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**Charles I: King, Tyrant, Beheaded Traitor**

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**ABSTRACT**

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INTRODUCTION

Charles 1 King – king of England, Scotland and Ireland from 27 March 1625. From the Stuart dynasty. His policy of absolutism and Church reforms caused uprisings in Scotland and Ireland and the English revolution. During the civil wars, Charles I was defeated, tried in Parliament and executed on 30 January 1649 in London.

Charles I was the second son of king James I of England and Scotland and Anne of Denmark. He was born on 19 November 1600 at Dunfermline Palace in Fife, Scotland. In childhood, Carl was no different special abilities, and later learned to walk and talk. After his father became king of England in 1603 and moved to London, Prince Charles remained in Scotland for some time, being a very sickly child who could hardly bear to move. Even when he reached maturity, Charles I continued to experience health problems and was very low growth – only 162 cm.

Charles 1 is an ambiguous personality in the history of Great Britain. His rule is associated with the words: tyranny. And for his wrong policy, he was executed

Objective:

* explore the biography of king Charles 1;
* study the king's policy;
* describe the biography.

1. BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES 1

King of England, Scotland and sovereign of Ireland since 1625, son of James I Stuart and Anne of Denmark.

A tragic accident made Charles heir to the Stuart monarchy - in 1612 died his older brother, Prince Henry of Wales. A modest young man, Carl began preparing for the execution of his duty. It is quite natural that he became one of the most popular grooms of his time. Understood that his father, king James, who decided to use marriage as a diplomatic move at the beginning of the Thirty years war, marrying the son to the Spanish Infanta.

The project of this marriage, evoked little sympathy from the parliamentarians of England, mainly because of its religious component - the Alliance with Catholic Spain, the Spain of the Habsburgs, when the dying brethren in the faith, they have caused a lot of questions. The project failed and the reason for this was an adventure in a completely chivalrous spirit - in 1623 Charles and Jacob's favorite Duke Buckingham incognito, through France, went to Madrid to resolve the protracted negotiations. The result of the trip - the termination of the agreements and the war with Spain (failure). The jubilation of Parliament did not last long - as a result of efforts of Buckingham the wife of Karl became Henrietta Maria, the daughter of Henry Bourbon, the Catholic.

In 1625, James died and Charles became almost the sole king - Buckingham even increased his political influence with him. The first Parliaments he called showed that there was a serious misunderstanding between the king and his subjects. Charles needed money to wage war with Spain, to maintain the court and the payment of significant paternal debts, but the community refused to provide them in the right amount to the king. In 1628, they forced him to accept a Petition of Right, which he regarded as an attempt on the Royal prerogative and eventually refused to comply. In1629. he dissolved Parliament and the next 11 years are considered the time of his sole rule. The king raised the funds necessary for him, without observing the parliamentary procedure.

The war that began in 1638 in Scotland forced Charles to gather his subjects again in 1640. On November 3, the Parliament was opened, later called Long (1640-1653). Already in 1642 the king left London and raised the battle flag in Nottingham. At first ran successfully for the royalists the war ended for them with defeat at Nasby in 1645 the King tried to flee to Scotland, but it was given to Parliament for money. Despite the large number of moderate forces ready to negotiate with Charles, one of the most influential people of those years, Oliver Cromwell decided that the best way - the trial of the king. The trial and subsequent execution of Charles gave power in England puritanical elite of the army and controlled the remainder of the Long Parliament.

* 1. Religious reforms

Buckingham, who had a great influence over Charles, was assassinated in 1628. Illegal collection of taxes, contrary to the "petition of rights", aroused indignation in Parliament, which was again dissolved in 1629 by Charles. After that, he ruled for 11 years himself, getting money by levies, fines, monopolies and the like. At this time, Thomas Wentworth, later Earl of Strafford, a man of talent, but cruel and power-loving, he came up with a plan (Thorough) the introduction of absolute power of the king, with the help of a permanent army, and successfully used it himself, as Governor of Ireland. Wanting to enter everywhere in the United Kingdom the Anglican Church, he was persecuted Puritanism, before giving him the preference even Catholicism; Primate Logo he was allowed to enter the celibacy of the clergy, the doctrine of purgatory, prayer for the dead and many other dogmas, obligatie Church with Rome.

* 1. Politics in Scotland

Main objectives of the policy of Charles I was strengthening the power of the king and that, perhaps, was for him more important to the Church. For this, the king was ready to sacrifice the traditional rights of estates and the principle of inviolability of private property of his subjects. The tragedy of the reign of Charles I, however, was largely due not so much to the goals of the king, but to the methods of their implementation: almost always poorly thought out, too straightforward and with a clearly expressed color of the cell, which led to an increase in discontent among the General population and increased opposition to the king. In addition, unlike his father, Charles I was not familiar with the situation in Scotland, and among his advisers were almost no Scots. As a result, the only way to communicate with the Scottish opposition was to use force, arrest and manipulate the Royal prerogatives.

