



Why did people want the king back in 1646?

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45


To understand why people wanted Charles back on the throne in 1646, we need to look at what they had been through in the years beforehand. These sources will help you understand what happened and how people felt.




Letter by a Parliament army officer, 1642




An order by Parliament about the city of Lincoln




Report on Cheshire's attempt to be neutral, 1643




Petition of Mary Baker to help her husband, 1643



Warrant to seize all horses in London, 1643



Map showing the defences of London in 1643



Order about paying for Parliament's army, 1644

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 1

A letter written by a Parliament officer, Nehemiah Wharton, 13 September 1642

(Catalogue ref: SP 16/492/11)

What is this source?

These are sections from a letter by Nehemiah Wharton, a Parliamentary officer in the Civil War, written to George Willingham, a merchant.

Wharton was a Puritan gentleman from the Midlands (near Leicester). His letters have proved very useful in giving us a picture of the impact of the Civil War on ordinary people.

What's the background to this source?

This source comes from an early stage of the war – less than one month in and a month before the first big battle at Edgehill in October. As well as the big battles, there was a lot of smaller fights or skirmishes in the Civil War.

Skirmishing meant small-scale mini-battles between units of Royalist and Parliamentary troops. Apart from fighting each other, the top priority of each army was to find food and supplies for the soldiers and horses. Each side often took anything they could find from local farms, villages and towns. They often took able-bodied men and forced them into their armies.

It's worth knowing that ...

Wharton was a Puritan, a hard-line Protestant. During the war Puritans became increasingly powerful and important in the army.

They and their men spent a lot of time at religious services, reading and discussing the Bible. As the war went on, many army officers and soldiers began to see themselves as chosen by God to protect the Protestant Church and Parliament from men like Archbishop Laud (who wanted to make changes to the church) and from possible plots by Catholics.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. What happened to Justice Edmonds?
2. Is it possible to say whether this kind of thing happened a lot?
3. Do you think the countryman had much choice in becoming Wharton's guide?
4. According to this source, what did Prince Rupert do?
5. Do you think this source gives a reliable view of the impact of the war?
6. What does this source tell you about Nehemiah Wharton?
7. Why did nothing happen on Sunday?
8. Study the source and the supporting notes. Why did so many soldiers begin to see themselves as 'soldiers of god'?
9. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?



Source 1

Sabbath Day sent the 7 was yeatably misad. Monday morning I was informed by a country man of a Capt. priest 6 miles distant which had got out horse for the commission of away and had arms in his house and I immediately got 20 musketeers and marched out to search the house. the country man followed with a soldiers and to take gave him arms and made him my guide. But during march a miles certain gentlemen of the country informed me that Justice Edmonds a man of good reputation was ^{but since I heard of the way} plundered by the Capt. Edmonds of Colonel Cholmleys regiment and consisted of the very goods whereupon I immediately divided my men into 3 squadrons surrounded them and forced them to bring the pillage upon.

Monday morning we had tidings that prince Robert that Diabolical creature had surrounded Leicester and demanded two thousand pounds or else threatened to plunder the town whereupon our soldiers were soon made to be at them but wanted submission.

Friday morning worthy Mr. obadiah Sedgwick gave us a worthy sermon and my company in particular marched to hear him in thanks and file Mr. John Sedgwick was appointed to preach in the afternoon but we had news that prince Robert had plundered Harbrough and fired some adjacent towns.

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 2

An order published by Parliament about the city of Lincoln, 18 February 1642

(Catalogue ref: SP 16/497/29)

What is this source?

This is a Parliamentary Ordinance.

An ordinance was a law passed by Parliament that was not approved by the king. During the Civil War all new laws passed by Parliament were Ordinances.

What's the background to this source?

Lincoln was controlled by Parliament in the Civil War, even though there were many supporters of the king in the city and in the county of Lincolnshire. County Committees ran areas controlled by Parliament.

