



Otázka: Early Kingdoms, Pre-Conquest England and the Normans

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): Alen

The Romans in Britain: Gaius Julius Caesar, Tiberius Claudius, Boudicca, Gnaeus Julius Agricola;

The Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings: The Dark Ages, Religion, Whitby Synod, Alfred the Great, The Danelaw, The Danegeld, Edward the Confessor;

The Normans: William I, The Domesday Book

The Original Inhabitants

Stonehenge (approx. 2000 - 3000 BC ^(no written record), Salisbury Plain)

- it took approx. 1000 years to build
 - built in three stages: circular bank, wooden parts added to the interiors, ...
- huge, heavy stones
 - brought there from Wales, by land and rivers
- purposes
 - religious reasons: druids worshiped gods
 - astronomical reasons: solstice, calendar
 - healing centre: complicated, 1 main temple, 16 other around
- modern age: until 1877 no reconstructions
 - today it is reconstructed, cant go inside



Characteristics

- rich in: gold and tin mining, trade with the Mediterranean
- invaders: red hair is common in the UK = fair and dark people
 - from Mediterranean (dark skin - *omg, racism*)
 - from Rhineland (Bronze-Age people)
 - from Eastern Europe - the Celts (Iron-Age people), (fair hair, skin → *Áda*)
 - Scottish, Welsh language - Celtic origins

The Romans in Britain

Gaius Julius Caesar

- pretext for the invasion:
 - to gain glory of victory (*like Mr Gru, kind of*)
 - to show his power
 - first one to occupy the country
- 55 BC: first expedition, not succesful (*tdddm*)
- 54 BC: succesful mission! yay!, but Ceasar didnt get gold so he wasnt satisfied
 - boats - unsuitable for stromy english channel

Tiberius Claudius 43 AD

- 1. needed to consolidate his power
 - he sent general Vespasian to invate in 43 AD → victory
 - he never really conquered Highlands
- in his time - Ceaser s maxim: „Divide and Rule“
- Methods of pacifying Britannia:
 - co-operation withlocal chieftains (marrige)
 - imigration - veteran s colonies
 - humiliation



- Problems: taking land illegally, humiliating treatment

Boudicca 61 AD

- woman, queen from a tribe called "Iceni"
- after her husband died, she was supposed to be the queen and rule
 - the Romans refused a woman queen
 - she gathered an army and killed every Roman she found (RIOT)
 - not successful, defeated, lack of unity
 - she and her daughters poisoned themselves
 - a statue of her is in front of the Big Ben

Gnaeus Julius Agricola

- the governor of Britannia, AD 74 – 84
- completed the conquest of north-west Britannia
- established a system of roads and forts (some still remain)
 - placed garrisons on important sites
- educated the sons of British chiefs in the Roman curriculum – so they are under the right influence
- official language: written – Latin, spoken – ?
- the landscape was transformed → new towns, open spaces

The Roman Spa/Bath in the town of Bath

- the system of heating – air
- frigidarium – the cool pool
- water came from springs
- statue of goddess of wisdom and healing – Minerva



Building walls

- he never defeated Scotland
- AD 122 Hadrian's wall – defensive wall
 - 6m high, 3m wide
 - every few miles a fort
 - milecastle – soldiers waited there (*for some action I suppose*)
- Antonine Wall
- other protection – holes in ground → fall and die!

The End of the Province

- 3rd century – territories slipped out of their control (*yolo*)
 - they wanted their own kingdoms
- the migration period (The Great Migration of Tribes)
 - „Huns“ migrated → they pushed, defeated other tribes
 - The Visigoths and The Ostrogoths asked to stay in the Roman Empire (was it empire?), wanted to be federated 375
 - problems: want their own power
- in AD 402 soldiers were needed in the continent
 - meanwhile Britain attacked by: Picts (north), Scots (Hibernia=Ireland), Saxons (across sea)
- AD 410 – ruling problems – the civitates of Britain sent a letter to the emperor, asking for help → response: „look to your own defences“ → **OFFICIAL END**

The Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings:

The Dark Ages: term that describes the period of time between 500 – 1000 AD, after the invasion of the barbarians → urban population declined, lack of central power, development of feudal system → decline in Church structures because of the feudalistic pressure

– Angles, Saxons, Jutes – Germanic tribes, wanted to invade England

- no contemporary written sources: language Old English, the Venerable Bede, The

- Anglo Saxos chronicle, Law codes, charters, Beowulf, biographies
- after the Roman withdrawal
 - The Picts and Scots could have a full advantage
 - but no, they were in a war with each other, until the 9th century
 - in 5th century Britain was invaded by Angles, Saxons, Jutes (northern Europe) (*AD 300-700 general movement of Germanic people around Europe*)
 - invaded to protect a territory against the Picts, reward-land in Kent – settled
 - only one, temporary check – King Arthur won over the Saxons
 - thousands of native britons and Celts fled to Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Ireland, but almost destroyed
- Anglo – Saxons: small farming cummunities, strong family and tribal units, loyal to the king
 - the chief deitis – Woden the god of war, Thor the god of thunder
 - Brittannia replaces by England (Angle-land)
- 7th century – start to build towns, increasing trade, new order of kingdom:
 - **deптarchy** = divided into 7 prncipal Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: East Anglia, Kent, Essex (East of London, east of saxons), Sussex (coastal south east brittain), **Northumbria**^{7th}, **Mercia**^{8th}, **Wessex**^{9th} → these 3 competed for supremecy

