

Who Was Charles I?

Charles I was the King of England from 1625 until 1649. He believed in the divine right of kings, which meant he thought he had the right to rule because God had chosen him. He was very determined to have absolute power and often clashed with Parliament, the group of people who helped him govern and represented the citizens' interests.

Who Was Oliver Cromwell?

Oliver Cromwell was an English military leader and a key figure in the Parliament during this time. He was born in 1599 and believed in having a government that was more representative of the people's wishes. Unlike Charles, Oliver thought that everyone, including the king, should answer to the people.

The Conflict Between Them

Things got tense between Charles I and Parliament over money and power. Charles tried to rule without Parliament for eleven years, which made many people unhappy. In 1642, this disagreement led to a civil war in England. The supporters of Charles were called Cavaliers, while those supporting Parliament, including Cromwell, were called Roundheads.

The Civil War

The English Civil War lasted from 1642 to 1651. Cromwell proved to be a brilliant military leader. Eventually, the Parliament forces won the war, and Charles I was captured.

Execution of Charles I

In 1649, after being tried for treason, Charles I was executed, which means he was put to death. This was a huge moment in history because it showed that a king could be held accountable for his actions.

Aftermath and Legacy

After Charles was executed, Cromwell became the leader of England and even ruled as Lord Protector until his death in 1658. The period after Charles's death is sometimes referred to as the Commonwealth of England. Eventually, the monarchy was restored, but the events changed how future kings would rule.

Why This Matters

This story of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell is important because it challenged the idea of kings having absolute power and showed the importance of having a government that listens to the people.