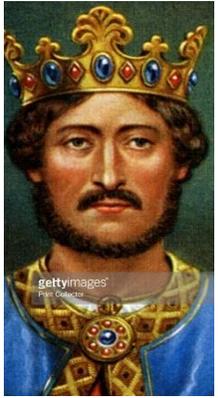


The Reigns of King Richard I and King John 1189-1216



Unit 1 : The Feudal System

- In 1189, English society was structured into the **feudal system**
- This system organised society into a **hierarchy** based on the holding of land.
- Four main ranks in the feudal system: the **king**, the **tenants-in-chief**, the **knights** and the **peasants**
- The King could not control his lands alone. His land was divided into fiefs.
- In return for land, the landholder had to pledge homage (public demonstration of loyalty)
- The King kept some lands for himself, which became known as the **royal demesne**
- Knight Service was the duty that knights owed to their lord in return for holding their land
- Freemen, villeins, serfs and cottars were all peasants and produced food for the country. In return for land they saw this as their feudal duty to perform
- If a vassal (man who held land) did not perform their duty, it could be taken away. This was called **forfeiture**

Kingship and Succession

- The King – a powerful ruler with complete responsibility for governing his kingdom.
- The King had divine authority
- Primogeniture** was a principle – eldest son inherited the throne.
- Richard -oldest legitimate son of the King and popular choice of Angevin barons.
- His claim was supported by Eleanor of Aquitaine (his mother with lots of land), William Marshal (a great knight) and Hubert Walter (Archbishop of Canterbury)
- Richard had a glorious coronation on 3 September
- He secured his power by making peace with the men who had fought against him, appointing William Longchamp to control the country, made his brother John a Count in Normandy and banned Geoffrey (half-brother) and John from England for three years

Royal government and finances

- Royal government was focused on maintain law and order
- The payment of taxes was not popular!
- Richard was only present in England for 6 months during 10 year reign. He appointed William Longchamp to rule in his absence.
- Finances**
- Richard sold lands and tithes to the highest bidders – he had raised £31,000 for the crusade.
- King's land (Royal Demesne) provided money.
- The King also used tallage, wardship fines, forest fines, feudal incidents and scutage to raise money.

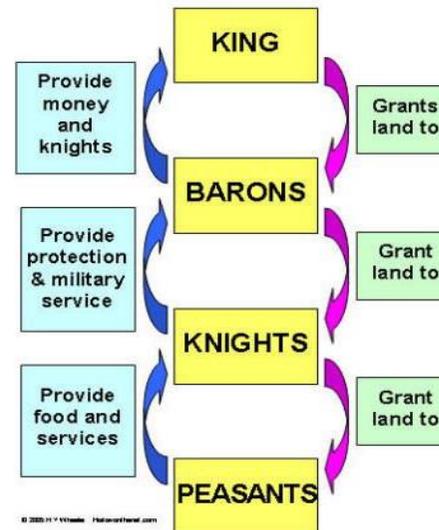
English society

- In the medieval world, religion was at the centre of people's lives
- The Church gave people hope to get into heaven and help with life
- The Archbishop was the head of the church in England
- Peasants lived in small houses known as cruck houses. Life was hard for peasants
- Past times for peasants were merry-making or Christian festivals
- Many of the towns were established by a royal charter. Both Richard and John granted charters in return for money.
- All townsmen were free
- Town guilds: guilds developed out of groups of individuals working in the same trade
- Towns played an essential role in trade and in raising revenue for the king

Jews in Medieval England

- The number of Jews in England had begun to grow, by 1200 = 5,000 Jews
- They were allowed to live in England under the protection of the King
- Christians were not allowed to charge interest for lending money ('usury')
- Jews could lend money and this became their main business – huge amounts of money owned to Jews
- Pogroms 1189-90**
- On some occasions there were violent attacks known as pogroms. Trigger – an incident at Richard's coronation.
- In East Anglia, Jews were slaughtered. 150 took refuge in Clifford's Tower in York but all died
- Causes of pogroms – money lending was unchristian and Jews were accused of being 'Christ killers'
- Both Richard and John needed the Jews for the taxes they paid

FEUDAL SYSTEM



Unit 2: Nature of crusading

- Crusade = holy war fought by the Christians to restore the Holy Land (Jerusalem)
- Immediate cause – Papal bull (official declaration of the pope) calling on Christians
- English crusading army was one of three armies (+ Philip II of France and Frederick Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire)
- Majority of crusaders were knights and their military households
- Reasons for joining the crusade; gain wealth/land, cancellation of debt, achieve Christian control of Jerusalem, to fulfil duty of serving in the lord's army, avoid paying the 'Saladin Tithe' and the benefit of a full indulgence (forgiveness of sins)
- Most supported the call for crusade – seen as a godly act

