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Great Britain. State Papers. Civil war and Interregnum.

Parliamentary Committee papers

1640-1649

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In this collection the material particularly illustrates the work of the parliamentary committees. The wide use of committees was the most striking innovation in the structure of government introduced by the Long Parliament in the 1640s. Central and local committees were established to levy taxes, raise troops, deal with the offences of the royalists, the Church and of Ireland, and generally to handle the problems thrown up by fighting in Civil War and trying to reach a peaceful settlement after it. Analysis of their work is essential to understanding how Parliament set about the task of winning the war and taking over the King's government. These uncalendared and previously unpublished papers illuminate the broad themes - the peace and the order of the kingdom, the financial stability of the regime, the settlement of religion - and in particular, the fate of individuals, families and localities.

This series constitutes a major new research resource. The project is under the editorial direction of Michael Hawkins, Reader in History and Dean of the School of English and American Studies, University of Sussex. It has been undertaken in association with the Public Record Office in London.

The documents are taken from the Public Record, classes SP 20, 22, 24 and 28. With the minor exception of SP 28/350/Part VI (which contains a collection of receipts which have been duplicated in the ledgers) the documents in this series have been reproduced in their entirety. The collection comprises 25 reels of positive silver-halide 35mm microfilm of archivally-permanent quality.

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