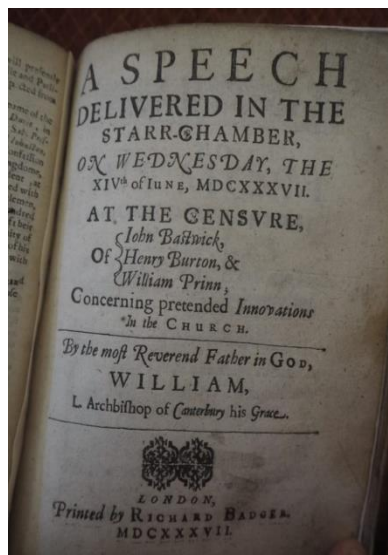


# Causes of the British Civil Wars

## Source-Based Activities

### Activity 2 :William Laud's speech to Star Chamber, 1637



#### Background information:

In 1637 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, ordered the arrest of three Puritans, John Bastwick, Henry Burton and William Prynne for writing pamphlets criticising what Laud was doing with the Church. They were tried in the Star Chamber ( an English court of Law which sat at the Palace of Westminster) and had their ears cut off and were branded on the cheeks as punishment.

**William Laud's Speech to the Star Chamber R2092 Collection of Bound 17th C. Tracts - The Kirk in Scotland, NEKMS: 2015.37 on loan to the National Civil War Centre.**

#### Source 2: An Extract from William Laud's Speech to the Star Chamber, 1637

*'Therefore, all these libels, so farre forth as they are against our Calling, are against the King and the Law, and can have no other purpose, than to stirre up sedition among the people. If these men had any other intention, or if they had any Christian or charitable desire, to reforme any thing amisee; why did they not modestly Petition His Majesty about it that in his Princely wisdom he might set all things right, In a Just and Orderly Manner? But this was neither their intention, nor way. For one clamours out of Pulpit, and all of them from the Presse, and in a most virulent and unchristian manner set themselves to make a heat among the people; and so by Mutiny, to effect that, which by Law they cannot; And, by most false and unjust Calumnies to defame both our Callings and Persons. But for my part, as I pittie their rage, so I heartily pray God to forgive their malice'*

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# Causes of the British Civil Wars

## Source-Based Activities

Activity 2 :William Laud's speech to Star Chamber, 1637

### Glossary:

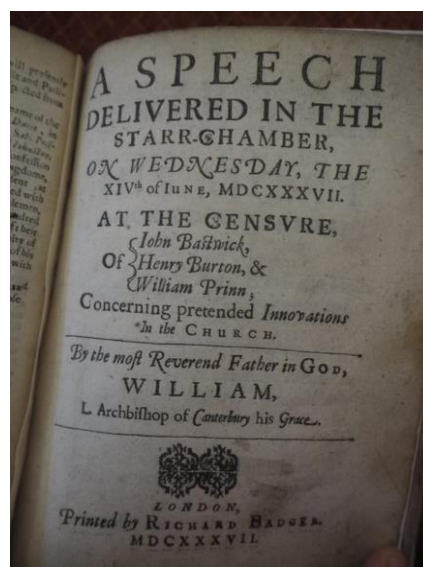
*Libel* – A false statement that is published which could damage a person's reputation

*Sedition* – Actions which encourage people to rebel against the authority of the monarch

*Mutiny* - A rebellion against authority

*Calumnies* - Slandering or making false statements about someone to damage their reputation

*Malice* – The desire to harm someone



*William Laud's Speech to the Star Chamber* R2092 Collection of Bound 17th C. Tracts - The Kirk in Scotland, NEKMS: 2015.37 on loan to the National Civil War Centre.

Read the extract from William Laud's speech on the previous page.

- 1) Who are 'these men' who Laud refers to?
- 2) What does Laud accuse 'these men' of doing? (Tip: you may need to look at the glossary to help you).
- 3) Where did 'these men' make these claims about Laud and the King?
- 4) When did Laud make this speech to the Star Chamber?
- 5) Why do you think Laud made this speech to the Star Chamber?
- 6) Why do you think that Laud's speech has been printed?

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