

I-THE INHABITANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN:

The English are an amalgam of many races who had invaded the island across the stormy tidal waters which surround it. And all had contrived, somehow, to live together.

1- The Iberians: They were the first men to arrive to Britain from the Eastern landmass. They were the Old Stone Age hunters. Other immigrants followed over the centuries during periods when the country was linked to Europe by a land bridge. The final inundation of this causeway did not take place until the melting of the ice drove a permanent seaway through it about 5000 BC. By the New Stone Age (Neolithic times), the cave dwellers and semi-nomadic hunters had given way to more settled farming communities in several camps.

2-The Celts: The Celts of central Europe had for some time been seizing territories in the South or retreating westwards under the harassment of the expanding Germanic tribes. Between 1000 and 500 BC they began to seek refuge in Britain; first in isolated groups causing little trouble to their neighbours, and then in more aggressive formations. They established tribal centres in Yorkshire and Northumberland, across southern England and as far west as Wales. In some areas there was intermarriage with the people they were supplanting. Celtic farmers imposed great changes on the face of the countryside. In place of small areas cultivated by their predecessors, they laid out large rectangular fields and terraces. The boundaries of these Celtic fields, or Lynchets, were marked by double ditches or by rough-dry stone walls.

Industry also flourished. From a country corresponding to modern Syria and Lebanon, came the Phoenicians in search of tin, rare in the eastern Mediterranean and now being mined in south-west Britain.

By the time the Roman greed for conquest and colonisation was threatening the westernmost rim of Europe, iron was more in demand than tin. Britain was rich in iron ore also, but this was not the main reason for the first Roman assault in the country.

3-The Romans: Among those continuing to seek land in Britain were the Belgae, one of the most warlike of the Celtic tribes. In Gaul, they had fought bitterly against the Romans and when Julius Caesar finally subdued them, he decided to teach a sharp lesson to those Kinsmen who had helped them from Britain. In 55 B.C a force of 10.000 men landed in Kent. Although the Celts were no much for the Romans, Caesar was forced to withdraw, a storm had wrecked many of his beached ships, and he sailed for France as soon as he had carried out repairs. He spent a year in further preparation and tried again. In perfect weather, he sailed from Boulogne and made an unopposed landing. Again his ships were badly damaged in a storm while at anchor, but this time he did not retreat but marched on Wheathampstead the hill fort of Cassivellaunus, most powerful of the Celtic kings. After savage fighting, the Britons asked for peace. Caesar demanded guarantees of a regular tribute to be paid to Rome; promised protection to other tribes oppressed by the Belgae; and he took a number of prisoners back as hostages. The campaign had been little more than a gesture; during the ensuing century, the only Romans who visited Britain were peaceful traders. The serious business of bringing the country completely under Roman rule did not begin until A.D 43 when an army sent by Claudius landed near Richborough. After years of war the Romans occupied both England and Wales. By AD 78they began to advance into Scotland. However the Picts made continual attacks for a number of years over the frontier into Roman Britain until the Emperor Hadrian decreed the building of a barrier ten feet thick across the country (AD121 or122). This wall was a castle every mile, and sixteen larger forts. In A.D 368 the Picts, Scots, Saxons and Franks joined forces to invade Roman Britain, and the wall was overrun, it was restored with some of its buildings the following year, but in A.D 383 the wall was again overwhelmed and then abandoned, and Rome was never again able to re-establish full control in Britain.

4-The Anglo-Saxons: (440-1066)

Into the power vacuum left by the Romans; there came new tribes eager to take permanent possession of fertile lands: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.

