

Trigger 1: Religion

Description
Charles had married a French Catholic; Henrietta Maria. In addition he had made several changes to the English Church that could be seen as Catholic. These included encouraging priests to wear colourful robes, increasing the number of statues and stained-glass windows. When Puritans objected he had 3 leaders whipped through the streets as well as cutting off their ears and having them branded.

How did it help trigger the Civil War?
MPs in Parliament were mainly Puritan, an extreme form of Protestantism. This meant that they were very against these "Catholic" measures that Charles and his Archbishop, William Laud were introducing

Trigger 2: Illegal gaining of money

As a way to raise money Charles ordered that all landowners should pay ship money for the navy. Before only people who lived on the coast had to pay it but now Charles said that as the navy protected everyone then everyone should pay it. Most did pay although one landowner, John Hampden refused saying that it was illegal as Parliament had not agreed.

When Charles had wanted to raise money he went to Parliament as only they had the power to raise taxes. However, Parliament refused and therefore to gain ship money Charles went behind Parliament's back. This caused greater tension in the power struggle.

Trigger 3: The Irish Rebellion

A rebellion broke out in Ireland. Irish Catholics murdered thousands of Protestants. All the English MPs wanted to send an army to punish the Catholics.

Parliament and King could not decide on who should command the army. The king thought that it should be his duty but Parliament were worried that if given control the King would use the army to close down Parliament

Trigger 4: Attempted arrest of 5 MPs

A small number of MPs had been distributing leaflets which were against the King. Therefore the King took 400 soldiers into Parliament to arrest its leader, John Pym and 4 other MPs. Charles burst into the House of Commons but the 5 had managed to escape.

Charles believed that the MPs were traitors who were trying to destroy his power. John Pym, however used this to try and persuaded Parliament that the King would continue to use soldiers to attack Parliament and therefore that they should limit his powers.

Trigger 5: Army control taken away from Charles

After the 5 MPs had escaped they were treated like heroes in London. The King left the city and began gathering soldiers in the North. Pym persuaded MPs to make a law giving Parliament control of the army. This was the first time in history that Parliament had made a law without the King's permission.

Both sides were arming. The King in the North and Parliament in London, now had control of the army. The King felt that Pym should be stopped as only he should have the right to make laws.

Trigger 6: Nineteen Propositions

Pym sent Parliament a list of final demands. They included: The King's advisors must be chosen by MPs; Parliament must control the army; Parliament should decide the future of the Church; MPs decide how his children be brought up including religion (Protestant), marriage and education; the King must get rid of his soldiers.

Pym felt that these demands were reasonable however Charles rejected them as he felt that they would take away all his power. Many MPs felt that Pym had gone too far and went North to join Charles. The Civil War was on!