



# Noble and Greenough Model United Nations

Corban Shih and Maxwell Huang, SECRETARIES-GENERAL

Simon Juknelis, DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Alan Cai, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Max Daniello, CHIEF OF STAFF

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## NGMUN VI

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### Crisis Committee: English Civil War Background Guide

Colin Levine, *Chair*

Rohin Piniseti, *Co-Chair*



*Sensitivity Statement*

You are assuming the roles and responsibilities of diplomats, and therefore will be held to the ethical standards of the role. During NGMUN, we expect all delegate behavior to reflect the gravity and sensitivity of the international and individual impact of the topics being addressed, just as such topics would be addressed by professional diplomats. While the issues you debate are on the world stage and may seem distant from your lived experience, we ask that you approach debate with a high level of respect and sensitivity for others. Absolutely no racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, or any other forms of discrimination will be tolerated in or out of committee. This includes any such harmful rhetoric that can be attributed to the country or character you are representing. Any discriminatory language or ideas in speeches, resolutions, or at any other point in the conference is prohibited.



## *Overview*

It is the late 1640s. The First English Civil War between the Royalists and Parliament has just concluded. Despite defeating the Royalists and imprisoning the king, divisions within the Parliamentarians are beginning to emerge. Moderates like the Presbyterians, who dominate the Long Parliament, are concerned about the perceived radicalism of the New Model Army. They support the retention of Charles as a constitutional monarch. On the other hand, radicals, such as the Levellers, desire an overhaul of the current political paradigm. They seek a new constitution and increased voting rights for the general populace. Additionally, despite being defeated during the First English Civil War, the Royalists remain a prominent faction. As fears of the radicalization of the New Model Army proliferate, the domestic situation is beginning to escalate.

Despite the political turmoil of the time, England's economy is showing resiliency and adaptability. A growth in manufacturing and the development of financial and credit systems has catalyzed a revival of the economy. New industries, such as cloth-weaving and metalworking, are driving economic growth and commercial expansion in England. The Parliamentarians have found significant support in the more developed and commercialized regions of England. While, the Royalists primarily receive their support from citizens in less developed regions of the country. Charles I's economic policies during his reign, such as the "ship tax," were extremely unpopular amongst English merchants and traders.

Compounding upon the tension being caused by economic grievances, religious denominations, such as the Ranters, Baptists, Diggers, Levellers, Presbyterians, and Quakers, all aspire to promote their own beliefs thus creating an increasingly hostile environment. The Royalists argue that both Parliament and the Church of England answer to the King, as the King rules through divine right. Contrarily, the Parliamentarians believe that King and Royalists seek too much control over the Church and that politics and religion should remain separate. The Presbyterians, who were originally a part of the Parliamentary coalition, have been alienated by Cromwell and Parliament's radicalization.

Similar to the political situation in England, the social situation is dire. English elite's power is being diminished as laypeople intrude on the clergys' power and affairs of state. Traditional power structures are being destroyed as the lower class becomes increasingly outspoken, leading to increased tension between social classes. Furthermore, the war and famine have created local tension between community



members. England's desperate situation has led groups like the Levellers to propose policies that emphasize popular sovereignty. Attempts to reestablish peace and ease tensions, such as the Treaty of Newport, have failed. As the threat of war looms ever closer, Parliamentary and Royalist delegates will meet in the south of London at Putney's St. Mary's Church to avert disaster.

### *Potential Delegate List*

1. Prince Charles (Charles II): son of King Charles I and the future Charles II - *Royalist*
  - a. Charles was one of the main proponents of the Royalist cause.
  - b. He was involved in military campaigns and diplomatic efforts to secure foreign support for the Royalists.
2. James, Duke of York (James II): younger brother of Charles II and later known as James II - *Royalist*
  - a. James was active in Royalist military campaigns and partook in the unsuccessful uprising of 1648.
3. George Monck: professional soldier and Royalist commander - *Royalist*
  - a. Monck fought in several battles during the English Civil War and later became a crucial figure in the events leading to the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660.
4. Lord Goring: Royalist military commander - *Royalist*
  - a. Goring was renowned for his leadership in the field and was involved in significant action during the civil wars.
5. Sir Marmaduke Langdale: Royalist cavalry commander - *Royalist*
  - a. Langdale was acclaimed for his skills on the battlefield, playing an essential role in the Royalist campaigns in the north of England during the Second Civil War.
6. Sir Richard Grenville: Royalist naval commander - *Royalist*
  - a. Grenville supported the Royalist cause at sea; however, his efforts weren't enough to gain a significant advantage for the Royalists.
7. Lord Capel, Arthur Capel, Baron Capel: Royalist military and political leader - *Royalist*
  - a. Capel served in various roles in support of the Royalist cause and was involved in the events leading up to the trial and execution of King Charles I.



