

British Culture and Literature: Brief History of the Nation (week 2)

**Lecturer : Eko Rujlito, M.Hum
e-mail: eko_rujlito@uny.ac.id**





MAIN PERIODS IN BRITISH HISTORY

- **STONE AGE BRITAIN (5000 BC- 55BC)**
- **THE CELTS (800-600 BC- Roman occupation)**
- **ROMAN BRITAIN (55BC- AD 440)**
- **ANGLO-SAXON AND VIKING PERIOD (440-1066)**
- **EARLY MIDDLE AGES (1066-1290)**
- **LATER MIDDLE AGES (1290-1485)**
- **THE TUDOR AGE (1485-1603)**
- **THE STUARTS(1603-1714)**
- **GEORGIAN ENGLAND (1714-1837)**
- **THE VICTORIAN AGE (1837-**
- **MODERN BRITAIN (20th Century-)**

The Beginnings of British History: Stone Age Britain

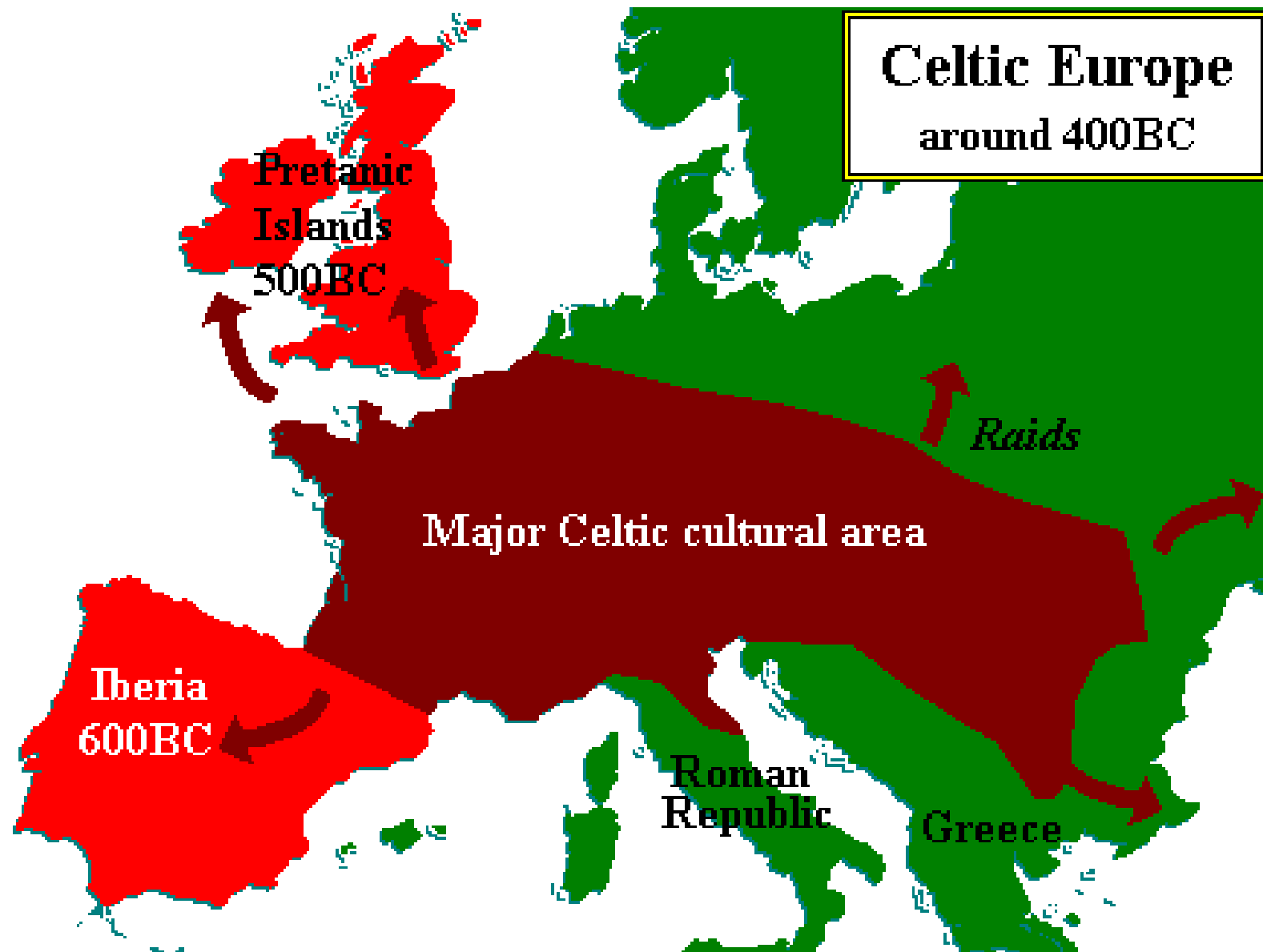
- Over thousands of years, groups of people came from the continent of Europe to Britain.
- The very first people were Stone Age hunters living all over Europe and the British Isles.
- About 2400 BC the first farmers arrived in England from southern Europe; they perhaps the people who built the mysterious stone monuments like Stonehenge
- About 1700 BC another group of taller and stronger invaders who used metal tools came from Holland and Germany.
- All invaders married and mixed in with the native population

