

Medieval Kingdoms: The English

Background

- Foreign Rule
 - o Romans
 - 43 B.C.E. – 410 C.E.
 - Established system of roads and cities
 - Established Christian Church
 - o Saxons
 - 410 – 800 C.E.
 - Brought in European Farming Techniques
 - Developed Language
 - Edward the Confessor
 - d. 1066
 - Last of Saxon Kings
 - Mother was Norman
 - o Vikings
 - 793-1066 C.E.
 - Mixed traditions with locals
- Home Rule
 - o King Arthur
 - Semi-Mythical warrior in the 6th Century who defended England from the Saxon Invasion
 - Seen as a father figure of England
 - Inspiration for Britons to establish state
- Norman Rule
 - o 1066 C.E.
 - Edward the confessor dies
 - Has William of Normandy as Heir
 - Anglo-Saxon Assembly names Harold Godwinson as successor
 - King of England faces Invasions from two fronts
 - Harold Godwinson head of Britons
 - Norwegians attack from the North
 - o Norwegian Harold Hardrada Attacking
 - o Battle of Stamford Bridge
 - England Victory
 - Normans Attack from the South
 - o Battle of Hastings
 - William of Normandy Attacking
 - Harold rushes his Saxon army south but battle is a disaster
 - Harold takes arrow to throat
 - William given moniker “the Conqueror”



Feudal England

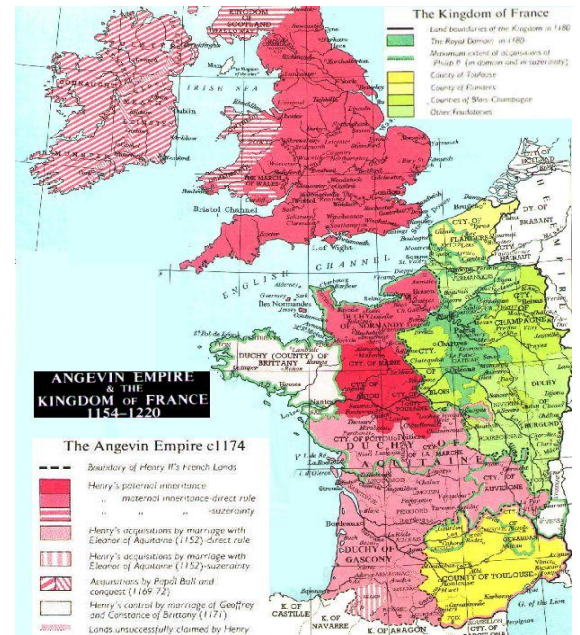
- William the Conqueror
 - o Reforms
 - Introduced Feudal System to England
 - Established capital at Old Sarum
 - Uniting all of England under him
 - Increased power of lords and church by granting larger fiefs
 - Increased loyalty
 - Continued practice of parleying

- Monitored growth of nobles
 - Forced them to swear allegiance to him
 - Monitored who built castles
 - The Domesday Book
 - 1086 C.E.
 - complete Census of the Kingdom
 - Used it as a way of figuring out a tax collection system
 - Death
 - Son Henry I takes over
 - Dies Heirless

Plantagenet Dynasty

- Henry II

- 1133-1189 C.E.
- Autocrat
- Empire builder
 - Western France
 - Start of French and English Rivalry
 - Parts of Ireland
 - Scotland becomes vassal
- Son of count of Anjou and Matilda
 - Matilda was Henry I's daughter
- Established system of Royal Justice
 - Common Law foundation for English Legal System
- Established system of Royal Courts
 - Increased Royal Control of matters of law
 - Constitution of Clarendon
 - Placed clergy under civil law
 - King allowed to select Bishops
 - Thomas Becket rebels
 - Assassinated 1170
- Introduced Jury system to England
- Married to Eleanor of Aquitaine
 - Angevin
 - English-French Empire
 - Spawned cultural golden age
 - Eleanor patron of the arts
 - Especially Literature
 - Had 5 Children
 - Most famous of which were Richard (Lionhearted) and John
 - Very headstrong
 - Worked with French against her husband
 - Led 3 surviving sons in Rebellion



- Richard the Lion-Hearted

- Son of Henry II succeeds throne
- 1189 – 1199 C.E.

- Increased taxes
 - Pay for his crusades
 - Also his ransom
 - Pay for wars vs. France
- John
 - 1199-1216 C.E.
 - Seen as very weak ruler
 - Loss to the Pope
 - Disagreement over Bishop of Canterbury
 - led to excommunication of John
 - England made a fief of the Papacy
 - Loss to the French
 - French had Pope's blessing
 - Lost regions of Anjou and Normandy
 - Loss to the Nobles
 - People in outright rebellion
 - Origins of the legend of Robin Hood
 - Forced to sign Magna Carta
 - Restricts power of King over nobility
 - John ignored it as much as possible
 - So did just about every king
 - Basis for modern English Law

