

English Kings Expand Power!

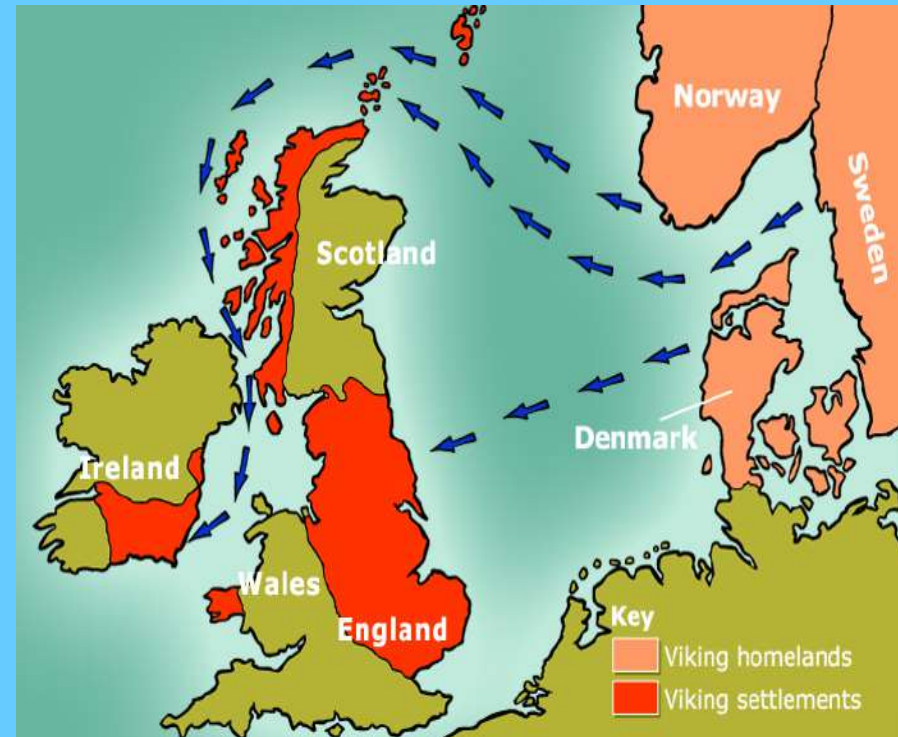
Nobles try to check that power!



The Norman Conquest of England

Setting:

- Alfred the Great unites Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England to counter the Viking invaders. (871- 899)
- Angeland = England



William the Conqueror - 1066

- William Duke of Normandy (France) and King Harold (England) both claim the English throne
- Battle of Hastings
- William the divides land among vassals
- Sheriffs to collect taxes
- Doomsday Book – inventory of all possessions – used to determine taxes in the land



The Bayeux Tapestry

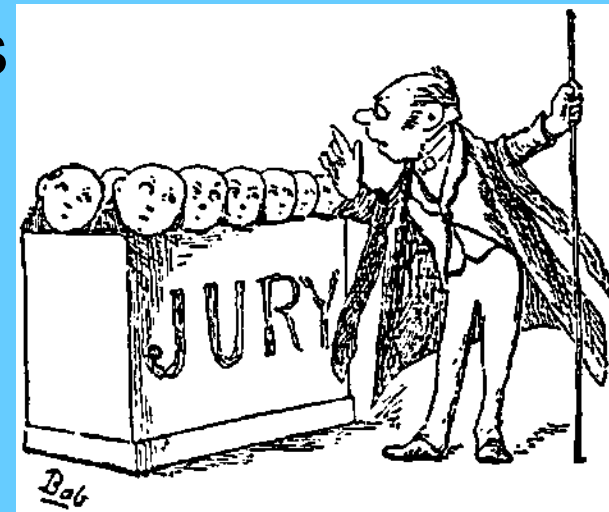


Henry II- 1135 - England

- Reforms court system
 - Grand jury – (more than 20) determines suspects which will go to trial
 - Petit Jury(6 – 12) – determines guilt or innocence

***The point! – no more trial by ordeal & common national law begins

Circuit courts and Common Law



King John 1200's

- Increases taxes on subjects
- Punishes enemies without trial
- **TURNING POINT - MAGNA CARTA** –
Limitation on the power of the English Kings
 - 1215 – Nobles force John to sign a petition – **Magna Carta** (Great Charter) limiting the king's power



Magna Carta

- guarantees right to trial for all free men
- Great Council of nobles and clergy must consent to new taxes before the king can raise them
- Great council → Parliament (England's Congress)



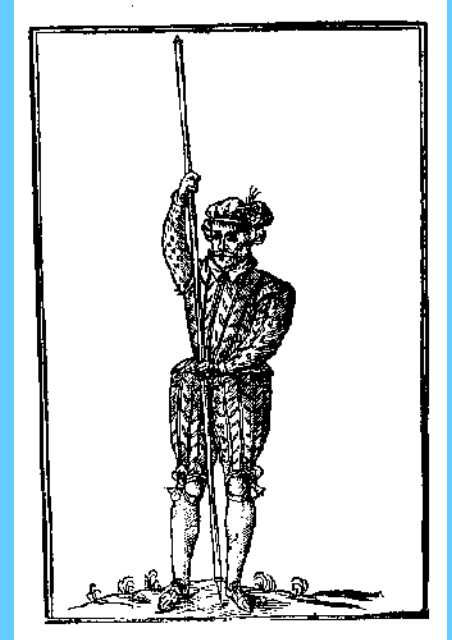
Parliament's Rise

- 1st just “Great Council” of nobles and clergy
- Middle class reps added in 1200's as towns grow in size and wealth (knights & wealthy townspeople)
- 1400's TWO HOUSES of Parliament
 - House of Commons (Commoners like knights and burgesses)
 - House of Lords (Nobles and Clergy)

