This is a major new study of Charles I's relationship with the English aristocracy. Rejecting the traditional emphasis on the ‘The Crisis of the Aristocracy’, Professor Richard Cust highlights instead the effectiveness of the king and the Earl of Arundel's policies to promote and strengthen the nobility. He reveals how the peers reasserted themselves as the natural leaders of the political nation during the Great Council of Peers in 1640 and the Long Parliament. He also demonstrates how Charles deliberately set out to cultivate his aristocracy as the main bulwark of royal authority, enabling him to go to war against the Scots in 1639 and then build the royalist party that provided the means to fight parliament in 1642. The analysis is framed throughout within a broader study of aristocratic honour and the efforts of the heralds to stabilise the social order.

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<td>Arundel Castle Archives</td>
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<td>APC</td>
<td>Acts of the Privy Council</td>
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<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRO</td>
<td>Bedfordshire Record Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodl.L.</td>
<td>Bodleian Library, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>College of Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cf</td>
<td>Journals of the House of Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court and Times</td>
<td>Court and Times of Charles I, ed. T. Birch, 2 vols. (London, 1848)</td>
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List of abbreviations

CSP Dom. Calendar of State Papers Domestic
DRO Devon Record Office
EHR English Historical Review
Evelyn The Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn, ed W. Bray (London: Routledge and Sons, 1890)
FSL Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC
Hardwicke SP Hardwicke State Papers, 2 vols. (London, 1778)
Hist. History
HJ Historical Journal
HoP History of Parliament
HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission
HR Historical Research
Hunt.L. Huntington Library, California
JBS Journal of British Studies
JMH Journal of Modern History
Letters of Henrietta Maria Letters of Queen Henrietta Maria, ed. M.A.E. Green (London, 1857)
LJ Journals of the House of Lords
LRO Leicestershire Record Office
NLW National Library of Wales
NRO Northamptonshire Record Office
NUL Nottingham University Library
List of abbreviations


PA  Parliamentary Archives

P & P  Past & Present


Rushworth  J. Rushworth, Historical Collections, 7 vols. (London, 1659–1701)

SHC  Surrey History Centre

Somers Tracts  A Collection of Rare and Valuable Tracts of the Most Interesting Subjects; but chiefly such as relate to the History and Constitution of these Kingdoms . . . , 13 vols (London, 1809–15)

SRO  Staffordshire Record Office

List of abbreviations

TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society
Walker, Discourses  Sir Edward Walker, Historical Discourses on Several Occasions (London, 1705)
Warwick Memoirs  Sir Philip Warwick, Memoirs of the Reign of Charles I (Edinburgh, 1813)
WCLA  Windsor Castle, St George’s Chapel, Library and Archive

The original spelling of manuscripts has been retained, but punctuation has been modernised to aid the sense.
Preface

This book began life as a research project on the Court of Chivalry. I wish to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Council for funding the project and granting me a research fellowship. I am also indebted to the Huntington Library in California for awarding me a Mayers Fellowship and Birmingham University for allowing me study leave to complete the research and writing up. I am very grateful to all those who helped with the project. Andrew Hopper acted as research assistant and collaborator throughout, and its successful completion owed an enormous amount to his initiative and enthusiasm. Robert Yorke, archivist at the College of Arms, supported the project from the outset, and his knowledge and hospitality made research at the college a great pleasure. I have also been able to draw on the expertise of Adrian Ailes, Clive Cheeseman, Timothy Duke, David Gelber and Nigel Ramsay for which I am very grateful.

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