

# Charles I of England

## Charles I

Portrait from the studio of [Anthony van Dyck](#), 1636

### [King of England and Ireland](#) ([more...](#))

**Reign** 27 March 1625 – 30 January 1649

**[Coronation](#)** 2 February 1626

**Predecessor** [James I](#)

**Successor** [Charles II](#) (*de jure*)  
[Council of State](#) (*de facto*)

### [King of Scotland](#) ([more...](#))

**Reign** 27 March 1625 – 30 January 1649

**Coronation** 18 June 1633

**Predecessor** [James VI](#)

**Successor** [Charles II](#)

<b>Born</b>	19 November 1600 <a href="#">Dunfermline Palace</a> , <a href="#">Dunfermline</a> , Scotland
<b>Died</b>	30 January 1649 (aged 48) <a href="#">Whitehall</a> , London, England
<b>Burial</b>	9 February 1649 <a href="#">St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle</a> , England
<b>Spouse</b>	<a href="#">Henrietta Maria of France</a> (m. 1625) <div>Charles James, Duke of Cornwall</div> <div><a href="#">Charles II</a></div> <div><a href="#">Mary, Princess of Orange</a></div> <div><a href="#">James II &amp; VII</a></div> <div><a href="#">Elizabeth</a></div> <div><a href="#">Anne</a></div> <div>Catherine</div> <div><a href="#">Henry, Duke of Gloucester</a></div> <div><a href="#">Henrietta, Duchess of Orléans</a></div>
<b>Issue</b> <a href="#">Detail</a>	
<b>House</b>	<a href="#">Stuart</a>
<b>Father</b>	<a href="#">James VI of Scotland and I of England</a>
<b>Mother</b>	<a href="#">Anne of Denmark</a>
<b>Religion</b>	<a href="#">Anglican</a>

**Charles I** (19 November 1600 – 30 January 1649),<sup>[1]</sup> was the king of [England](#), [Scotland](#), and [Ireland](#) from 27 March 1625 until his [execution](#) in 1649.<sup>[2]</sup> He was a son of [James VI and I](#). He was married to [Henrietta Maria of France](#). He was executed during the [English Civil War](#).

# Early life

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Painting of Charles I

Charles was [born](#) at [Dunfermline Palace](#) in [Fife](#), Scotland, before his father [James VI and I](#) came to the [throne](#) of England.

Charles came to England in 1604. When Charles's older brother [Henry Frederick](#) died in 1612, Charles became the [Prince of Wales](#) and the [heir apparent](#) to his father's [kingdoms](#).<sup>[3]</sup> He had an elder brother, [Henry](#), who was clever, handsome, popular, and rich, and next in line for the throne. Henry died suddenly in 1612, and then his brother Charles was made [Prince of Wales](#) in his place, showing that he was now the heir to the throne. Charles was less suited to be king than Henry had been, because he was small and weak and not as clever.

After his brother died, the person Charles was closest to was [George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham](#), who was also his father's best friend. The Duke of Buckingham was very powerful and rich, but was not popular with most common people. He took Charles to Spain in the hope of finding him a Spanish princess as a bride, but they had a lot of problems on the journey and could not persuade the Spanish king to give them his daughter as a wife for Charles.

Charles sat in the [Parliament of England's House of Lords](#) in 1621. King James wanted Charles to [marry Maria Anna of Spain](#) because she was the sister of [Philip IV of Spain](#). Charles travelled to Spain to meet Maria in 1623, but the journey was a disaster, the two did not marry, and Charles became an enemy of Spain.<sup>[3]</sup>

On the way home, Charles went through France again, and there Charles met the French royal family.

Charles married [Henrietta Maria of France](#) because she was the sister of the [French king, Louis XIII](#), and planned to fight Spain. The Parliament of England [convened](#) in 1624 because of Charles's plans. King James did not want a war, but he died in 1625.<sup>[3]</sup>

# Charles' religion

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His religious policies, and his marriage to a [Roman Catholic](#), made him mistrusted by Reformed groups such as the English [Puritans](#) and Scottish [Covenanters](#), who thought his views were too [Catholic](#). He supported "high church" Anglican ecclesiastics, and failed to help Protestant forces enough in the [Thirty Years' War](#). His attempts to force the [Church of Scotland](#) to adopt high Anglican practices strengthened the position of the English and Scottish [parliaments](#) and were a cause of his downfall.

