1. Historiography: the Causes of the English Civil War(s)/Wars of three Kingdoms

--“High Road to Civil War”: were reigns of early Stuart Kings (James I and Charles I) setting England, Scotland and Ireland on road to civil war?
--the Whig theory of History: was conflict between crown and parliament inevitable?
--a “Puritan Revolution”: was religion at the heart of the conflict?
--Luther’s Reformation (1517) propagates widely, facilitates spread of reformers’ ideas, largely due to printing press (moveable type adapted to printing of books: Gutenberg in 1450s; Caxton in 1470s in England); and millenarian/apocalyptic fears
--in the wake of the Reformation, Europe riven by confessional conflicts: French Wars of Religion, Dutch Revolt; Thirty Years War; English Civil War “last European war of religion”?

2. “High Road to Civil War”, part I: James I & VI

--James I and VI of Scotland (1566-1625; r. 1603-25), daughter of Catholic Mary Queen of Scots, but raised a Presbyterian (Scottish Calvinist)
--accession of James I raised hopes of both Catholic, Puritan subjects; he disappoints both
--tried to pursue a “middle” way in diplomacy: marries daughter Elizabeth (“the Winter Queen”) to Protestant Frederick of the Palatinate; this leads to pressures, esp from Puritans, to support couple (and Protestant cause in the Thirty Years War) after their defeat, exile from Bohemia
--“Spanish Match”, attempt by James I to marry his son & heir Charles to Spanish Infanta, causes indignation, fierce opposition, eventually falls through to popular rejoicing
--James dogged by problems of church settlement, Puritan demands for further reform: Hampton Court Conference (1604); “no bishop, no King”; 1618 Declaration of Sports
--James I’s initially promises to relax penal laws against his Catholic subjects, but fails to do so
--from late 16th c., Catholics, esp. Jesuits associated with doctrine of deposing heretic kings (Mariana), assassinations (Henri III, Henri IV of France); plots and murder attempts vs. Eliz I
--The Gunpowder Plot (5 November 1605), and mounting antipopery

3. “High Road to Civil War”, part II: Charles I

--Charles I (b.1600; r. 1625-49); shy, short of stature, had stutter, grew up under the shadow of his more popular older brother, Prince Henry (d. 1612)
--Charles’ wife Henrietta Maria (d. of Henri IV and sister to Louis XIII of France) Catholic
--William Laud, bishop of London (1628) and Archbishop of Canterbury (1633); prerogative courts, Star Chamber, Consistory Courts seen as arbitrary (William Prynne et al.)
--Puritans vs. Laudians: Puritans oppose episcopacy, Book of Common Prayer, moving sacramental table (“altar”) to chancel, bowing at host, clerical robes, wedding rings, other unscriptural practices; exodus of “Pilgrims” (Puritan dissidents) to New England
--Charles, frustrated by Parliament’s refusal to vote him sufficient funds; after his financial and religious policies are attacked by the Commons in 1629, does not convene Parliament again for eleven years (known as the “Personal Rule” or “the eleven years’ tyranny”)
4. Religion and the “Problem of Multiple Kingdoms”
– Wales well integrated into English polity by late Tudor period (Acts of Union, 1536, 1543)
– Scotland, however, still independent kingdom: joining of crowns after 1603, not of church or parliament; Scottish church (the “Kirk”), Presbyterian (Scotch Calvinist), rejects episcopacy
– Ireland remains overwhelmingly Catholic, despite presence of official “garrison” Church of Ireland, according to Anglican ritual
– problem of religious diversity across the three kingdoms sets stage for the English Civil War

5. Towards a “British” Civil War: The Bishops’ Wars and the Irish Rebellion
– attempt to impose the English Book of Common Prayer on Scotland in 1637 precipitates Bishops’ Wars (1639 & 1640); “Short Parliament” called in April 1640 to raise money for Scottish war, but dissolved when it refuses to grant supply without dictating terms
– Charles forced to call “Long Parliament” in November 1640; Triennial Act passed
– October 1641 Irish massacre fans flames of antipopery, fears that King will use Irish army
– Charles storms Commons in attempt to arrest Five Members (Jan. 1642), rejects Parliament’s 19 Proposals (June 1642); royal standard raised at Nottingham 22 August; Civil War begins

KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND/BRITAIN
THE TUDORS
Elizabeth I (daughter of Henry VIII and second wife Anne Boleyn): b. 1533; r. 1558-1603
– Elizabeth, “the Virgin Queen”, dies childless, and the next in line to the throne is James VI of Scotland, son of Mary Queen of Scots, and the great-grandson of Henry VIII’s sister, Margaret, and James IV, King of Scotland.

THE EARLY STUARTS
James I (also James VI of Scotland): b. 1566; r. 1603-1625
Charles I (only surviving son of James I): b. 1600; r. 1625-1649
– Charles I’s reign is interrupted by The Civil War, 1642-1651; Charles I is executed in 1649. The period between Charles I’s death and the Restoration (in 1660) of his son, Charles II, is known as the Interregnum (1649-1660)