

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-1088

Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest

Anglo-Saxon society	
The social system	At the bottom of the hierarchy were slaves (around 10% of population). Slaves could be bought and sold and were treated as property. Next were peasant farmers, who rented small farms. Some of their produce they had to give to their local lord (if they didn't, they could have their right to use the land taken away). Some peasants were called ceorls and they were those who could go and work for a different lord if they wanted to. Then came thegns, who were local lords and lived in a manor house and were the aristocracy and warrior class. Then came the earls who were the most important men in the country after the King.
Changing social status	Your position in Anglo-Saxon society could change. For example, if a peasant did well, obtained five 'hides' of land and paid a tax, they could become a thegn. Slaves could be freed by their masters, and peasants could sell themselves into slavery if they were particularly desperate.
Powers of the King	In 1066, the King was Edward the Confessor, the most powerful man in the country. He had a number of powers such as law-making, controlling production of money, military power and taxation. The people were expected to obey the law and use the king's coins and land owners were expected to pay taxes and provide and equip fighters for the army. King Edward, despite not being a warrior King, was a respected law-maker and pious (religious) which helped him
Limits to the King's power	1- The Danelaw (see key terms). They accepted Edward's rule but wanted to be ruled by local men and to follow own laws 2 –Earl Godwin of Wessex. Godwin, though his land and thegns, was as wealthy and powerful as the King. This led to tensions. For example, Godwin had been ordered by Edward to punish the people of Dover but Godwin refused. Edward, with help from two other important earls, forced Godwin into exile. He returned the next year (1051) with a fleet and an army and asked to have his earldom restored. Edward was forced to agree.
The Witan	A council of important aristocrats (earls and archbishops) who advised the King. It discussed possible threats from foreign powers, religious affairs and land disputes and how to settle them. It also played an important role in deciding who next king would be
Earldoms	Created by King Cnut in 1015, the Earldoms were crucial to running the country. They were given many powers of the king. For example: Economic - Collecting taxes (they received a third of all the taxes they collected) Legal - Overseeing justice and legal punishments in their earldom (though they couldn't make new laws) Military power - they were lords to hundreds of thegns and also maintained an elite bodyguard of professional soldiers called generals. Their power was in part dependent on the power of the king. For example, under Cnut, obedience was expected. Under Edward, however, resistance was frequent.
Local government	Earldoms were split into shires which had social, political, economic and military functions. Social : own court to try cases and give punishments. Political : Shire reeve who was the King's representative, collected revenues, taxes and fines. Economic : through the burh. Military : each shire had to provide troops for the fyrd (army and fleet).
Economy	England was very wealthy with well-organised farming and land that was easy to farm (e.g. over 6000 mills for grinding grain into flour). Silver coins used which were valuable and bought from Germany. England must have had enough to sell to Germany in exchange for the silver.
Religion	Anglo-Saxon society was highly religious. The Church was highly influential because people thought that they would be punished in the after-life if they did not live a religious life. King Edward believed he was an agent of God.

Rising against Earl Tostig

Background and causes	Tostig Godwinson, brother of Harold Godwinson, was Earl of Northumbria (large Northern Earldom). It was part of the Danelaw. Causes included: high taxation , Tostig being a southerner , Tostig ordering assassinations of rivals and not defending Northumbria against Scottish attacks .
Response	Harold blamed Tostig and Tostig claimed that the rebellion was actually against Edward. Edward commanded an army to be raised against the rising but his command was not obeyed. Edward had to back down and accept the rebel's demands so he put Morcar in as Earl of Northumbria.
Significance	Shows how the power of the king could be challenged if the king was weak and it was in the interests of the major Earls to work together