Richard, the Crusader King

- Richard and Philip II of France set off on crusade at the same time -> Philip returned to France in 1191 due to Richard not honouring his marriage to Philip's sister, receiving a better reception at Sicily and Richard's capture of Cyprus
- **Battle of Acre – July 1191**
- Joint Philip and Richard victory – capture of Acre and 2700 Muslim prisoners
- However, all were beheaded when Saladin (Saracen/Muslim leader) failed to give the **True Cross** or release Christian prisoners
- **Battle of Acre – July 1191**
- Victory at Arsuf by leading a mighty charge into the centre of Saladin's army and forcing the Muslims to flee
- The **first (Oct 1191-92) and second marches (June-July 1192)** were to Beit Nuba and Richard doesn't capture Jerusalem.
- Richard had to return home despite victory at Jaffa in Sept 1192
- Truce with Saladin – truce in fighting (3 years), Muslims in control but Christians control coastline

Aftermath of the crusade

- Richard anxious (John/Philip II= threat)
- No safe route and in November 1192 Richard is captured by Leopold of Austria
- Sold to Henry VI (Holy Roman Empire)
- Chivalric code (not kill him but ransom)
- Huge sum of 100,000 marks (£66,000)
- Brother John had no desire to pay
- Mother Eleanor wrote to pope for help
- Ransom was a heavy burden to make on England but it was gathered - new tax on Jews, £1,350 from King of Scotland, gold and silver plate from churches, 25% tax on income/moveables
- Richard released 4th Feb 1194

Richard, John and the loss of Normandy

- May 1194 after returning to England Richard departed to secure the Angevin Empire.
- Richard returned to a Normandy that was weak due to Philip's attacks and John's betrayal.
- Richard able to persuade John to switch sides and betray Philip which allowed Richard to enjoy military victories.
- Richard built Chateau Gaillard (cost £12,000) to retrieve lands.
- March 1199 when surveying defences Richard dies.
- John becomes King but loses Normandy in 1204 due to:
 - marriage to Isabelle of Angouleme and not compensating her fiancé
 - killing his nephew Prince Arthur
 - acknowledging Philip as his overlord

John as King

- His claim was supported by Eleanor of Aquitaine (his mother with lots of land), William Marshal (a great knight) and Hubert Walter (Archbishop of Canterbury)
- John was regarded as the best candidate at the time- John had spent time in England, he had learned the good qualities of a King from his father
- John was crowned King 27th May 1199 and took oath to protect Church
- John's reign began well as he selected capable men to run the country
- John left for France 4 weeks after coronation to secure the lands of the Angevin Empire –he lost Normandy in 1204

Unit 3: The dispute of the papacy

- John wished to control the Church and force it to accept his demands
- Dispute begins with differences over the new Archbishop - Innocent III (pope) elected Stephen Langton as Archbishop (John did not trust him)
- John refused Langton into England
- Pope Innocent placed England under a sentence of Interdict (very serious punishment) in March 1208
- Interdict – meant that people were denied Christian **sacraments** (baptism, marriage)
- Interdict was not successful as John made money from lands seized
- Pope Innocent **excommunicated (banished John from the Church and meant his barons did not have to obey him)** John in Nov 1209
- Quarrel was settled in 1213 as the threat of a French invasion persuades John to settle the quarrel
- John allows Langton into England and becomes Innocent's **vassal**

Worsening relations with the barons Financial reasons

- Loss of Normandy = loss of revenue
- John tries to raise money by imposing fines on barons – not popular
- **Arbitrary power**
- John's **arbitrary** (taking action personally not following codes) use of power caused problems
- Barons resented John's use of debt to increase his power over them – even took hostage wife and sons of some of them! (William De Braose)
- **The plot of 1212** – rebel barons plot against John
- John failed to recapture Normandy which caused further opposition

Magna Carta and the First Barons War

- John returned from the Normandy in 1214 to find his barons in rebellion
- Angry barons gathered to force John to confirm his intentions of good government and to respect customs
- John tried to play for time and negotiate with the barons
- This failed – the barons renounced their oaths and selected Robert Fitz Walter (leader of rebellion) as leader
- Negotiations between rebels and John took place and the Magna Carta (MC) was signed and copied to be sent to county courts
- John sealed the MC to avoid war but did not want to implement it – the Pope helped John by declaring the MC illegal
- Angry barons invited Prince Louis to be king– rebels held important cities
- Even though John took Rochester, he died in Oct 1216

The succession and England by 1216

- Henry (John's 9 year old son) became King
- William Marshal (a great landowner) headed Henry's government as the king's **Protector** (could take charge of the government's finances and campaigns against rebels)
- To secure the throne Henry was crowned quickly and Marshal reissued a revised version of the Magna Carta to gain the support of barons
- However, England was still in crisis – the **treasury** was empty, Marshal's forces were too small to risk battle with rebel forces, Louis controlled parts of England
- England was in the middle of a civil war and town life and trade had been disrupted by the civil war.