What kind of ruler was Oliver Cromwell?

Case study 1: Cromwell in his own words

One obvious way to try and understand the puzzle of Oliver Cromwell is to look at his own words. We are lucky that there is a collection of his speeches and letters. See what they tell you about him.

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Order from Cromwell to the Tower of London, 1654 Order about publication of pamphlets, 1654

Document appointing a Major General, 1655

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Cromwell's reply when asked to be king, 1657 Speech on the Humble Petition and Advice, 1657

Cromwell's thoughts about his job, April 1657