The Jutes: are said to come from northern Holland and north-western Germany. They came to Kent, by invitation from the Welsh king Vortigern who was alarmed by the anarchy in the north and the growing danger from the Picts .He offered the Jutes a grant of land in return for their military services *The Angles* also came from Germany (Sechleswig-Holstein) and *the Saxons* from the Rhine arrived in force. They established themselves in Essex, Middlessex, Wessex, Sussex while the Angles occupied Norfolk and Suffolk. They established themselves on the abandoned lands of the Romans. The Angles gave their name to the country. Angle-land (England) and with the Saxons and the Jutes shared a common background and culture. The pict's offered only scattered, uncoordinated resistance and were pushed to Wales to be called welsh (strangers). The Anglo-Saxons quarrelled among themselves for supremacy. The Britons were prepared to accept the Anglo-Saxons way of life. The Anglo-Saxons were by custom lowland farmers. Kings depended on the allegiance and physical strength of followers who gave their services in return for gift of land. The king maintained his prestige and prosperity by ensuring that his own share was always the largest. He led hunting expeditions, supervised the administration of laws and of military ventures, collected rents and dues and offered hospitality in his royal hall, However, the king was not an absolute monarch. The advisory council had the power to choose one member of royal family rather than another if this seemed better for the future the kingdom. There was no large standing army. Many leaders relied on small, highly trained, well equipped war-bands for immediate action at any time, when a more substantial force was needed; it was supplied by the part-time services of able bodied men working the land. Nevertheless, every freeman knew that in emergency such as an invasion, he would be expected to down his tools and pick up weapons for service in the fighting forces. In case of defeat, it meant slavery for himself and his family.

5-The Vikings: Most of the early attacks were private–enterprise forays made by Petty chieftains who, unable to provide well enough for their families on their bleak Scandinavian lands, sought easy loot from prospering England. Then larger forces, greedy for the land itself were launched in more sustained assaults. The Danes, Swedish and Norwegians robbed and traded as far as the Mediterranean and Constantinople. In 839 a Norwegian chieftain called Turgeis founded Dublin (capital of Ireland) and proclaimed himself king of all foreigners in Ireland. From 851 onwards; the Danes had been making regular sallies up the Thames and during the next two decades used Thanet and Sheppey as bases for penetration. Northumbria fell, and from York the great army marched into Mercia. In 870 the pious young king Edmund of East Anglia was defeated; he was offered his life if he would recant his Christian beliefs and swear fealty to the Danish king (leader) and his god. He refused and he was beheaded.

II-THE MIDDLE AGES

1-THE DUKES OF NORMANDY:

When King Edward the confessor died (1042-1065), the members of the Witan were unanimous in nominating Harold as his successor. In 1064 Harold met Duke William of Normandy when he was caught in a storm in the channel. His ship was wrecked on the Norman coast and he was taken to the court in Rouen where he became a favoured prisoner; feasting and hunting with his host and even fighting beside William in his conflict with the king of France. Hospitably treated as he was, he nevertheless fretted to get back to England

before power should fall into other ambitious hands. Playing on this, William offered him his liberty in exchange of an oath to support his own candidacy when the King of England would die. Harold swore allegiance, but later declared that he had not known that the boxes over which he had been tricked into taking the oath contained holy relics. He even pledged himself to marry William's daughter, but conveniently forgot this once he was safely away from Rouen. When the time came to honour his pledge; Harold accepted the Kingship for himself instead well aware that this was inviting an invasion. He also prudently married the sister of the earls of Mercia and Northumbria. William and his army landed near Provençy and then marched on Hastings. Harold left London and reached Caldbec Hill, a few miles from Hastings. There was a fight, Harold was killed and William the conqueror was crowned king of England in Westminster Abbey on Christmas day in 1066.

2- The Feudal System:

With all major resistance crushed. William I (1066-1087) began to set up castles to guard all towns and important junctions so that future rebellions could be contained. He allowed those barons considered most trustworthy to build their own castles from their own resources. All land now belonged officially to the crown. A quarter of it was treated by William as personal property, the rest was leased out under some stringent conditions; all landowners had to swear fealty to the king. The feudal system exacted various dues and above all military service from a Baron and his attendant knights in return for the land bestowed to him. The Baron kept as much of his demesne as he wished and distributed the rest among knights who thereby bound themselves to his needs for fighting men when he or the king called for them. In their turn, the Knights allocated sections of their manorial demesnes to Villeins who at the bottom of the chain of command had to provide free labour and seasonal dues in the way of food or service whenever, with or without warning, they might be demanded .A serf could not

even allow his daughter to marry without his lord's permission for her to marry outside the manor was almost impossible, since it depleted the labour force.

