1640 April- Short parliament. Presence of Spanish envoys at court led to rumours that parliament had fallen because of a popish plot.

1640 Truce of Ripon - Scots occupied Northumberland and County Durham and paid £850 a day until peace could be made. Had to call parliament and couldn’t dissolve it while they were still in England.

1640 John Pym in long parliament (November) implied that if the policies were Charles’ he was guilty of treason. Discussed grievances: infringement of parliamentary liberties, innovations in religion and violations of property. Charles offered to relinquish ship money in return for 12 subsidies but 3 weeks later parliament dissolved.

1640 Convocation called, uncontroversial but made people feel uneasy. Voted six subsidies. Parliament wanted to assert its authority in religious matters- unwilling to leave the direction of the church entirely to convocation. The canons drawn up condemned popery and were very moderate. Oath asked misfired. The etc after archbishops and bishops was taken to mean the Pope. This ‘etcetera oath was seen as a plot to destroy the protestant church (opposite of Laud’s intention) and convert it to Rome.

1640 Scots invade Northumberland

1640 London root and branch petition

1641 February Sir Thomas Acton’s Remonstrance against Presbytery

1641 February Triennial Act (3 year parliamentary meetings)

1641 March. Wentworth (Stafford) was impeached and charged with treason. His trial started on March 22nd 1641. Wentworth defended himself with skill and he was found not guilty of treason.

1641 Parliament, led by John Pym, then resorted to a Bill of Attainder in their efforts to ‘get’ Wentworth. Charles prevaricated over signing the bill but eventually he did. Wentworth was executed at Tower Hill on May 22nd 1641.

1641 church court, the Court of High Commission, is abolished. It forced offenders into compliance rather than punishing them. Some clergy fled instead of appearing before the court.

1641 Discussion of Bridge Appointments: Bedford as Lord Treasurer and Pym Chancellor as well as MPs in Privy Chamber

1641 Charles signed the Tonnage and Poundage Bill of June 1641 which acknowledged the crown had no right to collect these without parliamentary authority.

1641 June House of Lords rejects bill excluding bishop from parliament

1641 June Ten propositions

1641 August acts abolishing ship money

1641 September Charles I visits Edinburgh in an effort to placate opposition and buy off critics. He ends up confirming the decisions of the 1640 Free Parliament, and so, indirectly, the Covenant.

October 1641 The Irish Uprising of 1641 was a long-term result of the ”plantation” policy of Tudor and Stuart monarchs under which Ireland was aggressively colonised by Protestant settlers from England and Scotland. The weakness of Charles in Scotland leads to Catholic revolt in Ulster, only suppressed with help from Protestant troops from Scotland.

1641 December- in the wake of the Irish Uprising of October. The King and Parliament agreed that an army was needed to suppress the rebellion in Ireland, but neither side trusted the other with control of the armed forces

1641 December 13 bishops that were prevented by a mob from entering parliament demanded that parliamentary proceedings in their absence be declared null and void for which they were impeached by parliament.

1642 Charles failed to arrest 5 members of the commons

1642 Act excluding bishops from parliament passed

1642 Henrietta Maria leaves England to get support for Charles

1642 the year the civil war became inevitable in the eyes of Brice

1642 Militia Ordinance passed without Charles’ consent