

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:I



MODULE I-EARLY HISTORY BRITISH ISLES

TOPIC:IMPACT OF NORMAN

I SEMESTER

BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER

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CONSEQUENCES



- Profound political, administrative and social changes in the British Isles.
- In political terms, William's victory destroyed England's Link with Scandinavia and brought the country instead close contact with the Continent, especially France.
- Other major radical change was the introduction of land tenure and military service.
- William reorganized the upper ranks of English society by dividing the region among about 180 Norman tenants in Chief and innumerable intermediate tenants.
- This caused almost total replacement of the English Aristocracy with Norman one



- Anglo- Saxon England had developed a highly organized central and local government and an effective Judicial system.
- All these were retained and used by William.
- Common English Law was continued .

Impact on Church ; Church Reforms



- Norman conquest- strengthened the power of church in England.
- William Transformed the structure and character of the church in England.
- Replaced all Anglo-Saxon bishops with the Norman Bishops.
- By 1087, 11 out of 15 Bishops were Normans.
- Most notable act of William in this regard was deposition of Stigand, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury.
- Instead he appointed Lanfranc, a scholar and one of William's close advisors.
- William presided over a number of church councils.

- At the Church Council held in Leillebonne(N. France) in 1080, he confirmed his ultimate authority over the Norman Church.
- He introduced legislation against Simony (buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical preferment) and clerical marriage.
- William replaced Anglo-Saxon Abbots with Norman ones and imported numerous Monks from Normandy.
- He implemented a colossal building projects at both monastic and parish levels.



- He was a great supporter of monastic reforms and introduced latest reforming trends to England.
- He built Battle Abbey, a Monastery on the site of Battle of Hastings, in honour of his victory in war.
- All these measures contributed to the quickening of Monastic life in England.

Impact on Language

- Conquest gave impetus for the formation of English Language.
- Some Scholar argue that “ ***probably the most regrettable effect of Norman conquest was the total eclipse of the English vernacular as the language of literature, law and the administration***”
- The immediate result was the banishment of the Anglo-Saxon from the official documents and records.
- Latin and Norman French widely used by the conquerors.
- All the Norman aristocrats deliberately kept away from the Anglo- Saxon language since they considered it as the language of ignorant layman.



- Major setback to old English can be seen in the preparation of Domesday Book by William.
- This voluminous work asserted the superiority of Norman French over Old English.
- An Old English Translation of book was never written.
- Thus English Men were unable to understand the official terms used in the book.
- William also rewrote law codes using French Vocabulary that slightly altered Legal Vocabulary.
- Domesday Book and Law Codes helped cement French into English Legal Practice and eventually general speech.

- New French aristocracy in Land tenure system brought more French words into English Lexicon
- Nearly 200 years after the conquest, French was sufficiently established in England and rapidly gained popularity among the general public.
- It had profound effect on common speech.
- Gradually French became more attractive to English people during Norman reign.
- This increased influence of French in English lexicon and speech.
- With increased French influence on common English speech, formation of new words with French roots and affixes became common.
- The word *hindrance* resulted from combination of the Old English verb *hinder* and the French suffix *ance*, used in the construction of nouns.



- Sometimes English words are formed entirely from French as in the word coverage, a combination of the French word cover and French suffix – age.
- French Element in the English is extremely large

- Allowance – from the Old French word *alouance* (payment)
- Apostrophe – from the French word *apostrophe*
- Attaché – from the French word *attaché* (attached)
- Apéritif – from the French word *apéritif*
- Avant-garde – from the French word *avant-garde*
- Aviation – from the French word *aviation*
- Bachelor – from the Anglo-Norman word *bachelor* (*bachelier* in modern French)
- Baguette – from the French word *baguette* (stick)
- Ballet – from the French word *ballet*
- Beret – from the French word *béret*
- Bon voyage – from the French phrase *bon voyage* (have a good journey)
- Brunette – from the French word *brunette*
- Bureau – from the French word *bureau* (desk, office)
- Cabaret – from the French word *cabaret*
- Cadet – from the French word *cadet*
- Champagne – from the French word *champagne*
- Chauffeur – from the French word *chauffeur*
- Chic – from the French word *chic* (elegant)
- Cliché – from the French word *cliché*