These Committees were made up of men loyal to Parliament. Their job was to control their area and also to help Parliament's war effort by supplying Parliamentary forces with food and equipment. This source comes from the early part of 1643 when people were beginning to feel the impact of the war. Both sides were desperate to find food, supplies and arms for their armies.

It's worth knowing that ...

As the war went on the County Committees got tougher and tougher. They demanded more taxes, supplies, horses and so on for the war, and not just from Royalist supporters. As a result, they became increasingly unpopular.

County Committees usually singled out known Royalists in their area for harsh treatment, such as more taxes. Committee members were often Puritans, so they were also on the lookout for people who seemed to be sympathetic towards Catholics.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. Who was criticised in this source?
2. Who was to carry out Parliament's commands?
3. Study the notes that support this source. What can you find out about County Committees?
4. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?



Source 2

Whereas divers persons and ill disposed
persons in the County of Lincoln, City of
Lincoln, and County of the same Hand Co, and
now are in Actual Warre, and Rebellion agt
the Parliament and Kingdom: or otherwise have
voluntarily contributed thereto, Money,
Food, or plate, and entered into an Association
for the maintenance, and fomenting of this
unnaturall Warre and Civill Contention
It is therefore ordered, established and
ordained by the Lords and Commons in
Parliament That the Committed members
of both Houses of Parliament for the County
of Lincoln, City of Lincoln, and County
of the same, or any four of them respectively
shall have full power and Authority and
are hereby authorized to seize, receive,
and take all Money, Money, or plate,
Food and plate of every person so in
Actual Warre, or in Association against the
Parliament.

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 3

A report of discussions in Parliament concerning Cheshire's attempt to be neutral, 9 January 1643

(Catalogue ref: SP 9/245/12)

What is this source?

These extracts are from a newspaper that supported the Parliamentary side.

The Royalists also had their newspapers or journals. These were the first newspapers in English history.

What's the background to this source?

The vast majority of people in England did not want to go to war in 1642. On 23 December 1642 the political nation (gentry and lords) of Cheshire went further than most counties. They signed the Bunbury Agreement. Both Royalist and Parliament supporters agreed that Cheshire would be neutral in the war. It would not help or hinder either side.

There were quite a lot of attempts to remain neutral during the Civil War. In the South West there were local groups of civilians, known as the Clubmen, who fought to keep Royalist and Parliamentary forces out of their areas in 1644-45. However, they were not successful due to lack of training and equipment.

It's worth knowing that ...

Deputy Lieutenants were important officials who represented king or Parliament in their local areas. The Militia Ordinance was an order sent out by Parliament in 1642. It ordered local officials to raise troops to fight for the Parliamentary cause.

Charles I sent out a similar order to raise troops. His order was called the Commissions of Array.

