This thesis represents an important investigation into the much-neglected period of exile endured by many Royalists as a consequence of the violence and alienation of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (1639-1651). Drawing from extensive archival research conducted in Britain, Ireland and Europe, this study expands upon existing literature on royalism, British and Irish interaction with Continental Europe and seventeenth-century mentalities more generally in order to illumine the unique issues fac...

King Charles himself believed that no court had any jurisdiction over a monarch and refused to plead to the charges brought against him. He insisted that the trial brought against him was illegal, and had been enacted not through just authority but by brute strength of arms. On the 27th of January 1649, King Charles was found guilty by the court and sentenced to death. He was executed the following Tuesday on the 30th before the Banqueting Hall. It established an English Council of State to fill in the executive role of the King and Privy Council, however, the new Commonwealth government was largely dominated by Oliver Cromwell and the New Model Army. At the Council of State’s first meeting, Oliver Cromwell held the chair. The King’s Irishmen vividly illustrates the experience of these exiles during the course of the 1650s, revealing complex issues of identity and allegiance often obscured by the shadow of the Civil Wars. Drawing on sources from across Britain, Ireland, and Continental Europe, it looks at key Irish figures and networks in Charles II’s court-in-exile in order to examine broader themes of memory, belief, honour, identity, community, dislocation and disillusionment. Each chapter builds upon and challenges recent historical interest in royalism, providing new insights into the ways in which The Irish exiles whose tribulations are vividly reconstituted by Mark Williams in The King’s Irishmen were not involved with propaganda directed at an Irish Catholic audience. Those in question, a mixture of Catholics and Protestants, were royalists who had generally upheld crown authority in Ireland during the wars of the 1640s and had usually been guided by James Butler, earl (and subsequently duke) of Ormond, and viceroy for King Charles I for most of that time. Thereafter, King Charles required subventions from sympathetic continental rulers to maintain his court in exile, and he hoped also to negotiate the military support that now seemed necessary to secure a royal restoration by force. Charles II (29 May 1630 – 6 February 1685) was King of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He was King of Scotland from 1649 until his deposition in 1651, and King of England, Scotland and Ireland from the 1660 Restoration of the monarchy until his death in 1685. Charles II was the eldest surviving child of Charles I of England, Scotland and Ireland and Henrietta Maria of France. After Charles I’s execution at Whitehall on 30 January 1649, at the climax of the English Civil War, the Parliament of Scotland
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