



# ANCIENT BRITAIN

LECTURE 2

# Plan

- 1. Prehistoric Britain (The Iberians, the Beaker people, the Celts).**
- 2. Roman Britain.**
- 3. The Anglo-Saxon Conquest of Britain.  
Germanic Tribes.**
- 5. The origin of the proper names: England,  
Anglia, Britain, London, Albion**



# The Iberians

- around 3000 BC, from the Mediterranean, probably Spain,
- lived in fortified settlements or villages,
- a tribal organization,
- were able to work with metal (including bronze),
- knew the agricultural techniques,
- spoke Iberian Language.

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# The Beaker people

- during the Bronze Age (2000 BC),
- their name is given to them because they used a special type of pottery vessel known to archaeologists as a beaker,
- differed physically from the Iberians, being shorter and more round-headed,
- brought new techniques of working with metals (working in copper, gold, and later in the bronze),
- their settlement was a fortified hill-fort,
- readily mixed with any new culture they met,
- spoke an Indo-European language.

# The words of Indo-European language borrowed in English:

- **family relationship:** *father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister;*
- **the national environment:** *star, wind, water, stone, night, tree;*
- **the domestic life:** *goose, wolf, corn, bull;*
- **the parts of body:** *lip, nose;*
- **adjectives:** *hard, quick, slow, red, new, glad, sad;*
- **numerals:** *1-100; I, you, he, my, that, who;*
- **verbs:** *to bear, to do, to be, to sit, to stand, to eat.*

# The Celts

- around 700 BC,
- from central Europe or further east, from southern Russia,
- were tall, and had fair or red hair and blue eyes,
- the ancestors of many of the people in Highland Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Cornwall today,
- using Celtic languages, which are still spoken,
- technically advanced,
- their social pattern was military aristocracy,
- lived in warring tribes, which were sometimes at war with each other, sometimes trading peacefully with each other,
- the main settlements the hill-fort remained.

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# Celtic borrowings

(surprising small number)

- Lake names with “loch” (means “lake”) *Loch Ness*
- River names such as *Avon, Don, Exe, Severn* and *Thames*.
- Town names include *Dover, Eccles, Kent, Leeds* and *York*.

# ***Roman Britain***

- from 5 BC, but only in AD 43 a Roman army actually occupied Britain,
- succeeded because had a better trained army and the Celtic tribes fought among themselves,
- could not conquer “Caledonia” (Scotland), built a strong wall (Hadrian's wall) along the northern border,
- established a Romano-British culture across the south-western half of Britain, called the colony **“Britannia”**
- Latin as the official written and spoken language,
- in AD 409 Rome “went home”. The reasons: Roman empire began to collapse.

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# ***ROMAN LIFE***

**The greatest achievements of the Roman Empire was its system of roads and city foundations, the peace and the increased economic life.**

- London, a capital city (20,000 people, twice the size of Paris, the most important trading centre of northern Europe
- 20 large towns (5,000 inhabitants),
- 100 smaller.
- towns were built with stone as well as wood, and had planned streets, markets and shops, some buildings had central heating.
- all towns were connected by roads
- 6 main roads met in London,
- Outside the towns - large farms, called "villas", the source of fresh product.

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# Latin borrowings in English language

- **geographical names** (*London*), with the ending chester, caster or cester translated as “camp”:

*Gloucester, Leicester, Doncaster, Winchester, Chester, Lancaster*

- **objects belonging to civilisation:** *cup, kitchen, mill, port, wine, butter, cheese, dish, pepper, street, wall, mile,*

- **Christianity:** *priest, bishop, nun, candle.*

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# ***THE ANGLO-SAXON CONQUEST OF BRITAIN***

- about 447,
- three powerful Germanic tribes – the Saxons, Angles and Jutes,
- came from north-western Europe, mainly Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands,
- era is often called the Dark Ages. Reasons: contemporary written sources do not exist,
- cruel (the Celts were killed or turned into slaves and sold, the remained later mixed with the invaders),
- The name of the Roman colony “**Britannia**” disappeared and was replaced by “**England**” – the land of Angles,
- Reasons of coming: warriors were invited to come to England to help keep out invaders from Scotland and Ireland OR looking for new places to settle down and farm.

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# Anglo-Saxon influence

Old English language, also known as Anglo-Saxon, developed from a set of dialects spoken by Germanic tribes traditionally known as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

## Anglo-Saxon words are:

- short and concrete,
- down-to-earth items,
- everyday matters

# The words of the Anglo-Saxon (Germanic) origin are:

- days of the week were named after Germanic gods: *Tig (Tuesday), Wodin (Wednesday), Thor (Thursday), Frei (Friday),*
- the ending *-ing* meant folk or family: "Hastings" of the family of Hasta.
- the ending *-ham* means "farm", *-ton* means "settlement" *Birmingham, Nottingham, Kingston or Southampton,*
- some grammatical words *be, in, that,*
- the parts of the body *arm, bone, chest, ear, eye, foot, hand, heart,*
- the natural environment *field, hedge, hill, land, meadow, wood, storm, rain, ice, ground,*
- the domestic life *door, floor, home, house, brige, shop, room, coal, iron, cloth, hat, shirt, shoe,*
- the calendar *day, month, moon, sun, summer, winter, year,*
- animals *cow, dog, fish, goat, hen, sheep, swine,*
- abstract nouns *hope, evil, care, life, need, rest,*
- common adjectives *black, broad, dead, deaf, deep, dark, good, long, white, wide,*
- common verbs *become, bake, burn, buy, drive, eat, fly, go, help, hear, kiss, keep, live, love, learn, make, meet, rise, say, see, sell, send, think.*

# Anglo-Saxon influence

- the Anglo-Saxon tribes established a number of kingdoms: Kent (the Jutes), Essex, Sussex, Wessex (the Saxons), East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria (Angles).
- society was rural, agriculture was the main occupation and source of living.
- ruled England for 500 years (100 years longer than the Romans).

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# Origin of proper names

- **England.** Anglo saxon origin, Old English means "land of the Angles".
- **Anglia.** Anglo-Saxon origin, Old English.
- **Britain.** Latin "*Britannia~Brittania*". The origin of this word is uncertain.
- **London.** Latin "Londinium" means 'fast-flowing river'
- **Albion.** Celtic, means "white" (in reference to the white chock southern shores of the island)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
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