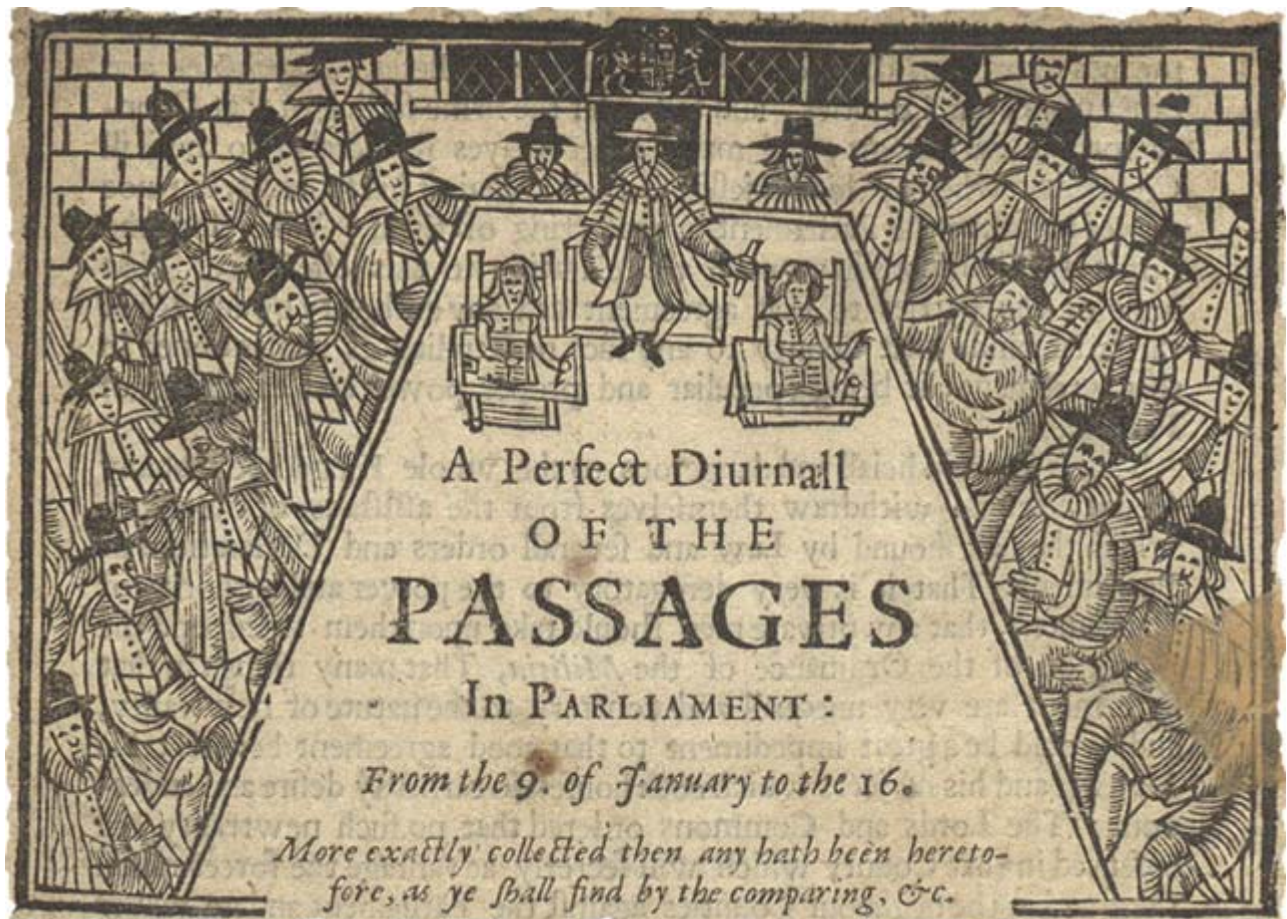
Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. According to this document, what mistakes had the Deputy Lieutenants of Chester made?
2. What was the agreement that was made in Cheshire? (Use the notes if you cannot work this out from the source.)




3. What was Parliament's reaction to the Cheshire agreement?
4. What reasons did Parliament give for its views?
5. How do you think the people of Cheshire might have felt when they read this journal?
6. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

Source 3





 Vnday, the Parliament having taken into consideration certaine Articles, dated 23. *Decemb.* last between some of the Deputy Lieutenants of the County of *Chesher* well-affected to the peace of the Kingdome, and others who have declared themselves in sundry actions opposers of the proceedings of Parliament, and furtherers of the warre raised against them, and of many injuries and oppressions lately exercised upon the good subjects inhabitants of that County, and be-

Lords and Commons have made a Declaration to this effect *viz.* That none of the parties to that agreement had any authority by any act of theirs to binde that County to any such newtrality as, is mentioned in that agreement, it being a peculiar and proper power and Priviledge of Parliament.

