

Formation of Nation States: England

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Introduction

- England was one of the first countries in Europe to develop a strong monarchy and may be said to be the first country to witness the rise of nationalism
- Vikings raided England throughout the 9th Century
- Germanic tribe in England: Anglo-Saxons
- Alfred the Great: P king protected the Anglo Saxons from the Vikings
- United the Kingdom, calling it England: “Land of the Angles”.
- Canute, a Danish king took the throne in 1016 CE
- He united Anglo Saxons and Vikings into one people.

- Next Edward the Confessor ascended the throne. He died without any to heir
- A struggle to the throne ensued.
- William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy- a province North of France. Was of Viking descents, but French in culture and language, claimed the English crown against Harold Godwinson, an Anglo Saxon.
- Battle of Hastings, Oct. 14, 1066
- Harold was killed, William the Conqueror took the throne
- William the Conqueror created a centralized government in England.

- Henry II became king of England in 1154 CE till his death in 1189 CE. He ruled over England, substantial parts of Wales and Ireland and much of France, an area that altogether was later called Angevin Empire.
- Henry introduced Royal Courts of Justice, Juries and Common Law, Royal judges collected taxes, settled lawsuits, punished crimes, introduced juries to English courts, Rulings made by England's Royal Judges. These became precedents for later laws,

- Henry's son Richard the Lion Hearted ascended the throne in 1189 CE until his death in 1199 CE. He also ruled as Duke of Normandy.
- On his deathbed in 1199, Richard named John his successor, and he was crowned king. John ruled from 1199 CE to 1216 CE. John lost the Duchy of Normandy and most of his other French lands to French king Philip II, resulting in the collapse of Angevin Empire and contributing to the subsequent growth in power of the French Capetian dynasty during the 13th century

Magna Carta

- John lost all the lands in normandy to the French, overtaxed his subjects, alienated the Church,
- On June 15, 1215 the subjects rebelled and forced John to sign Magna Carta(the Great Charter) written by English nobles. Magna Carta guaranteed basic political rights and checked the power of the king. No taxation without representation, a jury trial, protection under the law.

Model Parliament

- The English kings needed money to fight the French, Welsh, and the Scots.
- In 1295 CE King Edward I summoned two wealthy citizens(burgesses) from every borough and two knights to serve as parliament. This marks the beginning of legislature in England. This became the legislative group in England.
- In November 1295 CE, knights, burgesses, bishops, lords met at Westminster in London, known as the Middle Parliament. Parliament was called when taxes were needed.

- From 1337 to 1453 Hundred Years War was fought between England and France. It awakened patriotism on both sides.
- The English king lost his territories in France. He thenceforth confined his attention to the mainland.
- On the domestic front England witnessed one of the worst political turmoil during the period 1399-1485 that is from deposition of King Richard II to the death of King Richard III on the field of Bosworth in 1485.
- The descendents of Edward III put up claims and counter claims which resulted in the Wars of Roses. There were two factions, the Yorkists and Lancastrians, their symbols being White Rose and Red Rose respectively. Who fought for nearly 30 years. Civil war was finally concluded when King Henry VII married sister of Edward V thus having better claim to the throne than the reigning monarch King Richard III, and defeated Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Henry VII ascended the throne

Tudor Dynasty-Henry VII

- The ascendancy of Henry VII in 1485 inaugurated a new era in the political history of England after ending anarchy. It marks the beginning of rule of Tudor Dynasty. Henry established a strong monarchy in England.
- Henry VII took measures to reduce the power of the nobles
- He seized the estates of the nobles.
- 'He set up Court of Star Chamber which particularly dealt with the cases of rebellious nobles
- He passed a statute of Livery and Maintenance in 1487 which prevented nobles from keeping private armies, known as 'retainers'.

- However, Henry's intention was not to crush the nobles to submission but rather to forge a new alliance with them.
- To achieve financial stability Henry took steps to augment financial resources of the state preferably without the intervention of the parliament He preferred direct methods of raising revenue resources. He achieved this end through forced loans, collection of feudal dues, fines, benevolences, revenue from crown lands and import and export duties. By lessening Government expenditure and by raising revenue by above means Henry's treasury was overflowing with money.

Henry VIII

- The Tudor despotism reached the highest watermark during the reign of Henry VIII(1509-47)
- Separation from the Church of Rome
- Act of Supremacy; Act of Annates
- Henry became the supreme head of the Church. Established Anglican Church

Elizabeth I

- In 1558 Elizabeth I , youngest daughter of Henry VIII became the Queen of England.
- Anglican Church was firmly established.
- The Prayer Book and Thirty Nine Articles of 1563 issued under Elizabeth have remained to this day the essential documents of the Anglican Faith.
- Elizabethan Age was a solid foundation under the state and society that produced the literature, music, architecture, science and wealth and victories of the Elizabethan Age
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Stuart Dynasty-James I, Charles I

- The succession of the Tudor dynasty by the Stuarts in 1603 created a new political situation for the monarchy
- With the accession of James I , Scotland was united with England.
- Charles I
- The Civil War: Execution of Charles I
- Military Dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell

Restoration Of Stuarts

- Charles II
- James II
- Glorious Revolution
- King William and Queen Mary
- Bill of Rights: Supremacy of Parliament was established.