3- The Domesday Book :

In 1086, William decided to check and double check his assets, comparing the population and possessions of the manorial estates with those at the time of his accession. This nationwide inquisition was so searching that its victims spoke of the day of judgement, and the final assembly of documents as Domesday book. The operation was described as follows:

A- A survey was made of all England that is of the lands of the several shires of England. This was done concerning plough lands and habitations and of men bound and free; both those who lived in cottages and those who have their homes and held lands in the fields and concerning horses and other animals.

B-Other commissioners followed the first, men were sent into areas they did not know and where they were unknown, in order that they might have an opportunity to check the first survey and if necessary to denounce its authors as guilty to the king.

The final analysis showed that since the conquest, the holdings of Saxon nobles had been so eroded that there were only two left as tenants in chief. William wiped out all the English nobility, his Norman and French supporters were rewarded with the lands and titles of the English nobility. Over a quarter of the country belonged to the King and his family, the barons shared about 2/5 and the church held the rest in addition to other levies and service obligations. The populace had to pay 1/10 of annual increases in profit and productivity for the upkeep of the church.

William I was a sternly religious and a great benefactor of the church. He filled places in abbeys as they fell vacant by death, or were vacated under his pressure with Norman appointees. On his death bed (1087), he wept and prayed, made many gifts to the church and

gave Normandy into the care of his oldest son Robert, but his sword and the English crown and sceptre to his second son William.

III-King John and Magna Carta:

King John (1199-1216) was selfish, cruel and extremely unpopular. But he was respected by common people as a fair judge when sitting in his own courts. He antagonised the always restive barons by his arrogance and his habit of giving the most coveted jobs to foreign favourites. He also, like many of his family, contrived a head-on collision with the pope. On the death of the archbishop of Canterbury, he nominated a reliable friend of his "John Grey". Pope Innocent III denied the validity of this choice and ordered John to accept 'Stephen Longton' as archbishop. John refused and the pope placed the whole England under the interdict in 1208. Celebration of the Mass was prohibited, and the dead had to be buried in unconsecrated ground. John remained defiant until 1213, when the threat of a French invasion with the pope's blessing forced him to capitulate, not only accepting Longton but offering the pope temporal as well as spiritual sovereignty over England.

In 1214, a group of northern barons joined by some from Essex and East Anglia raised the standard of revolt against the king in support of baronial rights and liberties. Longton was called to mediate, with a number of wise lords, convinced the king to accept the barons' demands and persuaded the barons to insert into their demands clauses that would benefit others than themselves. A document supporting purely baronial interests was thus transformed into the Great Charter to which, John affixed his seal at Runnymede, near Windsor, in June 1215. Magna Carta guaranteed fewer freedoms for the ordinary citizen than we sentimentally imagine. The barons only wished to safeguard their own privileges. But certain clauses found

way into judicial thinking and eventually into the accepted principles of English life and legislation. First and foremost was that *the king himself was not above the law*. Sooner John sought ways of repudiating this document and persuaded the Pope to annul it. When the barons tried to impose their will on the king he decided to use force and plunged the country into civil war. John died suddenly in 1216 and his son Henry III was only 9 years old. He succeeded to the throne but failed to defeat the barons and their charter.

Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, came to the forefront of the barons' rank when he married the king's sister Eleanor in 1238 and for a while was one of the royal favourites. He urged Henry that the principles embodied in Magna Carta should be implemented. The lords met in small groups more frequently, not just when summoned by the king but when they felt matters of state warranted discussion. County and city representatives were invited to represent local interests at meetings with the barons or with the king. Although it must be admitted that these meetings were usually convened in order to find ways of raising taxes; they equally fostered the idea of a nationally representative assembly and may be regarded as the first steps towards a true parliament. Strained relations between the headstrong king and his nobles snapped when he demanded financial support. A council summoned at Oxford in 1258 imposed upon Henry a committee whose advice he agreed henceforth to follow; but with the pope's approval he soon decided to defy and rule as he chose. A number of barons thereupon went to war against him under the leadership of Simon De Montfort. At the battle of Lewes in 1264 both the king and his son, Edward, were captured. De Montfort called a parliament including a number of commoners to administer the country. But his fellow barons were not satisfied with the members of this parliament and they started to find the earl himself too dictatorial. Edward exploited these quarrels to escape and raise a loyal army. He defeated and killed Simon at the battle of Evesham in 1265.

