



JCC Study Guide: Wars of the Three Kingdoms

Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear Participants,

It's my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to HaydarpaşaMUN'20, as the Academic Assistant of the JCC.

We, as the Academic Team, have chosen a very unique yet a very important topic for this year's edition of HaydarpaşaMUN: the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. I believe that this topic will be very absorbing and entertaining for the JCC. I've had an amazing time while doing all the research and writing this study guide with my lovely Academic Trainee Didem Çataltepe. Even though, the topic covers a long period of time, all the events are in a perfect harmony that completes each other. In this study guide, we gathered the basic information about the topic and explained the big events and battles that shaped the war. Although, we tried our hardest to address every important developments about the war, we advice all the delegates to further research about their own cabinets and allocations after reading the study guide.

I feel very lucky to be able to assist this special committee and i am very thankful to our esteemed Secretary General Zeynep Naz Coşkun for giving me this opportunity. I hope that all of you will have as much fun as i had preparing this committee and have an unforgettable conference. I am sure that this committee will proceed perfectly with the help of our qualified Crisis and Academic Team.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, don't forget to contact me via ayca.bagdas281@gmail.com. I'll be present during the conference to help you and make the conference as enjoyable, entertaining and educational as it can be.

Kindest Regards,

Academic Assistant
Ayça Bağdaş

Academic Trainee
Didem Çataltepe

Introduction

Wars of the Kingdoms, also known as the British Civil Wars, is a series of battles and uprisings that changed the destiny of Europe. The outcome of these battles shaped the current political regime of the UK and determined the common religion. These wars took more than 10 years and changed the political balance all over Europe. The main belligerents were the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland but the sides had changed depending on religious beliefs. The major reason behind these wars was religious conflicts.

Background

After the English Reformation, the King of England claimed himself as the head of the Protestant Church and outlawed Catholicism. This raised a lot of controversy depending on the different religious views of different social groups. Although most of the British population adopted Protestantism as the national identity and saw Catholicism as a national threat since it was the belief of their rivals, there were a lot of conservative people who didn't want the change. For example most people of Ireland remained Catholic due to its recognition as the symbol of native resistance. The Scottish Parliament legislated the Presbyterian Church but the region was disputed between Catholics and Protestants. James VI, the King of Scotland grew up in that disputed region and saw its effects first hand. Therefore, he aspired to be a king who would unite the people. He supported the Episcopalian System of Bishops and believed in the divine right of kings. James VI succeeded the English throne and became the James I of Scotland, England and Ireland. He was a skillful king who knew how to promote his ideas to the Parliament and the folk. After his death, Charles I succeeded but unfortunately he wasn't fit to be a king unlike his father. He was lacking of leadership and persuasion skills. Although he was mostly supporting the same things as his father like the divine right of kings, he didn't know how to promote his ideas and therefore he faced a lot of opposition. He didn't know how to treat the grievances of his land. He mainly focused on the problems of England and Wales and showed very little interest in Scotland and Ireland. He wanted to enforce Anglican practices on Scotland which angered the Scots. When the opposition hit its hardest, he tried to force it by violence but failed in the Bishop's War.

Charles believed that the kings derived their authority from God and could not therefore be held accountable for their actions by any earthly authority such as the parliament. His constant assertion of this belief deteriorated the relations between the King and the Parliament. He had a lot of disputes with the Parliament on topics such as taxations, military expenditures and so on. The state of Ireland wasn't stable either due to religious conflicts. Although the majority of Irish people were Catholics, Charles tried to enforce new taxes on Catholics in the region while restricting their rights. These actions of the King led to a lot of uprisings which Charles tried to suppress by offering them reforms in return of them organizing an army to support the Royalists. The outcome of these events shaped the long series of war starting by the Bishops' War.