Religion: official religion of the Roman Empire was Christianity

- Celtic deities continued to be worshiped alongside Christ
- the heal then Saxons almost completely erased Christianity from England
 - only in Corneal and Wales Christianity survived
- later Roman, Scottish and Irish missionaries brought Christianity back
 - *597 Canterbury – ecclesiastical capital, conversion to christianity*
 - Witby synod 664 at Whitby Abbey – the Roman rites were adopted by English Church
 - northern Celtic Church + southern Roman Church = united, started to follow the Roman model



The Vikings 860 - 1066

- new invaders, from the present-day Norway, Sweden, Denmark
 - skilled in sailing and fighting (scandinavian seafarers), traders, adventurers, germanic language (Saxons+vikings – tongues formed basis of English)
 - cruel gods: Odin and Thor (sacrificing to reach the after life – killed lots of people)
- reached Britain and Ireland (end of 8th century)
- 865 began the Great Invasion in Northumbria, East Anglia
 - within 10 years nearly all of Anglo Saxon kingdoms under Viking control – East Anglia, Northumbria, York, Mercia, NOT WESSEX
- The Danegeld – set of legal term (Saxons, Vikings) tax
 - to stop the Viking raids (paid to Viking from English kings, it increased)
 - Alfred the Great – defeated Vikings, Wessex successful under him, (871 – 899)
- revived learning (+ he was literate – could read, write)
- insisted that clergy should learn Latin properly
- establishment of a strong army, navy
- constructing fortresses
- building up fleets of ships
- fortified towns (burghs) → flourishing trading centres
 - taxes → protection
- updated the West Wessex Laws (prisons, judges were forced to learn to read, write – or resign)
- buried in Winchester
- Anglocynn = the English folk
 - Alfred captured London 886, was accepted as king in all the 7 kingdoms

- England was partitioned between Saxons and Vikings
 - East Anglia + a part of Northumbria = the Danelaw (Viking sector)
 - accepted christianity → easier fusion with the local population
- 982 new Danish army invade again
- until 1013 the country was ruled by the Anglo-Saxons
 - Vikings attack again, Saxons weakened
 - King of the Vikings – Canute, ruler 1016 of England, Viking Scotland, Denmark, Scandinavia → the first Viking King of of all the England
 - after his death empire fell into pieces
 - England still ruled by his sons till 1043
 - when the Danish Royal line died out, Edward the Confessor became king
 - the last Anglo Saxon king
 - saint, supported the Normans (mom)
 - founded Westminster Abbey (buried)
 - his family has to exile, Edith (wife) was locked up in monastery
 - no kids, died in 1066

The Normans 1066 – 1154

- in 1066 3 men claimed the throne
 - William, Duke of Normandy,
 - Harold, Earl of Wessex, Anglo-Saxon, the comettee „witum“ decided he was fit
 - Harond Hardrada, King of Norway, the next one in line to the Danish throne
- Harald Hardrada invaded the North of England, Viking
 - a the Battle of Stamford Bridge – was defeated (Harald * Harold) 28th September
 - some soldiars them joined the Abglo-Saxon army to go

fight to south with the Normans

- couple of days later – William (duke of Normandy) invaded Pavensey Bay, Sussex
- *the Saxons – foot soldiars armed with axes and spears*
- *Normans had advantage – calvalry, descended from Vikings (from northern France)*
- The Normans defeated the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings 14th october 1066
 - Harold died on the battlefield
 - William was crowned at Westminster Abbey
- Bayeux Tapestry: embroidered cloth, 70 m * 50 cm, depicts the events of the Battla of Hastings

William I

- William subdued England
 - many saxon nobles refused to accept him as a king → rebelled
 - unprisings until 1071, last rebelation was put down
- William wanted to make raids on Scotland, was never accepted as their overlord
 - had control over Wales by 1100 (some heavy uprising there though)
- French aristocracy: new language, strong central government
 - top of the sociaty – king, nobles, barons
 - then – lords living in manors / castles
 - the rest
- new social system – feudalism: based on a complex chain and duties, holding of lands and the resulting relationship between the lord and the vassal
 - socially governed – ownership, army service, taxes
- after 1066: castles became frequent, important = strongholds, control the country from
 - early castles – wooden, later rebuilt from stone
 - the Tower of London
- The Domesday Book, domesday = the day of judgement
 - 1086, record of population, counted every weapon, summary of everything, showed how rich each area was → demand taxes accordingly
 - William the Conqueror ruled Normandy and England
 - difficult to divide attention between scattered, diverse



possessions

- after he died: split inheritance: left Normandy to son Robert
 - England to son William I- after his death, brother Henry I. took over
 - tried to annex Normandy → Robert was beaten, condemned to imprisonment until his death
 - Henry was the master of Normandy and England
 - powerful government – most centrally organized government in Europe
 - died → his son drowned → 20 years impovise → Henry II