Released, Henry was content to allow his son to run the realm. Edward I was the first king to create a representative institution which could provide the money he needed. This institution became the House of Commons (a mixture of gentry and merchants) Edward I went on a crusade and did not return until 1274, for his own coronation two years after his father's death.

IV-The Tudors (1485-1603)

This period is often thought of as the most glorious in English history. The feudal power of the lords and the church had been destroyed. Henry VII set the foundations of a wealthy nation and a powerful monarchy. His son, Henry VIII made the church in England truly English by breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church. Queen Elizabeth I brought glory to England by defeating the powerful navy of Spain.

During the Tudor age, there was an educational development. Many rich men had been giving their money to build schools instead of giving it to the church. New grammar schools

gave free education to the poor people so a new force in society was to lead the public opinion. English kings and queens were very sensible and took great interest in education, art and science. In 1564, two playwrights were born to transform the English Theatre: William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe.

IV-1-Henry VII (1485-1509):

Conspirators were eager to create problems since Henry VII's early years of reign but the Tudors dynasty was capable of defying all threats .Population growth started to speed up, trade expanded vigorously and a new sense of nationhood was growing .Henry started by reforming the legal system by the revival of *the Court of Star Chamber* which was able to sort out many problems effectively and halted the lawlessness rife after the wars of roses. Henry created a new nobility from merchants and middle class gentry. A number of great old families had lost fathers and sons as well as their lands and fortunes. The remaining barons' ambitions had always been a threat to the throne and the stability of the country, but later on, they mixed freely with the commercial and professional families. Henry VII encouraged the weaving industry, ship building and exploration. He made little use of parliament but instead, he ruled through his council. As a good business man he made enough money from, taxes, customs, Lands and also from court punishment. So he greatly improved the country's financial position. He believed that wars were bad for business and business was good for state.

IV-2-HenryVIII (1509-1547):

Henry VIII became popular because of his understanding of his common people. He ruled through the House of Commons without army. His chief minister was Thomas Wolsey who was a clever archbishop. Henry's policy of keeping a balance of power in Europe had been England's official goal. However, his ambitions led Spain to become strong enough to present

a real threat to England. Henry's great wisdom led him to realize that the safety of the country depended on sea power rather than politics.

IV-2-1-The Reformation:

Henry and Wolsey had a strong hold on church affairs and they didn't leave the pope to interfere with their affairs. He got permission from the pope to marry **Catherine of Aragon**, the wife of his dead brother Arthur. Catherine gave him a daughter, later **Mary I**, but all her sons died at birth. The marriage was not a fruitful one because in 20 years she only got one daughter. Henry became more concerned with the future problem of the Tudor line so he asked the pope to pronounce the divorce, but the pope refused. In 1534, Henry decided to break with the pope and made himself supreme head of the new Protestant Church of England. So the **Reformation** was mainly a result of the divorce. Archbishop Cranmer accepted the divorce and Henry's new wife was to be **Anne Boleyn**. They had a daughter, later **Elizabeth I**. So Anne failed to present the king with the male heir he was craved for. Having disposed of one queen, why should he scruple to dispose of another? Henry had Anne executed for adultery. His third wife was **Jane Seymour** who died giving birth to a son, later **Edward VI**. Henry married his fourth wife, **Anne of Cleves**, for political reasons seeking a strong link with the protestant Germany, but soon divorced her. **Catherine Howard** was Henry's new wife. She too was executed for adultery. Henry's sixth and last wife was the protestant **Catherine Parr** who was very kind with his children from previous marriages.