Key terms

Anglo-Saxons	People who had settled in England after the Romans left Britain. They came from different parts of what is now Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands
Aristocracy	The people in society who are seen as being more important because of their wealth and power, which they have often inherited from their parents and ancestors
Ceorls	'Free' peasant farmers not tied to their land
Earls	Highest in Anglo-Saxon aristocracy. The word came from the Danish 'jarl' who were chiefs who ruled a region on behalf of the King.
Danelaw	The part of England where Danish (Viking) power had been strongest and which had kept some of its Danish laws instead of Anglo-Saxon ones.
Fyrd	The men of the Anglo-Saxon army and fleet. Every five hides provided one man for the fyrd
Shire reeves (or sheriff)	Were the king's local government officials and they worked within the earldoms to look after the king's interests and carry out his instructions
Burh	Fortified [protected] towns, where all trade over a certain amount had to take place (to ensure tax was paid)
Geld tax	A tax on land, originally to pay off the Vikings (Danegald). It went to the king
Wergild	To stop blood feuds, this was money paid directly to a victim's family as a punishment. Archbishops worth 3,600 shillings, ceorl worth 20 shillings.
Hue and cry	Everyone's responsibility to catch a criminal
Coronation	Ceremony where a king is crowned

Rival claimants for the throne

Harold Godwinson (c1022-1066)	Said he should be King as he was Edward's brother-in-law and claimed Edward promised him the throne. Had support from earls and thegns, and was the wealthiest and most powerful man in England. He was chosen by the Witan and his coronation took place on the day Edward was buried, January 6 th , 1066.
Edgar Aethling (c1051-c1126)	Directly descended from King Edward (his nephew). Teenager when King Edward died and people thought that England was about to be attacked by Scandinavia and Normandy and felt it would be too risky
Harald Hardrada (1015-1066)	King of Norway and Viking warrior. Known as 'Hard Ruler' [Hardrada]. Claimed that the Viking King of England, King Cnut (1016-1035), had made a secret deal which would put him on the throne. Tostig Godwinson supported the viking against his own brother
William of Normandy (c1028-1087)	Duke of Normandy and claimed that Edward had promised him the throne, which was then confirmed after Harold's embassy to Normandy in 1064. Supported by the Pope.

Battle of Gate Fulford (20th September)

Who was involved?	-Hardrada's fleet (200-300 ships carrying about 9000 Vikings) -Morcar and elder brother Edwin, and Mercia
What happened?	Crushing defeat for Edwin and Morcar. Took place at Gate Fulford, outside York as Edwin and Morcar decided on open battle
Why did Hardrada win?	-Outnumbered (probably 6000 to about 9000) -Hardrada and his housecarls were better prepared and tactically smarter (e.g. Hardrada left best soldiers to attack from side) -Edwin and Morcar stationed their army with marshland to their backs. They had nowhere to go

Battle of Stamford Bridge (25th September)

Who was involved?	Harold Godwinson, Hardrada and Tostig
What happened?	Harold Godwinson learned of hostage deal and decided to sabotage it. He was successful. Hardrada and Tostig were killed and only 24 of Hardrada's longships returned (out of over 200)
Why did Godwinson win?	-The Viking army had left their armour on their ships -Harold took Hardrada and Tostig my surprise -Harada's army had fought a battle five days before -Harold's housecarls broke Viking shield wall

Battle of Hastings (14th October 1066)

Who was involved?	-Godwinson (6-7000 men, fyrdsmen and housecarls) and William (800 knights, 4-6000 foot soldiers)
What happened?	-Harold, despite not achieving surprise, got to the top of Caldbec Hill -William's archers, foot soldiers and cavalry fail -Rumour spreads William has died. He takes his helmet off to prove he's alive. -Normans use feigned retreat. Some of Harold's army chase them and get surrounded. -Harold, Gyrrh and Leofwine remain at the top but become heavily outnumbered and are killed
Why did William win?	-Tactics (feigned retreat) which broke shield wall -William leadership (e.g. crossing channel with horses, building castles) -Harold's leadership (e.g. Rushing from north to south without waiting in London) -Luck (Hardrada's invasion, changing wind)

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William I in power: securing the kingdom