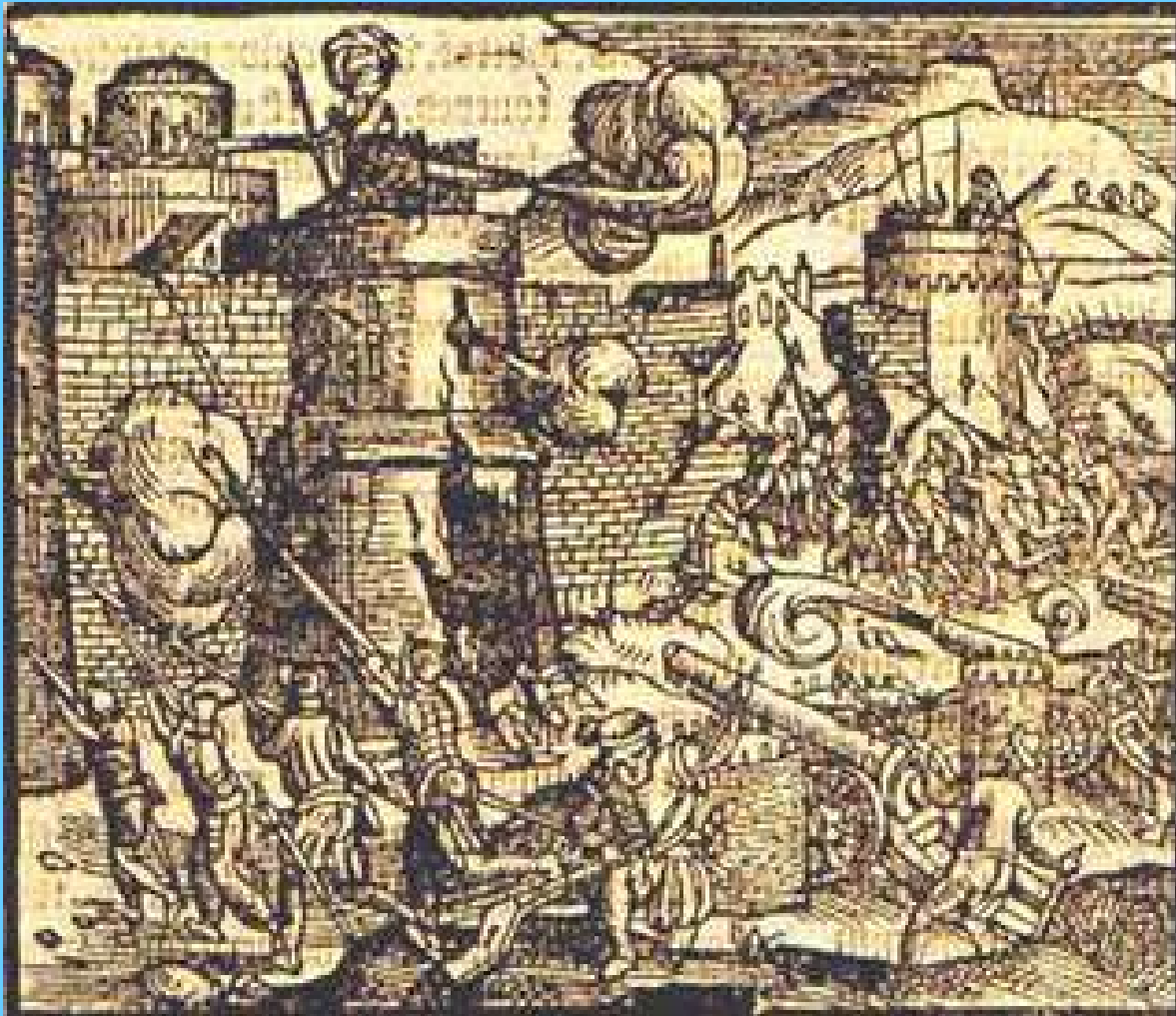


Changes in Warfare → Downfall of Feudal Knights

- The Pike – can spear a horse or pull a knight off his saddle
- The Canon
- The Longbow (can shoot through armor)



Feudal Cavalry no longer offers effective protection



Impact of Charters on Nobility

- As trade increases craftspeople move to towns on the edge of the manors near roads.
- As middle class develops and becomes prosperous \$ is used to pay manorial dues to lord



Charters

- Wealthy Burghers (townspeople) offer the King \$ if he will release them from their feudal dues to the lords by granting them a Charter (document that gives the town independence)
- Town must hire its own protection and start its own courts
- Kings can use money to raise a national army
- Lords lose authority and \$
- Are the Middle Ages coming to an end?