Events

● Bishops' War

Bishops' Wars were two conflicts which occurred between 1639 and 1640 caused by fierce Scottish reaction against King Charles the First's endeavour to reform the Scottish Church also known as the 'kirk'. Those attempts incited a protest movement which culminated in the drawing up of a national covenant to defend 'the true religion'. The King devised a military campaign against the Covenanters in order to affirm his authority, yet his plans were blocked by the lack of sufficient experience among his commanders, lack of enthusiasm and confidence in his troops and the lack of funds. In opposition to that the Scottish Army was more powerful and efficient. However Charles gathered the army and marched towards the border in 1639. But when they reached; owing to those absences, the first

Bishops' War ended without serious battle. Charles accepted the make peace negotiations with the Scottish Covenanters at Berwick. A while after, Thomas Wentworth, the lead advisor of the king, guided Charles to lead a battle against the Scots. Thomas Wentworth apprised that the war would cost a lot more than the King could afford, therefore they were financially obliged to call the Parliament. Despite Charles' annoyance, members of his parliament were much more interested about considering the issues which was revealed or rising during his period of personal rule than resorting financing ways for a war with Scotland. Due to these events Charles immediately abolished the parliament. Nonetheless both of the sides determined stay their own positions thus they continued to their campaigns. In 1640, the Scottish Army crossed the River Tweed into England within ten days and they occupied the city of Newcastle after a slight combat at New Bern. Charles' commissioners agreed a treaty due to absence of another options. In as far as the terms of the treaty, New Castle would remain under Scottish control, Charles would leave Northumberland and Durham to the Scots and Charles would have to pay 850 pounds each day in order to uphold the Covenant Army. Consequently, Charles called the second parliament of 1640. However, this was not easy to annul as the last one was. It had sustained for eight years, getting the name of "The Long Parliament". The King was forced to negotiate a truce at Ripon. The second Bishops' War came to an end at the treaty of London of August 1641, resulted assembling the Long Parliament. Charles' failure to end the Bishops' Wars quickly, showed people that force could solve their problems easier and therefore led a lot wars even for the easiest of problems.

● **Irish Rebellion of 1641**

The Irish Rebellion occurred in 1641 and there was a huge violent chaos until the Irish Catholic upper classes and clergy formed the Catholic Confederation in May 1642. The rebellion basically caused by the Catholic Irish's irritation which was regarding to the loss of their lands to Protestant settlers from England and Scotland. The Irish Catholics tried to occupy the English Government in order to grant privileges to Catholics. After a while, This became to a conflict which was between two ethnics, there was Irish Catholic groups which fought against the English and Scottish Protestant groups. The Long Parliament and the Scottish Covenanters were against the King Charles the First's authority. But the English and Scottish parliaments declined an army to stop the rebellion if the army would not be under the King's control. There was still an ongoing chaos and big problems in Ireland. Consequently, Catholic upper classes and clergy formed the Catholic Confederation and the Irish Rebellion of 1641 caused to Irish Confederate War. The Irish Rebellion was roots of the most of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms.

● **English Civil War**

○ **First English Civil War**

The disagreements between the Parliament and the king Charles led to this war. These disagreements were caused by King's belief in the Divine Right of Kings and spreaded to a wider range. When these disagreements were combined with the religious conflicts within the region, the conflict transformed to an armed one between the Roundheads (the Parliamentarians) and the Cavaliers (the Royalists). Although recruiting, equipping, and supplying their armies was problematic due to lack of financial support for both of the parties, they managed to gather men between the numbers of 60,000 and 70,000. Charles, with his headquarters in Oxford, enjoyed support in the north and west of England, in Wales, and in Ireland. On the other hand, the Parliament controlled the much wealthier areas in the south and east of England together with most of the key ports and London which is the financial capital of the kingdom. In order to win the war, Charles had to seize London which he failed to do,

although he managed to secure his region. This equality in the powers of the parties', caused a stalemate until the triumph of the Roundheads at the Battle of Marston Moor. This failure led the Parliamentarians to reform their army and organize the New Model Army, which was a centralized standing army and had central funding and central direction. With this reformed army, the Roundheads won series of victories against the Cavaliers which eventually forced the king to surrender and the Parliamentarians to win. Furthermore, the Scottish Covenanters was a big supporter of the Parliament in the war, while the Irish Confederates were fighting for the king. Both Scots and Irish people had a big effect on the outcome of the war, although the help provided by the Covenanters was a lot more than the Confederates'. But unfortunately, both the Covenanters' and the Confederates' help was limited since they had ongoing civil wars in their countries which are the Scottish Civil War and the Irish Confederate War.