That it is prejudiciall and dangerous to the whole Kingdome that any County should withdraw themselves from the assistance of the rest to which they are bound by Law and severall orders and Declarations of Parliament. That it is very derogatory to the power and authority of Parliament, that any private men should take upon them to suspend the execution of the Ordinance of the *Militia*, That many things in that agreement are very unequall and contrary to the nature of newtrality, and would be a great impediment to that good agreement betwixt his Majestie and his subjects which both houses do earnestly desire and endeavour: The Lords and Commons ordered that no such newtrality bee observed in that County which will secretly advantage the forces raised there and in the neighbour Counties against the Parliament and no wayes benefit *Cheshire*, but most dangerous to them by keeping that County without any defensive forces,

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 4

Petition of Mary Baker to stop a County Committee in Kent taking her husband's money, July 1643

(Catalogue ref: SP 19/90)

What is this source?

This source is a petition or request from Mary Baker to help her husband, Sir John Baker, whom had his land and goods taken by a County Committee in Kent. Then a warrant was issued to take more money from him.

A warrant was basically an order. This warrant gave the committee in Kent the power to demand a further £600, a great deal of money. The petition was Mary Baker's request that her husband not have to pay the money.

What's the background to this source?

By the time this source was written the war had been going on for about a year. During that time both Parliament and the king used local supporters to raise money to pay for their armies. Controlling London and the South East of England gave Parliament a big advantage in its war effort against the king.

Armies needed soldiers, food, equipment and money. Throughout the war both sides constantly brought in new laws and taxes that were designed to raise money and resources for the war. On top of the official methods, there were also a lot of unofficial methods. Local bands of soldiers would descend on a farm or village and demand food and shelter. As the armies got bigger during the war, so did the demands on the population to feed and pay for these armies. There were many people in the same difficult circumstances as the Bakers.

It's worth knowing that ...

Areas controlled by Parliament were run by committees. Parliament's County Committees controlled their areas very strictly. The committee in Kent probably took the Baker's land because they supported the king.

County Committees were made up of men loyal to Parliament. Their job was to control their area and also to help Parliament's war effort by

supplying Parliament forces with food and equipment. The Royalist side used a similar approach.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. What happened to Mary Baker's husband?
2. Why do you think the committee in Kent targeted him?
3. According to this document, why could he not pay any more?
4. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

Source 4

*The humble petition of Mary Baker
 wife of S^r John Baker Barronett.*

Sheweth

*That in Aprill last the Comittee in Kent did sequester the estate of your
 petitioners husband in Kent where his mansion house (about 40 miles
 from London) and all his Land & goods to the value of about 2000^l and*

*y^r petitioners husband, being much indisposed in his health, his whole
 estate sequestered, and so altogether disabled to pay a xxth parte.
 yet nevertheless, a warrant was issued out against y^r petitioners husband
 to make payment of the remainder, whereas in truth y^r petitioners
 husband is much indebted, and hath at this time no means left to
 maintaine himselfe, and his wif, and children.*

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 5

Warrant from the Lord Mayor of London to seize all horses in London, 12 August 1643

(Catalogue ref: SP 16/497/143)

What is this source?

This source is a warrant signed by the Mayor and the Parliamentary Committee for London. Committees ran areas controlled by Parliament.

A warrant was basically an order. This warrant gave the power to Captain Ghestre and his troops to seize horses in London to use in Parliament's armies.

What's the background to this source?

By the time this source was written the war had been going on for about a year. Armies used huge numbers of horses for cavalry and for pulling wagons. There would have been many warrants like this throughout the war years, 1642-46.

Parliament and the king both relied on local supporters to raise troops, horses and money from their areas. London was by far the biggest and richest city in the country. Controlling London and the South East of England gave Parliament a big advantage in its war effort against the king.

It's worth knowing that ...

People would not have been able to refuse such a warrant. Parliament's County Committees controlled their areas very strictly. County Committees were made up of men loyal to Parliament. Their job was to control their area and also to help Parliament's war effort by supplying Parliament forces with food and equipment. The Royalist side used a similar approach.