How did William establish control	
Edgar Aethling	After William's victory, the Witan elected Edgar Aethling as King. Earls Edwin and Morcar and Archbishop of Canterbury (Stigand) and Archbishop of York (Ealdred) supported him.
March on London	The Anglo-Saxons didn't attack William when he was at Dover. Instead, they waited in London. William therefore had to march on London to force their submission. On the way, the Normans destroyed homes and farms with these towns surrendering. However, London was a fortified [protected] and did not surrender and therefore William went to Berkhamstead.
Submission at Berkhamstead	When William reached Berkhamstead, he was met by Edgar Aethling, Archbishop Ealdred, Edwin and Morcar. They submitted to William, gave him the crown, swore oaths to obey him and gave him hostages to guarantee their promises
Marcher Earldoms	Wales had been a threat to Edward the Confessor's rule and William wanted the border between England and Wales to be more secure. He set up the marcher earldoms centred on Hereford, Shrewsbury and Chester. These were different to other earldoms as they were smaller, exempted from tax and had the right to build castles. This was to ensure they were easier to control and defend.
Motte and Bailey Castles	An estimated 500 castles were built during William's reign. They were built in strategic locations (e.g. near river crossings), used to dominate territory and were a symbol of Norman power. Key features of the motte and bailey castles included access into the castle being controlled through a gatehouse and sometimes a draw bridge, a strong wooden tower called the keep as a lookout point and the motte being a mound of earth which was fire proof. In rebellious areas, they were placed at 32 km intervals as Norman troops could travel that far in a day and therefore deal with unrest quickly.
Difference between castles and burhs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Burhs were public, castles were private -Burhs were big and enclosed the whole town, castles were small and easy to defend -Burhs were difficult to get into but easy to set on fire, motte and bailey castles were better protected -Burhs had been to protect Anglo-Saxons, castles were used to control them
Rewarding loyalty	William needed to reward his own Norman followers such as the mercenaries that he promised money. To reward them, he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sent rich gifts to the pope and church -Set a geld tax on Anglo-Saxons -Declared that as King, all land belonged to him -Gave his half-brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, all of Kent -Gave William FitzOsbern the Isle of Wight, Hampshire and much of the west -Gave Robert of Montgomery Essex and Sussex (and was regent when King William was away)

Revolt of Edwin and Morcar in 1068		Edgar and rebellions in the North, 1069	
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Edwin's resentment over William's broken promise he would marry William's daughter -Bad government (Odo and Willitiam FitzOsbern's illegal land grabs and allowing their soldiers to rape Anglo-Saxon women) -Morcar's resentment over his earldom being reduced -Geld tax 	Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After Gospatric betrayed William in revolt of Edwin and Morcar he replaced him with loyal supporter, Robert Cumin who attacked northern towns and villages -Anglo-Saxons got revenge and slaughtered Cumin's men in Durham and killed Cumin -This triggered other uprisings and Edgar's return
Events	1068: Edwin & Morcar flee from William's court. They revolt supported by Edgar, Waltheof and Gospatric. William took his forces north and build castles as they went. He takes control of Warwick and Nottingham and Edwin and Morcar surrender. York sends citizens as hostages to show obedience. Morcar flees to Scotland, others beg for mercy.	Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Edgar and his supporters came down from Scotland and attacked a Norman sheriff and his garrison (soldiers) -William responded by couting the rebels with the whole city of York lade to waste -Edgar escaped back to Scotland -A new castle was built with FitzOsbern as its castellan and William returned to Winchester for Easter
Failure	Failed because: rebels were divided, castles were successful, the rebellion may have just been a 'test' to see response Outcomes included: Edgar going to Scotland meant it became a new centre of rebellion against William,, Edwin and Morcar were kept as 'guests' in William's court to control them		

