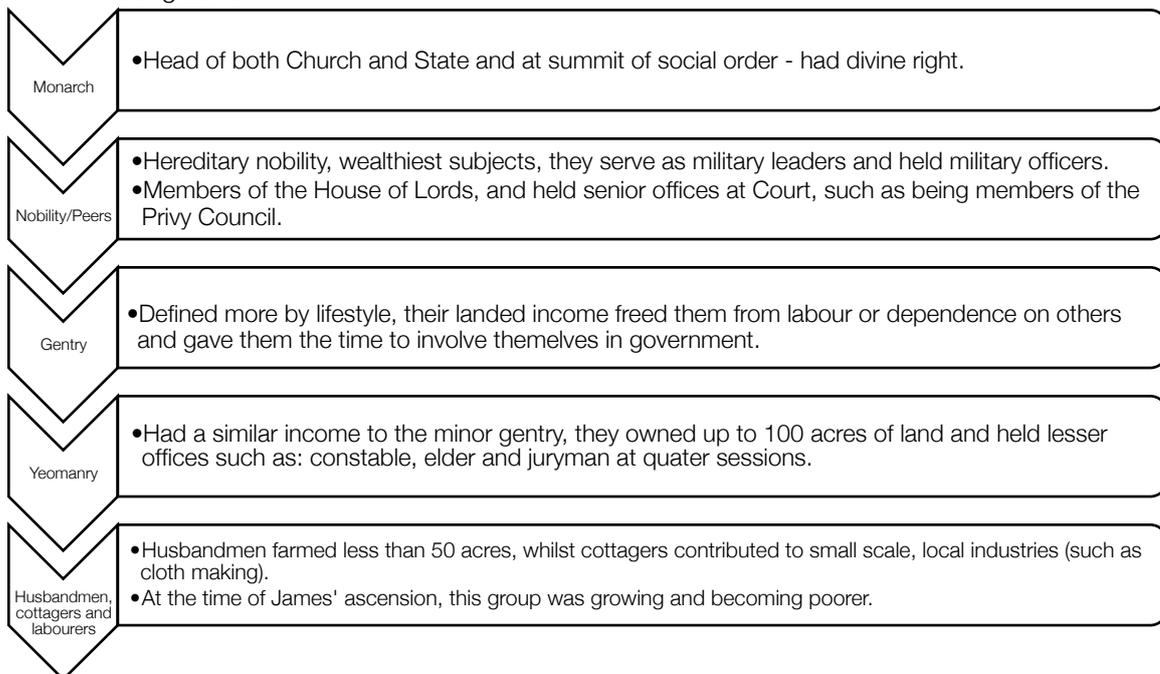


## The quest for political stability, 1625-88

### General background



- Privy Council: within the Royal Court. An inner circle of close friends and advisers, who gave advice to the monarch (full of sycophants that'll agree with the King even if they personally don't ever agree - thus causing problems (Archbishop of Canterbury was in it).
- Each kingdom had its own Privy Council, but the English one was the most important one.
- A monarch could use their prerogative to make war and sign treaties.
- Statute law was the highest form of law made by the King in Parliament.
- The Church of England was protestant, but Elizabeth's settlement had retained some 'Catholic features'.

### Why did Charles I's reign get off to a shaky start?

- The Divine Right of Kings
  - o Thinks he is appointed by G-d, answerable to after death (divine judgment).
  - o He should act within the law, limited to his powers.
- Royal Prerogative
  - o The King can make appointments and decisions about a variety of issues.
  - o Freedom of speech meant MPs could criticise the King.
- Royal Finance
  - o Has the right to raise taxes without Parliament's agreement, e.g. for war and his household expenses.
  - o The King should fund his expenditure from his own revenues or ask Parliament for subsidies - Parliament could question this and even hold subsidies.
- Parliament's Privilege
  - o Has the right to formulate policy.
  - o The King was not allowed in the chamber of the House of Commons. During Parliament, MPs could not be arrested. They had freedom to criticise the King.
- Impeachment
  - o The choice of ministers was up to the King and should not be challenged by Parliament.
  - o Parliament revived impeachment to bring the King's ministers to account. The commons would name the accused and the Lords would put them on trial.
- The Church of England
  - o He chose the bishops and the doctrine, as he was supreme governor of the Church of England.
  - o Parliament had the right to debate and discuss matters about the Church of England.

### 1625-1627 Timeline [Key](#) [Finance](#) [Politics](#) [Personality](#) [Foreign Policy](#)

**June 1625**⇒ Parliament will only grant Charles tonnage and poundage for a year to strengthen Parliament's position, in defiance of a tradition that had lasted 300 years. This is an insult to Charles that he perceives as an attack on his privilege.

**18th June 1625**⇒ Charles' first Parliament. In his speech he says it did not 'stand with [his] nature to spend much time in words.' This is at odds with his father who was able to use speeches to pacify Parliament when problems arose. Charles' personality was far more reserved and insular.