IV-2-2--The dissolution of monasteries:

Cranmer worked on an English prayer book and believed that Henry's church should move towards Protestantism. Monks who had been coming into England from the continent since the time of William the Conqueror were establishing religious houses with funds supplied by grateful nobles. Over the years austerity gave way to a more relaxed and even luxurious way of life. The monasteries owned and exploited vast acres and the involvement of

many clerics in political matters gave them an. appetite for both power and pleasure. Cranmer put into Henry's head the idea of disciplining those who were reluctant to accept his ecclesiastical authority and filling a depleted treasury. They started by smaller foundations sending royal inspectors to prepare reports on these houses. **'The suppression act' of 1536** transferred all buildings and possessions to the crown, but made allowance for pensions to be paid to displaced abbots and abbesses and for humbler monks and nuns to take up residence in larger surviving houses. That closure was a loss to many ordinary folk because they had provided food, shelter and even a rudimentary education to their lay employees and the faithful in the neighbourhood. A protest march, **'the Pilgrimage of Grace'** began in the north in 1536, provoked not only by the hardship brought to certain areas by the abandonment of the monasteries but by other grievances over taxation and arbitrary land enclosures. Robert Aske led the Pilgrimage to York and on to Doncaster, where the marchers were promised full consideration of their problems by the king. However, the Pilgrimage was brutally crushed by Henry's military forces (public hangings) and Aske himself was executed.

Henry VIII was described as *'a despot under the law'*, but he was least concerned with the form of the law, and much of his despotism might be due to personal arrogance. He encouraged the construction of faster ships, reinforced the professionals of his navy by a crowd of conscripts in time of emergency; but once a crisis was over these auxiliaries would go back to their usual jobs.

IV-3-EdwardVI (1547-1553)

Henry VIII died in 1547, his son Edward was only nine years old. So regents governed on his behalf. The duke of Somerset was one of them and he was a staunch protestant who completely dominated the young king. The Duke's plans for the spread of Protestantism and the demotion of his catholic opponents were readily acceded to. Edward VI had been sickly from birth, and at the age of fifteen it was obvious that he had not long to live. His successor

would be his half-sister Mary Tudor, a devout catholic who would have no compunction in dealing with the Protestants such as the Duke. Relying on the support he might expect from those many lords and commoners unwilling to see a rebirth of catholic power in the land, the Duke staked everything on a supposed succession of the protestant lady Jane (daughter of Mary; Henry VIII's sister). However this plan failed when Mary executed all the conspirators. She became queen in 1553

IV-4-MARY I (1553-1558)

Mary's marriage to Philip II of Spain was a clear warning to the English that they were to be steered back towards Rome. An attempt was made to restore monasteries, but the rich lords who had shared out monastic lands between them fought manfully against this. She ordered hundreds of Protestants to be burned to death, for which she became known as 'Bloody Mary'. She had no children, and after her death in November 1558, she was succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth.

IV-5-ELIZABETH I (1558-1603)

«I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and a king of England too"', so said the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth set herself to win her subjects' devotion as no other monarch had deigned to do. She travelled throughout the country and established her flesh and blood reality in people's minds .She was an extremely strong and clever woman who controlled the difficult political and religious situation of the time with great skill. During her reign the country's economy grew very strong, the arts were very active, and England became firmly protestant.

Among John Hawkins' officers was Francis Drake. When Hawkins was appointed treasurer of the navy and applied himself to rooting out corruption and incompetence, Drake set up on his own and harried the West Indies, returning each time with shiploads of plunder.

This was a tantamount of slap in King Philip's face. It made non sense of Elizabeth's denials of complicity in the privateer trade of which Drake was known to be the most relentless exponent. The Spanish ruler began to prepare for an inevitable war

