The Rump 1649 Cheat Sheet

by woodland2000 via cheatography.com/53041/cs/14347/

Establishment of the Rump

- most of the Commons were also members of the *Council of State* (a committee of 41 who had replaced the king).

- they were entirely dependant on the army for power.

- generally conservative, most MPs wanted to promote Puritan 'godliness' and curb excesses if various millenarian sects.

Acts and Committees

Blasphemy Act (1650)	aimed at curbing religious extremism.
Engagement Act (1650)	all adult males to declare loyalty to the Common-wealth.
Religious Act (1650)	forcing a strict observance of the Lord's day.
Adultery Act (1650)	the death penalty imposed for adultery.
Militia Act (1650)	property holders to contribute proportionally to defence costs.

Acts and Committees (cont)

Treason Act (1650)	any claim that the House of Commons was not the supreme authority becomes an act of treason.
Toleration Act (1650)	compulsory attendance at parish churches abolished, this dated back to Elizabeth I, a main feature of the Angelican Church.
Foreign Act (1650)	prohibiting trade with Royalist colonies: Virginia, Bermuda, Barbados and Antigua.
Navigation Act (1651)	introduces measures aimed at hampering the Dutch.
Union of England and Scotland Act (1652)	presented at Parliament
Ireland Act (1652)	the settlement of Ireland

Finance

they received revenue through the sale of Royal lands and church property: excise levies, assessment tax.

collected money from confiscated Royalist lands: counter-productive and caused resentment against the Commonwealth, discouraged reconciliation with royalists.

due to the third civil war (1649-51) and the Anglo-Dutch war (1652), they were short of money.

Religion

Committee for the Propagation of the Gospel (1652) controlled the appointment of the clergy.

the Rump was cautious in the church reform, making few concessions to extrem-ists.

War

demands of war and national security diverted the Rump's time and resources from proposed social reforms.

Cromwell's victory at the *Battle of Worcester* (1651) caused the army to change its mind about the Rump staying in power: this and other practical considerations delayed new elections.

Charles II signs the *Treaty of Breda*, securing an alliance with the Scottish Covenanters.

Sponsored by **CrosswordCheats.com**
Learn to solve cryptic crosswords!
http://crosswordcheats.com

Problems

Economic Problems	- bad harvests of 1649 and 1650, created social distress.
	- inherited a large debt.
	- problems maintaining a large army.
Direction	- lack of clear political direction, or purpose.
Power Structure	- lack of clarity between the Council of State and the Rump.
Unpopu-larity	- high levels of taxation
	- centralisation of government
	- JPs refused to accept the Republic's legitimacy.
Religious Radicalism	- the execution had brought ideas of a second-coming of Christ.
NMA	- radicalism in the NMA (level-lers)
	- created problems with the gentry, royalists and presby-terians.

Legal

the legal system was over-complex, slow and expensive.
reformers called on the Rump to simplify legal procedures, and curb the power of lawyers.
out of 211 MPs, 50 were from the legal profession - therefore reluctant to make changes.
the Rump did not reduce legal fees or provide easier access to the courts.
english was introduced in the courts, rather than latin.
more lenient punishment for debtors.

Dissolve of the Rump

after 1651, the Rump slowly stopped implementing legislation - it intended to dissolve itself in 1654.
20th April 1653, Cromwell and the army marched to Westminster, and told the sitting MPs 'in the name of God, go!'.
the Rump was replaced by the Nominated Assembly (the Barebones Parliament) and other constitutional experiments.

Sponsored by **CrosswordCheats.com**
Learn to solve cryptic crosswords!
http://crosswordcheats.com