

## Winter 2015 History & Heritage -- #6

### **Britain's "Time of Troubles" --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 259-268)**

**This descriptive title** may be applied to Britain's 17th-century Civil Wars (c. 1630-1660) sparked by religious-political antagonisms in the wake of the Reformation? The Stuarts reigned in England, Scotland, and Ireland beginning with James I (r. 1603-1625), a monarch who held to his "Divine Right" as well as the correspondence between forms of order in church and state ("no bishop, no king"). Politically, the Crown clashed with Parliament; Religiously, Anglicans resisted the reformist zeal of Puritans.

### **Petition of Right --- (Kirk; *Roots*, pp. 259-268)**

**This parliamentary petition (1628)**, conceded to reluctantly by Charles I, sought to check Charles' extralegal revenue-raising measures in support of wars in Europe? At the time, Parliament did not claim superiority to the king, but rather elicited the Stuart monarch's promise to respect the customary rights of English freemen in accordance with Common Law. Still, the petition initiated what became a dramatic shift in sovereignty from the Crown to the Parliament (in the name of the people).

### **Cavaliers vs. Roundheads --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 259-268)**

**These opposing forces** in the 17th-century Civil Wars in Britain gathered themselves about the figures of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, respectively? One of the forces, also known as Royalists, was composed mostly of noble and agrarian interests in support of the king and the lawfully established Anglican Church. Their opponents, friends of parliamentary power, represented London's men of commerce and the reformist Puritan party (divided into Presbyterians and Independents).

### **"The Man on Horseback" --- (Kirk; *Roots*, pp. 259-268)**

**This title**, applied to a charismatic figure who arises in a Revolution to save the people from ruin, describes aptly Oliver Cromwell in 1600's Britain? Cromwell assumed command of the "Commonwealth," a de facto military oligarchy, in the wake of the overthrow of the king, the House of Lords, and the Church of England. He "proceeded," in the words of Kirk, "ruthlessly to put down all actual or potential opposition," in the end playing the role of "a master more absolute than ever [King] Charles had been."

### **Britain's "Rule of the Saints" --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*, pp. 259-268)**

**This descriptive title** may be applied to Britain's 17th-century Commonwealth (1649-1660), an unsuccessful revolution in church and state? Having overthrown the king, the House of Lords, and the Anglican Church, all legislative power was transferred to a "Lord Protector" (Cromwell) and a divisive, impotent Parliament drawn from among the Puritans. The Commonwealth's unpopularity coupled with Cromwell's death spelled its doom, making way for royal and ecclesiastical Restoration in 1660.