

## 1642

The Civil War began between the armies of the King and Parliament. The first major battle was fought at Edgehill. 3000 men were killed but there was no clear winner.

Even after war began, Parliament was still keen to negotiate with the King about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

## 1643

The King's armies controlled most of the north and south-west of England. Charles seemed to have the best chance of winning the war.

Parliament was still keen to negotiate with the King about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament still wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

## 1644

A large Scottish army marched south to reinforce Parliament's armies. Together they beat the royal army at the battle of Marston Moor. Now Parliament controlled most of the north of England.

Parliament was keen to win the war quickly so they could force the king to negotiate about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament still wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

## 1645

Parliament took big steps towards victory. Parliament's army won the battle of Naseby, taking control of the Midlands, and also won control of the south-west.

Parliament was now confident it could force the king to negotiate about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament's aims had not changed much since the beginning of the war. It still wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

## 1646

King Charles surrendered. Parliament had won.

Parliament did not force Charles to agree to its demands even though it had won. It continued to negotiate with the king about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament's aims had not changed much since the beginning of the war. It still wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

## 1647

Charles was held prisoner for most of the year but escaped in November.

Parliament continued to negotiate with the king about how England was to be governed in future. Parliament still wanted Charles to stay as King but also wanted him to call regular meetings of Parliament and to allow Parliament a part in choosing ministers and policies.

Charles rejected Parliament's peace terms because he thought most people were on his side and that he had a chance to restart the war and win.

## September 1648

Charles had restarted the war – the Second Civil War – but was quickly beaten.

Parliament debated what to do next and voted for continuing to negotiate with Charles. However some MPs and the Army commanders objected to Parliament's plans. They believed that Charles would never make peace.

## December 1648

Soldiers, led by Colonel Pride, marched into Parliament and forced over 100 MPs who still wanted to negotiate with Charles to leave. Then the remaining MPs voted to put Charles on trial for treason.

If he was found guilty he could be executed.