

Civil War Begins

In August of 1642, Charles went to the city of Nottingham. He raised the royal flag and began to rally his followers. His queen took the **Crown Jewels** to Europe to sell them, hoping to raise money. It was clear to everyone that the king was preparing to make war on parliament.

Crown Jewels jewellery used but not personally owned by the royal family



- **FIGURE 4-15** Charles I declares war on parliament at Nottingham, in 1642. Note
- the upward flow of movement in this engraving. How is it created? What is the artist suggesting by this upward flow? What evidence suggests that this is a military occasion?

Thinking IT THROUGH

Summarize What's Important

1. Outline how Magna Carta attempted to control the actions of a monarch.
2. In what ways did Charles I try to raise money without the support of parliament?

Analyze Critically

3. List the ways that Charles I tried to control those who opposed his rule. In your opinion, which of Charles's attempts was most effective in maintaining his control?

Make Connections

4. How important is freedom of speech in Canadian society today? Are there times when this freedom is taken too far? Share your thinking with a partner.

Synthesize and Evaluate

5. Rank the ways parliament tried to limit a monarch's power from most effective to least effective. Give reasons for your opinion.
6. Write a paragraph to answer the section question: *What main factors led to the English Civil War?* Set aside your paragraph to help you answer the Chapter Focus Question at the end of the chapter.

How did the Civil War end the monarchy?

When the Civil War began, both sides had to pull together a fighting force. Each side called on the loyalties of the people. Were you for the king, or for parliament?

Many of Charles's supporters, called "Royalists" or "Cavaliers," came from noble families and were used to fighting and riding. They provided foot soldiers and cavalry for the Royalist army. Charles also had experienced commanders, such as his dashing nephew, Prince Rupert, who could inspire the troops.

Parliament's troops were local militia—farmers and townspeople with almost no military experience. However, parliament did control the navy. It also held the richest part of the country—the south, including London. If Charles did not win the war quickly, parliament's forces and money would surely outlast his.

The Civil War

While Charles was successful at first, he only won small battles. Meanwhile, as battles were fought across England, parliament quickly built a more modern army. The new soldiers, called "Roundheads" (because they cut their hair short, compared to many Cavaliers, who wore long curls), were highly disciplined, usually very religious, and well-equipped. They could also be promoted based on performance and ability. This was a very different practice than in traditional armies, where only nobles could be officers and commanders.

By 1645, the New Model Army had taken shape. Led by a daring commander, Oliver Cromwell, the army was a formidable force. After a series of battles throughout England, the Royalists were finally defeated at the Battle of Naseby on June 14, 1645. Charles was forced to flee to Scotland, where he was made prisoner and handed over to parliament.

Reading

Set a Purpose

As you read this section, make a list of the ways parliament tried to prove Charles was guilty of treason.

Cavalier a supporter of Charles I; derived from the French word *chevalier*, meaning "horseman"



- **FIGURE 4-16** A member of the Roundhead Society marches in London in 2010. The New Model Army ultimately defeated the Royalists. What do you think made this possible?

