

Close reading: *King Lear*

Reading Edmund

I, ii, 1-22, pp. 14-15

Assessing Edmund

- ◆ Vice figure in morality play
- ◆ Political philosopher
 - Machiaveli
 - Hobbes

Introduction to John Locke: conflict in the state

Please see the "House of Stuart Chart"
<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Rulers/stuart.html>
or posted on the Core Weekly calendar

A turbulent political period

- ◆ ► *Civil War 1642 – 1649*
 - *Royalists & Parliamentarians*
- ◆ The king—Charles I--was captured and held; all compromise failed; and the king was tried in a specially constructed court, condemned to death, and beheaded on January 31, 1649.

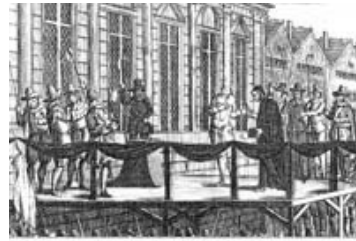
Trial of King Charles I

From *King Charls his Tryal at the High Court of Justice* (London, 1650); John Nalson, *A True Copy of the Journal of the High Court of Justice for the Tryal of K. Charles* (London, 1684); and John Rushworth, *Historical Collections*, 8 vols. (London 1721–22), Vol. 7. Printed in *The Trial of Charles I: A Documentary History*, David Lagomarsino and Charles T. Wood, editors, © 1989 by the Trustees of Dartmouth College, by permission [to Norton] of University Press of New England.



From Norton Topics Online:
<http://www.norton.com/nael/17century/topic%5F3trial.htm>

Charles I - Christian martyr (reigned 1625-49) (lived 1600-1649)



Execution of Charles I

On the morning when the king was beheaded, Locke was 17 and at school where he was "within earshot of the awe-stricken crowd" (Laslett, 17).

Source of image: <http://www.britannia.com/history/londonhistory/stulon.html>

Charles I - Christian martyr & icon of the martyred king.



♦Charles I in three positions - multiple portrait by Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641). © Royal Collection.

The legend about this painting: Bernini "exclaimed that he had never seen a portrait whose countenance showed so much greatness and such marks of sadness: the man who was so strongly charactered and whose dejection was so visible was doomed to be unfortunate." (Qtd. Richard Ollard, *The Image of the King*, p. 25.)

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/history/stuart.htm>