by the grace and blessing of God, the Kings and Queens of the Realm by many ages past, have had the happiness by their Sacred Touch, and invocation of the name of God, to cure those who are afflicted with the disease called the Kings-Evil; and his now most excellent Majesty in no less measure than any of his predecessors have good success herin, and his most gracious and pious disposition is as ready and willing as any King or Queen of this realm was in any thing, to relieve the distresses and necessities of his good subjects; yet in his Princely wisdom foreseeing that in this (as In all other things) order is to be observed, and fit times are necessary to be appointed for the performing of this great work of charity, his most excellent Majesty both hereby publish and declare his Royal will and pleasue to be, That whereas heretofore the usual times of presenting such persons for this purpose, have been prefixed by his Royal predecessors ; that from henceforth the times shall be from the feast of All Saints, commonly called Alhallontide, to a week before Christmas, and in the month before Easter. Being times more convenient both for the temperature of the season and in respect of any contagion which may happen in this near access to his majesties sacred person.

And his Majesty both accordingly will and command that from the time of publishing this proclamation, none presume to repair to his Majesties Court to be healed of that disease, but only at, or within the times for that purpose hereby appointed as aforesaid. And his Majesty both further will and command, that all such as hereafter shall come or repair to the court for this purpose, shall bring with them certificates under the hands of the Parson, Vicar, OR MINISTER, AND Church Wardens of those federal parishes where they swell, and from whence they come, testifying according to the truth, that they have not any time before been touched by the King, to the intent to be healed of that disease. And his Majesty both straightly charge all justice's of the peace, constables and officers. That they do not suffer any to pass, but such as have certificates, upon pain of his majesties displeasure: And to the end that all his loving subjects may the better take knowledge of thi his majesties pleasure and command, his Will is. That this Proclamation be published and affixed in some place in every Market Town of this Realm.

Given at Our Court of Hampton-Court, the Fourth day of July, 1662, in the Fourteenth year of our Reign.

God Save the King"

Above are instructions for those who may have a disease called the "The Kings illness" Scrofula was an infection which was believed to only be curable by the touch of the King.

- Why would Charles II promote this superstition and what does it tell us about his peoples attitudes to the King?

Reviving old Royal traditions

Source 9

Elias Ashmole (1672): "Institutions, laws & ceremonies of the most noble Order of the Garter", 1672" Engraving showing the Garter Feast held at St George's Hall Windsor Castle. RCIN 1052724 Book.



An engraving showing the Garter Feast in St George's Hall, Windsor 1672.

The Order of the Garter was established by Edward III at Windsor Castle in 1348, Annual Garter Services at St George's Chapel and feasts were conducted every year since. The Order and the ceremonies attached were abolished during the interregnum but Charles II re-established the Order upon his accession.

- Why do you think the King was interested in bringing back expensive old ceremonies?

Fantasy or Propaganda? - Redecorating the Palace.

Source 10

Antonio Verrio (1674) "The Sea Triumph of Charles II" oil painting. RCIN 406173



This was the first oil painting painted by Antonio Verrio for the British Royal Family and it won him the King's favour who commissioned him to paint 40 ceilings in Windsor Castle. It shows Charles II in a fantastical Roman style military triumph pulled by a chariot of hippocampuses and a scroll above his head reads: "Let the boundary of his empire be the ocean and the limits of his fame be the stars" Warships fill the background.

- Look at the imagery, composition and colours, explain what the painter Antonio Verrio is trying to achieve with this piece.
- Based off the timeline and historical context what might have prompted this piece of art .

Fantasy or Propaganda? - Redecorating the Palace.

Source 11

Antonio Verrio (1684) "Catherine of Braganza in a Chariot" RCIN 408426.
Ceiling Paint on plaster.



Charles II remodelled the State Apartments in Baroque furnishings. This ceiling was painted by an Italian and Catholic artist called Antonio Verrio.

Charles II's Queen Consort; the Portuguese Catholic, Catherine of Braganza is depicted amongst the pantheon of Greek gods and goddesses. Similar paintings once depicted Charles himself but these have been lost after Georgian alterations to the castle in the 18th Century. The style of art is called baroque and although it was popular in the continent it was rare in England.

- Think about Charles II's domestic and foreign policy. Why do you think Charles II wanted to change the décor of Windsor Castle.
- By employing a Catholic artist could Charles II be considered religiously tolerant? Using your own knowledge What other cases could you present demonstrating that the King was tolerant or not?
- Examine the symbolism, what is the artist trying to say about the Queen?

Note: You can Zoom into the details closer on the RCT website. [Antonio Verrio \(c. 1639-1707\) - Catherine of Braganza in a Chariot \(rct.uk\)](https://www.rct.uk/obj/408426)



Choose one of the questions and carefully choose a number of sources to help support your answer.

1. Art and the written word can sometimes be used as propaganda, which method do you think is more reliable and why? Written word or visual art?
2. Using your knowledge of the political events between 1642-1650 why was it important for Charles II to express himself using ceremony and ritual?
4. Compare the sources created by The Parliamentarians/Commonwealth and the Royalists (Charles I and Charles II) which party do you think was most effective at using propaganda to further their cause?
5. What are the limitations of using art as historical sources, explain your answer.
6. What do the sources tell us about how different factions wished to portray monarchy?
7. Describe some of the techniques Charles II used to re-establish the idea of the Divine Right of Kings, how did he display this?