As well as horses, armies also needed soldiers, food, equipment and money. Throughout the war both sides constantly brought in new laws and taxes that were designed to raise money and resources for the war. On top of the official taxation, there was also a lot of unofficial taxation. Local bands of soldiers would often descend on a farm or village and



demand food and shelter. As the armies got bigger during the war, so did the demands on the population to feed and pay for these armies.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. What did this document allow Captain Ghestre to do?
2. What were the horses for?
3. Would it have been possible to refuse to give up your horses?
4. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

Source 5

256 143
By vertue of an Ordinance of Parliamt. dated the 25th day of July last
(the Copie whereof is annexed) you are to take and seize the Horses or Horses
of any person within the Cities of London and the Liberties and in the
of the Parishes mentioned in the woollie Bills of Mortalitie, and
to take one thousand of them that are most fitt for light
horses to be grased by the Commissaries and according to the Letter of
the right hon^{ble} the Earle of Manchester dated the tenth day of
this instant month of August (a Copie whereof is also annexed) to deliver
them to Sir William Waller Knight to be disposed of as hee shall direct

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 6

A map showing the defences of London in 1643

(William Maitland, 'The History of London from its foundation by the Romans to the present Time', 1739)

What is this source?

This is a map of London showing the defences that Parliament built for the protection of the city.

The key explains the different types of defences and the positions they were in. Redouts and bulwarks were basically small forts. A battery was a strong position that held one or more cannons. Breastwork meant steep mounds of earth or stone with fences to stop attacking forces.

What's the background to this source?

Parliament controlled London during the Civil War. This was a key factor in Parliament's final victory. London had a large population and lots of wealth. This helped to pay for the war.

Charles tried to capture London early in the war, but he was defeated. Parliament decided to strengthen the defences of London so that it did not lose possession of the city.

It's worth knowing that ...

As a rule, the people of London supported Parliament against the king for most of the war. However, they paid a heavy price in taxes and seized goods and horses.

London was a hotbed of radical people with new and extreme ideas. Before the Civil War there was strict censorship. It was dangerous to write about and print new ideas on religion or politics. During the Civil War the system of censorship broke down. Many new ideas began to spread. Some people became concerned about these new ideas. They began to think that if Charles returned as king, then he would crush these radicals and their new ideas.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. How does this source help us to see that London was important to Parliament?
2. How many defensive positions were there?
3. Do you think it was cheap to build and keep these defences in good condition? Who paid?
4. The defences were built to keep attackers out. Could they also have been used to control the population inside the city? Explain your answer.
5. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?

Case study 1: Effects of war, 1642-45 - Source 7

An order from Parliament in 1644 about paying for Parliament's army

(Catalogue ref SP 16/506/45)

What is this source?

This is an Ordinance from 1644 (and this copy of it was published the following year). This ordinance set up a new type of army, which came to be known as the New Model Army.

An ordinance was a law passed by Parliament without the approval of the king.

What's the background to this source?

The Civil War was still dragging on in late 1643. Neither side could achieve a final victory, although Charles had the upper hand. This changed when Parliament made an alliance with the Scots. Parliament also decided to introduce a completely new army. The New Model Army was a well-disciplined force commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax. It was also properly paid for.

One of the biggest problems faced by both sides in the Civil War was supplying, feeding and paying their soldiers. War was a very expensive business. In many cases, hungry soldiers ended up plundering the local countryside. Poorly paid soldiers usually fought badly as well. Parliament tried to tackle this problem by setting up the New Model Army. Wages were to be paid regularly and the soldiers were well trained and disciplined.

It's worth knowing that ...

The amounts of money listed in this source are very large. London's bill of £8000 would be about £1 million today. Paying for this new army was very expensive. The New Model Army was also unusual in that many of the soldiers had strong religious and political ideas. As they fought, the officers and soldiers began to debate what England should be like once the war was over.

The New Model Army came to be controlled by Puritans. By 1645 the most high profile Puritan in the army was Oliver Cromwell.

Your turn: What can we learn from this source?