Key terms	
Submission	Formal acceptance of and surrender to authority
Geld tax	
March	Anglo-Saxon term for border
Motte	The mound of earth the castle stood on
Bailey	Outer part of the castle, surrounding the motte and protected by a fence or wall
Castellan	The governor of a castle and its surrounding lands (castlery); its lord or a steward of the local lord
Guerrilla Warfare	When small bands attack a larger force by surprise and then disappear back into local population
Genocide	Deliberate attempt to murder an entire group of people
Tenants-in-chief	Large landholders of Norman England who held their land directly from the king.
Forfeit	To lose something as punishment
Vassal	Someone who held their land in exchange for services to their Norman lord
Anglo-Danish attack	
Events	In 1069, King Sweyn of Denmark assembled a fleet which arrived on the English coast in September. They met with Edgar's troops and attacked York on the 21 st September. 3000 Normans were killed, both castles were destroyed and all the plunder was carried back to Danish fleet. After victory in York, the Danes sailed down the Humber to Lincolnshire (difficult to access by land because of swamps and difficult to attack by sea as Viking 'navy' were stronger). Anglo-Saxon rebels used guerrilla warfare tactics.
William's response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -He paid the Danes a large amount of money to leave -Embarked upon 'Harrying of the North'

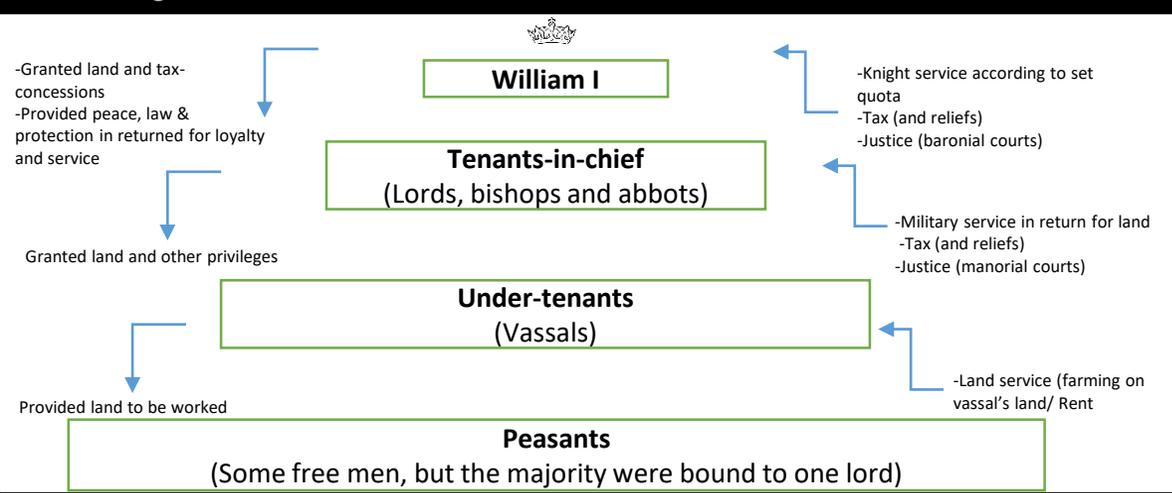
Hereward the Wake and rebellion at Ely (1070-71)	
Events	In 1070, King Sweyn and a Danish fleet returned. They went to the Isle of Ely (marshland and part of Danelaw). He was joined by Hereward, a local thegn who had been exiled by Edward but returned in 1069 to find his land given to a Norman. He was fighting a guerrilla war against the Normans. The Danes and Hereward raided Peterborough Abbey together. However, the Danes just took the treasure and went back to Denmark with it. Morcar joined Hereward to defend the Isle of Ely William, possibly through bribing local monks, was able to find a safe way through the marshes. Hereward escaped, Morcar was imprisoned for the rest of his life, and Edwin was dead by 1071.