Stonehenge



The Celts

- Came to England about 800 BC from Central Europe (France and Germany)
- Another group of warlike Celts invaded in the 4th century BC and conquered land in the north of England and Scotland and Ireland
- They became the first aristocracy to control most of Britain
- They imposed their language (Gaelic) on the people, which still survives today to some degree in Ireland and Scotland and Wales.
- These groups are commonly referred as Britons, from whom the island got its name--Britain (the land of Britons).



Map produced for The Ireland Story. This map may be used elsewhere provided a link is given to www.irelandstory.com, the site is non-profit and the map is not modified.

The Romans

- First came in 55 and 54 BC and lived peacefully in England for about 300 years
- Brought to Britain a highly developed legal system, system of taxation, engineering skills, Roman architecture and the Latin language
- In the 4th century Rome was converted to Christianity and Christian missionaries went to Britain to spread that religion
- For over a century they tried to conquer Caledonia, Scotland, but did not succeed. In the end King Hadrian ordered building of a wall across the north of England.
- In the 4th century AD, during the period of the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Roman troops in Britain left.

The Most Important Results of the Roman Occupation

- Established camps that eventually became towns.
- Maintained relative peace.
- Latin heavily influenced the English language.
- Christianity begins to replace Paganism, especially after St. Augustine converts King Aethelbert in 597.



Built of stone, mortar, sod, and clay, Hadrian's Wall was 73 miles long, 10 feet thick and 20 feet high.

The Anglo-Saxons

- In the 4th century AD, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes (groups of people who came from West Germany and Denmark) invaded Britain.
- They took control of most of the country they called, “Aengla-land” between AD 450 and 600
- They were agricultural people who lived in long houses and spoke a language we now call “Old English,” which is rooted from Germanic language.
- They established small kingdoms.
- By the 7th century combined into a united kingdom called England (the land of Angles).



5th century British kingdoms, after the departure of the Romans

The Vikings

- The Vikings came from Scandinavia
- Their Scandinavian language (Old Norse) was also Germanic so that was relatively easy for them to communicate with the Anglo-Saxons who had come from Germany and Denmark years before
- The Anglo-Saxons united under King Alfred the Great (872-901) to try to fight them off
- In the end the Danish Vikings controlled the east northeast by the 9th century; the Saxons were able to maintain control in the west

Viking Campaigns in England 991-1005



“The Middle-Ages” in British History (1066-1485)

Key facts:

- England was ruled by the Norman French.
- The country was united under a feudal system.
- Great castles, cathedrals and monasteries were built.
- England went to war with France over land and lost.
- The Norman French rulers gradually became English.
- The language of the people gradually changed into what we call “Middle English.”
- England went to war with Scotland and lost.
- The Black Death (plague) killed off almost half the population.

The Normans

- In October 1066 William, the Norman king invaded England, becoming King William I (William the Conqueror) of England (the Battle of Hasting)
- The Normans imposed unity on England and helped to link England with the culture of the rest of Europe
- The introduction of feudal system
- The French invaders became the upper-class aristocracy who ruled over the English
- French was the language of the upper classes, of law and government and the army, while the commoners spoke Anglo-Saxon.



