**Did Charles I deserve to die?**

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| The King is a man of blood and violence. He started both wars because he loves war. To bring peace to the land he must die. | James I taught his son Charles that God had given him the power to rule ‘Divine Right of Kings’. Charles believed strongly in this. | There is no court in the land with the authority to try the King. |
| Charles I wanted the best for his country. He wanted to protect his people from the rule of Parliament. | Charles I could have been a secret Catholic. He had a Catholic wife and had appointed Catholic ministers. | Someone needed to be held to account for all the blood that was shed. |
| Charles I was a traitor against his people for going to war against them. | He was chosen by God to be King so he cannot be killed. It is God’s decision alone and not the decision of mere mortals. | The Court sits with the authority of Parliament. |
| The King cannot be trusted to serve the interests of the nation anymore. | Charles I had shown he cannot rule fairly with Parliament. | Charles I could not be trusted not to start the war yet again. As long as he is alive the Civil War will continue. |
| The trial wasn’t fair – Cromwell got rid of all the people in Parliament who might support the King. | Charles I was extravagant with the country’s money. He bought expensive art and he even wore a new pair of gloves every day! | The victories of Cromwell’s army showed that God was on Parliament’s side. |
| Charles I used fines and Ship Money to raise money without Parliament’s permission. | Parliament executed Strafford and Laud – both had been advisors to Charles I. | Charles I married a Catholic even though he was Head of the Church of England and Parliament was Protestant. |
| Parliament kept trying to cut Charles’ power during the first three years of his reign. | Charles I welcomed Catholics to his Court and even allowed his wife to attend Mass. | Archbishop Laud tried to end Puritan ideas in the Church of England –many Parliamentarians were Puritan. |
| Charles only seemed to call Parliament when he needed money. | Charles decided to rule without Parliament when they would not give him money. | Charles forced his way into the House of Commons to arrest five MPs. |
| Parliament cut King Charles’ power and refused to let him lead an army against Catholic rebels in Ireland. | In 1642, the king tried to arrest some MP’s and have them put in prison, but they escaped. | In 1634, Charles imposed an unpopular new tax called Ship Money to help pay for his expensive lifestyle. |
| In 1629, Charles dissolved Parliament (sent them home) and ruled without them for 11 years. | In 1625 England were badly beaten by Spain in a battle that cost a lot of money. | In 1640, Charles fought a war against Scotland and lost. He had to pay the Scots to leave England. |
| In 1641, Charles had to go to parliament to ask for more money to fight the Irish and Scots. They agreed but demanded that Charles should ask for their advice over key issues. | In 1640, the Irish rebelled against Charles because they didn’t want Charles’ religious changes. | Later in 1642, after the attempts to arrest the 5 MP’s, there were riots and demonstrations against the king in London. He had to leave London for his own safety. |
| Charles made changes in religion that many people did not like. When some people complained he cut off their ears to send a warning. | "Charles is on trial because of his wicked design to give and support in himself an unlimited and cruel power to rule according to his will, and to overthrow the rights and freedoms of the people of England." *(John Bradshaw, Judge at the time)* | “I demand to know by what power I am called here. By what lawful authority? Remember I am your lawful King. Think about these things before you go from one sin to a greater one. I have a trust committed to me by God by lawful inheritance. I will not give it up to a **new and unlawful authority**.” (*Said by Charles I, 1649)* |
| In 1648, whilst Charles was talking with Parliament about who should have the largest say in the way that England should be run, he secretly convinced the Scots to change sides. They invaded England and a second Civil War broke out. The Royalists were easily defeated, but many people were killed. Parliament no longer trusted Charles. | The experience of civil war was crucial. Many lives had been lost and much treasure spent. Taxation was at record levels, while troops, lacking pay, took plunder/treasure from a helpless population. For most of the population, suffering encouraged a wish for peace, but for a large minority the war was a different process, because now they wanted some reward, some change, for all the sacrifices made. | The king's lying had been made clear in his letters taken after the royalist defeat at Naseby, and published by parliament's authority. God was clearly against the king in his heavy defeat by 1646, yet Charles had renewed the war in late 1647 calling up a foreign (Scottish) invasion. He was still scheming with the Irish in late 1648. |