

## The Role & Significance of Oliver Cromwell



	Military: to defeat Charles	Security: To protect Parl's victory	Keeping control/support of Army	Political involvement	Political leadership
<p>1642</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the outbreak of the First Civil War in August 1642, Cromwell took up arms for Parliament.</li> <li>Cromwell raised a troop of sixty horsemen and effectively secured Cambridgeshire for Parliament</li> <li>He fought at Edgehill, where the superiority of the Royalist horse showed him the need for a disciplined Parliamentarian cavalry.</li> <li>Cromwell was careful to recruit only "godly, honest men" as his troopers and to lead them with firm discipline.</li> <li>Cromwell was appointed governor of Ely and promoted to colonel in the new Eastern Association army raised by the Earl of Manchester.</li> </ul>					
<p>1644</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>played a major role in Parliament's victory at Marston Moor</li> <li>Cromwell's practice of promoting godliness amongst his officers and men drew criticism for Cromwell's encouragement of unorthodox Independents</li> <li>Cromwell also became increasingly critical of the leadership of Manchester for his unwillingness to take decisive action against the Royalists.</li> </ul>					
<p>1645 -6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cromwell was one of the few Members of Parliament exempted from resigning his commission in the army under the self denying ordinance.</li> <li>at Naseby Cromwell rallied the Ironsides for a charge against the Royalist infantry that decided the outcome of the battle. Despite having no military training or experience prior to 1642, Cromwell was generally regarded as the greatest soldier in England by the time he and Fairfax received the surrender of Oxford in June 1646.</li> <li>Apr: takes up his seat in the Westminster Parliament and receives the thanks of the House for his services.</li> </ul>					
<p>1647</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cromwell supported the Agitators in the conflict between the Army and Parliament of 1647. However, Cromwell opposed Leveller demands for manhood suffrage ("one man, one vote") and other social and political reforms.</li> <li>firm advocate of parliamentary authority but he lost patience with those Presbyterian MPs who seemed willing to risk another civil war rather than settle the soldiers' grievances honourably.</li> <li>June: Cornet Joyce secures the King for the Army. Fairfax, Cromwell and other senior officers</li> </ul>					

<p>ride out to meet the King. He tried to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the King, proposing to restore him to power in the interests of achieving a peaceful settlement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct: Putney Debates between the Levellers and the army Grandees.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>1648</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having realised that Charles could not be trusted, Cromwell became a relentless supporter of the King's trial and subsequent execution in January 1649. He had come to believe that regicide was an act of justice and the will of God</li> <li>Dec: Pride's Purge.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>The Commonwealth 1649-53</b></p> <p><b>1649</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan 6: The Purged Parliament (Rump) assumes full legislative powers.</li> <li>Jan 20: Trial of Charles I begins.</li> <li>Jan 30: Execution of Charles I.</li> <li>May: Cromwell crushes the Leveller mutinies.</li> <li>Aug to Sept Cr arrives in Ireland. Storming and massacre of Drogheda</li> </ul>					
<p><b>1650</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June -Sept Charles (II) arrives in Scotland. Fairfax resigned, Cromwell was appointed Lord-General of the Army to invade Scotland. Battle of Dunbar: Cromwell defeats the Covenanters.</li> </ul> <p>1651</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sep 3: Battle of Worcester: Cromwell defeats Charles (II) and the Scots</li> </ul> <p><b>1652</b></p>					
<p><b>1653</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apr: Cromwell dissolves the Purged Parliament.</li> <li>Jul: The Nominated Assembly (Barebones Parliament) assembles.</li> <li>Dec: The Nominated Assembly surrenders its powers to Cromwell.</li> <li>Dec: Cromwell installed as Lord Protector.</li> </ul>					

**Conclusion**