In 1625, Charles I issued the "act of revocation", according to which all land grants by the kings of Scotland, since 1540, were annulled. First of all, it concerned the former Church lands secularized during the reformation. The nobles could keep these lands in their property, but subject to monetary compensation, which was to support the Church. This decree affected most of the Scottish nobility and caused widespread discontent. However, the king refused to consider the petition of the Scots against revocation. In the same year, the Scottish Parliament, under pressure from the king, authorized a tax for four years in advance. This soon led to the fact that the taxation of land and income in the country became permanent, and this practice did not correspond to the traditional Scottish ideas about the sources of funding for the king.

Almost from the very beginning of his reign, Charles I began to actively involve bishops in the highest state positions. The first person of the Royal administration of Scotland was John Spottiswood, Archbishop of St. Andrews, Lord Chancellor since 1635. The majority in the Royal Council passed to the bishops to the detriment of the Scottish aristocrats, the bishops also actually began to determine the composition of the Committee of articles and candidates for justices of the peace. A significant part of the representatives of the Scottish episcopate of that time did not enjoy the authority of his flock and had no ties with the nobility. The aristocracy, pushed aside from the administration, had no access to the king, whose court was almost constantly in London.

The opposition, primarily noble, to the reign of Charles I arose almost immediately after his accession to the throne. Trying to prevent its strengthening, the king after 1626 refused to convene the Scottish Parliament and the General Assembly of the Scottish Church. Only in 1633, during the first visit of the king to Scotland, Parliament was convened, which under pressure from Charles I approved the act of supremacy of the king in matters of religion. At the same time, Charles I introduced a number of Anglican canons into Scottish worship and formed a new bishopric — Edinburgh, headed by William Forbes, an ardent supporter of Anglican reforms. This caused an outrage in Scotland, but Charles I again refused to consider the petition of the Scottish nobles against Church innovations and manipulation of the king's parliamentary elections. One of the authors of the petition, Lord Balmerino, was arrested in 1634 and sentenced to death on charges of treason.

Despite the growing opposition to the Royal reforms in the sphere of worship, Charles I continued the policy of rapprochement of the Scottish Presbyterianism with Anglicanism. In 1636, the reformed canons of the Scottish Church were published under the signature of the king, which did not mention presbyteria and parish meetings, and in 1637 a new Liturgy was introduced, providing for a number of Anglican elements, the cult of saints, and rich Church decoration. These reforms were perceived in Scottish society as an attempt to restore the Catholic rites and caused the consolidation of all classes in opposition to Catholicism, episcopate and authoritarianism of the king.

* 1. Rebellion in Scotland

The king accepted the challenge. In January 1639, he presented his faithful subjects in England with an excuse, which served as a response to the decisions of the Scottish Assembly, and assembled an army of 20,000 men with the assistance of the Anglican clergy, whose cause was his own. The Scots, for their part, spoke "for Christ the crown and for the Covenant", or, as it was read on their banners: "For the Lord, the King and the Covenant." They still adhered to the fiction that they did not revolt against the very basis of the existing state system and not against the king.

Alexander Leslie, one of the most prominent of the many Scots who fought on the mainland for the triumph of Protestantism, took command of their army. He served in the Swedish army and went through his military school under the banner of Gustav Adolf. He was not from a noble family and was in the retinue of Lord Roth, but he had combat experience and his opinion had great weight on the military Council.

Both armies met at the border while the English fleet approached the Frieze at the Fort. But the Royal army lacked the confidence and religious enthusiasm that animated the Scots, and it ended with negotiations that led to an agreement known as the "Berwick peace". The troops were disbanded, the Scottish fortresses returned to the king, who in return agreed to the abolition of the episcopate and the convening of a new Assembly and Parliament, which were to resolve disputes. This Treaty was adopted with joy by the Protestant world, giving rise to the hope that Charles will act in the spirit of people like Leslie, that is, to adhere to the policy of protecting Protestantism, and will take part in the continental struggle, and the Scottish troops will help him to win back the Palatinate.

But unfortunately for Karl, his foreign policy was as indecisive and inconsistent as his domestic one. Under this he constantly undermined one of them another. Charles constantly fluctuated between France and Spain, and at his court intriguers and schemers of both these parties were not translated. As a result, all his efforts for the benefit of his nephew were in vain. In this case, as in others, he wanted to achieve the goal, but avoided the means to achieve it. With a shrewd mind, he clearly saw all the difficulties and dangers of different paths, but did not have the ability to make a firm decision and steadily go to the goal. The French called his actions ambiguous; in the case of the Palatinate, he was negotiating with them, and with the Spaniards, and they repaid him for it is very clearly sympathetic to the Scots.

The Berwick world was barren. The best assurances were made on both sides, but the differences did not disappear. Neither the meeting of the clergy, nor the Parliament, convened after that (August 1639), showed any compliance. Parliament even made such demands on the theory of state transformation that the crown had only one name, and the leaders of the majority did not find it difficult to enter into an agreement with the French king. In a secret letter to Louis XIII, they asked for his protection, referring to the long-standing relationship of France with Scotland.

* 1. Civil War

The beginning of the war was preceded by the confrontation between king Charles I and Parliament. In 1637-1638 in Scotland there was a revolt, and it actually was postponed from the British crown. New taxes were needed for the war with the Scots, and Charles had to convene a Parliament in November 1640. Parliamentarians, however, insisted that the sessions of Parliament now took place constantly, and not by the will of the king, and sought to limit the Royal power.

