

Oratore, Bellatore, Laboratore: Anglo-Saxons to Wars of Roses

1. 1066 and All That: Conquest, Colony, Feudalism
 - a. Normandy and Duke William
 - i. Norman Conquest of 1066 a clear break, much or more so as the Viking invasions. But Duke William and his followers did not want to be seen as invaders; William claimed to be the lawful heir of Edward
 - ii. Normandy: lower Seine, towards Brittany
 - b. The "English" Kings (first and last), 899-1066
 - i. Tenth century very much the Age of Wessex.
 - ii. Aethelred the Unready (978-1016) ran into problems because of renewed and violent attacks from the Danes after 980. Also not all that popular with its own subjects: heavy taxation, military-style government, an expensive "reformed" monasticism.
 - iii. Under King Cnut, 1016-1035, England becomes in effect a colony of Denmark.
 - iv. 1042, Aethelred's son, Edward the Confessor, returns from Normandy and becomes king.
 - c. The Invasion
 - i. William prepares for invasion by propaganda and diplomacy. Appeals to Rome. Pope sends consecrated banner (holy war).
 - ii. 5-6,000 men (half knights, rest infantry, archers)
 - iii. Problem of two invasions: Stamford Bridge and Hastings.
 - iv. Battle (Oct.)
 - v. March to London; establishment of new kingdom
 - d. The Norman Basis of Strength
 - i. Norman success creates a French-speaking ascendancy throughout the British Isles. Two-class society.
 - ii. England a "frontier," to be colonized. Instruments of empire: the castle, the Church, and the borough. **the Castle:** In England, the Normans built c. 1,000 castles (explain motte and bailey). In Wales, 300, esp. in newly subjugated areas to North.
 - iii. **the Church:** celibacy, bishops, parishes.
 - iv. **the boroughs:** Norman colonists introduced into towns; also 40 new towns (1066-1130), and 18 in Wales; 50 (1191-1230).
 - e. Feudalism
 - i. As one Norman of the thirteenth century noted: "his ancestors came with William the Bastard and conquered their lands by the sword."
 - ii. explain lords and vassals, homage (perform) and fealty (swear), feudal aids and incidents (relief, escheat, wardship, marriage)
 - iii. Also related is the manor. Villeins not "tied" to land, but their legal status bound with the manor.
 - f. Domesday to Anarchy, 1086-1154

- i. William the Conqueror receives fatal wound in 1087, characteristically, for Normans and Angevins that follow, fighting in France
- ii. Govt. develops under Henry I (Justiciar/Exchequer)
- g. Conclusion
 - i. "With the coming of the Normans, communities of the British Isles were brought together at the aristocratic level, in Church and state, within a single cultural and political ascendancy which looked towards France. For nearly three centuries a French-speaking colonial elite imposed its own cultural norms, with the castle, the borough, the reformed Church and new-style episcopal government as their mainstays." (Kearney, 1989: 87)
 - ii. Henry (of Anjou) II, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Gascony, Richard Strongbow and Irish, Pale, Southern and Northern Wales, Edward I and the Stone of Scone: shift from focus on France to focus on Celtic fringe only completely at the end of 100 years war in mid-15th century
- h. Medieval Government
 - i. King-centered, not institution- nor place- centered.
 - (1) Kings as peripatetic
 - (a) Henry II (1154-1189) spent over half his reign outside of England
 - (b) royal court? *Coram rege* follows king
 - (i) Only later are courts set up at Westminster (such as Court of Common Pleas)
 - (2) Ideal of kings is to be a military leader not an administrator
 - (a) Henry I named "beauclerc" (good scribe), because he could almost write his name.
 - (b) Henry II first fully literate King since 1066.
 - (i) But Henry II had bow legs, constant travel
 - ii. Kings and Barons
 - (1) United by code (chivalry, heraldry)
 - (2) United and divided by feudalism (lords and vassals)
 - (3) Tension of whose law is dominant in localities
 - (a) baronial courts vs. King's courts
 - (4) Barons chafe under strong kings, view weak kings as golden ages
 - iii. Kings and the Church
 - (1) Are bishops servants of the papacy or the monarchy?
 - (a) Free Church promise by Henry I
 - (b) Beckett controversy
 - (i) Constitutions (decrees) of Clarendon (hunting lodge), 1164
 - (ii) assassination, 1170
 - (iii) solution
 - (2) Relations with Jews (faced with growing Christian self-awareness)
 - (a) Jews and the Crown

- (b) Jews and the Barons
 - (c) anti-Jewish riots
 - (d) Expulsion under Edward I, 1290
 - iv. Norman/Angevin/Plantagenet Empire
 - (1) Draw of France and the continent
 - (2) Celtic Fringe
 - (a) When was Wales?
 - (b) Intermittent occupation of Scotland
 - (c) Longer term Anglo-Norman occupation of East-Central Ireland
 - (i) the Pale
 - (3) Government at home
 - (a) Privy Council and monarchy at national level
 - (b) JPs and the lieutenancy at the county level (Quarter Sessions, Assizes)
 - (c) constables and churchwardens and JPs at the parish level
- 2. Role of Church in formation of England and English Culture (Bede, Dioceses, Norman Church, Regular and Ordered Clergy, Cistericians, mendicants, Mortmain)
 - a. Beliefs
 - i. Circa thirteenth century, shift from awe/ritual to emotion/dynamism
 - ii. growing devotion to Virgin Mary
 - (1) emphasis on love, hope, compassion
 - iii. learning of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), *Summa Theologica*, fusion of reason and Christian revelation (logic and faith)
 - iv. Popular beliefs obviously not as highly systematic
 - (1) pilgrimages, holy images, relics
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Papacy: height during 11th Century (After Pope Gregory VII (1073-85), and Gregorian Reform Movement)
 - ii. Two types of clergy: secular and regular clerks (latter means those who had taken vows to be regulated by the rules of a specific order)
 - c. Medieval heresy
 - i. little beyond John Wycliffe and Lollards, second half of 14th century
- 3. A Society of Orders
 - a. *oratore, bellatore, laboratore*
 - i. fitting into the Chain of Being
 - b. Universities
 - i. Oxford (from 1200)
 - ii. *universitas* (guild of masters); college (guild of students)
 - c. Towns and Trade
 - i. Guilds
 - ii. Merchants
 - iii. Importance of wool trade and of London

- d. Rural society
 - i. manor
 - ii. The Black Death and the Golden Age of the English Agricultural Laborer
 - iii. Feudalism vs. Manorialism
- e. Disorder
 - i. Riots
 - ii. Poverty
 - iii. Women
 - iv. Satan