

## 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



### Edward the Confessor

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

### 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

### Anglo-Saxon Social Order:

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



### 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



### 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



## 1. ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND & THE NORMAN CONQUEST



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

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



Edgar Ætheling  
Edward's nephew  
Strongest blood claim  
Only 14



Harald Hardrada  
Viking King of Norway  
Supported by Tostig



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



### 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 tricked the Anglo-Saxons by pretending to retreat  
Harold's army was made up of housecarls - trained soldiers and the fyrd - working men who were called to fight in times of need



### Battle of Gate Fulford 1066

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 1066

Harold marched his army to North to surprise Vikings

Vikings were defeated and Tostig and Hardrada were killed