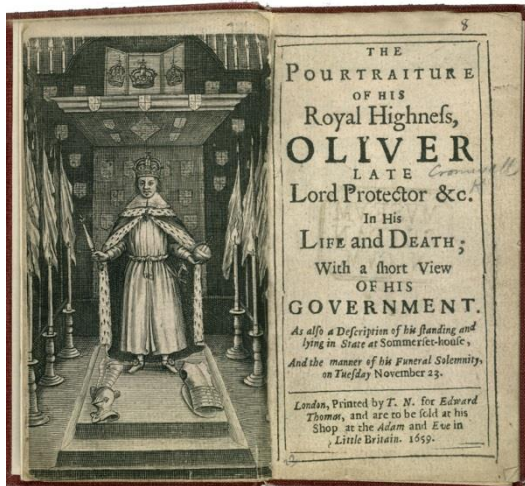


Further Reading: Images of Cromwell

TASK: Match the images of Cromwell to the descriptions, such as “5-X”, under the subheading ‘Challenge’. Then answer the questions in the box.



1 (above)



2 (above)



3 (above)



4 (left)

Description A: This image created in 1649 is a highly effective piece of political propaganda attacking Cromwell for dismantling the regime of Charles I. Cromwell is ordering republican soldiers to chop down the royal oak. The tree is a symbol of the monarchy. Hanging off the branches are the Bible and the Magna Carta.

Description B: Here, Cromwell is portrayed as a military commander in 1650. He is astride his horse in full armour with baton in hand. The sash is a symbol of high rank as is the armour. The picture is on the front of a book that describes Cromwell's victories, especially over Ireland.

Description C: This engraving made in 1658 is an image of Oliver Cromwell created by his supporters towards the end of his time as 'Lord Protector' (when he ruled England after Charles's execution). There is a strong religious and Puritan tone. The images of Mount Zion and Noah's Ark show this. The pillars represent his spiritual and temporal (political and military) strength.

Description D: This image was created after the death of Cromwell, in 1659, and on the succession of his son Richard as Lord Protector. During his lifetime, Cromwell had refused the offer of the crown. However he was given a very royal funeral. Cromwell is wearing the symbols of royal office - the crown, sceptre and orb which he never wore during his life. This was a kind of 'after death' coronation.

QUESTION BOX:

- Why do you think Cromwell resisted the title of 'king'?
- Are these images (produced at the time Cromwell started ruling and **before** Charles II restored the English monarchy), mostly positive or negative?
- Why would images from this time be like this?
- How do you think images of Cromwell would change **after** Charles II took the throne?