

developed the New Model Army after 1647. Under his discipline and skill the parliamentary forces overcame the cavaliers who were much better trained and armed. Cromwell would not tolerate drinking, profanity, gambling, or worldly pursuits among his men and sent them into battle singing psalms. He was a firmly committed Christian although not without the shortcomings of his age. His wins over the Scots and cavaliers were often spectacular and had he ruled for many years he might have made England the major military power of Europe. His homeland policies were not as sharp as his military skills, however.

Accepting the title "Lord Protector", Cromwell ruled after 1653 as a virtual dictator with parliament in an almost advisory role. He held that a constitutional monarchy was the better government and in time his ideas would be heard in English political circles. Of the several lives of Cromwell I have read, Paul's LORD PROTECTOR seems balanced. Many Cromwellian lives stress the negative aspects of his autocracy and completely overlook the positive side of his character. Tolerance, with Cromwell, ceased on any threat of peace to the land. He was generally permissive so far as Anglicans, Presbyterians, Independents, etc., were concerned...he being more of a separatist congregationalist in his own thinking. He promoted education, foreign trade, and battle when necessary. He thought it good to repress ideas when they conflicted with the best interest of the country as he saw it. His treatment of the Irish religious rebellion was harsh (appalling, actually) but in his attempt to bring peace he was far more realistic than any English ruler would be for years. ' An interesting man, we leave him for history.

As an institution the Commonwealth continued to 1660, the last two years under Cromwell's ineffective son, Richard. This was the age of Richard Baxter and the Puritan sages flourished. But part of it grew with state support and mandated control. This gave it an unhealthy cast in the area of spiritual development. We continue to be reminded that the Reformation in England, so far as being a concrete reality was concerned, had much more difficulty in establishing itself than similar moves in the Netherlands and Germany. A large part of this was due to the fact that it was primarily a political move, a palace decision, and the suspicious nature of the citizenry haunted most moves and attempted moves. By 1660 the Commonwealth had gone its way, the people desired a king, Cromwell himself had favored a constitutional