➤ **Scottish Civil War**

Civil War in Scotland 1644-1647 was an armed conflict during the Covenant movement in Scotland, coupled with the English Revolution of the 17th century and the First Civil War in England. The Scottish Royalists pitted against the Covenanters who allied with the English Parliament. The National Covenant of Scotland was formulated to resist the King's innovations, particularly the Prayer Book. The subjugation of Ireland and Scotland by the English Roundhead New Model Army was one of the causes of this war. Even though the Scottish Royalists had many victories in a very short time, the war ended with the victory of the Covenanters. Also, this war triggered the other two kingdoms to move, England and Ireland. In spite of the fact that the Covenanters allied with the English Parliament they confronted with the Parliament. So, they crowned the Charles II and had intended to throne him at England and Ireland as well, this led to the third english civil war when the Parliamentarian New Model Army which was under Oliver Cromwell occupied the Scotland.

➤ **Irish Confederate War**

The Irish Confederate Wars also called Eleven Years' War took place in Ireland between 1641 and 1653, ensued from the Irish Rebellion of 1641. The Wars were between two groups: The Irish Catholic Groups, The English and Scottish Protestant colonists and their supporters. They fought for purpose of decide who would govern the Ireland and which ethnic or religious group would dominate the most of the land. The wars ended in the defeat of the Confederates. The wars which happened following to the 1641 revolt caused a lot of damage to Irish Catholic groups. Most of them were killed during the wars. After the wars English Parliament confiscate the Catholic's land and forced them to pay for the war. Despite the some of this land's giving back because of the Restoration of the monarchy in England, This era end the old Catholic landed class.

○ **Second English War**

Before the Second English Civil War, Charles I had signed an agreement with the Covenanters in order to join their forces with the English Royalists and restore himself to the throne. In return, he promised them some religious reforms such as the establishment of Presbyterianism in England for three years. This agreement between the Royalist and Covenanter armies was called the 'Engagement'. Although they unionized their armies, they couldn't prevent the Parliamentarian

victory in the Battle of Preston which ended the Second English War with Parliamentary victory. Nearly all the Royalists who had fought in the First Civil War had given their word not to bear arms against Parliament, and many promised not to take any part in the second conflict. So the victors in the Second Civil War showed little mercy to those who had brought war into the land again.

➤ **Trial of Charles I**

Charles's secret pacts and encouragement of supporters to break their parole caused Parliament to debate whether to return the King to power at all. Those who still supported Charles's place on the throne, such as the army leader and moderate Fairfax, tried again to negotiate with him. This efforts made the army furious and as a result the army marched on Parliament. They arrested 45 members, kept 146 out of the chamber and allowed only 75 members in, and then only at the Army's bidding. They created the Rump Parliament and ordered it to set up a High Court of Justice for the trial of Charles I for treason. Thomas Fairfax, who was the head of the army and also a monarchist, resigned and opened the way for Oliver Cromwell to power. Charles I was beheaded and his son Charles II was proclaimed his successor.

○ **Third English War**

The harsh defeat of Royalists with combined forces from Scots and Irishmen in the Second Civil War prevented Irishmen from serving alongside their Scottish and English allies in the third English Civil War. Although Scotland was mostly invaded by the New Model Army in command of Oliver Cromwell, they managed to raise another army that made a spectacular dash into England. But despite their efforts, they couldn't capture London. Lastly, the serial victories of the Parliamentarians and the flee of Charles II brought an end to the Third Civil War.