1. What was the purpose of this ordinance?
2. Look at the list of counties and towns to be taxed. Which one is nearest to you and how much did it have to pay?
3. How do you think people felt when they read this new measure?
4. What was the role of the County Committees?
5. Does this source help to explain why County Committees were unpopular?
6. How does this source help to explain why many people were supporting Charles in 1646?



Source 7

BE it Ordained, and it is Ordained by the Lords & Commons in Parliament assembled, That there be forthwith raised and formed for the defence of the King and Parliament, the true protestant Religion & the lawes & liberties of the Kingdom an

Army consisting of six thousand six hundred Horse, to be distributed into Eleven Regiments; And of one thousand Dragooners, to be distributed into ten Companies; And of fourteen thousand four hundred Foot, to be distributed into twelve Regiments, each Regiment of Foote to consist of twelve hundred, and each such Regiment to be distributed into, and to consist of ten Companies. Which said Army shall be paid according to the Establishment hereafter to be made by both houses of PARLIAMENT, and shall be under the immediate command of Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX, Knight,



And it is further Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, That the severall sums hereafter herein mentioned, shall from the first day of February, one thousand six hundred forty foure, Taxed Leavied and paid, for the maintenance and payment of the said Army and charges incident in manner and forme following.

Viz.

There shall be monethly charged, untill the first of December next if the War shall so long continue.

VPon the City of *London* and the County of *Middlesex*, the summe of Eight thousand fifty nine pounds, and fiftene shillings.

Upon the County of *Essex* monethly, the summe of six thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds.

Upon the County of *Suffolke* monethly, the summe of seven thousand and seventy pounds.

Upon the County of *Norfolke* monethly the summe of seven thousand and seventy pounds.

Upon the City and County of the city of *Normich* monethly, the summe of three hundred sixty and six pounds.

Upon the County of *Lincolne* monthly, the summe of two thousand and seventy pounds.



Upon the county of *Hereford* monethly, the sum of two thousand four hundred thirty two pounds and ten shillings,

Upon the Isle of *Ely* monethly, the summe of seven hundred twenty eight pounds thirteen shillings and four pence.

Upon the County of *Cambridge* Monethly, the summe of two thousand one hundred and seventy one pounds, six shillings and eight pence.

Upon the county of *Huntington* monethly, the summe of one thousand and twenty pounds.

Upon the county of *Kent*, with the citie and county of the city of *Canterbury*, and the Cinque-ports monethly, the sum of seven thousand and seventy pounds.

Upon the county of *Surrey*, with the Borough of *Southwark* monethly, the summe of two thousand pounds.

Upon the county of *Sussex* monethly, the summe of three thousand nine hundred and twenty seven pounds fifteen shillings and six pence three Farthings.

Upon the county of *Derby* monethly, the summe of five hundred and sixteen pounds.

Upon the countie of *Rutland* monethly, the sum of one hundred and eightie four pounds,

Upon the countie of *Warwicke* monethly, the summe of three hundred pounds.

Upon the countie of *Leicester* monethly, the summe of two hundred and fifty pounds.

Upon the county of *Norhampton* monethly, the summe of four hundred and fifty pounds.

Upon the countie of *Bedford* monethly the summe of one thousand pounds.



And that the said severall summes of money may bee duly Taxed, Levied and paid, as is hereafter Directed: Be it further Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, that the severall and respective Committees hereby appointed for the severall and respective Cities, Counties, and places aforesaid, shall within eight daies next ensuing the publication hereof, meet together at some convenient

place in every of the said cities, counties, and places respectively, and afterwards seven of them at the least, shall twice in every weeke at the least, meet at such convenient places as they shall think fit, & appoint for the more speedy execution of this Ordinance;

and forthwith the said Committees, or any two or more of them respectively, are hereby authorized and required to direct their warants to such number of persons as they shall thinke fit within their severall and respective Divisions, to be Assessors of the said rates; which said persons are hereby authorized and required, to asseffe all and every person and persons, having any reall or personall estate within the limits, circuits, and bounds of their respective divisions, according to the rate and proportion in this Ordinance mentioned.