Harrying of the North	
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Killing of Robert Cumin -Failure to stop guerrilla tactics -Refusal of north to accept William -Danelaw areas encouraged Danish invasion
Immediate impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Estimated 100,000 people died -Crops and seeds destroyed leading to starvation -Homes destroyed leading to people freezing to death -Mass migration of people to other places -Reports of cannibalism
Long-term impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No further uprisings in Northumbria -Domesday Book: Yorkshire: 60 per cent waste -Many Anglo-Danes killed meaning north no longer a suitable place for Danish invasion -Key turning point as William now wanted to replace Anglo-Saxon aristocracy rather than win them over
Landownership	
Landholders	Normans replaced Anglo-Saxons as major landholders. Over half of all land was owned by 190 tenants-in-chief. Only two were Anglo-Saxon. Anglo-Saxons lost their land in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Forfeit (see key terms) -New earldoms (e.g. marcher earldoms) -Illegal land grabs
Land ownership	<p>Anglo-Saxon landownership: -bookland (lords given to followers in exchange for charter (document). This could be passed on</p> <p>-Leases: land loaned for set amount of time</p> <p>Norman landownership: -all land owned by king, -Anglo-Saxons had to pay King for their land, Normans did not, -tenants-in-chief could re-allocate land when thegn died to ensure loyalty</p>
Royal power	
Oaths	Public declarations of loyalty (e.g. before possible Viking invasion in 1086)
Successor	William emphasised his right to be king through relation to Edward
Ceremonies	Christian ceremonies to emphasise royal power (e.g. Easter

Revolt of the Earls, 1075	
Conspirators	Ralph de Gael (Norman), Roger de Breteuil (Norman and son of FitzOsbern), Waltheof (Saxon)
Causes	Resentments included loss of land (e.g. Roger after FitzOsbern's death), privileges and power. Opportunities included William's absence, powerful allies (Danish), and Anglo-Saxon rebelliousness.
Events	Ralph married Emma, Roger's sister. Here they plotted against William. It failed because Lanfranc (regent while William was away) excommunicated (cut off) Roger from the Church, Normans and Anglo-Saxons worked together against the rebels and the 200 Danish ships arrived too late.
Defeat	Ralph escaped to Brittany, Waltheof fled abroad until William tricked him into thinking he could return where he was imprisoned and later executed and Roger was imprisoned for life

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Norman England, 1066-1088



Tenants-in-chief	
Military	Expected to fight with the king, lead a band of knights, defend their fiefs, and put down opposition to Norman rule
Social	As they provided knights for the king, they also decided how land was distributed. They organised the transfer of landholdings from Anglo-Saxons to Normans and would have courts which would sort out land disputes
Economic	They owed the king a share of all the revenue produced by their fiefs
Political	Served on royal council, advising the king when he requested it. They also had to provide food and accommodation for the king and his court as he travelled the country.

Knights		Nature of feudalism	
Number	Estimated 6000 knights, each serving up to 40 days of knight service to the king	Relief	Under Anglo-Saxons, land would be passed on to heirs. In Norman England, heirs had to demonstrate loyalty to, and pay, the king for the right to use the land. The king would set the relief (payment). He'd ask loyal followers for very little money but disobedient high reliefs so they couldn't afford the land.
Importance	-Most effective military unit at the time (especially against footsoldiers) and used against Viking invaders and Wales and Scotland -Used to suppress opposition in England with castles used as bases -Many knights were also lord lords and replaced thegns as under-tenants to the tenants-in-chief	Homage	Tenant-in-chief would kneel before king and say, 'I become your man', demonstrating their loyalty. Similarly, tenants would perform homage to tenants-in-chief
		Labour	Labour service in exchange for land (e.g. certain amounts of food)
		Forfeiture	If land user didn't provide service expected, they could forfeit the land (or pay a fine) in punishment

Importance of the Church	
Royal Council	As bishops and abbots were literate and well-educated, they were advisers to the king and often on Royal Council
Laws	Bishops often developed laws for the king and advised him on legal matters
Regent	The most senior Church leaders (archbishops) sometimes acted as king's representative in negotiations and Archbishop Lanfranc acted as William's regent

Key terms	
Fief	Land held by a vassal in return for a service. Also called a 'feud' which is why the system is called 'feudalism'
Knight service	The duty to provide a mounted knight to the king in exchange for land. The vassal had to provide the right armour, weapons and equipment to carry out the service
Homage	Public demonstration of allegiance/ loyalty
Relief	Payment and demonstration of loyalty to king in exchange for use of ancestor's land
Regent	Someone appointed to act for a monarch when they are underage, unable to rule because of illness or out of the country
Demesne	Land that the king or tenant kept for own use rather than granting it as a fief to an under-tenant

