

Oliver Cromwell - Political development & Education before 1653: class synthesis

Key events in early life (Pre 1640) (using Scarboro p202-3)

1. Family lands gained from reformation church land sales (themselves a consequence of Henry VIII's use of Parl - begun by an early relative, Thomas Cromwell)
2. Educated at a school funded by sale of church land
3. MP at 29 - dynamism, ambition
4. Privy Council humiliation - begins social collapse
5. 1640 "reborn" and reelected to parl with a spiritual feeling of destiny

Main stages of political evolution, 1640-49 (using Morrill)

1. Key Parl player 1640, but a loner, maverick almost. Keen committee man
2. Military organisation develops initiative, admin skill and decisiveness. Uses committees but shows an ability to move from pleading to command where needed
3. 1643 becomes Governor of Ely: political & administrative training
4. Prefers "commitment" in his men to religious test
5. 1646 Graciousness in victory in Oxford and Exeter also shows pragmatism where end result is more important than the method.
6. 1646 Active Parl committee man shows keenness to involve others
7. Post Putney Debates: Shows a commitment to King & Parl system of govt, but a belief in the untrustworthiness of Charles
8. Not a Republican but sees the need to remove Charles
9. Post 1649 does not seek political limelight. Military events dominate.

Key Concluding Points

- Ideally a committee person able to work with others
- Can be firm when demanded
- Family connection with Parliaments Reformation Revolution which increases the role of Parliament
- Active Parliamentarian
- Not a Republican
- Pragmatic
- Sense of "destiny"