The situation became more complicated after the rebellion broke out in Ireland in October 1641. Parliament was concerned about the actual collapse of the Kingdom and accused the king, and Charles blamed the Parliament, who refused to give money for the maintenance of the army. The contradictions between them became so acute that on January 10, 1642, the king left London and went to the Northern counties, where royalists prevailed. Carl settled in Nottingham, where he began to gather troops. In turn, July 6, 1642 Parliament authorized the creation of 10-thousand army led by Earl of Essex.

On August 22, the Royal standard was raised over Nottingham castle, which meant the Declaration of war. Formally, the war was aimed at suppressing the "rebellion of the Earl of Essex" - the commander of the army of Parliament.

* 1. Trial and execution

The trial of king Charles I took place in the main hall of London, Westminster hall, January 20, 1649. Here is how the historian described the event: "the Protection of the house around the clock carried 200 infantry and cavalry. On 20 January, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the members of the court, preceded by 20 guards armed with halberds, and clerks carrying the sword and scepter — signs of the highest authority, entered the hall and took their seats. Their benches were covered with red cloth. The chair of the Chairman stood on a dais.

On both sides of him were the chairs of his two assistants. All three wore black judicial robes. Before them were the scorer's table and at some distance — upholstered red chair for the defendant... But then came the king in a black dress, surrounded by 12 soldiers. As a sign of non-recognition of the powers of the court, he deliberately did not take off his hat. Without looking around, Carl walked quickly and sat down in the chair designed for him with his back to the public...»

The trial ended with the king's death sentence, which was carried out on January 30: "...The day was surprisingly frosty. The Thames was covered with ice. In the square, surrounded on three sides by the buildings of the Royal Whitehall Palace, there was the sound of axes — the last preparations for the public execution. Here was built a platform on which Karl had to die. At two o'clock in the afternoon the king, dressed in black, accompanied by a reinforced military convoy appeared in the square.

The platform was surrounded by several ranks of cavalry, separating the place of execution from the audience. The entire square was crowded with people, many climbed on street lights, balconies and rooftop surrounding homes. The executioner and his assistant stood ready on the platform. It was the duty of the latter to raise his head high, shouting, "Here is the head of the traitor!" They were in half-masks and also made-up (they glued mustaches and beards), in the clothes of sailors. The platform was draped in black. The king went up to the scaffold accompanied by the Bishop, who was chosen by him as a Confessor. Looking around, he took a folded sheet from his pocket and addressed the guard, for the others could not hear him, with a "farewell word".

Then, kneeling down, he laid his head on the block and after a few moments stretched out his hands – it was the sign of the executioner, and he in one fell swoop of the ax cut off his head. It was done. The cavalry quickly dispersed the crowd, and the square was deserted.

CONCLUSION

Carl grew up in an atmosphere of debauchery with the General decline of morals at court. He easily fell under the influence of his trusted favorites, showing his weakness.

Religious intolerance Carla - that is the question of its irreconcilability with the Parliament (the majority of the Parliament supported the Anglican Church), where Karl showed a lack of common sense, which was explained by the influence of William laud (1633 Archbishop of Canterbury).

The demands of the petition submitted by Parliament to the king (the abolition of the High Commission, that is, the abolition of extrajudicial execution; the king's non-interference in judicial activity; the struggle against the arbitrariness of individuals of the ruling elite; the requirement to establish new taxes only with the full consent of Parliament; the restriction of the arbitrariness of the Royal justice - arrests should be made only by law) were unacceptable to the monarchy, so the Parliament was dispersed, but soon Carl Steward was forced to reassemble it, as England was on the verge of defeat in the religious war with Scotland. This Parliament was called the "Long Parliament" (1640-1653). He not only repeated the demands of the previous one, but also expanded them by demanding the dissolution of Parliament (Parliament can be dissolved only after 50 days of its work; the term of non-parliamentary rule is 3 years). This was the impetus for the beginning of the revolution. Historians believe that Karl had enough chances to settle amicably conflicts with Parliament. If he was ready to leave the efforts to the support of Catholicism, I would be able to save the throne, and himself.

Charles I rebelled against the rebellious Parliament on 22 August 1642 in Nottingham. Initially, Charles controlled a large area, but in the summer of 1644 Cromwell's army began to gain the upper hand. In the spring of 1646, after the defeat of the Royal troops, Charles surrendered to the mercy of the Scots, and they gave him Cromwell. In captivity, the king was kept in comfort, some of Cromwell's associates even kissed his hands - then no one was going to execute the king. In September 1647 Cromwell began negotiations with Charles I as head of the throne. Negotiations dragged on to no avail. Cromwell, as well as the majority in Parliament would have made concessions to the king, if not for the pressure from the ordinary army of Cromwell, adopted in the spring of 1648 the decision to bring Charles to trial. The execution of Charles I in January 1649 put an end to the absolutist order in the country. The result of the English bourgeois revolution – a sharp limitation of Royal power, laid the foundations of constitutional monarchy.

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