

The World Turned Upside Down

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Source 2

Thus says the Lord. The Bishops, King Charles and the Lords have had their turn. So shall your turn be next, you surviving great ones, whoever you are that is against me, the Eternal God.

From a pamphlet published in 1650

Source 3

We have by our recent efforts shown how highly we value our just freedom. To avoid the danger of returning to a slavish condition we declare that the people shall choose themselves a Parliament once every two years.

From a document published in 1647.

Source 4

We plough and dig so that the poor may get a living. We have right to it because of the conquest over the late King... Therefore we claim the freedom to enjoy common lands bought by our money and blood.

From a pamphlet published in 1650.

Source 5

I think that no man has a right to share in the affairs of the Kingdom if he owns no property in the Kingdom.

From a speech made in 1647.

← Source 1

The World Turned Upside Down. A cartoon drawn in 1647 and used as the front cover of a political pamphlet.

Task 1.

- Make a list of as many odd things as you can see in this picture (there are at least 8).
- The artist is trying to describe how he feels living in a country without a king. Write a paragraph explaining how he feels (try to talk about how he shows this in the picture).

Task 2.

Sources 2-5 show different ideas held by different groups about how England should be run. In your book write down which source goes with which group. Eg. Source n– diggers.

Levellers– believed all or most men should have a vote for MPs.

Diggers– believed everyone had a right to a share of land. In 1649 some diggers seized common land for themselves.

Fifth Monarchy Men– believed that Jesus was coming any day to rule England and probably the whole world.

Members of Parliament– Represented only rich people and were worried that ordinary people might want to run the country and take their land.

Task 3

- What do you think the person who wrote 'The World Turned Upside down' thought about groups like the Levellers and Diggers?
- Look at sources 2-5, which of the ideas are accepted by most people in England today, and which are not?

Extension: Write a speech supporting the ideas of one of the groups above.