IV-5-1-MARY QUEEN OF THE SCOTS

She was the daughter of King James V of Scotland and became queen shortly after her birth (1542-1567). She was a Roman catholic who was involved in many religious disputes with Scottish Protestants. She was deposed in 1567 in favour of her infant son James, and imprisoned in Lochleven castle. From there a loyal servant helped her to escape and she tried to raise an army, but was defeated and forced to flee to England where she appealed to Elizabeth for aid. Elizabeth provided shelter but no support. Mary was a dangerous guest; as a direct descent of Henry VII through a line unattained by charges of illegitimacy, she was in catholic eyes the rightful queen of England as well as of Scotland. A large minority of Catholics also, looked to her as the person most likely to restore the old faith. Even if she genuinely wished at the start to be no embarrassment to Elizabeth, Mary's desire to recapture her Scottish throne involved her in many interchanges of secret and often ambiguous letters. Walsingham's spies brought many details of so many papist plot that Elizabeth had to order a string of execution. Elizabeth procrastinated, even when presented with evidence that Mary had condoned a plot to assassinate her, but at last signed a death warrant and Mary's head was cut off.

IV-5-2-THE SPANISH ARMADA

Mary's execution was to Philip of Spain the last straw. Plans went ahead for the assembly of a vast armada which should wipe the English from the seas and allow the Spanish troops invade their country. All catholic Europe was agog, and the Pope gave his blessing to the venture. The operation was delayed when Drake imprudently sailed in Cadiz in 1587 and burnt many of the galleons assembled there. By 1588 all seemed auspicious, but again there

was a delay, this time of two weeks, because of unfavourable wind. Not until 15th of July did the mighty armada, under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, reach the western approaches to the English Channel. The defending fleet was commanded by lord Howard of Effingham, Drake and Frobisher served under him. With Drake's backing, Hawkins had urged the queen to produce more of these faster ships which her father had favoured. Longer-range guns were installed on continuous gun-decks. Howard sent eight fire ships into the Spaniards congested ranks. The fast ships dodged in and out between the ungainly galleons and the Spaniards who had been used to the formal tactics of grappling and the fighting hand to hand were faced not with seaborne soldiers but by fighting sailors. The Spanish Armada was defeated more by bad weather than by English guns. About sixty three ships and twenty thousand men had been lost. England had lost not a single vessel and only about a hundred men. For England it was a glorious moment, but it did not lead to an end of the war with Spain. Peace was only made once Elizabeth died.

Elizabeth's life drew to a close in March 1603. The favourites of her youth were dead. In the early years her ministers had been perturbed by her lack of a husband and an heir. But she had survived all plots and perils, and given forty-five of her seventy years to her country. Now, with neither son nor daughter to follow her, she was implored to designate her successor. Bereft of speech, she made a sign which was interpreted as signifying assent to the nomination of King James VI; the son of Mary of Scotland who had once seemed such a menace to her life and realm. He became King James I of England.

V-The Stuarts (1603-1714)

The succession of the Scottish dynasty of the Stuarts to the Welsh Tudors was achieved without bloodshed. The Stuart monarchs, from James I onwards, were less successful than the Tudors. They quarrelled with parliament and this resulted in civil war. The only King of England ever to be tried and executed was a Stuart.

V-1-JAMES I (1603-1625):

King James I believed in the divine right of kings. He kept his church in midway between Catholicism and Protestantism, and obliged his people to use only one authorised version of the Bible. No Catholic might celebrate the Roman Mass and no Puritan might worship God in his own austere way.

On the 5th of November 1605, a group of Catholics planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I. They placed a number of barrels of gunpowder in the cellars before the opening of Parliament. As the time drew near, one of the conspirators began to worry about catholic friends among Lords. He sent a letter warning one of them not to attend the parliament on the fateful day. The recipient passed the warning on, and the explosion was avoided. The conspirators were tried and hanged.

The Puritans, who had many supporters in the House of Commons, were a great nuisance for the king. They were starving him of money. A good many Catholics were driven to European countries where they could live with folk of their own persuasion. Far more Puritans were driven by persecution in quite the opposite direction.

The House of Lords had far less effective power than merchants and landowners in the House of Commons. If the king wanted money, he had to prove that it was for the benefit of the country as a whole. Tired of financial persecution, **King James dissolved the parliament**. And when he died, he left the entire chaotic situation to his son Charles I, who inherited all the troubles of his father as well as a close war with Spain.

