

THE CONQUEST AND THE ANGLO-NORMAN AND ANGEVIN PERIODS THE FEUDALISM DEBATE

1. From Aethelberht (early 7th century) to Edward the Confessor (d. 5 Jan. 1066).
 - a. Multiple, relatively weak, kings become a single strong king.
 - b. The king is tied into the local society by a series of remarkable institutions: the shire, the hundred, the borough, the tithing, and the hide, units for taxation, disputes-resolution, and keeping the peace
 - c. The kin group, a strong institution in the time of Aethelberht and Alfred, has become less strong
 - d. Territorial lordship has become stronger than kin groups.
2. 14 October 1066—Battle of Hastings
3. 1066–1215 roughly 150 years divided between the Anglo-Norman and Angevin periods in 1154.
 - a. A conquered country—a couple of thousand over a country of 2 to 4 million.
 - b. Weak kings vs. strong kings—freedom (for some) vs. order.
 - c. Empire (see map in *Mats.* p. III–15)—finance, troops & absentee administration.
 - d. Succession to the throne.
4. The succession problem:
 - a. William I, 1066–1087—Domesday Book (1086)—sons: Robert Curthose, William II (Rufus), Henry I.
 - b. William II (Rufus), 1087–1100—killed while hunting.
 - c. Henry I, 1100–1135—his only legitimate son William killed in the tragedy of the White Ship.
 - d. Stephen (gson of William I by his dau Adela) and Matilda (dau of Henry I, wife of Geoffrey of Anjou), 1135–54 (the “Anarchy”).
 - e. Henry II (son of Matilda and Geoffrey), 1154–89—duke of Aquitaine in the right of his wife Eleanor; sons: Henry who predeceased without issue, Richard I, Geoffrey d. 1186, whose son Arthur was probably killed at John’s behest, and John.
 - f. Richard I (the Lion-hearted), 1189–1199.
 - g. John, 1199–1216—lost Normandy in 1204; Magna Carta 1215.
5. The feudalism debate:
 - a. Did William I bring feudalism to England?
 - b. Did Henry II consciously or unconsciously destroy it?
6. Feudalism:

- a. A type of economy, built around the manor, in the model, though not always in reality, the manor is coextensive with the vill, with open fields, lord, priest, free tenants, serfs and a lord's court to manage the whole thing.
- b. A type of society characterized by multiple relationships of dependency, lord and man (vassal) with mutual obligations of support, particularly military, summed up in the ceremonies of homage and fealty.
- c. A pyramidal structure of government, based on landholding in which the king rules his tenants-in-chief, they their vassals down to the peasant.
- d. A pyramidal system of land holding whereby all land is holden of the king for service usually knight's service and the tenants in chief parcel out the land to subtenants for service, knights and other things. In England the principal free tenures are:
 - i. knight's service—the provision of one or more knights (or a fraction thereof) for a fixed period of the year
 - ii. serjeanty—the performance of a specific military duty, like carrying the king's banner in battle or guarding a castle
 - iii. socage—the provision of a fixed amount of agricultural produce
 - iv. frankalmoign—the provision of prayers, a tenure of the church

The tenant also owes incidents, the principal ones of which are:

- i. suit of court—the obligation to attend the lord's court when summoned
 - ii. aid—the obligation to come to the lord's monetary assistance when he is captured, or when he knights his eldest son, or when he marries off his daughter
 - iii. wardship—when the tenant dies and his heir is underage, the land will be taken into the lord's hands until the heir reaches majority
 - iv. marriage—when the tenant has a daughter who is an heiress (and perhaps even when she is not), the lord may dictate whom she shall marry; the lord may also dictate whom the tenant's widow may marry
 - v. relief—if the heir is of age, he must pay the lord in order to enter into his inheritance
 - vi. primer seisin—when the tenant dies, the lord may take his lands into his own hands pending the application of heir for seisin
 - vii. escheat—if the tenant commits felony or dies without a known heir, the land returns to the lord
7. The broader social and economic pattern exists all over Europe in the M.A. but in a number of other societies as well. The governmental pattern does not fully exist in England (nor any place else). The pattern of landholding certainly does exist in England; the question is when did it start.
 8. Elements of late 11th and 12th century feudalism that do not seem to have existed in Anglo-Saxon times:
 - a. The castle

- b. Knight's service
 - c. The court of the honour (the court baron), the middle rung in a group of courts that may be schematized like this:
 - i. manorial—the court for unfree peasants, and, perhaps, for certain free peasants
 - ii. feudal—the court for the lord's tenants who hold by one or another of the tenures mentioned above
 - iii. public—the ancient courts of the shire, hundred, and borough and the nascent central royal courts
9. Domesday of Herefordshire (cf. *Mats.*, pp. III–39 to III–41)
- a. In the city of Hereford, in the time of King Edward, there were 103 men dwelling together inside and outside the wall, and they had the customs hereunder noted. ... In this city Earl Harold had 27 burgesses enjoying the same customs as the other burgesses. From this city the reeve rendered £12 to King Edward and £6 to Earl Harold, and he had in his farm all the aforesaid customs. ... Now the king has the city of Hereford in demesne This city renders to the king £60 by tale in assayed money.
 - b. Here are set down those holding lands in Herefordshire and in Archenfield and in Wales. ...
 - c. IN "CUTESTORNES" HUNDRED. In the jurisdiction of EWYAS HAROLD Castle, Earl William gave to WALTER de Lacy 4 carucates of waste land. ROGER de Lacy his son holds them, and William and Osbern [hold] of him. In demesne they have 2 ploughs; and 4 Welshmen rendering 2 sesters of honey, and they have 1 plough. There they have 3 slaves and 2 bordars. This land is worth 20s.
 - d. IN "TORNELAUS" HUNDRED. The same Roger holds OCLE PYCHARD. 6 free men held it as 6 manors [?TRE] and could go where they would. There are 7 hides paying geld. In demesne are 2 ploughs; and 7 villains and 10 bordars and a reeve and a smith with 9 ploughs among them all. There are 12 slaves. Of this land Walter de Lacy gave to St Peter of Hereford 2 carucates of land with the consent of King William, and 1 villan and 1 bordar with their lands. There are in demesne 2 ploughs; and 1 villain and 1 bordar with 1 plough, and there is 1 slave. It is worth 25s. What Roger holds [is worth] 75s. The whole TRE was worth 7l [pounds] 15s.
10. Some general thoughts on the 12th century: confidence, commerce, art (Romanesque and Gothic), intellectual ferment (philosophy, theology, law, and medicine); Abelard and Heloise, Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, Troubadour poets and study of the Bible, Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179), John of Sallisbury, *Glanvill*, the *Dialogue of the Exchequer*. Like all centuries, however, the twelfth also has its dark sides.