

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