# King

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Charles, now the king, [convened](#) the [parliament](#) again in 1625. The parliament did not give the king what the king wanted. The men in parliament did not like Charles's friend [George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham](#). Buckingham had gone with Charles to Spain and later helped him to marry Henrietta Maria. When Buckingham led the [Royal Navy](#) to attack [Cadiz](#) in Spain, the [campaign](#) was a failure, and the Parliament of England [impeached](#) him. Because of this, Charles stopped ([dissolved](#)) the parliament. He also wanted to send soldiers to help [Protestants](#) in the [Kingdom of France](#), and made demands for more money as payment for the army. This campaign was also a failure, and the king had to agree to the [Petition of Right](#) in 1628. An army officer assassinated Buckingham that summer.<sup>[3]</sup>

The Parliament of England [convened](#) again in 1629. There were many disagreements about [religion](#) and the organization of the [Church of England](#). Charles gave support to the "High Church" group, but the parliament gave their support to the "Low Church" group. Charles supported [Arminianism](#), but the parliament's [House of Commons](#) tried to make Arminianism [illegal](#). To stop the House of Commons, the king again [dissolved](#) the parliament. Some [members of parliament](#) in the House of Commons tried to continue their [session](#), but the king put them in [prison](#). Charles continued to support [Arminians](#) in the Church of England, with the inclusion of [William Laud](#), the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#) (*the chief [bishop](#) of all England*). The population disliked Laud and the Arminians, and disliked Charles's [taxes](#). Between 1629 and 1640, the king controlled the government alone. There was no parliament. This time has the name "Personal Rule" or the "Eleven Years' [Tyranny](#)".<sup>[3]</sup>

This made Charles very unpopular with the people, who did not like the different [taxes](#) they had to pay directly to the king, since Parliament could not vote to give him any [budget](#). Many also did not like the King's closest adviser, William Laud, who was trying to force the Church of England to use the same [Anglican Prayer Book](#) and stop the many other [Protestant](#) denominations that were becoming popular at that time.

When the king and the Archbishop then tried to force a Prayer Book on [Scotland](#), which was even more Protestant ([Calvinist](#)), armed rebellion broke out there. The [Wars of the Three Kingdoms](#) started in 1639 with the [Bishops' Wars](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

The members of Parliament, angry at the things that had been going on for 11 years, did not want to give him money to fight his war. Instead, they spent the session complaining about what had been going on in the country for the last 11 years. So after only three weeks, Charles dissolved Parliament again. For this reason, it was known as the [Short Parliament](#). Without enough money, Charles lost the war badly, and had to pay the Scots even more money that he did not have.

These wars were a failure for the king, and his position forced Charles to [convene](#) the Parliament of England in 1640.<sup>[3]</sup> Parliament [voted](#) that the King had to call Parliament, and could not shut them down again. Charles had no choice but to agree. This Parliament is known as the [Long Parliament](#), because it ended up lasting for twenty years, until 1660.

Charles was in a weak position, and he had to agree to [acts of parliament](#) that took away many of his royal powers.<sup>[3]</sup> Laud and [Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford](#) were both [impeached](#) and later were [executed](#). Parliament also tried to take control of the army away from the king. Many political [conservatives](#) were not pleased with this plan. Acting on the advice of his wife Queen Maria Henrietta, the king went with soldiers to the House of Commons in 1642 and tried to arrest his political enemies. They had gone. After this failure, the king left [London](#) and went to travel the country to look for help. With a collection of his political friends, Charles began the [English Civil War](#) with an army at [Nottingham](#), and then moved to [Oxford](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

The army of Parliament got the upper hand in this war, and Charles, after a crushing defeat in 1646, went to the Scots for protection. They decided to hand him over to the Parliament of England in 1647.

The war was a failure for the king, and Charles was made a [prisoner](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The king got out of [Hampton Court Palace](#) in 1647 and ran away to [Carisbrooke Castle](#), on the [Isle of Wight](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

The governor of the [Isle of Wight](#) was on the side of Parliament and made the king a prisoner again. While he was being held at Carisbrooke Castle, Charles made an agreement with the Scots who joined his side, and the fighting started again in 1648.

Charles's many enemies then fought among themselves in spring 1648.<sup>[3]</sup> Because he was still making trouble for them even while he was captured, Parliament voted to put the king on [trial](#).

The army then removed the [conservatives](#) from parliament in a political [purge](#) in December as an insurance against more fighting. The men left in parliament then formed a [court](#) in order to hold a [trial](#) of the king. The court gave the king the [death penalty](#).<sup>[3]</sup> This had never been done to a king of England before.

