

Anglo-Saxon Social Order:

1. The King
2. Earls
3. Thengs
4. Ceorls
5. Peasant Farmers
6. Slaves



Context of Anglo-Saxon England



Legal System -

No police, could raise hue & cry if witness crime
Criminals could face trial by jury or by ordeal
Most punishments based on violence



Towns & Villages -

10% of population lived in towns - majority lived in countryside



Church -

Archbishop for North & South England
Bishops controlled Churches and were powerful
Local priests were usually poor



Edward the Confessor

- King 1042-1066
- Struggled to control Earl of Wessex
- Had power over law-making, production of money, landownership, taxation & military

Harold Godwinson

- Earl of Wessex
- From a very wealthy, influential family
- Gets shipwrecked and is rescued by William of Normandy
- Harold takes oath to help William become King of England



1. ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND & THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Battle of Hastings

On 14th October **1066** William launched an attack
William won and Harold was killed
Harold's soldiers had little preparation and were tired

William had element of surprise and tried the Anglo-Saxons by pretending to retreat



Tostig Godwinson

- Earl of Northumbria in 1055
- in 1065 Northumbrians revolted against Tostig
- Harold ignored King's request to revoke him
- Was exiled by King



Battle of Gate Fulford

Tostig and Harald Hardrada joined forces to attack England
Hardrada's troops crossed the protective River Ouse and defeated the Anglo-Saxons



Battle of Stamford Bridge

Harold marched his army to North to surprise Vikings
Vikings were defeated and Tostig and Hardrada were killed



Harald Hardrada
Viking King of Norway
Supported by Tostig

Edward left no heir, these were the competitors for the throne:



William, Duke of Normandy
Harold promised him he could take the throne
Distant cousin of Edward
Not English - unfavorable



Harold Godwinson
Chosen to be next king by Wiltan
Had Anglo-Saxon background
Edward's brother in law



Edgar Ætheling
Edward's nephew
Strongest blood claim
Only 14