V-2-CHARLES I (1625-1649):

He married the daughter of the King of France, Henrietta Maria to keep France friendly. When he asked parliament for money to carry with the war against Spain, parliament members refused, **so he dissolved parliament**. The French refused to provide any kind of help because of their internal troubles; protestant rebellion which led the powerful French minister Cardinal Richelieu to sign a peace treaty with Spain. This was enough to make of him England's enemy. Money for a campaign against France was raised without parliament sanction. The French expedition of 1627 returned with no little dishonour to the nation, excessive charge to the treasury, and great slaughters of English men. The exchequer was now empty, there remained many outstanding bills to be paid and more money would have to be raised if another army was to be sent to France. Charles I faced a hostile parliament that he had humbly to recall. Before they would contribute, the Commons formed a Committee of Grievances and presented the king with a Petition of Right in 1628, designed to protect the subjects from any further taxation unauthorised by parliament, and from imprisonment without a due process of law. Charles I signed reluctantly.

In 1629, the members of the commons refused to accept royal guards in the parliament while discussing religious and economic matters and the King considered this as a calculated defiance. **He dissolved parliament again**. It was not recalled for 11 years. Meanwhile, Charles had resorted to many shifts to raise money (illegal levies).

In 1640 King Charles I found it inevitable to call another parliament since ship money did not meet his needs. The new assembly survived for so many years that it came to be known as **the Long parliament**. However its opposition to the king led him to recognize that it had already sat too long. His friend and adviser, Archbishop Laud, was impeached; his Star Chamber was abolished and his supposedly dutiful Commons asserted their power over all

customs dues and other taxes; plans for undermining the Church of England and his own spiritual supremacy took ominous shape. The two factions have been driven too far apart to meet amicably again.

Parliament members called for a new constitution recognizing their own supremacy. Ministers and judges must be appointed by parliament, and all the church and military matters must come under their control. Charles I gathered his faithful lords and officers about him, together with some dissident members of the Commons. The remaining Lords and Commons set up a Committee of Safety and conscripted an army under the command of the earl of Essex.

V-2-1- The Civil War (1642-1649)

The Civil War divided the English people and caused great suffering. Its major clash was in the battle of Edgehill (1642). Many Parliamentarians (Roundheads) were horrified by the idea of fighting against their own king; on the other hand, many Royalists (Cavaliers) had more sympathy towards the parliament than the king. In the long run, Charles was about to lose. Parliament controlled London, the customs and the key-ports; which meant money. However, the encounter at Edgehill was not an auspicious beginning for the parliamentarians. Their amateurish foot soldiers had little chance against the skilled royalist cavalry under their leader Prince Rupert, nephew of Charles. Yet, it was that same leader who spoiled the chance of ending the war in its early stages. Having got so many of his enemies on the run, he gave chase instead of using his superior forces to finish off the main battle. The result was that the parliamentary foot soldiers defeated the royalist foot soldiers; which counterbalanced the royalist superiority in cavalry. So neither side really won. By 1645, the parliament passed an ordinance for the formation of a New Model Army under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax. Within few months, came the decisive engagement at Naseby. Prince Rupert, started well with a devastating cavalry, and Fairfax was in danger of collapse, when Oliver Cromwell

routed one wing of the royalists and threw all his weight against their centre. Rupert repeated his Edgehill mistake by allowing his men to pursue the parliamentarians as they scattered, and found he could not round them up. Unable to reassemble an army capable of giving battle anywhere, Charles was held prisoner for more than two years. Cromwell associated himself with the demand for a Republic. Members of the parliament showed hesitant and the council of the army sent Colonel Thomas Pride to deal with them. As a result of Pride's Purge in December 1648, ninety six members were forcibly ejected from parliament and the sixty left were known as **the Rump Parliament**. On Sunday 30th January 1649, King Charles I was beheaded and the **Commonwealth** was declared (1649-1660). For the first four years, the country was ruled by **the House of Commons**. Then in 1653 the army gave power to **Oliver Cromwell** with the title of **Lord Protector**. The Commonwealth ended with **the Restoration** of King Charles II in 1660.