## Children

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Name	Birth	Death	Notes
<a href="#">Charles James, Duke of Cornwall</a>	13 March 1627	13 March 1627	Stillborn; unknown burial site.
<a href="#">Charles II</a>	29 May 1630	6 February 1685	

			Married <a href="#">Catherine of Braganza</a> (1638–1705) in 1663. No legitimate children.
Mary, Princess Royal	4 November 1631	24 December 1660	Married <a href="#">William II, Prince of Orange</a> (1626–1650) in 1641. Had children.
<a href="#">James II, King of England</a>	14 October 1633	16 September 1701	Married (1) <a href="#">Anne Hyde</a> (1637–1671) in 1659; had children (2) <a href="#">Mary of Modena</a> (1658–1718) in 1673; had children
<a href="#">Elizabeth, Princess of England</a>	29 December 1635	8 September 1650	Died young; no children. Buried <a href="#">Newport, Isle of Wight</a>
<a href="#">Anne, Princess of England</a>	17 March 1637	8 December 1640	Died young; no children. Buried <a href="#">Westminster Abbey</a>
Catherine, Princess of England	29 January 1639	29 January 1639	Stillborn; buried <a href="#">Westminster Abbey</a> .
<a href="#">Henry, Duke of Gloucester</a>	8 July 1640	18 September 1660	Died unmarried; no children. Buried <a href="#">Westminster Abbey</a>
<a href="#">Henrietta, Princess of England</a>	16 June 1644	30 June 1670	Married <a href="#">Philippe de France, Duke of Orléans</a> (1640–1701) in 1662; had children

## Death

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At the trial he was found guilty. He was **decapitated** in a public execution outside the [Banqueting House](#) of the [palace](#) at [Whitehall](#).<sup>[3]</sup> Some of the members of Parliament who were opposed to killing king Charles were [purged](#), and from this time on, what was left of the Long Parliament became known as the [Rump Parliament](#). This Parliament took complete power in England, and there was not a new king at all until 1660.

## References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

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## English monarchs

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

[Athelstan](#) • [Edmund I](#) • [Edred](#) • [Edwy](#) • [Edgar I](#) •  
[Edward the Martyr](#)][Confessor](#)]  
[Edward the Confessor](#) • [Harold II](#) • [Edgar II](#) •  
[William I](#) • [William II](#) • [Henry I](#) • [Stephen](#) •  
[Matilda](#) • [Henry II](#) • [Richard I](#) • [John](#) • [Henry III](#) •  
[Edward I](#) • [Edward II](#) • [Edward III](#) • [Richard II](#) •  
[Henry IV](#) • [Henry V](#) • [Henry VI](#) • [Edward IV](#) •  
[Edward V](#) • [Richard III](#) • [Henry VII](#) • [Henry VIII](#) •  
[Edward VI](#) • [Jane](#) • [Mary I](#) • [Elizabeth I](#) • [James I](#) •  
[Charles I](#) • [Interregnum](#) • [Charles II](#) • [James II](#) •  
[Mary II](#) • [William III](#) • [Anne](#)

## Scottish monarchs

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

[Kenneth I](#) • [Donald I](#) • [Constantine I](#) • [Áed](#) •  
[Giric](#) • [Donald II](#) • [Constantine II](#) • [Malcolm I](#) •  
[Indulf](#) • [Dub](#) • [Cuilén](#) • [Amlaíb](#) • [Kenneth II](#) •  
[Constantine III](#) • [Kenneth III](#) • [Malcolm II](#) •  
[Duncan I](#) • [Macbeth](#) • [Lulach](#) • [Malcolm III](#) •  
[Donald III](#) • [Duncan II](#) • [Edgar](#) • [Alexander I](#) •  
[David I](#) • [Malcolm IV](#) • [William I the Lion](#) •  
[Alexander II](#) • [Alexander III](#) • [Margaret, Maid of](#)  
[Norway](#) • [First Interregnum](#) • [John Balliol](#) •  
[Second Interregnum](#) • [Robert I the Bruce](#) • [David](#)  
[II](#) • [Robert II](#) • [Robert III](#) • [James I](#) • [James II](#) •  
[James III](#) • [James IV](#) • [James V](#) • [Mary, Queen of](#)  
[Scots](#) • [James VI](#) • [Charles I](#) • [Charles II](#) •  
[James VII](#) • [Mary II](#) • [William III](#) • [Anne](#)

## Princes of Wales

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

[Edward](#) (1301–1307)

[Edward](#) (1343–1376)

[Richard](#) (1376–1377)

[Henry](#) (1399–1413)

[Edward](#) (1454–1471)

- [Richard](#) (1460; *disputed*)
- [Edward](#) (1471–1483)
- [Edward](#) (1483–1484)
- [Arthur](#) (1489–1502)
- [Henry](#) (1504–1509)
- [Edward](#) (1537–1547)
- [Henry](#) (1610–1612)
- Charles (1616–1625)
- [Charles](#) (1641–1649)
- [James](#) (1688)
- [George](#) (1714–1727)
- [Frederick](#) (1729–1751)
- [George](#) (1751–1760)
- [George](#) (1762–1820)
- [Albert Edward](#) (1841–1901)
- [George](#) (1901–1910)
- [Edward](#) (1910–1936)
- [Charles](#) (1958–2022)
- [William](#) (2022–)

*See also:* [Principality of Wales](#)

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