Aftermath

The aristocrats of the New Model Army held the political power for the next nine years and this period of time is referred as the Interregnum (1649-1660). Ireland and Scotland was also occupied by the New Model Army during the Interregnum. The Rump Parliament proclaimed itself as a republic and a Commonwealth where constituent representatives also from Scotland and Ireland was seated in and was directed by Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, although they (Ireland and Scotland) were governed by military governors. When Oliver Cromwell died, the control of the Commonwealth became unstable due to lack of provisions for his succession. In 1660, General Monck organized an occupation to England with his army from Scotland. He managed to seize control of London where he constituted the Convention Parliament. Monck coming from a Royalist background, worked for the restoration of monarchy by inviting back Charles II as the king of the three kingdoms.

Under the English Restoration, the political system returned and Charles II was proclaimed the king of England, Scotland and Ireland. As a legacy of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, the British people never let any Royal try to apply the Divine Right of Kings. The king promised a general pardon for the crimes committed during the English Civil War and Interregnum for those who recognised him as the lawful king with the Declaration of Breda. Despite his forgiveness, he executed or imprisoned for life those who were involved in the execution of Charles I. Moreover, he ordered a posthumous execution to Oliver Cromwell's corpse in order to show that no one can escape justice even the dead. Scotland and Ireland regained their parliaments but the reasons that started the Wars of the Three Kingdoms such as religious conflicts, the power of the parliament etc. remained unsolved to reemerge

and cause the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Only after this later time did the larger features of modern Britain government foreshadowed: a Protestant constitutional monarchy, and with a strong standing army under civilian control. During this decade, nearly 200,000 people, or roughly 2.5 percent of the civilian population, lost their lives directly or indirectly as a result of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, making the Civil Wars arguably the bloodiest conflict in the history of the British Isles. Ever since this period, the peoples of the three kingdoms have had a profound distrust of standing armies, while ideas particularly about religious toleration and limitations on power, have survived to this day.

War Tactics and Weaponry

At the beginning of the war, there was no regular military establishments and the sides were forced to build up their armies relying on Trained Bands and militias which lacked military experience. The sides were reliant on the officers who fought in the Eighty Years War and Thirty Years War and were capable of using artillery and military engineering. There has been a transition from medieval defence such as bows, armoured horsemen, swords and lances, to the use of firearms, both hand held and artillery. The horseman had pistols while the the infantry used arquebuses and muskets. Each infantry force had a troop of pikemen with them who had pikes about 5 meters which were used to keep a distance with the enemy. In the cavalry, there were very few fully armoured cuirassiers since they were expensive to equip and they had no mobility due to lack of horses that could carry that weight. Instead, the horsemen wore breast and back plates with an armour and helmet. There were also troops of dragoons that carried pikes and muskets. The most common firearms were the matchlock muskets which relied upon a burning match for the triggering. Firing was difficult in bad weather as rain extinguished the match and there was a constant explosion hazard due to possible contact of gunpowder and the burning match. Artillery and infantry would position open barrels of gunpowder behind the line in battles to provide reserves of gunpowder but these barrels could be ignited by musketeers' matches with disastrous results. The firelock muskets were a better alternative for matchlock but they were very rare, as a result of their high price and difficult production. Cannons were also commonly used as a siege weapon in the battles. When it came to strategy, before a battle began both sides would line up facing each other. In the centre would be the infantry brigades of musketeers and pikemen. On each side of the infantry there would be the cavalry. The heavy artillery was stationed at the rear where it could fire over the heads of the infantry. Smaller cannons, that fired nails and scrap iron in canvas bags, were positioned in front of the infantry. Musketeers carried a matchlock. Although the matchlock was not very accurate it could kill a man from three hundred yards. Because of the state of medical welfare at that time, any shot wound would probably result in the soldier dying. The main disadvantage of the matchlock was the time it took to reload after each shot. To solve this problem, musketeers in the front line fired their matchlocks and then they retired to the back to reload. Another strategy involved the musketeers in the first line kneeling, the second line crouching and the third line standing. The three lines of musketeers all fired at the same time. After firing, these men went to the back and were replaced by the next three lines of musketeers. The men in the cavalry also carried either a short-barrelled musket or a flint-locked carbine. The main strategy was to advance at a quick trot until in range of the enemy. The men in the front fired, then wheeled away. In their second charge they advanced at full gallop using either a short sword or cutlass. In the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, the main objective was to make the opposing cavalry run away. When that happened, the victorious cavalry turned on the enemy infantry. Well-disciplined pikemen, brave enough to hold their ground, could do tremendous damage to a cavalry charging straight at them.