'Normanisation' of the Church	
Initial continuity	At first, William kept Anglo-Saxon church leaders (e.g. Ealdred, Archbishop of York).
Later change	After rebellions of 1068-1070, William replaced almost all Anglo-Saxon Church leaders with Normans (e.g. Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, replaced by Lanfranc)
Homage	New bishops did homage to the king
Appointments	When a bishop died, the king appointed the successor and received revenue from that land until the bishop was appointed
Rome	William controlled communication between Church leaders and the Pope.

Stigand and Lanfranc	
S	Stigand was a close ally of Earl Godwin. He had little control over other bishops and was a pluralist (a bishop for two areas for more money). He was accused of simony (money for jobs)
L	Lanfranc, unlike Stigand, was Head of the Church of England and could control other bishops. He condemned simony and pluralism. He was a reformer who wanted the church to be more spiritual and hierarchical. For example, he tried to introduce celibacy [no sexual relationships], church courts, oversaw trial by ordeal, and built churches in strategic locations to increase control over the country.

William's personality	
Personality	Dad (Duke Robert of Normandy) died when William was 8. William survived assassination attempts and became known for being stern, brutal and greedy. He was also highly religious
Sons	Eldest son was Robert Cuthrose and they had bad relationship which led to war after a prank in 1077! In battle in 1079, Robert knocked William off his horse and wounded him. Robert humiliated William but allowed him to retreat. Robert was made heir to Normandy again.

Norman Government	
Earls	Smaller earldoms (e.g. Wessex and Mercia), power of marcher earldoms reduced
Regent	-Reliance on regents as William had both England and Normandy to run -Lanfranc regent in 1075. William would return quickly during rebellions -Odo and Fitzosbern caused problems with their greed when regents
Sheriff	-Anglo-Saxons sheriffs (who collected revenue and was earl's representative) were replaced by Normans after some Anglo-Saxon sheriffs rebelled (e.g. Maerleswein)
The Forest	-William (due to love of hunting) established royal forests. 18% of land was royal demesne in 1086, far more than under Edward -Hunting was banned except for the king. Harsh punishments and fines were used to enforce the law

Domesday Book, 1085	
Details	Detailed survey of landownership (2 million words!)
Financial	Easy way of working out what taxes were owed
Legal	Way of resolving legal disputes, especially after illegal Norman landgrabs
Military	William brought thousands of soldiers from Normandy to prepare for possible Danish invasion. They had to be housed across the country. Domesday Book could also prepare records for knight service

Norman aristocracy	
Culture	Showed off wealth, hunting, chivalry (idolised knights and showed mercy)
Religion	Believed that by praying, doing penance (self-punishment) and donating to church, those who fought could avoid going to hell
Language	William tried and failed to speak English. Only used by 'common people'

Bishop Odo	
Conquest	Odo was William's half-brother and rewarded with Kent for support at B.o.H
In power	Co-regent during William's absence in 1067. Hated by English because of rule
Trouble	-Illegally seized land, including Church land in Canterbury. Lanfranc made complaint and Odo subject to three-day inquiry which made Odo hand back the land. -1079, Odo sent to Northumberland to protect area. Odo laid waste to region -1082, Odo imprisoned and only freed after much persuasion when William was dying. In 1088, Odo led barons in revolt against William II

Disputed succession	
E n d	In 1087, William's horse fell and injuries led to his death. Chaos ensued (e.g. servants stealing clothes and William's corpse bursting open!) Robert took Normandy and William wanted favourite son William Rufus to be king but said he would let God choose. Lanfranc supported Rufus' claim and he was crowned William II in September.
O d o	Robert C wanted to unite Normandy and England and was supported by some barons. Odo, his brother Robert of Mortain, and Robert C rebelled against William II in 1088. However, after siege of Pevensey Castle and surrender of Odo, Odo was exiled. William promised to lower taxes and end the forest but never did.