- Connoisseur – from the French word *connoisseur*
- Cul-de-sac – from the French word *cul-de-sac* (bottom of the bag/sack)
- Debris – from the French word *débris* (broken, crumbled)
- Déjà vu – from the French words *déjà* (already) and *vu* (seen – past participle of ‘voir’)
- Delegate – from the Old French word *delegat*
- Detour – from the French word *détour* (from *détourner*)
- Dossier – from the French word *dossier*
- Eau de toilette – from the French word *eau de toilette*
- Elite – from the Old French word *elit* (chosen)
- Energy – from the Middle French word *énergie*
- En route – from the French *en route*
- Envisage – from the French word *envisager*



- Expatriate – from the French word *expatrier*
- Facade – from the French word *façade*
- Faux, as in faux fur – from the French word *faux* (false)
- Faux-pas – from the French word *faux pas*
- Fiancé – from the French word *fiancé*
- Film noir – from the French word *film noir* (a film genre)
- Gallery – from the Old French word *galerie*
- Gastronomy – from the French word *gastronomie*
- Gateau – from the French word *gâteau*

- Gazette – from the French word *gazette*
- Heritage – from the Old French word *eritage* (*héritage* in modern French)
- Homage – from the Old French word *homage*
- Hotel – from the French word *hôtel*
- Identity – from the Middle French word *identité*
- Illusion – from the Old French word *illusion*
- Insult – from the Middle French words *insult* (noun) and *insulter* (verb)
- Irony – from the Middle French word *ironie*
- Jubilee – from the Middle French word *jubile* (modern French *jubilé*)
- Kilogram – from the French word *kilogramme*
- Lacrosse – from the Canadian French word *la crosse* (the stick)
- Laissez-faire – from the French word *laissez-faire* (leave things to take their course)
- Liaison – from the French word *liaison*



- Literature – from the Old French word *littérature*
- Machine – from the Middle French word *machine*
- Magnificent – from the Middle French word *magnificent*
- Maisonette – from the French word *maisonette*
- Massage – from the French word *massage*
- Menu – from the French word *menu*
- Metabolism – from the French word *métabolisme*
- Metro – from the French word *métro*
- Musketeer – from the French word *mousquetaire*
- Navy – from the Old French word *navie*
- Neutral – from the Middle French word *neutral*
- Nocturnal – from the Middle French word *nocturnal*
- Novel – from the Old French word *novel*
- Occasion – from the Middle French word *occasion*



- Omelette – from the French word *omelette*
- Optimism – from the French word *optimisme*
- Papier-mâché – from the French word *papier-mâché*
- Parasol – from the French word *parasol*
- Poetic – from the Middle French word *poétique*
- Premiere – from the French word *première*
- Purify – from the Old French word *purifier*
- Recipient – from the Middle French word *réipient*

- Rendez-vous – from the French word *rendez-vous* (appointment)
- Reservoir – from the French word ‘réservoir’ (collection place)
- Restaurant – from the French word *restaurant*
- Ricochet – from the French word *ricochet*
- Rich – from the French word *riche*
- Ridicule – from the French word *ridicule*
- Risqué – from the French word *risqué*
- Sabotage – from the French word *sabotage*
- Salad – from the French word *salade*
- Sentiment – from the Old French word *sentement*
- Silhouette – from the French word *silhouette*
- Solicitor – from the Middle French word *soliciteur*



- Souvenir – from the French word *souvenir* (memory)
- Soufflé – from the French word *soufflé*
- Soup – from the French word *soupe*
- Technique – from the French word *technique*
- Television – from the French word *télévision*
- Tournament – from the Old French word *tornoiment* (*tournoiment* in modern French)
- Uniform – from the Middle French word *uniforme*
- Utensil – from the Old French word *utensile*
- Valid – from the Middle French word *valide*
- Variety – from the Middle French word *varieté*
- Vinaigrette – from the French word *vinaigrette*
- Zest – from the French word *zeste*