Terminology

Episcopal System (Bishop System): Episcopal System is a form of church governance in which the chief local authority is called a “Bishop”. It’s the system that Charles I tried to implement but the Parliament objected and a long period of conflict between the Parliament and the King.

Divine Right of Kings: Divine Right of King is an ideology that states the right to be a king and rule comes directly from god and can not be interfered by anyone but god. This ideology is against a parliament and Charles’ constant assertion of this ideology disrupted the relations between the Parliament and the King.

New Model Army: The New Model Army was established by the English Parliamentarians during the English Civil War in 1645. It was different from other powers in the Wars of the Three Kingdoms as it wasn’t a militia or a Trained Band. The army consisted of soldiers who were full time professionals. The organization of the New Model Army changed the destiny of the Civil War.

Irish Confederates: It was formed by Irish Catholic nobles, clergy and military leaders after the Irish Rebellion of 1641. The Confederation had what were effectively a parliament, an executive, and a military. It pledged allegiance to Charles I in the Wars of the Three Kingdoms.

Scottish Covenanters: The Scottish Covenanters was a Scottish Presbyterian movement that played an important role in the history of Britain.

Short Parliament: At the time, the Parliament of England did not have a large permanent role in the English system of government. Instead, it functioned as a temporary advisory committee and was summoned only if and when the monarch saw fit. Once summoned, a Parliament's continued existence was at the king's pleasure since it was subject to dissolution by him at any time. Its main job was to deal with finance and set up taxations. The Short Parliament was summoned by Charles I in 1640 in order to obtain money to finance the Bishops’ War. Charles dissolved the Parliament three weeks later when he saw that the Parliament wasn’t a supporter of the Bishops’ War.

Long Parliament: King Charles summoned the Parliament again in September 1640. He intended it to pass financial bills, a step made necessary by the costs of the Bishops' Wars in Scotland. The Long Parliament received its name from the fact that, by Act of Parliament, it stipulated it could be dissolved only with agreement of the members and those members did not agree to its dissolution until 16 March 1660, after the English Civil War and near the close of the Interregnum.

Rump Parliament: The Rump Parliament was born after Second Civil War when Thomas Pride purged the Long Parliament as the Long Parliament was considering to forgive Charles I, something Pride was fully against.

Timeline

1625

27 March: After the death of his father, King James VI and I, King Charles I accedes to the throne.

13 June: Charles marries Henrietta Maria, a French catholic princess, which is unpopular due to her religion.

8 June–12 August: Charles' first parliament, which gets dubbed the Useless Parliament, is held. Parliament aims to limit the power of the King by only granting him the right to collect tonnage and poundage duties for one year, rather than for life as had been customary.

1626

Charles' second parliament sits, but rather than discuss the financial matters Charles wanted, parliament sought to impeach one of the King's favourites, the Duke of Buckingham, causing Charles to dissolve parliament.

1628

17 March: Charles' third parliament convenes.

7 June: The King signs the Petition of Right, legislation forced on him by parliament that making the king dependent only on the Parliamentary funds and banning the non-Parliamentary taxation.

1629

2 March: The Speaker of the Parliament attempts to adjourn parliament as directed by the King, but is held in his chair while parliament passed motions condemning non-parliamentary taxation, and opposing any change to religious practices. The King is so frustrated that he dissolves parliament on 10 March and resolves to rule without them, beginning the period of Personal Rule.

1630s

1637: Charles I attempts to impose Anglican services on the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Jenny Geddes, a Scottish market trader, starts riots.