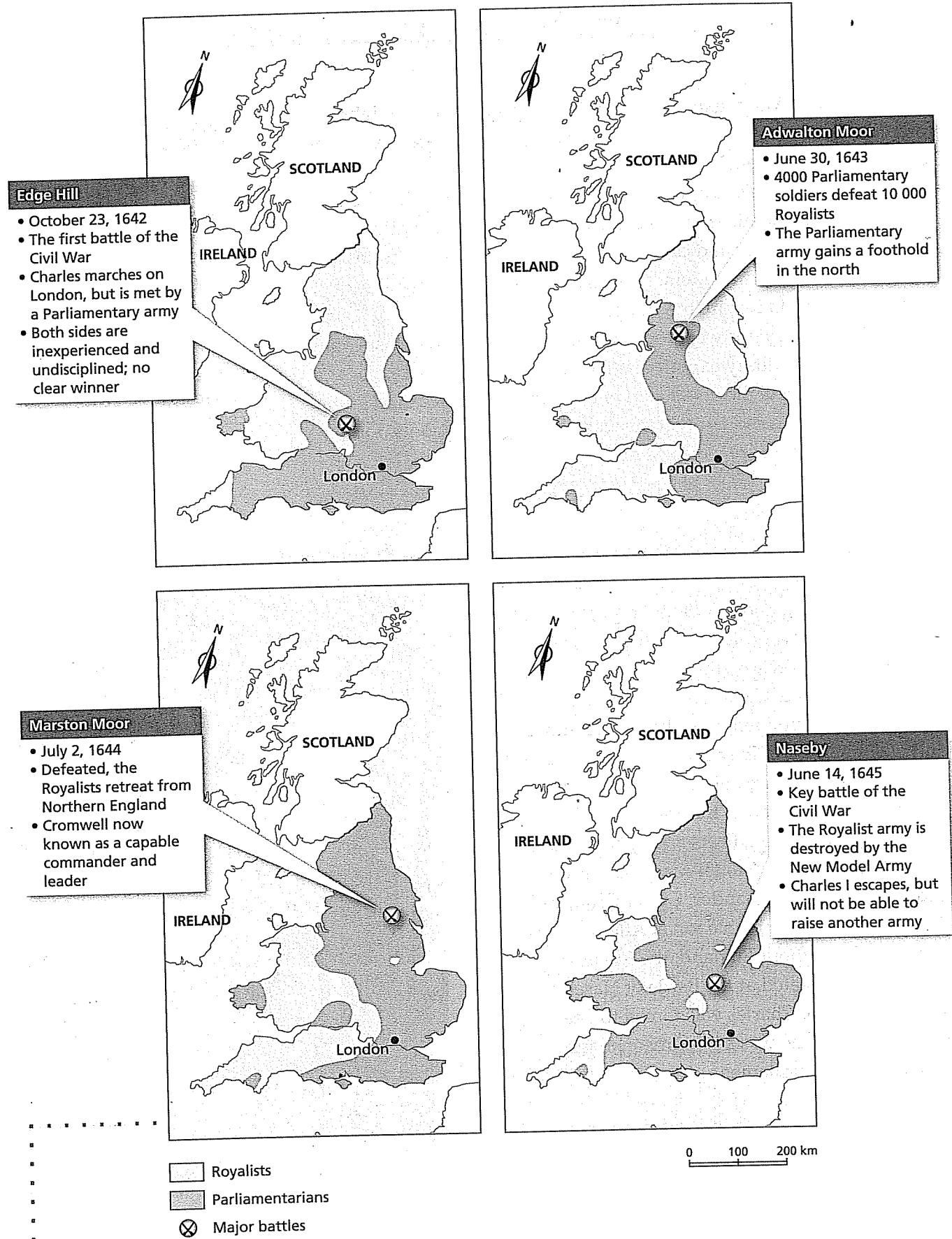


FIGURE 4-17 Major battles in the English Civil War, from 1642 to 1645

Women During the Civil War

Women were active during the Civil War. Many were left at home to manage lands and estates while their husbands went to fight. Others struggled to support their families while both Royalist and Parliamentary armies **plundered** homes and farms. Some women travelled with the armies in the baggage trains, risking their lives to stay with their husbands or support the cause. For many women of the Royalist army, this would be a fatal choice—over 100 women were killed by New Model Army soldiers when they captured the Royalist **baggage train** after the Battle of Naseby.

Lady Ann Fanshawe was a Royalist. She and her husband Richard served Charles I and Charles II. In a memoir to her son, she described her experiences during the Civil War:

We had the perpetual discourse [constant back-and-forth] of losing and gaining of towns and men; at the windows the sad spectacle of war, sometimes plague, sometimes sicknesses of other kinds, by reason of so many people being packed together, as I believe there never was before of that quality; always in want; yet I must needs say that most bore it with a martyr-like cheerfulness.

The Creation of the Rump Parliament

Parliament had difficulty deciding on many important matters. Some had no objection to the return of Charles, if he agreed to limited powers. Many Puritans, on the other hand, wanted to end the monarchy completely. Charles tried to play one side against the other, never intending to keep his promises.

Finally, in 1648, a commander of the Puritan-led army named Colonel Pride led his soldiers to drive the more moderate members out of parliament. The new Rump Parliament, made up of the few members left after "Pride's Purge," charged the king with treason and put him on trial for his life.

The Trial of the King

In 1647, Charles had signed an agreement with the Scots that he would support Presbyterianism in England in exchange for military aid against parliament. The Scots did invade England, but were defeated by Cromwell and the New Model Army. The agreement and the invasion were used as proof that Charles had committed treason against the people of England. Any hope Charles might have had to negotiate a compromise with parliament was lost. After a tumultuous trial, Charles was found guilty and sentenced to death. In January of 1649, he was led to a scaffold and beheaded.

plunder to take goods by force

baggage train wagons of supplies, as well as people, needed to support an army

Did You Know?

Organized groups of women petitioned parliament in 1642 for better working conditions in factories, but were turned down. In 1649, women again petitioned parliament, but were told to go home. A number of women—including Mary Astell, Hannah Woolley, Lady Chudleigh, and Aphra Behn—published pamphlets that argued for equal rights for women. However, there was no significant improvement in women's rights in England during the 17th century.

WEB LINK

To read the sentence of Charles I, visit our website.

Charles I vs. Parliament

Charles refused to plead guilty or not guilty. He demanded to know how the High Court of Justice could legally bring him to trial. Charles also maintained that it was impossible for him to be tried by his peers, because as king he had no equals. He stated,

By what authority am I here? I mean lawful authority, for there are many unlawful authorities in the world—thieves and robbers by the highways. Remember, I am your lawful king: let me know by what lawful authority I am seated here...and you shall hear more from me.

