

Arrests of noblemen

February 1628

The king arrested some knights and gentlemen for refusing to pay his forced tax. He wanted to use the money raised by these taxes to pay for the wars with Spain and France.

Parliament versus monarch

March 1628

Parliament condemned the king for imposing tax without its permission. It then presented the king with the 'Petition of Right'.

Ship money

1629–1640

For the 11 years when there was no parliament, Charles had to get money. One form of tax that he used was 'Ship money'. This tax was supposed to be for raising money to maintain the navy. In the past only towns near the coast of England had to pay this tax. Charles made the whole country pay. This angered many people who believed that parliament should be asked to agree to the tax first. One man named John Hampden refused to pay 'Ship money' and King Charles had him arrested.

Speaker held down!

January 1629

Parliament continued to complain about the king's taxes. The king decided to dismiss parliament but before that could happen the Speaker was held down in his chair until three resolutions were passed. After this the king did not call another parliament for 11 years.

Cromwell dismisses parliament

1649–1653

After the execution of King Charles I, parliament abolished the monarchy, the Church of England and the House of Lords. The Members of the House of Commons promised changes but taxes remained high. By 1653 parliament was very unpopular. Oliver Cromwell entered the House of Commons with some soldiers and told the members to leave. Cromwell then made himself 'Lord Protector' of England.