1639: Conflict between Covenanters and Royalists in Scotland, beginning with the Covenanters seizing the city of Aberdeen in February

1639: The Bishops' War: Charles brings his troops into Scotland but decides not to attack but to negotiate instead. Signing of the Treaty of Berwick (18 June 1639)

1640s

1640: Charles recalls the English Parliament in order to obtain money to finance his military struggle with Scotland. Parliament agrees to fund Charles, but only on condition he answer their grievances relating to his 11-year "personal rule" or "tyranny". Charles refuses and dissolves Parliament after a mere 3 weeks, hence the name of the "Short Parliament"

1640: The Second Bishops' War or "Second War of the Covenant" breaks out in August. Responding to Charles' attempt to raise an army against them, an army of Covenanters crosses the Tweed and overruns an English force at the Battle of Newburn (28 August 1640), marching on the city of Newcastle.

1640: The Treaty of Ripon (26 October 1640) leaves Newcastle in the hands of the Scots, who also receive a large tribute from Charles. Charles has no option but to recall Parliament in order to raise the necessary funds. Parliament convenes in November and remains convened, in one form or another, until 1660, thus earning the name of the "Long Parliament".

1641: 23 October, Irish Rebellion breaks out in Ulster, with violence marked by the massacre of Protestants by Catholics. The rebels win a battle against Crown forces at Julianstown Bridge near Drogheda in December

1642: Charles enters the House of Commons to arrest five "traitors". The news of his "assault" on Parliament causes uproar in London. Charles leaves the city in fear for his life. In his absence Parliament passes the Militia Bill which, in effect, seizes control of the London arsenal and places militia under its authority. Charles retaliates by appointing individuals to take control of other regional militias in the King's name. From this moment both sides actively raise troops and gather munitions.

1642–1646: The First English Civil War

1642: An alliance of Irish Catholics; Gaelic Irish and the Old English forms the Catholic Confederation, based at Kilkenny, meeting first in March 1642.

1643: 25 September: an alliance between the English Parliament and the Scottish Covenanters — the Solemn League and Covenant — declared. Scottish troops march into England to support the English Parliamentarians

1644: Scottish Civil War started by the Scottish Royalist Montrose, with the aid of Irish Confederate troops under Alasdair MacColla, including the Scots-Irish forces serving under Manus O'Cahan

1645: the English Parliament forms the New Model Army

1645: 14 June: the Battle of Naseby: the New Model Army crushes the Royalist army, effectively ending the First English Civil War

1648–1649: The Second English Civil War

1648–1649: Ormonde Peace — formal alliance between Irish Confederates and English Royalists declared, causing a split among the Confederates and some allying with Cromwellian forces

1648: the Battle of Preston (August): Scottish Covenanter (Engagers faction) army invades England to restore Charles I; defeated by the Parliamentarians

1649: proclamation of Oliver Cromwell as the Lord Protector and the execution of Charles I by the English Parliament

1650s

1650: Third English Civil War breaks out between the Scots and the English Parliament. Cromwell invades Scotland and smashes the Scottish army at the Battle of Dunbar (3 September 1650)

1651: 3 September: the defeat of Charles II and the Scots at Worcester ends the Third Civil War. Charles II goes into exile in France

1658: 3 September: Oliver Cromwell dies. Succeeded as Lord Protector by his son Richard.

1660

General Monck's occupation to England with his army from Scotland, constitution of the Convention Parliament, restoration of monarchy under the English Restoration and the proclamation of Charles II as the King of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Bibliography

<https://spartacus-educational.com/STUcivilwarMT.htm>

<https://www.britishbattles.com/english-civil-war/the-battle-of-edgehill/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Civil_War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishops%27_Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Rebellion_of_1641
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Confederate_Wars
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland_in_the_Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms
<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-was-the-war-of-the-three-kingdoms.html>
<https://www.britannica.com/event/English-Civil-Wars>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rump_Parliament
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Parliament
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_Parliament