He was answered by John Bradshaw, a judge who had been appointed president of the court. Bradshaw's answer still guides our system of law and government.

Sir, you have held yourself, and let fall such Language, as if you had been no ways Subject to the Law, or that the Law had not been your Superior. Sir, The Court is very well sensible... That the Law is your Superior, that you ought to have ruled according to the Law... Sir, I know very well your pretence hath been that you have done so, but Sir...there is something that is Superior to the Law, and that is indeed the Parent or Author of the Law, and that is the People of England...they gave Laws to their Governors, according to which they should Govern, and if those Laws should have proved inconvenient, or prejudicial to the Public, they had a power in them and reserved to themselves to alter as they shall see cause... Now Sir, if so be the King will go contrary to that End... he must understand that he is but an Officer in trust, and he ought to discharge that Trust, and they are to take order for the...punishment of such an offending Governor.

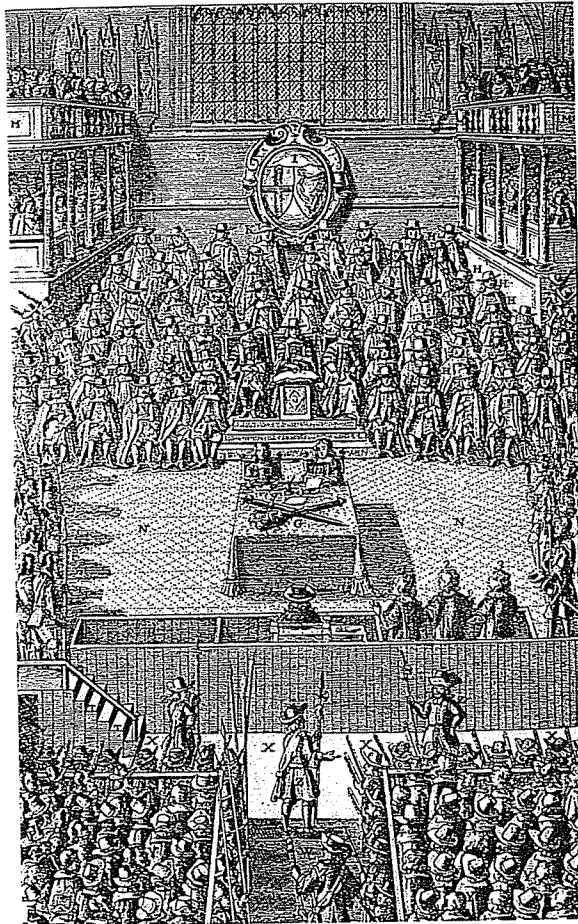


FIGURE 4-18 Charles I during his trial in Westminster, in 1649. Where is Charles sitting? What evidence in the picture suggests that the outcome would go against Charles no matter what?

Thinking IT THROUGH



Summarize What's Important

1. Even though Charles I was on trial for treason, he refused to plead guilty or not guilty. Summarize both his and parliament's arguments for why he should or should not have been brought to trial.

Analyze Critically

2. **Judgements** After analyzing both Charles's and parliament's arguments, was Charles guilty of treason? Use specific details to elaborate and clarify your position.

Canada's Parliament—A Civil War Heritage

Some of Canada's most important parliamentary traditions come from the period of the English Civil War.

The Reluctant Speaker

The House of Commons cannot do any business without the Speaker, who is elected from among the ranks of parliament—and in the past, the election could be rigged by the king. Today, when the Speaker is chosen, members of parliament pretend to drag her or him to the chair. This is a reminder of the importance of the Speaker, and of parliament.

The Doors Are Barred

At the opening of Parliament, the members of the House of Commons are summoned to the Senate Chamber to hear the Speech from the Throne. The messenger from the Senate, Black Rod, always finds the doors to the Commons barred. Black Rod must knock three times for entry. This tradition began when Charles arrived at parliament with his soldiers and entered the House illegally.



FIGURE 4-19 Prime Minister Stephen Harper (R) and New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton (L) lead House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer to the Speaker's chair after he was elected in the House of Commons on June 2, 2011. Why is it important that the Speaker be impartial?

Thinking IT THROUGH

1. Many Canadian parliamentary traditions and symbols have their roots in the past. Is it important that we recognize where our traditions come from? How might our democracy be affected if we chose not to recognize these roots?

Thinking IT THROUGH



Summarize What's Important

1. Using a graphic organizer with the headings "Royalists" and "Parliament," identify who was on each side. List their successes in the major battles of the war.

Analyze Critically

2. The Royalists and parliament each had support from people in different parts of England. Which class of people, from which areas of the country, would be more likely to support each one? Suggest reasons why.

Build an Argument

3. Agree or disagree: "Charles forced the Civil War on parliament." Explain your point of view using specific details from the text.

Synthesize and Evaluate

4. Write a paragraph to answer the section question: *How did the Civil War end the monarchy?* Set aside your paragraph to help you answer the Chapter Focus Question at the end of the chapter.