

THE BIRTH OF BRITAIN A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES VOLUME 1 pdf

1: A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH -SPEAKING PEOPLES -VOLUME 1 - THE BIRTH OF BRITAIN

The Birth of Britain is the first volume of A History of the English-Speaking Peoples, the immensely popular and eminently readable four-volume work of history by Winston Churchill. Written by one of the masters of the English language, it is a grand and sweeping story that captures the drama of history.

Vikings various Norse groups Normans These grouping seem to represent the primary peoples living in England from the earliest times until the end of the Middle Ages. With that sort of unsure basis, I will then just comment along the way of my reading. The people were related to Germany, Gaul and Spain where Rome was already involved. They were of Celtic stock and the Druidical religion was widespread. They had useful lands The whole notion just excited Caesar since he thought the people exotic. The late bronze age existed in Britain from about BC to about BC, then the iron age entered their history. Claudius sent 3 separate forces to invade; mainly this was to enhance his standing. The defeated Caractacus convinced Claudius to free him so they could work together. The emperor did so. Suetonius led the British forces and eventually the British rose up but were defeated in a major and bloody battle and surrendered. Rome decided to move back toward pacification and Suetonius was replaced. In 79 AD Agricola was the governor of Britannia and brought about significant peace. The Roman Provinces -- pp. Towns were planned in chessboard squares for communities dwelling under orderly government. The buildings rose in accordance with the pattern standardized throughout the Roman world. Each was complete with its forum, temples, courts of justice, gaols, baths, markets, and main drains. During the first century the builders evidently took a sanguine view of the resources and future of Britannia, and all their towns were projected to meet increasing population. It was a period of hope. The Roman system did not motivate the greater economic development that could support more people. In Hadrian established the famous wall. Nearly 20, soldiers policed it. There also had been an excellent road system, but by the year it was falling into decline. In general Roman power was in decline. Both barbarians and the rise of Christianity threatened Roman rule. Churchill is quite funny in insisting that the greatest advances from pre-stone age, stone-age, bronze age and iron age all were primarily of figuring out better ways to kill more enemies. He also comments on the pace of change as historians catalogue it in comparison to how we ordinary humans experience time. Things which the younger folks take for granted as everyday items or knowledge were often unknown even in my own youth! Germanus from France came to fight the Pelagian heresy and not only did that, but organized forces against northern invaders. After the Saxons were invading and settling. The Dark Ages set in for the next 4 centuries and only four meager source documents exist concerning British history. Slowly life in the dark ages reflected the Germanic social system and was dominated by the translation of crimes into monetary solutions and fines which defined social values. Power was rooted in titles and land development and by the 7th century a landed aristocracy emerged. As Roman power declined there was a rise in local British power. Ethelbert, King of Kent, was established in Canterbury, converted and welcomed Columba. Augustine failed in his arrogance to achieve an alliance with Roman and British Christians and set back Christianity in England a full generation. By King Edwin was uniting much of Britain, but in he was killed in battle with northern Britons. The island was united in that it was Christian not pagan, but there was a clash as to whether Roman or Celtic Christianity would be its form. In the Synod of Whitby in British Christianity generally was following the Celtic northern notion of Christianity which was under the control of the monastic orders, not Roman authority. However, by Rome had consolidated the Roman Catholic nature of England with opposition only from some of the monastic communities of the north and from Ireland. King Offa had an alliance with Charlemagne and protected trade with the continent. The Vikings -- pp. Christian churches were the sole sanctuaries of learning and knowledge, small as that sanctuary was. There was a second invasion of Britain from Scandinavian Vikings. It took until the 11th century for until the Vikings themselves converted to Christianity and limited the Arab advances. The major tool of Viking warfare was the long-boat. It was excellent both for ocean use and sailing the rivers and even some creeks. It was a

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shallow draught boat and carried as many as 50 men. About they first arrived in England and for the next years they were the scourge of the English. From about until they acted more as raiders of small settlements, especially monasteries. However, after about the Danes began to bring families and to settle in England. Book 1 " chapter 7: Alfred the Great -- pp. He finally retook London not yet the central city of Britain in In he fought his final battle against the Danes and then died in By there was another war with the Danes and once again, by the English prevailed. The Saxon Dusk -- pp. In he tried for peace in his area. Eventually there was all out war. However the Dane Canute arose and was a decent and powerful leader who created law, order and respect. The people very much desired stability: This desire came from the Saxon monarchy which for five or six generations had provided the spearhead of resistance to the Danes. The West Saxon line was the oldest in Europe. There was a desire for order. This could only be found in monarchy and the illustrious line of Alfred the Great possessed unequal claims and titles. Nonetheless Saxon England was weak: The Making of the Nation -- pp. Within Britain itself Tostig returned from exile to challenge Harold. Harold seemed to have achieved two victories over those enemies in , then William arrived from Normandy and all changed. Ivo Taillefer led the main first attack. This is not of much importance to Churchill or the book, however, I found it fascinating since I am supposedly descendant from him, though I have never been able to trace the relationship to earlier than the Taliaferros of the s. William the Conqueror -- pp. William died in succeeded by his son, William. His son Robert, in Normandy was said to one day rule over a united Anglo-Norman nation. Although knight-service governed the holding of property and produced a new aristocracy, much was preserved of Saxon England. The Normans were administrators and lawyers rather than legislators. Their center of government was the Curia, the final court of appeal and the instrument of supervision; here were preserved and developed the financial and secretarial methods of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom. The whole system of Saxon local government, also of immense usefulness for the future " the counties, the sheriffs, and the courts, -- survived, and through this the King maintained his widespread contacts with the country. Europe retreated to rule of the martial class. The monarch was at the head of the state. The Catholic Church dominated with its mix of A. Christian ethics Book 2: Growth Amid Turmoil -- pp. His brother, Robert, in Normandy went to the crusade. Henry, the third son of William, consolidated rule and made peace with the Saxons by marriage. Between and Henry: Defeated Robert Brought the Saxons into government and the fold of the crown. After Henry died there was great turmoil and several years of civil war. I might note that my own family history goes back to the time when Maud was briefly Queen of England. Henry Plantagenet -- pp. He united England, Scotland and Ireland. There was consolidation of royal power. He developed a central royal power to replace the feudal system. He established English common law to replace Roman law. The church and state each had an area of power and Henry appointed Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury. However, as archbishop Becket challenged Henry and was driven abroad. Henry advanced his own son as king and seeming made peace with Becket who returned to England, but revised the coronation. Henry was furious and had some of his minions kill Becket. This ultimately brought Henry down. He finally made peace with Rome, but Rome kept an independent religious authority all the way until the Reformation.

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2: A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Vol. 1: The Birth of Britain by Winston S. Churchill

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3: A History of the English-Speaking Peoples - Wikipedia

The Daily Telegraph Spanning four volumes and many centuries of history, from Caesar's invasion of Britain to the start of World War I, *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* stands as one of Winston S. Churchill's most magnificent literary works.

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