8. Sir Thomas Fairfax: Commander-in-chief of the New Model Army - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. Fairfax was a renowned military leader, playing an important role in several battles during the English Civil War.
9. Thomas Pride: Parliamentarian officer - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. Pride played a key role in the Purge of Parliament in 1648, which resulted in the expulsion of Presbyterian members, leaving only those who supported a more radical agenda.
10. Henry Ireton: son-in-law of Oliver Cromwell - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. A prominent Parliamentarian general, Ireton played an integral role in various military campaigns and was a key figure in the trial and execution of King Charles I.
11. John Lambert: Military commander in the New Model Army - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. Lambert played a significant role in several battles and campaigns during the civil wars.
  - b. Lambert later evolved into an important political figure.
12. John Bradshaw: President of the High Court of Justice, which tried and condemned King Charles I - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. He played a crucial role in the legal and judicial aspects of the conflict.
13. Henry Vane the Younger: Political and Military leader - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. Vane was an influential figure in the development of the Commonwealth and the establishment of the Protectorate.
  - b. During the Civil War, Vane occupied a variety of positions in government and the military
14. Thomas Harrison: Parliamentarian officer and a prominent member of the Fifth Monarchists - *Parliamentarian*
  - a. Harrison was involved in key military actions during the civil wars.
15. John Lilburne: key leaders of the Levellers - *Leveller*
  - a. He was a charismatic and influential figure who played a central role in articulating Leveller ideas. Lilburne was a vocal advocate for civil liberties, freedom of conscience, and democratic principles.
16. Richard Overton: important Leveller leader - *Leveller*
  - a. Overton worked closely with Lilburne and was known for his advocacy of religious freedom and civil liberties. He continued to be active in promoting Leveller ideas even after Lilburne's imprisonment.
17. William Walwyn: A physician and Leveller activist - *Leveller*



- a. Walwyn participated in the Putney Debates and argued for the extension of political rights, religious toleration, and the protection of individual freedoms.
- b. Walwyn played a crucial role in articulating Leveller principles.
- 18. Thomas Rainsborough: prominent Leveller leader and a military officer in the New Model Army - *Leveller*
  - a. He played a key role in the Putney Debates and argued for more extensive political rights and the extension of suffrage to a broader segment of the population.
- 19. John Wildman: Leveller sympathizer and political activist - *Leveller*
  - a. Wildman worked closely with the Leveller movement and was involved in various political activities.
- 20. Archibald Campbell, Marquess of Argyll: Argyll was a leading figure among the Scottish Covenanters - *Presbyterian*
  - a. Campbell played a crucial role in shaping the Covenanter alliance with the English Parliamentarians. Argyll was a key political and military leader in Scotland.
- 21. Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven: prominent military commander among the Scottish Covenanters - *Presbyterian*
  - a. Leslie commanded the Covenanter army during the Bishops' Wars and later served as a military leader during the English Civil War.
- 22. David Leslie: relative of Alexander Leslie and a skilled Covenanter General - *Presbyterian*
  - a. Leslie played a significant role in various battles, including the Battle of Marston Moor in 1644 and the Battle of Philiphaugh in 1645.

### ***Summary Timeline of Events***

- 1. The First English Civil War
  - a. Outbreak of War (1642): Conflict began in 1642 between Charles I and Parliament over Charles's absolutist governing style, economic distress, and social tensions. The Battle of Edghill was the first major clash during the war and ended inconclusively.
  - b. Military Campaigns: Over the next few years, both Parliamentarians and Royalists partook in battles throughout England. Key battles included



Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645), where the Parliamentarians, led by Oliver Cromwell, made major advances.

- i. During the First Civil War, Oliver Cromwell emerged as a key military leader for the Parliamentarians and served as the Parliamentary commander.
  - c. New Model Army: The Parliamentarians established the New Model Army, which was primarily composed of Puritans and led by Sir Thomas Fairfax and Cromwell. As a result of the New Model Army's discipline and experience, they found success in their campaigns.
  - d. Capture of King Charles I: Charles I's defeat at the Battle of Naseby in 1645 weakened the Royalist cause. The king surrendered to the Scots in 1646, leading to political negotiations.
2. Current Political Situation
- a. King Charles I has surrendered, the monarchy's continuation is in question.
  - b. As a result of the Parliamentarians radicalization, the Scottish Covenanters are seeking to join with Royalists and restore Charles I to the throne
  - c. The Treaty of Newport negotiations failed and war seems inevitable
  - d. We are now at the Putney Debates of 1647, where parliamentarians and royalists, in addition to Agitator and Covenanter representatives, are attempting to negotiate a peaceful resolution

### *Questions to Consider*

1. Should England compose a constitution to lay out specific rights of Parliament, and to what extent should that constitution include an executive branch?
2. Should England be a monarchy or a republic?
3. What should King Charles I fate be?
4. How much overlap should there be between state and church?
5. Should there be religious freedom in England? Which religions should be permitted?
6. To what extent is social justice important in England with respect to land rights and economic reform?
7. How can we avoid future hostilities and war?