The Battle of Hastings,
Oct. 14, 1066

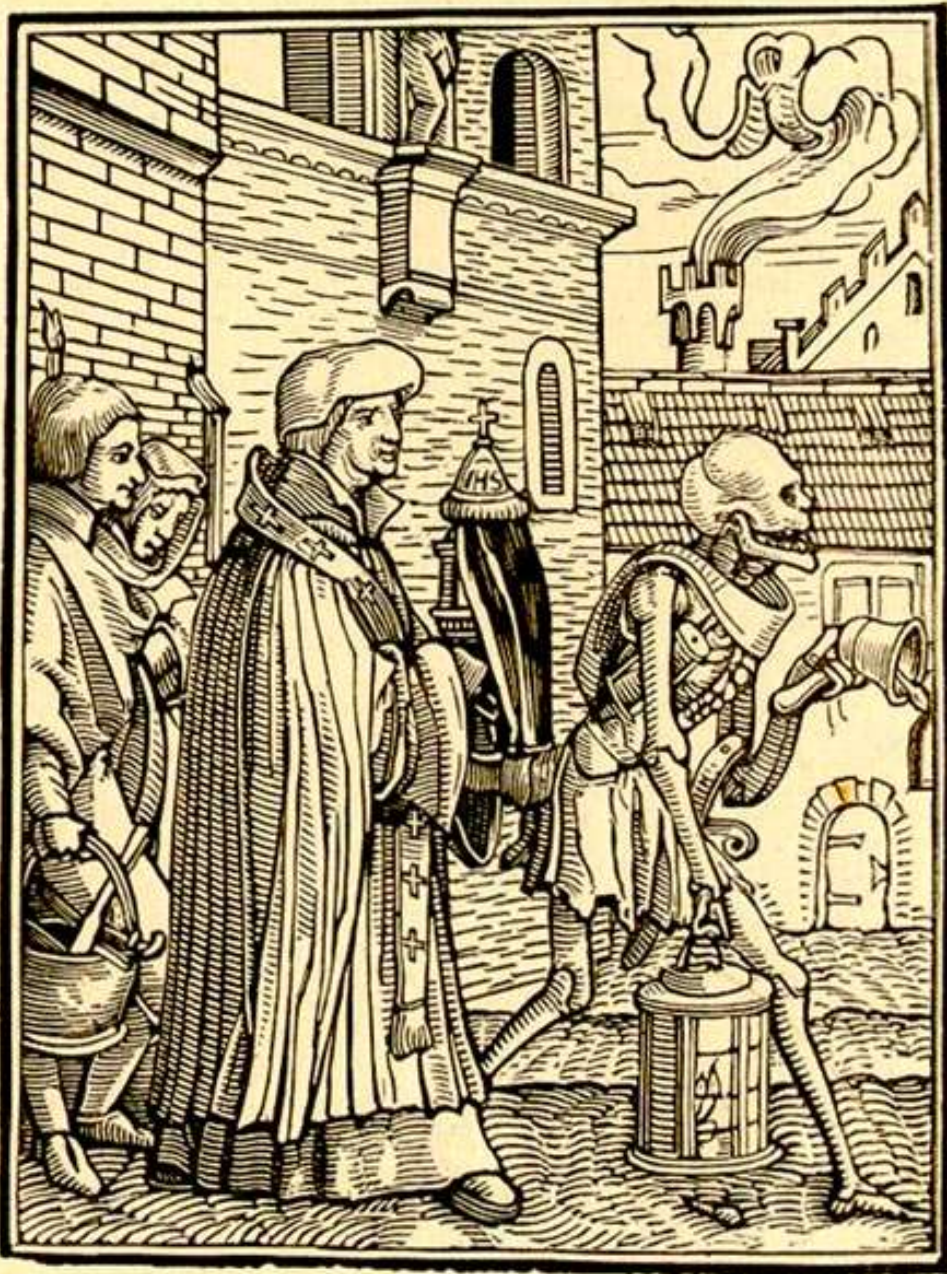


William, Duke of Normandy

The Rise of the English Nation

- By the 13th century, the rulers of England thought of themselves as English, not French.
- English and French had mixed over the years and evolved into what we now call Middle English
- Oxford and Cambridge universities started in the 13th century
- Edward I (1272-1307) was a strong king who tried to take Scotland- but failed (because of brave Scotsmen like William Wallace and Robert Bruce).
- In 1348-9 the Black Death (plague) came to Englandkilling almost half the population





The **Black Death** reached Europe in 1347 and struck England in 1349, killing at least 25% of the population.

By the end of the 14th C., the population of England had declined from 5 million in 1300 to less than 3 million in 1400.